

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

LUTON TOWN v. QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS.

A DRAWN GAME.

The return match between these teams was looked forward to with a great deal of interest by the supporters of both elevens. The Rangers were anxious to avenge the defeat Luton administered them in the Cup on Dec. 8th last, while the victory Luton gained in the League at Kensal Rise in October was still fresh in the minds of the Rangers' supporters who travelled with the team. The Rangers have been showing excellent form since the dawn of the New Year, and gained their first victory on foreign soil at the expense of Watford a fortnight since, while last Saturday they defeated Kettering by 2-0.

The Rangers were at full strength, while Luton were still minus Saxton, whose arm has not got right yet, and Lindsay's injury kept him out of the field once more. Interest was imparted to the game by the fact that Luton were playing a new centre-forward for the first time this season in the person of Gray, late of Grimsby, who has just been "signed on," and he created a favourable impression. The weather was wretched, rain falling at the start, while the wind was blowing half-a-gale. It was not surprising, therefore, to see only a comparatively small "gate" of 1,500 present, when the referee, Mr. F. S. Walford, of Tottenham, whistled the following 22 into order:

Luton: Ord; White and McCurdy; Clifford, Holdstock, and Williams; Brown, Blessington, Gray, Tierney and Durrant.

Queen's Park Rangers: Clutterbuck; Newlands and McConnell; Lennox, Hitch, and Skinner; Gray, Christie, Ronaldson, Humphrey and Foxall.

The Rangers won the toss and Luton, who kicked off with the wind and rain in their faces, were the first to get away, and Brown was soon busy, but McConnell cleared, and going to the other end Ord had a foul given against him for holding the ball when saving from Humphrey. The penalty, however, was cleared, as was hands against Lennox a moment later. The Rangers worked the ball up the field again, and from a centre by Gray, Ord saved grandly from Foxall. White cleared a "free" for a foul throw against Williams, and a foul against Hitch on Gray was likewise unavailing.

From a foul against Luton, McConnell put the ball in the net untouched, and free-kicks for offside against Durrant and Foxall for their respective sides were both futile. Gray shot behind a nice centre by Foxall, and Ord saved finely from Skinner and Ronaldson, while Humphrey relieved the pressure by putting over. Luton then took up the attack, and Durrant made a brilliant run but was fouled, and thus a fine opportunity was lost, while at the other end Ord cleared in grand style a fine shot from Humphrey. Gray was given offside when in a good position, and from a good centre by Brown Clutterbuck had his first save.

From the goal-kick the Rangers' forwards got away well, and Humphrey securing, ran right through and beat Ord with a good shot in the corner of the net after some 20 minutes' play. The Luton defenders were now severely tested. A foul against the visitors was put over by Clifford. At the other end, Williams cleared a dangerous centre by Foxall. but directly after a break away by the visiting forwards enabled Humphrey to beat Ord for the second time. Luton were not disheartened by these reverses, and a fine centre by Brown missed by inches only.

Luton forced the attack again, and Blessington caused Clutterbuck to save, but Durrant knocked him off the ball before he could clear. The visitors, however, managed to get the ball away, and Gray put behind at the other end after a good run by the Rangers' forwards. McCurdy shot over from a "free" against the Rangers, and three more fouls against the visitors were cleared, although from the third Holdstock shot in finely, and Clutterbuck hurt himself in saving, coming into collision with the post, but he soon resumed. Luton tried hard to score before the interval, and Durrant had hard lines from a free kick against the Rangers with a splendid shot, Clutterbuck just clearing. The interval now arrived, Luton still pressing with the score:—

QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS	...	2
LUTON	...	0

On resuming, Luton, with the wind at their backs, set up a strong attack on the Rangers' citadel, and Clutterbuck was early called upon with a splendid shot by Blessington, but Gray fouled the keeper, and the chance was lost. Coming again, however, Tierney caused Clutterbuck to clear, which he did in fine style, and Gray put behind at the other end. McCurdy shot over from a foul against the visitors, and McConnell cleared a fine attempt by Clifford, while a good centre by Brown was spoilt by a foul against Luton. Keeping up the pressure, Blessington got across a beautiful centre, from which Durrant beat Clutterbuck with a fine shot, giving him no chance of saving. This success was received with loud cheering.

