

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

LUTON TOWN v. NEW BROMPTON.

LUTON WIN A POOR GAME.

The return match between these elevens in the above League took place on the Bury Park enclosure on Saturday afternoon in miserable weather, rain falling at intervals throughout the match. There were scarcely 1200 spectators present. The ground was a quagmire, and the players found it hard to make head way. In the home team Clifford again appeared, taking Lindsay's place at right back, the captain not having recovered from his injury received in the Kettering match.

Mr. S. R. Carr, of London, was referee, and the teams were as follows:—

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

New Brompton: Ambler; Robertson and Humphrey; Innes, Atherton and Neame; Hulmes, McDonald, Frettingham, Haywood and Seeley.

Luton won the toss and defended the railway goal. From the kick off Tierney got away and had hard lines in not scoring, while Durrant skimmed the bar with a beautiful shot. Blessington shot over from a pass by Tierney. Humphrey headed away from the same player in fine style. The visitors now got away and a foul was given against Luton, and from the kick, after the ball had been bobbing about in front of goal, Frettingham ran through and beat Ord, thus opening the score after 10 minutes' play, Luton vainly appealing for offside. The home team at once made tracks for the visitors' goal, and Hawkes sent in nicely to Barker, who transferred to Tierney, and the latter beat Ambler with a grand shot, thus equalising the scores.

The visitors got away from the re start, and Ord had to save from Frettingham, and at the other end Barker forced a fruitless corner, while a foul against the visitors was likewise unavailing. The Brompton vanguard got away again, and Frettingham netted the ball, but he had previously handled and the point did not count, while two corners forced by them were cleared. The Luton forwards then got away and Brown made a good run, but his final effort went wide. The sticky nature of the turf made good play impossible, and some fine chances were lost by each side owing to this. Ambler made a lucky save from Barker, and Durrant shot over with a good opening in front of him. Nothing further of note happened before the interval, which arrived with the score:—

Luton 1 goal, Brompton 1 goal.

On the game being re-started, the visitors were the first to get away, and they were assisted by two "frees" for fouls against Luton, but both proved futile, while Haywood missed an open goal from a bad miss by Clifford, whose leg was seen to be not very strong, and at times he appeared very loth to kick the ball. Offside against Brown lost a good opportunity, but directly after Tierney scored a grand goal from a pass by Blessington, and thus giving Luton the lead. Ord saved finely from Frettingham, while Williams cleared well from another miss by Clifford right in goal-mouth. The visitors came again, however, and Street fouled the centre-forward within the 12 yards' line. Brompton were awarded a penalty, but Ord saved grandly Atherton's kick, the resulting corner being fruitless.

Luton got away again from the goal-kick, and Brown securing, put in a fine shot which completely beat Ambler, and Luton were three up. Play was very slow and uninteresting, and combination was at a discount. The visitors scored a very fluky goal through Seeley. Ord, thinking the ball was going out, made no effort to save, but it struck the post and glanced off into the net. The visitors tried hard to equalise, but were unsuccessful, while Luton gained another point through Tierney, who beat Ambler with a flying shot, the ball going right through the net. No more scoring took place, and Luton won a poor game with the score:—

Luton 4 goals, Brompton 2 goals.

NOTES.

In the above game the heavy nature of the ground was all against accurate football, while several of the players showed signs of the extra work that has been put upon them during the Easter holidays. For Luton, Ord, in goal, was safe as usual, and his saving of the penalty was loudly applauded. Clifford played as well as could be expected under the circumstances, but would have showed up more had he played in the middle line instead of full back. His weakness made more work for Street, who played a hard game throughout.

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The middle line was not very successful, Williams being off. White played a good game, and Hawkes also gave a fine display. Of the forwards Tierney was best, scoring three out of the four goals. His partner, Brown, played a good game, and Barker also showed improvement, making some pretty passes to his wings. Blessington was handicapped by the heavy ground, while Durrant made some fine runs, but was not so effective with his shooting.

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For the visitors, Ambler, the old Hotspur man, played well. Humphrey, the old Chatham man, and Robertson made a capable pair of defenders. The middle line is well looked after by Innes, Atherton, and Neame, a young recruit from Sittingbourne. The forwards would be dangerous on a dry ground, having height and speed all in their favour, but they are too light for heavy grounds.

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Frettingham, their leader, is the most dangerous of the lot, and at times requires a lot of stopping. He is responsible for most of the goals scored by the Brompton club, and on Saturday he netted the ball twice, although only one point counted. Seeley and Haywood, late of the Arsenal, made a smart wing, but the right wing was the stronger, McDonald and Hulmes doing some good work. The refereeing was very good.

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Tottenham Hotspur were down for visiting Luton on Saturday (to-morrow), but the fixture will have to be declared off for the second time this season ; the first occasion was on the day of the Queen's Funeral, and on Saturday the Hotspur are engaged at the Crystal Palace for the English Cup Final with Sheffield United. This is hard luck for Luton, as this match would have drawn one of the largest "gates" of the season, while it will now have to take place on a mid-week date to be arranged. We can only hope that the Hotspur will follow up their grand victory at Birmingham on Easter Monday by winning the Cup from their powerful rivals, and once more bring the trophy to the south.