

English Cup—Divisional Final.

LUTON TOWN v. QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS.

LUTON GAIN A GRAND VICTORY.

For the third year in succession these old rivals met to decide who should enter the intermediate round of the Cup. Luck has favoured Luton on each occasion with choice of ground, and with the exception of the tie two years ago, when the Rangers effected a draw of 2-2 at Luton and later vanquished them in the replay at Kensal Rise by 4-1, Luton have proved victorious last season by 3 goals to nil, and on Saturday by 2-0. The match had excited great interest in the town since the draw took place, but local opinion generally favoured the Town club. The teams met at Luton a month ago in the League when Luton gained the day by 1-0, after one of the hardest games of the season.

The Rangers' executive had arranged for a cheap trip for their supporters and a large number journeyed down, being decked with colours and emblems bearing a photo of their captain, and their warcry "Buck up, Rangers?" was heard very frequently. In the Rangers eleven Bowman and Seeley were the only two who did not figure at Luton in the League game, while in the Luton team Harry Williams had to stand down, owing to a bad cold, his place being taken by Bob Hawkes, of the Reserves, and thus all the halves were locals. The weather was all that could be desired and a large crowd of some 3,000 spectators lined the ropes when the teams appeared. Mr. G. E. Landragin, of London was referee, and he had the following 22 under his command:

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

Queen's Park: Collin; Newland and Aston; Bowman, Freeman, and Keech; Stewart, Pryce, Millar, McQueen, and Seeley.

There was a loud cheer from the Rangers supporters when Aston won the toss and set Luton to play against the wind. The Rangers were the first to attack, but Lindsay cleared, and Luton assumed the aggressive, Colvin getting across a fine centre, but Collin saved grandly at the expense of a fruitless corner. Colvin again got in a good shot at the Rangers' citadel, but Collin saved and play was transferred, but a foul on Durrant by Aston brought the ball again into the visitors' goal, but danger was averted. Millar essayed on the home goal, but Ord saved. Colvin got away in fine style, but his final effort was futile.

Two "frees" to the visitors were unavailing and Tierney got in a good shot which Collin saved. Stewart, getting away, put across a good centre, but Ord saved finely, while at the other end Durrant skimmed the bar with a beautiful shot. Some pretty passing by the Rangers' right wing was spoilt by Bowman shooting behind, and a free-kick to each side was of no benefit. Luton again assumed the aggressive and Tierney got in a fine shot, but the keeper saved, as he did a moment later from Blessington, and a break away by the visitors nearly spelt disaster, the ball hovering about the Luton goal for some minutes, when Lindsay cleared with a huge kick. Coming again the Rangers tested Ord with a good shot, but the latter was equal to the occasion. Brown made a grand effort at the other end, but his shot went just by the post.

Pryce shot over for the Rangers, and Ord saved grandly from Millar and Seeley, the resulting corner being cleared. Two "frees" to Luton for hands and offside were futile, and Tierney and Stewart shot over for their respective sides. After Collins had saved from Brown, the home team made a strong onslaught on the Ranger's citadel, and Colvin centring finely, Durrant ran in and scored with a fine shot, which Collins assisted into the net in his endeavour to save. Thus after 40 minutes' play Luton took a well deserved lead. Nothing tangible resulted before the interval, which arrived with the score :

Luton	..	..	..	..	1 goal,
Queen's Park	..	..	..	0	,,

On resuming the Rangers were the first to attack, but Luton were soon at the other end, where Tierney headed over a corner given by Aston, and Durrant shot behind. Collins got hurt by Brown in saving from Blessington, and he had to leave the field for a short period, Aston going goal, and the Rangers resorted to the one back game, and several strong onslaughts on the visiting citadel were stopped for offside. Aston saved from Durrant twice in succession, and from a corner given by the former, Brown headed past the post. The Rangers forced a corner but Luton got the ball away, and Collins received a rousing cheer as he appeared on the field again. Luton took up the attack and Durrant with only Collins to beat shot high over the bar.

