

The English Cup.

LOWESTOFT v. LUTON.

Played at Lowestoft on Saturday. Result:—

Luton	2 goals.
Lowestoft	1 goal.

The teams were as follow:—

Lowestoft—Spoor; Holman and Mewse; Andrews, Royal, and Sutherland; Wilkins, Baker, Gooch, Cole, and Crews.

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

Referee, Mr. S. R. Carr.

For the third year in succession the draws in the preliminary rounds of the English Cup Competition have resulted in Luton having to make the long, tiresome, and expensive journey to the East Coast, a district which the powers that be have decided is geographically convenient to Luton and the other clubs in the division. Twice Luton have been to Lowestoft and once to King's Lynn.

On Saturday the jaunt was to Lowestoft, and a very worrying one it was, the players first having to go to London and then down from Liverpool-street. They had the advantage of a saloon carriage on the Great Eastern, but long before they reached their journey's end they became extremely doubtful as to the advantage, because the saloon was hooked on to the end of the train, and the oscillation was so bad that it completely upset some of the men. Lowestoft was reached about an hour before the kick-off.

There was quite a large crowd to see the game, Lowestoft being extremely popular from the fact that they had not suffered a single defeat this season. The spectators numbered 1,500, and the gate receipts amounted to nearly £50, which is pretty well double the sum taken on the occasion of Luton's previous visit. The brilliant weather also had something to do with the increased attendance, for it was not a day upon which people wanted to remain indoors.

Lowestoft won the toss, and set their opponents to play with the sun full in their faces. The homesters went away with a rush and soon forced a corner, but after this Luton began to show to better advantage. The defence on both sides, however, was stronger than the attack, and the greater part of the play took place in midfield.

The Lowestoft men were a big, strapping lot, and they played a hard and vigorous game, in which there were some more or less successful attempts at combination. It was clear, however, they were not quite on a level with their adversaries, who held their own pretty easily, though the efforts of the Luton forwards were decidedly lacking in finish near goal.

The game had been in progress thirty-three minutes before the first goal came, Brown then putting through from a corner placed by Durrant. Luton continued to have rather the better of the play until just before half-time, when Lowestoft got down, and Baker was charged off the ball by Lindsay on the touch-line between the goal and the corner-flag. The referee said that Lindsay also tripped the man, and awarded a penalty, from which Cole equalised.

The interval was immediately called, and the teams changed ends. During the first half there had been two or three stoppages for injuries, Durrant and Williams on the Luton side being incapacitated for the moment while a Lowestoft man also had to be afforded a brief respite. The spectators, of course, were very jubilant when the homesters scored the equalising goal, and gave their men all the encouragement they could.

The consequence was that Lowestoft started the second half for all they were worth, and for a time the game was well contested. Luton, however, soon asserted their superiority in general play, but it was not until twenty minutes from the end that they were able to score again, and then the goal was more than doubtful, Colvin, who put in the centre from which Blessington scored, being dead offside. At least, that was what the spectators thought, and some of the Lutonians were not inclined to dispute it.

Personally, I feel rather sorry the goal was allowed, as it proved to be the winning point. There would have been some satisfaction in getting Lowestoft up here for the replay, and I am sure there are many Luton people who would have been delighted to give them a welcome.

As to the merits of individual men, Mewse, the home captain and left back, was one of the best performers on the field. The halves were not much, but the left wing forwards played a very good game. Ord had but little to do in goal. Lindsay played a sound game, but Luton's chief superiority over their opponents was in the half-back line, the Lowestoft forwards seldom being allowed to get dangerous. The Luton forwards, of course, were much cleverer than those on the other side, but they finished weakly.

The "East Anglian Daily Times" is immensely gratified by the display given by Lowestoft, who, it says, "demonstrated their power by a remarkably fine exhibition of football. Never anticipating any sanguine ideas of complete success over their formidable and experienced rivals, the Lowestoft team were, nevertheless, fully prepared for any eventualities, and with any measure of luck they might have won. . . . The contest provided one of the best exhibitions of football desirable, and seldom has such excellent play been witnessed in cup-ties of that order."

The writer then goes on to contrast the angelic temperament displayed by Lowestoft with the tactics employed by their opponents:—"It was on no account due to the efforts of Luton that the game did not resolve into a rough affair, for by shady tactics they endeavoured to the utmost to provoke their opponents. Lowestoft, to their credit, were above resorting to such mean work, and it was this wise resolve that prevented the game degenerating into those miserable affairs that cup-ties often become."

The draw for the next round has given Luton an exceedingly hard nut to crack, as they are deputed to meet Watford on the ground of the latter. Watford play a remarkably vigorous and successful game on their own pitch, and Luton will have to put in all they know to come out on top. The match will take place on Saturday week. With Southampton one Saturday, and Watford in a cup-tie on the following, matters are getting just about as exciting as one could wish.