

FOOTBALL.

LUTON TOWN v. MILLWALL.

CLEVER VICTORY FOR LUTON.

The visit of the Millwallians to Luton on Saturday produced a battle of the blues on the lines of the University boat-race, with the difference that in the encounter at Luton the light blues succeeded in coming off conquerors. The clubs have met on many occasions and the rivalry has invariably been keen. Time was when the Londoners were a consistent stumbling-block to the locals, and as a matter of fact Saturday's victory was the first which the Lutonians have been able to boast of securing in Southern League contests. Though the weather was stormy there was a fairly good attendance, a large number of admission tickets having been disposed of beforehand. The sides were strong, the Millwallians being assisted by J. H. Gettins, the noted amateur. The ground was very slippery as a result of the heavy rainstorms of the forenoon; but the players performed wonderfully well in spite of this disadvantage.

The sides were made up thus:—

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

Millwall: Griffiths; Shutt and Davidson; Caie, Millar and Henderson; Dryburgh and Bevan, J. H. Gettins, Banks and Carnelly.

Referee, Mr. A. R. Partridge (London).

The visitors won choice of positions, which gave them the advantage of a strong breeze. The locals, who started operations, were early conspicuous for good play, and after a minute or two a corner fell to the light blues. This was not improved upon, however, the ball finding its way behind the goal-line. It was a very narrow escape, for the homesters ought to have scored fairly easily. The Millwall players, led by Gettins, made a journey to the home end, where the local defenders proved superior to the attacking forces. A good one from Durrant gave the Millwall defence some anxiety. Next Brown was conspicuous in a similar way. The home contingent were having a good deal the best of the exchanges, and they were exhibiting a cleverness which greatly delighted the spectators. Gettins was pulled up for off-side when he was apparently in a good situation for scoring, and later on Ord was called upon for the first time in the game. Following a free-kick close to the home goal the custodian brought off a fine save. Next a corner was secured by Luton, and another followed immediately afterwards. The home forwards made a strong attack a little later on, and Griffiths had his work cut out to preserve his charge from capture. A corner to Millwall proved ineffectual. Towards the end of the first half the locals attacked very hotly and the Millwallians only managed to prevent the downfall of their goal with difficulty. The interval position was:

LUTON, 0; MILLWALL, 0.

The home players had performed so well in the first part of the game that when the time came for the change of ends it was considered highly probable that they would find it possible to better their position. They started the second moiety in spirited fashion, and the game was finely contested. Indeed, when the players had got thoroughly warmed up the exhibition was well worth witnessing, and the spectators grew much more enthusiastic than they have felt able to do in some matches this season. The sides were fairly well matched, and both were upon their mettle. After Tierney had steered the ball just outside the post Brown sent through from a capital centre by Durrant. This success was greeted with a roar of applause. A second demonstration took place when Tierney beat Griffiths some time later. The homesters displayed splendid style after these successes and, with the Londoners endeavouring to retrieve their position, the game was grandly contested. The operations were on the whole pleasantly conducted, though one or two of the visitors indulged in tactics which did not commend themselves to the spectators. There was very little fouling, however, and free-kicks were in consequence infrequent. In fact, the match was as pleasantly contested as any that have been played between these clubs. As the end drew near the visitors redoubled their efforts to score; but the home backs and halves were in first-rate form, and in the result the scores were:—

LUTON, 2; MILLWALL, 0.