From the kick-off, the Rangers got away, but McCurdy cleared from Christie, and playing had to be momentarily suspended owing to McCurdy getting hurt, but he soon resumed. A beautiful shot by Holdstock deserved to score, and White stopped Foxall in fine style at the other end. Luton once more took up the attack, and from a nice pass by Williams, Durrant got across a nice centre only to see Brown shoot behind. Coming again, however, Luton forced the first corner of the game off McConnell, but McCurdy shot over from Brown's place-kick.

Luton had now to play only 10 men owing to Holdstock getting his knee hurt, and having to retire from the game. The visitors forced a corner, but the ball was cleared, as was a foul against Clifford on Humphrey. Ord gave a corner to Foxall, but the kick was futile, and a moment later Ord saved grandly at the expense of a corner from Gray, but the ball was shot behind. Hands against Tierney was of no avail to the Rangers, and Ord cleared finely from a good shot by Gray. Luton once more took up the attack, and Durrant forced a corner off McConnell, but Newlands cleared from the kick.

Free-kicks for offside were numerous against the Rangers, owing to Luton playing one back, White going half-back in place of Clifford, who had gone to centre-half, vice Holdstock. From one of these kicks, Luton got away and Durrant forced a corner off Clutterbuck, from which Williams equalised for Luton with a fine shot, the ball striking the post as it went into the net. Luton's efforts to gain the winning point were futile, no further scoring taking place, Luton thus made their first draw in the League this season with the score:—

LUTON	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

NOTES.

The above game was full of exciting incidents. The Luton team are to be congratulated upon succeeding in making a draw, especially after being two goals behind at the interval and having only 10 men the last 20 minutes of the game. Ord, in goal, was in fine form, and saved brilliantly on several occasions.

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At back, White played a really fine game, and stopped the speedy Foxall time after time. McCurdy shaped well, and showed a vast improvement in his previous displays. The middle line also played well, Holdstock, though not up to much before the interval, playing a fine game until he got hurt. Clifford and Williams are also worthy of mention.

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The forwards also showed up better than of late. Chief interest was centred in the doings of Gray, the new centre, and he showed promising form, although he did not shoot as often as he might have done, preferring to give his partners the opportunity. However, he proved a decided acquisition to the team. Blessington played well, and Brown showed improved form. Tierney and Durrant on the left were always very busy.

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Of the visitors, Clutterbuck was in fine form, and cleared on several occasions when his charge was in danger. McConnell kicked and cleared well, being ably assisted by Newlands. Their half-backs also prevented all attempts at combination by the Luton forwards. Hitch played finely at centre-half, and never gave up trying. Lennox spoilt his display by foul tactics, and was repeatedly pulled up by the

referee. Skinner played a hard game, but he had a warm handful in Tierney and Durrant.

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All the forwards were quick and reliable. Renaldson feeds his wings well, and in addition is a dangerous shot. Humphrey and Foxall, on the left, want a lot of stopping when they get going. Gray and Christie—the latter hailing from Ryde—also played a good game.

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To-morrow (Saturday) Luton, having no further interest in the Cup, have arranged to play off the postponed League fixture with Swindon, which will accordingly take place on the Bury Park enclosure. Luton have a defeat sustained at Swindon in September last to wipe out. On Saturday week Swindon took a point at Tottenham, and they have also defeated Southampton this season, but on Saturday they lost at Canning Town against West Ham by 3 goals to 1.

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The other Southern League games on Saturday resulted as under: Southampton further strengthened their position at the head of the table by going to Bristol and drawing with the Rovers—neither side scoring; Bristol City lost at Portsmouth by 4 goals to 1; Kettering defeated Gravesend at Kettering by 4 goals to 1; at Gilpin Park, Tottenham took a big revenge upon Watford, winning by 7 goals to 0; while Millwall secured a creditable victory at Reading by 2 goals to 1.