

ENGLISH CUP RE-PLAY.

LUTON v. ARSENAL.

DECISIVE VICTORY FOR THE WOOLWICH CLUB.

In beautiful sunshine, the re-play was decided at Luton on Wednesday afternoon. The early hour of starting, 2 o'clock, militated against a large attendance and the crowd did not exceed 2,000. Only fifty Woolwich supporters journeyed from London. Perhaps this was due to their lack of faith in the "Reds," as Luton were expected to win on Saturday's form.

On the grand stand was Mr. J. J. Bentley, President of the Football League. The Luton team was exactly the same as on Saturday, Williams again playing in Sharp's place. In the Arsenal eleven, Vaughan was dropped for Owens, and Anderson played half-back instead of Place.

Woolwich Arsenal: — Ashcroft; Cross and Jackson; Coles, Dick and Anderson; Briercliffe, Main, Gooing, Place and Owens.

The referee was again Q.M.-Sergt. Barrow, and the linesmen were Messrs. G. W. Simmons (St. Albans) and J. Welch (Maidstone).

The ground had a partly frozen surface, which made it very hard work for the players after the first half-hour. The Arsenal won the toss, and Brown started for Luton from the railway end. For some time the home team made a splendid show, and some very fast play was witnessed.

In the first minute, Ashcroft had to save smartly. Lindsay was always ready for the Arsenal's rushes, and Blessington worked like a Trojan. Colvin just missed, and Luton forced the first corner. For cleverness in mid-field, Luton fairly beat their opponents, and the Woolwich defence was severely taxed. R. Hawkes repeatedly evoked the cheers of the crowd for grand play.

Some fouls were given, mostly against the Arsenal, but there was little intentional rough play. After Durrant had shot behind twice, the visitors took a corner and began to be dangerous. Luton came again and Durrant, in running down, was badly fouled by Jackson, to whom the referee said a few words. From the free-kick, an exciting scrimmage took place in front of the Arsenal goal, but the ball was eventually got away.

Blessington amused the crowd by his agility on the slippery surface, and then the unexpected happened. Some 35 minutes had passed, when Briercliffe broke away and centred right across; Ord ran out, but Owens smartly headed the ball past him into the net. Thus the Arsenal opened the scoring, though it seemed a little discouraging to Luton, after having had most of the game. Nothing much more was done before half-time, except that Anderson placed a free-kick in the net untouched.

Interval :—Arsenal 1, Luton 0.

Soon after resuming, Blessington made an unfortunate miss in front of the goal. Ashcroft gave a corner, but Luton failed to improve it. Ten minutes from the interval, Briercliffe ran past Williams, and Gooing completely beat Ord with a swift shot—No. 2 to the Arsenal. This practically settled the match.

It is true that Brown struck the post and Luton took another fruitless corner, but there was ample justification for the cries of "Buck up, Luton!" The Arsenal acted mostly on the defensive, and did not hesitate to waste time. For a while, the home forwards threatened the Woolwich citadel, Ashcroft being kept busy. Tierney deserves mention for a couple of good attempts, but "a miss is as good as a mile" in Cup-ties. The game was really over, long before the whistle blew with the final score :—

Arsenal 2, Luton 0.

NOTES.

Undoubtedly, the better team won, and the Arsenal will now receive a visit from Newcastle United in the competition proper. The explanation of Luton's failure lies in the fact that the Luton forwards were weaker, and the Arsenal defenders stronger than on Saturday. Taking the play all through, Ashcroft had twice as much to do as Ord, and did it very smartly, too.

But, after all, goals decide a football match, and in goal-getting ability the home team were very deficient. The clever play of the Luton men in the open in the first half-hour was a treat to watch, but their shooting was never very deadly. The best man in front was Blessington, who was untiring in his efforts. Brown had not much chance, and the left wing was not very successful.

The local half back line was wonderfully effective before the interval. R. Hawkes was the most conspicuous player in the field, and did wonders. Lindsay was good, but Williams has played better, and I am afraid had something to do with the Arsenal's getting both goals. Ord perhaps might have saved the first goal, but had no chance with the second.

The winners well deserved their success. Their back division was in splendid form, and warded off all attacks. Jackson was prominent at back, and the half-back line was too strong for the home forwards. The Woolwich front rank always kept going, Gooing being a capable leader. Luton can cordially wish the Arsenal the best of luck in their attempts to secure First Division honours. I am afraid Newcastle United will dispose of their English Cup chances—even at Plumstead.

To-morrow (Saturday) Luton play in the Southern League again, and have to journey to Wellingboro' for the return game. In the opening match of the season, Luton could only just claim the victory by 1 goal to nil. The Northants team are formidable on their own ground, and an interesting game should be the result. On the same date, a grand game should be seen on the Town ground, when the Reserves meet the Tottenham Hotspur Reserves in the Eastern League. The visitors look like the probable champions of the League, being at present undefeated. The match will be one of the best of the season in which the Reserves are engaged, and should draw a good crowd.