

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

LUTON v. GRAVESEND.

After beating Reading on their own ground a fortnight ago by one goal to nil, Luton went to Gravesend on Saturday, and only succeeded in making a draw. This was a moderate performance against a team which has had 74 goals scored against it this season,—a total 26 more than against any other team in the Southern League, and exactly double the number against Luton.

The teams were:—

Luton: Ord; Street and Lindsay; F. Hawkes, White and Williams; Durrant, Blessington, Barker, Tierney and Brown.

Gravesend: Hamilton; Tyler and Lockie; Parkinson, McAvoy and Bigden; Mann, Pugh, Madden, Vicars and Penny.

The referee was Mr. H. C. Platt, and Mr. C. Green accompanied the Luton team.

It was a fine day, and there were about 1,000 spectators present. Luton had slightly the better of the play in the first half, but their forwards did not show enough dash or combination. Pugh scored for the home team 25 minutes after the start. This, however, was owing to a mis-kick by Williams. Gravesend therefore led by 1 goal to nil at half-time.

In the second half Luton had practically all the play, and Gravesend seldom got away. After 12 minutes' play Barker, who was out on the right wing, centred into goal. There was no Luton player up, but McAvoy, in trying to save, put through his own goal, the ball flying over the goal-keeper's head.

Soon afterwards Brown shot into goal from the wing. Hamilton fisted out to Blessington, who was standing right in front of goal, and had an easy task in scoring No. 2. Luton continued the pressure to the end, but in the last two minutes Gravesend equalised in a very lucky fashion. A mis-kick by Street let Mann, who was standing on the goal-line, screw the ball into goal from a very difficult position.

This equaliser would perhaps not have come off once in a hundred times, but it just saved the day for Gravesend, and thus deprived Luton of the full number of points. The game ended

Luton 2 goals, Gravesend 2 goals.

NOTES.

As will be seen, it was a rather poor achievement for Luton to secure only one point from such a weak club. The home team only got away about twice in the second half, and had practically given up the game as lost when chance presented them with an unexpected goal.

For Luton Lindsay played very well, and Ord effected two rather difficult saves early in the game. Afterwards, however, Luton's goal-keeper had only four or five shots to deal with. The Luton half back line, without Holdstock and Clifford, was not so effective as it might have been in supporting the forwards. Among the front rank Tierney and Blessington were best, and Brown played a much improved game in the second half.