However, after 30 minutes' play, Brown secured possession, and making a fine dash for goal, beat Collins with a grand shot. The Rangers' keeper had no chance whatever of saving. This success greatly pleased the crowd, who cheered loud and long and play became very exciting. The referee had to caution several players on each side for rough play in their eagerness to get the better of each other. Ord cleared from Millar and McQueen, and Durrant saved a certain goal from Seeley, who got hurt in a tussle with Lindsay. The Rangers' goal had a miraculous escape from shots rained in by the Luton forwards. Try how they would, Luton could not increase their lead, and retired victors of a hard and fast game with the score :

Luton	..	..	..	..	2 goals,
Queen's Park	...	...	...	0	,,

NOTES.

For a Cup-tie, in which vigour and excitement generally predominate, it was a capital game and at times some very pretty and effective football was witnessed. The players all suffered from the excitement that prevailed and at times caused a little unnecessary roughness to be imported into the game. All things considered, there was not a great deal to be blamed in either team, and for such keen rivals it was a far better game than had been anticipated.

With regard to the visitors, Collins again gave a fine display as goalkeeper, but was rather unfortunate in getting hurt again, though he could not possibly blame Brown. He had nothing like so much to do as on his last appearance at Luton, but he got rid of shots that would have beaten many a custodian. Although there are some who would say that he might have saved the first goal, he had no possible chance with the last and how he kept his charge intact when the Luton forwards were hotly bombarding him, was a marvel.

In Newlands and Aston, the Rangers possess a capable pair of defenders. The latter proved himself an adept in the art of goal keeping when Collins got hurt. He brought off two fine clearances from Durrant, and defended valiantly as back. Both backs kick strongly and with good judgment, and can use their heads as well as their feet, when occasion requires. The Rangers also possess a very strong middle trio, although at times they showed too much vigour in their attack on the home goal.

In the front rank, all did well, Millar especially playing a fine game. The old Sheffield Wednesday man made some well meant efforts to improve his side's position, and had very hard lines on one occasion in not scoring. The right wing is the stronger. Pryce and Stewart initiated some pretty forward movements during the game, but they lacked the dash that brings goals. Seeley made some good runs but found Lindsay hard to beat. Against a less reliable defence, however, they would make a dangerous quintet.

A special word of praise is due to one and all in the Luton team. Every man played with untiring zeal and kept going the whole 90 minutes. Ord, in goal, was in fine form, and although not having so much to do as Collins, yet he had to get rid of some very dangerous shots, and greatly to his credit, he kept a clean sheet. Lindsay played a splendid game at back, and time after time he cleared when the Rangers were pressing. His partner, Sharp, also showed great improvement, and on the day's play, the Luton backs were far in advance of the opposing pair.

It is a somewhat unique experience for a professional club to play three local men in one line, yet this is what Luton did on Saturday, as Williams was laid up. R. Hawkes was brought in to fill the vacancy. This was his second appearance in first class football, his previous

display being against Kettering in a friendly. Hawkes gave a really good account of himself, for he had a formidable wing to deal with. He made but few mistakes and should certainly be given another trial before many weeks have elapsed. White was always in the thick of the fray, while the other Hawkes played as well as ever, and repeatedly got the better of his opponents.

The forwards all worked with a will and never gave up trying. Brown, in the centre, tried very hard all through and some of his efforts deserved better success than they attained, but his goal was the result of a grand piece of individualism, and he was loudly cheered by all present. He seems to improve on every occasion that he turns out, and his displays during the last few weeks have been a treat to witness. Tierney did well but was inclined to do a little too much on his own account, and several times he was robbed by an opponent, before he would part with the ball.

Colvin played far better than of late, and made some fine runs into the Rangers' territory. Some of his centres caused the London defenders no little anxiety. Blessington and Durrant also played finely, the former especially showing some pretty football. Durrant worked hard all through, but he should try and keep the ball low. On Saturday he lost two splendid openings on this account, but he should be given credit for his first point. Taken as a line, they were far more effective than the Rangers and on present form will take some beating anywhere in the South.

The referee deserves special commendation for his very fair handling of such an exciting game. Although he made some mistakes, he acted impartially and gave general satisfaction. The behaviour of the crowd was all that could be desired. The gate realised £95.

Up-to-date, Luton have taken part in five Cup-ties and their record is as follows: Played 5, won 5, lost 0, drawn 0, goals for 23, against 5. Our opponents have been Apsey (13-1), Bedford Queen's (4-2), Lowestoft (2-), Watford (2-1), and Queen's Park Rangers (2-). All have been played at Luton with the exception of the Lowestoft and Watford matches.