

UNITED LEAGUE.

LUTON RESERVES v. ROTHWELL.

In accordance with the new rule by which the clubs in the Southern and Midland Leagues can put their second elevens in the field against Finedon and Rothwell, the Luton Reserves met the last-named club on the Bury Park enclosure on Saturday afternoon in fine weather, before about 200 spectators. The home team were not at full strength, White and Farr being absent, the former being at Southampton with the seniors vice Lindsay. A trial was given to Turner, a new recruit from a neighbouring village, at back, but he was not a great success. Mr. Brightwell, of Rushden, was referee, and he had the following 22 under command :

Luton: Smart; Turner and T. Hawkes; Ellingham, Dawson and Garrett; Barrett, F. Hawkes, Barker, Plummer, and Dimmock.

Rothwell: Brampton; Phillips and Shortland; Willis, Stapleton and Farren; Pridmore, Cross, Barcock, Gibson, and Dixon.

Rothwell won the toss, and Luton kicked off against a strong wind. The visitors were the first to get dangerous, but Hawkes cleared. Ellingham cleared a centre from Pridmore, and a foul against Dawson was of no avail to Rothwell. The visitors were giving the Luton defenders some anxious moments, and Hawkes had to clear a fine centre from Barcock, which he did in able style. The Luton team then had a turn, and Plummer made a good try, but the ball just went over the bar. The visiting forwards took up the attack again, and Turner mis-kicking, Rothwell opened the score in very easy fashion through Pridmore. The home team now set up a strong attack upon the visitors' citadel, but Rothwell defended stoutly, and owing to bad shooting of the home forwards, Brampton was not seriously troubled. The Rothwell forwards continued to worry the home defence, and Smart had to clear from Dixon, while directly after Barcock was cautioned for fouling Smart. A foul against Ellingham was shot over the bar by Gibson from the kick, and Luton, going to the other end, forced a corner off Pridmore, but the ball was cleared. A foul against Luton was fruitless, and Hawkes had hard lines in not scoring with a fine shot which just skimmed the bar. Coming again, however, Luton took advantage of some fine forcing play by Ellingham, and equalised the scores, Barker beating Brampton with a fine shot. The visitors forced a corner on the kick-off, but it was got away, and a long drive by Barker went behind. Hawkes cleared well from Willis, and a good attempt by the visiting forwards was spoilt by Dixon being given offside. Another corner to the visitors was fruitless, and going to the other end, the Rothwell goal had a narrow escape from a fine centre by Dimmock, and Brampton saved finely from Plummer and Barker in succession. Dixon made a nice run, but the ball was put behind, and offside against Barcock nullified a good goal got by Pridmore. Smart gave a corner to Cross, but nothing tangible resulted. The referee had to caution Barker and Stapleton for rough play, and the interval arrived directly after with the score—

Luton 1, Rothwell 1.

On crossing over, Luton were the first to get away, but the shooting of their forwards was wretched, and several fine chances were missed. A drenching downpour of rain fell for the most part of this half, and it was difficult for the players to get a foothold on the heavy ground. The Rothwell forwards made one or two good attempts to increase their score, but the Luton defence prevailed, and they were gradually driven into their own half. After about twenty minutes play, a centre by Dimmock was turned into the net by Shortland, the visitors' left back, and thus gave Luton the lead. The wire now arrived from Southampton with the depressing news that Luton were two goals to the bad. On restarting, the home forwards got away again, and after Barker had missed an open goal, the same player beat Brampton with a fine shot. Play needs but little description from now to the finish, the teams having had nearly enough in their saturated shirts, and no more scoring took place. Luton thus retired somewhat lucky winners of a poor game with the score—

Luton Reserves 3 goals, Rothwell 1.

NOTES.

The above game was a poor affair, the home team scarcely getting together at all. Although they won, victory was hardly deserved on the day's play. For Luton, Smart was fully equal to the little he had to do. Turner was a failure, but Hawkes played a fair game. Ellingham was the best of the middle line, Dawson played fairly, but Garrett was inclined to wander. The forwards were weak, Barker and F. Hawkes being the only two worthy of mention. The other three were moderate.

The Rothwell team are a very smart eleven, and stand third on the League table. They have a good goal-keeper in Brampton and a fine defender in Phillips at back. Shortland also played a good game. At half-back, Willis was best, although the other two played a good game. Their forwards are very quick, and at times showed pretty combination. Barcock played well in the centre, and the left wing was the stronger of the two. The referee came in for a good deal of "chaffing" from the crowd.