



## SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

LUTON TOWN v. BRISTOL ROVERS.

### A DRAWN GAME.

The first meeting of these clubs took place on the Bury Park enclosure on Saturday afternoon in dull weather before about 1,500 spectators. The Rovers are just now going great guns, and have accomplished some fine performances, defeating Wellingborough on Wednesday by 8 goals to 1, while on the previous Saturday they vanquished Kettering. Although very low in the League table, owing to very bad luck in the early part of the season, the team will surprise not a few of the clubs in the League before the season closes.

Last season, the Bristol Rovers gave Luton their quietus in the English Cup, while they also took 4 points from us in the League. Luton were, therefore, anxious to settle these matters. Both teams were one short of full strength, Luton being without Blessington, who has been suspended, while the Rovers played Lamb of the Reserves, for Corbett, who injured his ankle the previous Wednesday. Mr. G. H. Muir, of Southampton, was the referee, and he had the following 22 under his command:

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

Bristol: Cartlidge; Dunn and Griffiths; Davies, Neilson, and Lyon; Muir, Jones, Lamb, Willcox and Becton.

Luton won the toss, and Lamb kicked off from the railway goal. The homesters at once got away, but Colvin finished weakly and operations were transferred to the other end when Ord had to clear from Willcox, who soon became prominent. Good defensive play by Dunn elicited cheers, and Colvin shot behind a good pass by Tierney. A corner, forced by Hawkes with a grand shot off Cartlidge, was placed behind, after Griffiths had cleared from the goal-kick. Ord saved finely a beautiful dropping shot from Dunn. Durrant put over the bar with only the keeper to beat.

So far, play had been very even, neither goal-keeper being severely tested. Hawkes made a fine clearance from a corner, and Williams put into the net untouched for a foul against the visitors. At the other end the Luton custodian saved finely from Willcox, and Jones failed miserably with an open goal in front of him. Dunn got into disfavour with the crowd for a foul on Colvin, and at this point the referee paused in his operations owing to the behaviour of a certain section of the crowd. Most of the game was in mid-field until half-time, when there was no score.

On resuming, Bristol obtained two fruitless corners. Soon afterwards Tierney and Dunn collided, and each had to retire for repairs. The Rovers again attacked, and Jones missed badly, but from a pass by Becton, Muir dashed up and headed the first goal of the match after 7 minutes' play. This livened the play up a little, and Cartlidge had to save from F. Hawkes, while Colvin put behind after he had beaten all opposition. Lyon cleared from Tierney and Sharp, and Colvin forced a corner off Dunn, but it was cleared by the visitors. The Luton goal had a narrow escape when Willcox hit the corner of the post. Brown gave Cartlidge a warm handful, and Tierney skimmed the bar with a grand shot from Durrant's centre.

Cartlidge gave a corner to Durrant, and Sharp neatly robbed Willcox just as the Bristol man was going through. However, after half-an-hour's play, Colvin forced a corner off Dunn, from which Bob Hawkes equalised for Luton with a low shot into the corner of the net. Although each goal had some narrow escapes, time arrived with the score:

Luton 1 goal, Bristol Rovers 1.

## NOTES.

The game was chiefly remarkable for the evenness of the teams, and a draw was a fair result. It was one of the toughest games seen on Luton ground this season, and the visitors are to be congratulated on the plucky fight they made, fully demonstrating that they deserve a higher position in the League. Since their victory over Bristol City in the English Cup, the Rovers have been slowly on the up-grade, and are just now showing their true form in the Southern League. They were knocked out of the English Cup by Stoke with only a goal to spare.

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For Bristol, Cartlidge, who is only just 20 years of age, did well, and showed signs of developing into a first-class custodian. Albeit a little nervous at present, the Bristol man should have a brilliant future. He was ably assisted by his backs. Dunn, the Preston North End veteran, was very effective, breaking up the Luton left wing's combination repeatedly. His partner, Griffiths, possesses good speed.

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The halves were a strong line, and Neilson never gave Brown a rest. Lyon showed up well against the home right, which, however, was not at its best.

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As to the forwards, Willcox was most conspicuous. For a player who has only played the game for 18 months, he gives a very clever exposition, being both tricky, fast, and a dangerous shot in front of goal. Only the previous Wednesday, he scored 4 goals out of 8 against Wellingborough. He is employed at the Bristol Gas Works, and is a great acquisition to the Rovers' team. His partner, Berton, the old New Brighton man, put across some good centres and was chiefly responsible for his side's goal.

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In the centre, Lamb, who comes from a Scotch junior team, worked very hard, feeding his wings well. He has a fine turn of speed, and is a good shot. The right wing played fairly, but was not so effective as the left. Jones has been seen to better advantage, the heavy ground appearing to affect his display, while Muir could not be depended upon.

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As to Luton, Ord did not have a great deal to do, but brought off one particularly smart save. Lindsay and Sharp did satisfactory work. On present form, Sharp is one of the best backs that has donned Luton's colours, and it is to be hoped that he will continue to keep his form until the end of the season.

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The middle line were always on the move. White again showed both in defence and attack, and would be hard to beat for the energetic efforts he puts forth to bring about success. White may not be a "class" player, but he would compare well with many such men. Williams has played better, but young Hawkes was as effective as usual, often beating the opposing wing.

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As to the forwards, Brown worked hard, but his efforts seemed to lack success. Tierney and Colvin combined well until the goal was reached, when the "stopper" was applied. On the right, Durrant was in decent form, but Bob Hawkes is not a great success in the forward line, and towards the close he changed places with F. Hawkes, and succeeded much better, his goal being a beauty. The shooting, however, left much to be desired, and it is high time that an improvement was shown, for since the new year Luton have only scored 14 goals, though they had 21 scored against them. Since Dec. 7th last, Luton have only won 3 League games, and a victory or two would now be very welcome. In the past 3 months, the Luton team have made 8 draws. Their goal-record is now 67 to 44.

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