



SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

BRISTOL CITY v. LUTON.

The following interesting and impartial report of the match last Saturday is taken from the "Bristol Daily Press," courteously forwarded by an old Lutonian and an old subscriber to this journal, now residing at Chepstow :—

As Luton were the first club to defeat Bristol City in the Southern League this season, the return game, which was played at John's Lane, was expected to produce a keen struggle, and those expectations were realised, in spite of Luton being short of Lindsay, Holdstock, and Blessington. In addition to Luton being below full strength, the City were also short of Fulton, which meant that they put the same team in the field that played at Stapleton-road on Bank Holiday.

Referee Daines got the men in position well to time, and the City, winning the toss, played towards the lane end goal. Luton were first aggressive, but Bach cleared from their lefts and directly after Jones fed the home rights, but when the ball was centred McLean in returning put the ball out of play. Then Wilson and Geddes operated well together and the former centred. McLean had a shot cleared by Clifford.

For some minutes then Luton had quite as much of the game as the homesters, but for tripping Michael they had a free against them. This put Geddes and Wilson on the ball, and after some dainty passing the latter sent across to the right, where Jones cleverly turned the ball and shot hard in, but Ord cleared, as he did just after when Michael sent in a good one.

Not long after, at the other end, Toone, on the ground, saved splendidly from Farr in an unexpected rush, and then the City getting off Michael looked certain to get the better of Clifford, but both fell near the penalty line, and Ord coming out easily cleared. Then for a few minutes the City forwards kept the ball in front of the Luton goal, and appeared able to do everything but score, Ord clearing from Whelan and Jones, whilst Stevenson placed another just outside along the ground.

Ord twice after saved from Michael, and then from Geddes, whilst another by McLean went inches only wide. Then a couple of corners fell to the City, but both, though well placed by Geddes, were unproductive. From throws in the City came down again strongly, but Ord was equal to shots by Jones and Michael, though he gave a corner in clearing from the latter.

It was a case of Ord v. the City, for he again saved a beauty from Michael that looked bound to score, and at the interval nothing had been scored.

HALF TIME—NO SCORE.

Luton turned out a man short in the second half, Saxton having been injured in the first portion of the game. The spectators gave Ord approving cheers as he took up his position in goal. Luton had rather the best of the opening exchanges, but again the combined energies of Bach and Davies prevented Toone from being troubled.

Referee Daines once made a mistake in giving Durrant offside when he got dangerous, and from the free-kick the City pressed, Ord saving magnificently from Stevenson by giving a corner, which brought no score, whilst just after, following a centre by Whelan to Jones, the latter had a terrific drive diverted by McCurdy, whilst Clifford also negotiated a fine centre by Geddes.

Gradually the City repeated their form of the first half, but so did Luton, their defence responding with unfaltering stubbornness. Jones once had a grand shot saved, and then Whelan took the ball down the right, and beating McCurdy, centred. The ball dropped on the left, where Geddes touched it to Wilson, who wheeled round and centred to Stevenson close in, and that player at last had the satisfaction of beating Ord with the second half eleven minutes' old.

The City were soon on the aggressive again, and another centre was sent smartly over by Whelan, but Farr relieved and then Ord saved again from McLean. A brief burst by Luton up the right forced a corner that was well placed but cleared, and Geddes at once went off. A fine five minutes play from a spectator's point of view followed, for there was a grim struggle round the Luton goal, and the Luton defence triumphed, though once following a corner McLean sent a terrific shot over the bar.

The City now kept Luton well in their own half and played a good game, but so did Luton, Ord in goal saving well from Wilson and then again from Michael close in. The Luton attack was kept well in hand by the City defence, but in defence Luton lost nothing by comparison.

Just on time Luton struggled over the half-way line, and then putting on the pace Hawkes nearly beat Toone. Had he succeeded it would have been cruel luck for the City, but the whistle went for time with the score reading:

BRISTOL CITY, 1 goal; LUTON, nil.

Teams:—

Bristol City. — Toone; Bach and Davies; Jones, McLean, and Chambers; Whelan, Stevenson, Michael, Wilson and Geddes.

Luton: Ord; Clifford and McCurdy; Williams, Farr, and Garrett; Brown, Hawkes, Barker, Saxton, and Durrant.