

LUTON TOWN v. WELLINGBOROUGH.

A LUCKY GOAL GIVES LUTON THE VICTORY.

The opening of Luton's Southern League programme on Saturday was inaugurated by a victory, though it must be admitted that the element of luck had much to do with the winning point scored by Brown. Wellingborough, who made their first appearance in the League, have invariably proved themselves worthy opponents, and on Monday week they succeeded in making a draw with West Ham. They came to Luton with their strongest eleven, and under the direction of Mr. A. Millward, of London, the teams lined up as under :

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

Wellingborough : Baldry ; Hood and Atterbury ; Draycott, Martin and Howard ; Gall, Turner, Pugh, Bushby and Marriott.

Glorious weather prevailed, and there was a large crowd of some 3,000 present when the teams took the field. Lindsay was successful in the spin of the coin, and Pugh kicked off, Luton defending the railway goal. Brown at once got away, and should have scored in the first minute, but the ball went just wide. Hands against the visitors was futile, and Colvin got across two capital centres, but neither was turned to account. Lindsay forced Atterbury to give a fruitless corner to a beautiful dropping shot, and a foul against the former stopped a dangerous rush by Marriott. Two free-kicks to Luton were cleared, and Brown shot in finely a centre by Colvin, but Baldry cleared. Ord cleared a foul against Lindsay, and some good play by the Luton forwards was spoilt by Colvin kicking behind.

Luton forced three fruitless corners, and at the other end Bushby headed over a good shot by Martin, while Durrant made a nice run up the field, but Brown kicked behind his centre. Ord saved a good effort by Pugh, while Durrant missed a good chance from a pass by Tierney. Three fouls against Luton availed the visitors nothing, and Baldry just managed to get away a strong drive from Brown. Gall made a good run for the visitors, but his final effort went wide, and Colvin was neatly stopped by Hood, while Ord had to run out and clear a rush by Pugh. Luton gained another futile corner, and from the goal kick F. Hawkes secured, and passing to Brown, the latter got in a shot at about 25 yards' range. All present thought the ball was going out ; in fact Baldry had left his charge to catch it for a goal kick, but to the surprise of everyone the ball suddenly swerved into goal and rolled into the net. Thus Luton scored their first goal in the League after half an-hour's play.

The visitors now played up well, and Ord had to clear smartly from Pugh, while Williams shot over a place kick by Lindsay for a foul against the visitors. Howard caused a great outcry among the spectators for a bad foul on Durrant, and the play had to be suspended until the latter came round, the resulting penalty being cleared. Brown made a bad miss with only Baldry to beat, and another attempt by the same player was nearly successful, but Baldy got the ball away somehow. The pace was now beginning to make itself felt among several of the players, and nothing further was done before half-time which arrived with the score :

Luton	1 goal
Wellingborough	0 goals

On resuming, Luton were the first to attack, and Durrant got across a good centre, but it went behind. A foul against Sharp for jumping was cleared, as was one against Gall, and Brown made a fine effort to score, but his shot went a trifle too high, Draycott cleared well from Durrant, and Colvin made a very poor attempt with a clear field in front of him. The visitors played up well and the Luton defence had no rest. Sharp gave a fruitless corner to Gall, and offside against Marriott lost a good opportunity, while Ord made a grand save from a header by Pugh from Gall's centre. The referee had to caution several players in regard to rough play, and the desperate efforts by each side to score rendered the play very exciting.

Offside against Marriott lost a good chance from a grand centre by Gall, when play had to be suspended owing to Draycott getting hurt, but he soon resumed. Baldy had to run out and clear from Brown; two corners to Lu on were both fulfilled, and Williams put over a place kick by Lindsay from a foul against the visitors. Tierney directly after got in the best shot of the day, but Baldry saved in a masterly style which excited loud cheers from the crowd. Brown shot over a centre by Durrant, and Colvin made a grand effort to get through, but Howard cleared and the danger passed.

As the end approached, the visitors made desperate efforts to draw level, and on two or three occasions were very unlucky in not getting the ball into the net. Sharp gave away a corner to Gall, but Marriot headed over, and directly after Bushby shot behind with only Ord to beat. From the goal kick, Luton got down but were driven back, and the home defenders had to exert all their efforts to keep the visiting forwards out. Gall, on the wing, caused considerable trouble, and got across some very dangerous centres, but his partners could not penetrate the home defence, and the end arrived with the visitors still pressing, leaving Luton with their first two points in this season's League tournament. Score :—

Luton, 1 goal.

Wellingborough 0

NOTES.

The above game was full of interest, and the result hung in the balance until the final whistle was blown. On the day's play Luton just about deserved their victory, their performance being a trifle more finished than that of the opposing team; but Wellingborough are a very capable lot, and will win in their turn.

In Baldry, the old Kettering man, they have a smart custodian, and they are well served at back in Atterbury and Hood—who hail from Barnsley and Stoke respectively—the latter being the better of the two; both kick and tackle very strongly, and were a constant trouble to the home forwards. The middle trio also did good work, Martin, who is a local player, showing up well. Howard, a recruit from Derby County, partnered Draycott, the old Bristol Rovers' man, and the latter was the best of the pair, playing a fine game.

The visiting forwards all have speed and weight. Pugh hails from Gravesend, and has the marks of a good footballer. Both wings are strong, and Gall and Turner, of Doncaster Rovers and Chesterfield respectively, make a fine right wing, and caused the Luton defenders some anxious moments. Bushby and Marriott, two old favourites with last season's eleven, also combined well together.

For the home team O. d., in goal, was in his usual reliable form, and although he had some good shots to negotiate on several occasions, kept a clear sheet. Lindsay and Sharp both played strongly, although the latter jumps too much. The middle line, however, was far from being strong, F. Hawkes only showing up prominently. White was hardly fit to play, and Williams was also out of trim. The Directors will have to secure another good half-back before the team can be considered a good and representative one.

The forward line all worked hard, Brown, in particular, making some fine efforts to break through the opposing defence. Blessington and Durrant played a good game on the wing, although the latter was rather slow in getting his centre across, while the former had to assist the middle line a great deal, and as a result the first rank was somewhat weakened. Tierney and Colvin played a good game together, the latter at the close making some beautiful runs down the line, he experienced hard lines on several occasions in not netting the ball. The referee gave great satisfaction to all.