

# Football.

## The English Cup.

### LUTON v. QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS.

Played at Luton on Saturday. Result:—

|                           |          |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Luton .....               | 2 goals. |
| Queen's Park Rangers..... | nil.     |

The teams were as follow:—

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

Queen's Park—Collins; Newlands and Aston; Bowman, Freeman, and Keech; Stewart, Pryce, Millar, McQueen, and Seeley.

Referee, Mr. G. G. Landragin.

If there were many Cup-ties like the latter half of Saturday's game, there are people who would rather pay to stay away than to have the privilege of seeing them. The first forty-five minutes were got through in a very satisfactory way, notwithstanding the excitement imported into the proceedings by the noisy demonstrations of the supporters of the visiting team, but the play was of the dashing, vigorous, unscientific Cup-tie order.

In the second half, however, the game underwent a decided change for the worse, beginning with the injury sustained by the Rangers' custodian, carried on by the one-back tactics so relentlessly pursued by the visitors, and culminating in one or two little incidents in which bad feeling was the predominant feature.

But before going any further, I must bear testimony to the greatly improved behaviour of the Luton spectators, taken as a whole. I have criticised them very severely on some previous occasions, and I believe the spectators themselves would be the first to admit that the criticism was deserved, but on Saturday they kept their heads and their tempers remarkably well, despite a certain amount of provocation from the London contingent.

The crowd was a fairly large one, though there were not quite so many people as might have been expected, the number possibly not exceeding four thousand. As usual, they nearly all came a few minutes before the kick-off, and the consequence was there was a good deal of struggling at the main entrance, where a pretty good-humoured mass of humanity became wedged in the attempt to get through all at once.

The game commenced soon after half-past two, and the visitors winning the toss, had the advantage of the breeze in the first half. They were the first to attack, too, and a foul against White gave them an opening, whilst a similar infringement by the Rangers enabled Luton to get away. Brown and Tierney made the running, and the latter passing out to the left, Colvin had hard lines with a shot which struck the upright.

A moment later Collins had to dispose of a long one from Colvin, and Durrant followed on with another, which Aston cleared. Millar nearly got through at the other end, from a pass from the right wing, but Sharp put the stopper on. Then from a throw-in, Millar was responsible for a beautiful cross-shot, which Ord cleared.

An attack by Luton, in which Colvin and Tierney were conspicuous, was replied to by the Rangers, and Stewart threatened danger with a very smart shot, but Ord picked it up in the twinkling of an eye, and Brown getting away, passed the ball forward between Keech and Aston, each of whom left it for the other. Durrant received, and going straight for goal, sent a rattling shot just over the bar.

The Rangers again took a turn, but were soon driven back, and from a free kick, Sharp played nicely, and Blessington headed in. Collins saved, and the ball was away down the field in next to no time, but Stewart's likely-looking shot was cleverly intercepted by R. Hawkes, and the homesters breathed again.

The next thing of note was a splendid effort by Brown, who worked his way out on the left, and then put in a grand shot, just skimming the bar. The Rangers promptly replied, and a mistake by Lindsay, who tried to stop the man instead of the ball, let in the left wing, and from a centre, Pryce had a capital opening, but shot wide.

A moment later, another error of judgment gave Millar a chance of getting through, and he sent in a beauty, which Ord negotiated in fine style, but could not get the ball far away. Seeley obtained and put in another hot shot, which luckily rebounded behind off Sharp. The corner was of no advantage, as Seeley placed behind. The visitors made matters pretty warm, however, in the neighbourhood of the Luton goal, and Ord had a very anxious time, but eventually an infringement of the offside rule relieved.

A long shot by Aston, who was playing a particularly good game, gave Lindsay a chance of showing his skill in heading out of danger, and then Luton got away and settled down to some excellent work in the vicinity of the Rangers' headquarters. For a time their efforts were unsuccessful, though Collins had to keep his wits about him to save from a header by Brown, but just when it seemed the interval would arrive with a blank sheet, Colvin put in a lively sprint and a good centre, Brown headed to Durrant, and the latter sent in a smart shot, which went into the net off the custodian.

It was the last thing of note before the teams crossed over, and the Luton players and spectators were naturally very jubilant at the somewhat unexpected success. I say unexpected, for truth compels me to confess that the Rangers had had quite as much of the play during this first half as Luton. In midfield they had certainly been more conspicuous, but contrary to the usual state of affairs, Luton had made the greater number of likely-looking attempts on goal.

It had been a rattling good game so far, though feeling was too keen to allow of much in the way of combination. There was any amount of dash, the Rangers being particularly noticeable in this respect, and it was this dash which took Luton a little off their game. You can't afford to wait and look for openings when a man is coming down on you like a thousand of bricks.

If the second half had been like the first, there would have been no cause for complaint, but unfortunately it was very far from it, though the players, perhaps, were not altogether to blame. At the start, it looked as if the Rangers were going to equalise right away, Pryce working his way down and making a bold effort. Brown, however, immediately became even more dangerous at the other end, and his attempt was only frustrated at the expense of a corner, from which Tierney headed over.

Luton followed on with another assault, and Brown, in attempting to convert a header from Durrant, unhappily made a greater impression on the custodian than he had intended. In fact, it was not a charge at all, Brown simply being unable to stop himself. Collins appeared to be badly hurt, and had to be carried off the field, but his injury was not so severe as was imagined, and he came on again after a quarter of an hour's absence.

It was lucky for Luton that he did, for had he not done so, it is quite on the cards that the home team would have lost their lead. At first they attacked strongly, and Aston, who had gone in goal, made one or two fluky saves, and one very fine one from Durrant. After that the Rangers played the one-back game for all it was worth, the half-backs keeping so well up to the front that the Luton forwards were penalised for offside at almost every attempt to get away.

Frequently, Luton were given offside in their own half, and once they were not more than twenty yards from their own goal when the whistle went. Of course, all these free kicks for the Rangers spelled danger, and no one was more pleased than the homesters when Collins came on again. The custodian had not been on long when Brown, in an apparently

offside position—he had certainly only one back to beat—secured the ball, and running in, scored with a good shot. The point was allowed, and Luton were thus leading by a couple of goals.

The remainder of the play does not call for description, as it was of a very uninteresting character, the frequent fouls, in which the visitors were the chief offenders, taking all the pleasure out of the proceedings. There was no more scoring, though from a centre by Colvin, Blessington came very near with it with a shot which struck the upright. Once also Brown was given offside with an open goal, though the ball appeared to have come off one of the backs.

Still, taking the play on the whole, Luton have no reason to complain of their ill-luck. The two-goals' margin was quite as much as they merited on the play, for the Rangers, whilst they had a chance, did play very smart football, the forwards showing up well, whilst the two backs performed in grand style. Collins also kept goal finely during the greater part of the game.

As to Luton, the forwards undoubtedly did their level best, and it was not their fault that combination was not a more noticeable feature of the play. Blessington and Brown were both in fine form, but Tierney, otherwise good, spoiled some openings by a reluctance to part with the ball. Colvin, who was as speedy and clever as usual, might very well have been given a few more opportunities, and Durrant rendered very useful service, though one or two fouls might very well have been omitted.

The purely local half-back line gave a very good account of itself, young Bob Hawkes doing remarkably well under the circumstances, which were not favourable to a practically untried player, as he is, so far as the first team is concerned. Fred Hawkes was as sound and methodical as ever, and White got through a lot of work. Sharp performed very finely at back, and was seen to more advantage than Lindsay, who did not give one of his best displays. The score-sheet shows that Ord did all that was required of him in goal, and it only need be said that he did it well.

The gate, I understand, amounted to £96.