

LUTON v. TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR.

THE ENGLISH CUP WINNERS VICTORIOUS.

For an evening match, there was a very large crowd on Monday on the Town ground, when the Spurs paid their long-deferred visit to settle Luton's last Southern League fixture. The magic attaching to the English Cup winners proved a considerable draw, and must have benefited the Luton club's depleted coffers. The Spurs did not muster the full Cup team, as there were five reserves. Despite the trying festivities to which they must have been subjected by enthusiastic admirers after their triumph at Bolton, the Spurs seemed in excellent condition and played a keen game.

The crowd were in admirable temper, and gave the Spurs a rousing reception. The game was smartly contested from the start, and though the Londoners led by 3 goals at the interval, Luton made a more even fight than the figures would suggest. At the kick-off, the Tottenham right made an incursion but were checked by Hawkes, though they forced a corner later on. Only 7 minutes had passed, when White let in Moffatt, who having only Ord to beat, easily ran through and scored the first goal.

White made some amends for this mistake by saving in the nick of time from a rush by Smith. A handful from Barker was disposed of by Clawley, and Luton made some plucky attempts. However, the Spurs got down again and Kirwan placed a corner-kick right into the Luton goal, where Ord apparently knocked the ball through his own net. Tottenham were thus two points ahead, after 15 minutes' play.

By way of variety, Durrant gave Clawley a long shot to clear. But the Luton defence soon failed again. Moffatt made a dash down the field, but, while the backs and goal-keeper were engaged in "flooring" him, they allowed Hawley to score the third goal. Ord was called upon frequently in the next few minutes, until Barker and White made sundry attempts at the other end.

The Luton men pressed their opponents hard at times. When their supporters were yearning for a goal, Brown elicited a disappointed groan by shooting miles too high. Clawley saved a high dropping shot, as Blessington boldly "went for" him. Durrant missed badly, and the Luton forwards beat in vain against the stalwart defence of Tait and Clawley. At half-time, the score was:—

TOTTENHAM, 3; LUTON, 0.

On resuming, the Tottenham forwards got away, but Kirwan ran the ball out, while

Hawkes cleared well from Moffatt. At the other end, Tierney beat Clawley completely, but, unfortunately for Luton, the ball struck the post and rebounded into play. White was often cheered for good defensive play. Although he was yards offside, Kirwan made a clear run and got across his centre; Ord dropped the ball, and Hawley then dashed up and netted the 4th goal for the Spurs.

Luton still persevered and showed first-rate form, except in front of goal. Clawley made two brilliant saves from Durrant and Blessington. Soon afterwards, Blessington utilised a nice pass from Tierney and opened Luton's score. From this point, the home team only played ten men, Street having to leave the field owing to an injury received in the first half. Several free-kicks in Luton's favour were not turned to account, and Barker missed badly a good pass by White.

From a centre by Smith, Copeland shot high over the bar with only Ord to beat. The crowd cheered enthusiastically, when Blessington headed a fine goal, but it was disallowed for offside. A good effort from Tierney was saved by Clawley, who later gave a corner to a smart shot from Durrant, but the kick was cleared. Tait saved finely from Durrant, and the Tottenham forwards made sundry attempts. Play was confined to midfield from now to the finish, and when everybody thought the match was over, Blessington headed Luton's second goal. Nothing more was done, and the final score was :—

TOTTENHAM SPURS 4, LUTON 2.

Mr. Harrower, of London, was the referee, and the teams were:—

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

Tottenham: Clawley; Hughes and Tait; Morris, McNaught and A. E. Jones; Smith, Hawley, Moffatt, Copeland and Kirwan.

NOTES.

Owing to the great victory which the Spurs gained at Bolton on Saturday, the above match drew one of the largest gates of the season to welcome them. Although the Spurs proved victorious, they must be regarded as lucky—three of the points being practically gifts, and the last ought not to have been allowed, as Kirwan was offside when he centred the ball.

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For the visitors, Clawley, in goal, played a fine game. Tait, the old Preston man, also played well throughout, being ably assisted by Hughes, and they made a very capable pair of defenders. The middle line also showed up prominently, with little McNaught as the pick. Jones spoilt a good display by too much vigour.

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Of the forwards, the left wing was the strongest, Kirwan and Copeland combining effectually together. Moffatt showed up well in the centre, but White's vigilance was incessant and did not afford much scope to his opponents. Hawley played well, but Smith was not up to form.

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For the Luton team, Ord in goal was weak, which accounts for the big score against the home team. Clifford played a good game at back, but made one or two bad misses during the game. Street unfortunately got hurt, but showed good form in the first half.

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White was best of the middle trio, and was always on the move. F. Hawkes also played a hard and unselfish game, and Williams also played in good form.

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In the forward line, Blessington was very successful, and his two goals were admirable efforts. Durrant showed up well and dropped some beautiful centres across, but the inside forwards were too slow. Barker displayed good form in the centre, while Brown and Tierney were fair. The referee's offside decisions did not commend themselves to the crowd. This brings a close to the football season of 1900-1, and so far as the Luton Town Club is concerned, it has not been a very brilliant one.