

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

LUTON TOWN v. NEW BROMPTON.

AN EASY VICTORY.

After their fine struggle at Watford the previous week the Luton team were accorded a hearty welcome on their appearance on Saturday for the League match with the Kentish eleven. Up-to-date the Bromptonians had been going fairly strong, and one of their best achievements was the draw effected against the Southampton team at the Dell early in the season. Last season they defeated Luton in a sensational manner by 3 goals to 2 after being 2 goals behind at the interval on their own ground, while Luton were victorious here by 4 goals to 2.

The frost overnight had made the ground very slippery, and the sun was shining brilliantly when the teams appeared. There was a good crowd of some 2,000 present when the referee, Mr. F. Styles, of Wellingborough, whistled the following 22 into order punctual to time—2.45 :

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

New Brompton : Harris ; Killean and Humphrey ; French, Atherton, and Blair ; Scott, Frettingham, Leigh, Milward and Dunkley.

The visitors won the toss, and Luton kicked off from the railway end with the sun full in their faces. The homesters soon took up the attack, and after Harris had saved, Blessington beat him, and thus Luton were one up after 5 minutes' play. Nothing daunted by this early reverse, the visitors played up well, and Ord had to clear his charge twice in as many minutes, but Luton were soon in the vicinity of the visitors' goal, and taking advantage of a slight misunderstanding on the part of their defence, Durrant secured and running right through scored the second point for Luton.

Straight from the kick-off, Luton got away again, and a rare tussle took place on the visitors' goal-line, but Luton could not get the ball through, and had to be content with a futile corner. Colvin broke away, but his final effort went wide, and Brown had hard lines with a fine shot which just missed the post. Williams gave Harris a warm handful to negotiate, but the keeper was equal to the occasion. The visitors then had a turn in Luton territory where Ord and Lindsay had to clear from Scott and Leigh respectively. Milward shot behind with a good opportunity in front of him.

However, after 25 minutes' play, a break-away by the Brompton forwards resulted in Dunkley getting across a good centre, which struck the bar, and from the rebound Frettingham beat Ord, giving him no chance whatever. From a foul against Luton, Ord had to save from Atherton, and Milward shot over, while Ord had to exert himself to the utmost to get away a shot from Leigh. Dunkley, however, relieved the pressure by shooting high over the bar. The interval arrived with the score :

Luton, 2 goals ; New Brompton, 1.

On resuming, Luton got away on the left, but Colvin finished weakly by shooting behind. The Brompton eleven were now playing for all they were worth to equalise. Sharp cleared two dangerous centres from Scott and Dunkley, and several smart exchanges took place in front of the Luton posts, but the Luton defence prevailed. Play veered round to the other end, where Tierney, after working the ball round prettily, shot over to the great disappointment of the crowd. Harris saved well from Hawkes, and a foul against Luton availed the visitors nought. Hawkes cleared a fine centre from Scott, while Ord saved a good effort from Milward.

Luton again assumed the aggressive, and Blessington hit the post with a fine shot, while Harris caught the ball from Colvin, but in throwing the leather out carried it over the line ; the referee, however, refused Luton's appeal for a goal. Luton forced a fruitless corner off Killean, while Brown made a good effort to score, but the ball went just by the post. Tierney caused Harris some anxiety with a fine effort, but directly after, the same player got in a grand shot which went through off Killean, and Luton were three up. Play was all in Luton's favour up to the finish, and the referee should have awarded them two penalties for deliberate fouls within the 12 yards' limit. That official, however, ignored all appeals, and no further scoring taking place, Luton retired easy victors with the score :

LUTON 3 goals
NEW BROMPTON 1

NOTES.

The game was not of a first-class character, especially in the latter moiety, and the play of the Luton team fell off considerably after the interval. The visitors, however, worked hard throughout, and never gave up trying, but the Luton team always held the upper hand, and in the first half the Brompton men could make no headway against them.

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Harris, in goal for the visitors, played a good game, and saved finely on several occasions. Although young, he displays remarkable coolness, and at times cleared his charge when it seemed certain that Luton would score. Humphrey, the old Chatham man, played a hard game at back, and he was ably assisted by Killeen, who hails from Blackburn Rovers; both of them kick strongly, and clear their lines in good style.

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The middle trio also worked very hard, Atherton, the old Kettering centre-half, showing up prominently in the attacks on the Luton citadel. French also played a good game, but as a rule, he generally found Tierney and Colvin a trifle too clever for him. Elair, the old Gravesender, showed up well against the Luton right wing, but he deserved pulling up sharply by the referee on more than one occasion.

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Their forwards are a lively lot, the pick being Milward, who still plays as well as ever. He tried hard to improve his side's position, and had hard lines on one occasion, the ball just gliding by the post. His partner, Dunkley, also played a good game, showing a fine turn of speed, and got across some good centres, but his partner failed to take advantage of them.

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In the centre, Leigh, who has visited Luton several times with the Burton Swifts when Luton played in the Second Division of the League, was very prominent throughout, but he found White a tough handful. The evergreen Frettingham showed a falling-off from his previous play at Luton, but his partner Scott was very fast at times, and put across some good centres, but Sharp generally got the better of him.

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For Luton Ord played a good game in goal, and at times he had some awkward shots to get rid of. His habit of running out of goal, however, nearly cost his side a point on one occasion. Lindsay played as usual, while Sharp showed great improvement, and his display was much appreciated by all.

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The middle trio showed up well, Hawkes, as usual doing yeoman service, and White and Williams can improve in some respects. As to the front rank, all worked hard, but at times they were inclined to do a little too much "on their own."

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Brown, in the centre, was always in the thick of it, and though he did not score, he tried desperately hard to beat Harris. Tierney and Colvin played a pretty game together, and were too much for the opposition. Blessington and Durrant were very effective, and gave the visiting defenders but little rest.

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The referee was very weak, and it is time the Southern League committee appointed a new set, for up to the present a very poor sample has been allotted to Luton. On Saturday, the whistle-holder walked aimlessly about the ground, and appeared to take but little interest in the game. Players fouled each other close under his observation, yet he failed to penalise them. Had a competent referee officiated, Luton would have been awarded at least two penalties for fouls within the limit. The behaviour of the crowd was excellent.

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