

FOOTBALL.

LUTON v. WELLINGBOROUGH.

These teams met for the first time in the Southern League competition on Saturday. It was not the Northants men's first appearance in the League, for they had played a drawn game with West Ham United during the preceding week. Wellingborough brought a good team, several of the men being drawn from prominent clubs, and others being well-known in this district. The home side was constituted as usual. There was a first-rate muster of spectators, the terraces being well filled, and it was computed that something like 3,000 were present. The weather was fine, and an enjoyable afternoon's sport was witnessed. The teams were:

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

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

Referee: Mr. A. Millward (London).

Linesmen: Mr. H. E. Edwards (London) and Mr. S. J. Brightwell (Rushden).

The home captain obtained choice of positions, and the locals made such good use of their opportunities at the outset that in the first minute of the game Brown essayed a shot at goal. The ball travelled wide, however. Hawkes evoked applause by a pretty exhibition, this leading to a corner to the home side. Another followed almost immediately; but neither proved productive. A foul against Lindsay was balanced by one to the visitors. The homesters attacked vigorously and from a centre by Colvin, Brown headed in splendidly, Baldry only just managing to keep the ball out. Again the locals gathered to the assault, a foul against Lindsay eventually driving them back. Following this Ord was called upon to handle the ball. More fouling by the visitors was noticed and then in rapid succession two more corners were forced. Following the second of these Tierney headed wide. In saving a hot shot from Lindsay's foot Hood headed over the goal and so presented the enemy with a corner. The "blues"—it should be explained, by the way, that the Wellingburians wore blue shirts and that the homesters were arrayed in white—next took a turn at pressing, and Pugh headed over the bar. Later on Durrant got away and passed neatly to Brown, who just missed. It was noticed that the visitors were very quick upon the ball, and that they were playing a very hard, determined game. The operations were fast. At about this stage Ord was tested once again, and then at the other end Brown nipped in a moment too late or he must have scored. Another clearance was effected by Ord when the visitors looked dangerous, and when Atterbury kicked deliberately into touch the crowd burst into laughter. The only goal of the game was hereabouts scored by Tierney with a curious screw shot which the goalkeeper mis-judged. It was an extraordinary effort, and led to a good deal of joking as to "side" and Hirst's swerve. It must be confessed that the point was decidedly lucky. When Ord had brought off another neat save, Williams sent high over the bar. Durrant was nastily charged in the back. The game had to be suspended for a short time to enable him to recover. Brown experienced more hard luck just before the interval, when the positions were:—

LUTON, 1; WELLINGBOROUGH, 0.

On the resumption the "whites" went off with considerable dash, and in the first minute struck the side of the net with a shot that deserved a better fate. A foul by Sharp gave the visitors a chance of breaking away, and the centre-forward barely missed with a capital attempt. The home centre man followed suit, and then was witnessed some extremely effective play by Colvin and Brown. The visitors were now having a good deal more of the game than was the case in the first half, and they succeeded in forcing a corner, which proved unprofitable. They once more got well under weigh, but were checked for off-side. There was a good deal more fouling in the game than was altogether necessary, and it must be said that the visitors were the principal offenders in this respect. Just now, however, both sides were equal culprits. A very weak shot from the Wellingborough side was witnessed during a period of pressure by the visitors. A corner was capitally forced by Brown and the goalkeeper just managed to keep out the ball during a period of attack which followed. Another flag-kick ensuing, Williams caused some laughter by sending very high over the bar. A minute or two later Baldry had all his work cut out to save a very hot shot from Tierney's toe. A first-rate exhibition by Colvin, who appears likely to become a popular favourite, led to Brown just missing the goal. Subsequently a corner fell to Wellingborough; it was well placed, but the ball was headed over. The home centre forward narrowly missed with a long range effort just before the end of the game. The final result was:

LUTON, 1; WELLINGBOROUGH, 0.