

LUTON TOWN v. TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR.

Played at Luton on Monday. Result:—

Tottenham Hotspur..... 4 goals.
Luton Town 2 goals.

Tottenham Hotspur's sensational victory over Sheffield United in the final for the English Cup made their visit to Luton on Monday a great attraction, and for once in a way the weather was favourable. The consequence was that the crowd was considerably larger than the average Saturday attendance, and the gate realised a trifle over £60.

The Luton team was identical with that which turned out against Reading, but the Spurs were not quite at full strength, Jones, Erentz, Brown and Cameron being absentees, but their places were filled by good men, McNaught, who has been in training with the Cup team, re-appearing at centre half. The following was the team:—Clawley; Hughes and Tait; Morris, McNaught and A. E. Jones; Smith, Hawley, Moffatt, Copeland and Kirwan. Mr. P. R. Harrower, of London, held the whistle.

From the very first it was evident that the Spurs were bent on winning, and they went about their work in great style, showing that even Saturday's festivities had not taken off the effect of their special training. Luton, however, were the first to get within shooting range, and Clawley cleared a centre from Hawkes. Smith responded with a speedy bit of work on the right, but Hawkes got the ball away, and then a foul against Blessington enabled the Spurs to force a corner, from which nothing resulted.

Luton then transferred the play to the other end, and Durrant put in a curling shot which Clawley saved. The Spurs retaliated, and White, by going for the man instead of the ball, left Moffatt with a clear opening. This was promptly taken, and Ord had no possible chance with the shot. Thus the Spurs were soon one up.

Smith again putting in one of his sprints, finished up with a beautiful centre, but White just cleared in the nick of time. The ball was taken to the other end, and Blessington, from a throw in, put in a very smart shot, but unfortunately for Luton, it was dealt with in equally smart manner by Clawley. Hawkes was next responsible for an effective bit of play, but it was neutralised by Barker, who directly afterwards threw away a splendid opening.

Williams put the ball up again, and a free kick gave Luton another look-in, but without result, and Smith, receiving the ball in an apparently offside position, put in a centre, and Ord, endeavouring to clear, kicked the ball on to Clifford, and it rebounded over the line. Kirwan took the corner, and placing nicely, Ord tried to fist it out, and fisted it into the net.

This was a terrible misfortune, but worse was to follow, for after Clawley had punched out a shot from Durrant, the Spurs again made tracks for the Luton goal, Moffatt leading the way. The centre forward was knocked over, and the ball went forward. Ord ran out to clear, but seemed to miss the leather altogether, and Hawley easily touched it into the net. Both sides attacked in turn after this, but with a score of three goals to nothing, a good deal of the interest was taken out of the game, and the second half was tame in comparison with the first.

Luton ought to have reduced the lead before crossing over, as they had many chances. Tierney and Barker both had capital openings, but they passed instead of shooting, and Brown, from a centre from the right, had the goal at his mercy, but shot high over the top.

In the second half, Luton played only ten men, Street, who had hurt himself just before the interval, not turning out again. Williams therefore went back, but continued to do a lot of half-back work as well. Luton were soon in evidence, and Barker, taking a pass by Tierney, put in a shot which completely beat Clawley, but as ill-luck would have it, the ball hit the post, and Clawley then managed to scramble it away.

With the Spurs, on the contrary, everything seemed to come off. Kirwan getting away, put in a simple-looking centre which Ord ought easily to cleared, but though he caught the ball he let it slip, and Hawley had no difficulty in putting on the finishing touch. Notwithstanding that disaster followed disaster, Luton refused to give up trying, and Clawley had no easy job in frustrating the efforts of Williams and Blessington. Barker next shot over the bar, and after Williams had stopped a rush, Durrant put all the powder possible behind a shot, but it went a little too high. A moment later, however, Tierney putting nicely across the goal, Blessington rushed in and scored.

Soon afterwards, Blessington headed another goal from a centre by Williams, but was given offside. Luton may have been discouraged, but they did not show it, and presently, from a corner by Brown, Williams put in the mouth of the goal, and Durrant had a couple of lovely shots, the second causing Clawley to give a corner, which was not turned to account. Just before the finish, Williams showed up with some grand work, and eventually, getting in a well-judged centre, Blessington headed a fine goal.

This was the last point noticed, and Luton thus retired beaten by four goals to two. Taking the

run of the play all through, Luton were distinctly unlucky in being beaten by such a margin, for they actually had more chances than fell to the lot of their opponents, but Ord was dead off. Had Roger been in his usual form, the result would have been very different.

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Still the Spurs are a fine team, and it was a treat to see them in the early stages of the game. Clawley gave a good exhibition between the sticks, and Tait played a fine game at back. McNaught was scarcely in his best mood, but the halves played a capital game, and the Tottenham left wing performed in first-rate style.

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Of the locals, I think nearly all were deserving of the highest praise, but, as already stated, Ord was a lot below form, and it seemed a pity that his very worst display should have been given on the last day of the season. The backs were very fair, but it was the halves who took the eye most. White played with wonderful dash, and Williams did lots of good things, while young Hawkes was as cool as a cucumber and came out of some very severe tussles with flying colours.

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Durrant and Blessington played a fine game on the right wing, both working very hard and making the pace warm. Barker performed wonderfully well at times, and occasionally failed badly. Tierney and Brown rendered a capital account of themselves, but were not quite as effective as the other wing. The team altogether played a plucky, persevering game, and deserved at least to make a draw.

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A collection was taken on the ground for Luton close season expenses, and realised just over £4. It had been rumoured, by the way, that the Spurs would bring the English Cup with them, and when some massive pieces of plate were seen on the table in front of the grand stand, people naturally concluded that the English Cup was there. The trophies, however, were those won by the Luton Club, and included the old Luton Charity Cup, the Beds Cup won by the Reserves this year, and the shield won last year in the Berks and Bucks League.

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Luton lost by 3 goals to 2 in the match at Tottenham on Thursday, though as a matter of fact they ought to have won with something to spare. Lindsay's leg went wrong again about twenty minutes from the finish.