

THE RE-PLAY.

VICTORY FOR THE ARSENAL.

The team again met on Wednesday afternoon, the "reds" on this occasion visiting Luton. As will be seen by the list of names the Arsenal authorities had made some alterations in the constitution of their team. Thus Anderson was introduced at left half and Owens was transferred to outside left in lieu of Vaughan. The weather was inclement, and the ground was in a terrible state owing to the recent frost and snow, this being all against first-class play. There was a fairly large muster of spectators, these including a noisy band from Woolwich. It was thought locally that the homesters had a very good chance of obtaining a victory, but once more events failed to verify predictions, the honours of the game falling to the Arsenal players, who displayed vastly better form than that witnessed at Plumstead on Saturday.

The sides were :—

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

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

Referee, Q.M.S. Barrow ; linesmen, Messrs. G. W. Simmons (St. Albans), and J. S. Welch (Maidstone).

There was a strong wind blowing, and by winning the toss the "reds" obtained the assistance of this. The start was made five minutes late. Immediately after the kick-off Brown became prominent by means of a good run. He was fouled by Cross and F. Hawkes sent in well after the free-kick, Ashcroft saving well. This was a very narrow escape for the visitors. It was already noticeable that the slippery condition of the turf was all against the players. The visitors came down in force on two occasions and Lindsay created some amusement by flooring Owens when the ball was near the home goal-line. Tierney got away smartly, only to have a stop put to his career when he was looking dangerous. Subsequently a corner fell to Luton, and when the ball had been cleared from this Colvin put in a grand shot which led to another flag-kick, which proved as unprofitable as the other. It was well placed, and Ashcroft effected an admirable clearance. The visitors' right wingers broke away, only to be pulled up by R. Hawkes, who was displaying admirable form. A couple of fouls were committed by the strangers, Colvin and Blessington being the victims. Neither was very

serious, however. R. Hawkes was applauded for some exceedingly pretty play, following which Brown was adjudged off-side when near goal, while a couple of free-kicks for fouls further drove the Lutonians back. F. Hawkes tried his luck with a long shot, which travelled wide. The "blues" subsequently attacked very hotly, and Hawkes and Durrant tried in vain to score. Ashcroft was in fine form, and he was well supported by his backs. Durrant sent outside the posts with a very erratic effort. The "reds" once more got well under weigh on the right, and it was only by conceding a corner that R. Hawkes managed to check their progress. A further attack by the Arsenalites was wound up by one of the front rankers heading outside. Durrant shortly afterwards burst away at top speed and was pursued by Jackson who, when the forward appeared to threaten danger, unscrupulously brought him down. The back was spoken to by the referee concerning this lapse. The free-kick led to a particularly hot attack, this being brought to an end by a free-kick against the locals. Blessington was deservedly applauded for a neat exhibition. Lindsay was also playing in very fine style, and he came through splendidly on two or three occasions. Durrant was fouled by Anderson. Hereabouts there was a good deal of tumbling down by the players on both sides and there were fouls committed by each set. When the game had been in progress just over half an hour the "reds" succeeded in getting near the home goal, and a momentary slackness on the part of the backs enabled Owens to put his side ahead. Later on a beauty from Coles deserved a better fate than to go harmlessly over the goal-line. There was not much of interest from now to the interval, when the positions were:

ARSENAL, 1; LUTON, 0.

It was felt by supporters of the home side that with the wind in their favour in the second half matters were not by any means hopeless for the locals. They started in very promising fashion, though their terminal efforts were not by any means so admirable as their mid-field play. A magnificent centre by Colvin was unavailing, none of the other forwards being in a position to take advantage of it. A terrible miss was made by Blessington a little later on. F. Hawkes had shot hard and Ashcroft failed to clear, the ball falling at his feet; Blessington pounced upon it and sent high over the cross-bar. The failure was all the more remarkable from the fact that the home inside right was close in goal and merely had to tap the ball through. But the luck was obviously all against Luton, and Ashcroft's charge appeared to have a charmed existence. A corner was awarded to Luton, though without the desired outcome. After repeated throws-in a foul was given against the strangers. Some amusement was caused by a dog intruding on the pitch and having to be chased off, the referee suspending the game meanwhile. On the resumption a bad failure by Williams had the effect of letting through Gooing, who went right away and put on a second goal for the leaders. Later on Brown struck the bar with a shot that was only a few inches too lofty. A corner to the "blues" was unproductive. A long one from Williams was unavailing. The strangers were now playing in much better style than their opponents, who were apparently dispirited by the second lowering of their colours. They made their way into close proximity to Ord, when off-side checked them. Almost immediately afterwards a foul was given against the "reds" not far from their goal. The Arsenal forwards were so precipitate that the referee had the kick taken five times before he appeared to be satisfied. The result was that the ball was got away. Afterwards Tierney was badly charged in the back when within the 12-yards' line. Q.M.S. Barrow, however, declined to allow the penalty-kick. From the free-kick Tierney forced a corner, which was resultless. Durrant compelled Ashcroft to exert himself and he repeated this performance shortly afterwards. Another first-rate exhibition by the custodian was brought about by a first-class centre from Colvin. A couple of flag-kicks to Luton were unprofitable. An incident just now was that one of the linesmen was struck heavily in the face with the ball. The Arsenalites secured two corners; but this account was quickly balanced by Luton, who forced four in rapid succession. From now until the end of the game play was not particularly interesting. It was apparent that the Lutonians were hopelessly beaten and the supporters of the Arsenal expressed their jubilation in the customary fashion. The locals slackened down somewhat, and it was quite a relief when the whistle blew. The outcome was a well-deserved victory for the Arsenal with these figures:

ARSENAL, 2; LUTON, 0.