

LUTON v. TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR.

A SPLENDIDLY CONTESTED GAME.

On Saturday the Luton and Tottenham Hotspur teams met for the first time this season in the Southern League competition, the encounter taking place on the Town ground. The afternoon was dull and a high wind prevailed, this increasing in volume as the game progressed. Both sides were strong. The visitors played McNaught at centre half in lieu of Hughes, while Williams appeared at back on the home side, R. Hawkes filling the vacancy at left half. There was a very good attendance of spectators, a large number hailing from London. Considerable enthusiasm prevailed and a well-contested game was witnessed, both sides displaying to advantage in turn. The outcome was a draw, neither side succeeding in scoring, and this was a result that fairly well reflected the play, though had the locals managed to secure both points nobody would have been inclined to grumble. Sides:—

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

Tottenham Hotspur: Clawley; Erentz and Tait; Morris, McNaught and Jones (captain); Smith, Cameron, Brown, Copeland and Kirwan.

Referee, Mr. J. C. Tillotson (Birmingham).

The visiting captain obtained choice of extremities, and naturally elected to play with the wind at his back. The start saw the visitors press strongly, and early in the game Smith was penalised for lying off-side. Durrant had got well under weigh, when he was badly fouled. Shortly afterwards R. Hawkes sent over the bar, and was imitated by Tierney. Ord effected a capital save later on, rushing out and clearing in the nick of time. Free-kicks against the home players gave their opponents opportunities which they were not slow to seize, though either the 'Spurs' forwards were not so clever as usual or the home defence was unusually strong, for the Tottonians failed to make much headway. Cameron was conspicuous at this period in the game and Kirwan sent in some grand centres. A corner was forced by Durrant, but was not turned to account. Brown steered over the bar, and Ord fisted away at the Luton end in remarkably good style. The "blues" were pulled up for tripping, following which Colvin sent over the bar. Jones, who had been frequently conspicuous, displayed extremely fine form hereabouts, and Kirwan skimmed the bar with one of his excellent attempts. Moody, who was playing a rattling good game in the centre for Luton, went away in fine style just now and forced a corner. The ball was nicely middled from this, and Copeland succeeded in getting it away. The home players attacked well and were unlucky in being stopped for off-side when they were looking dangerous. For a time the operations were uneventful, and in the end the interval arrived, after a keen contest, with the positions as follows:

LUTON, 0; TOTTENHAM, 0.

The wind had strengthened by the time that it came to the turn of Luton to take advantage of it. The "blues" went off in capital style, Colvin being early conspicuous. The Tottenham custodian came out somewhat recklessly when pressed, and it was only by good luck that the visitors prevented the locals from getting the ball into the net. Moody sent in a grand long shot which travelled just wide of the mark. The strangers next headed over the bar. The home contingent, who at the commencement of the game had appeared to be playing with some overweighting recognition of the reputation of their foemen, pulled themselves together and gave a worthy exposition. They pressed determinedly time after time and the Tottenham rear-guard had plenty of work to perform. The attack on both sides, indeed, was excellent, and the play was interesting all round. A foul against Luton near goal looked ominous, but the danger was averted. From a flag-kick to the Luton lot White headed over. Again the "blues" gave the Cup-holders a taste of their quality, and the backs had all their work cut out to repel the fleet home forwards. A long shot from Tierney travelled just wide of the mark, while from a further corner the ball once more found its way just over the bar. Durrant skimmed the bar with a magnificent shot which proved only a foot too high, and yet another flag kick to Luton led to Clawley bringing off a grand save. The game continued to be keenly contested, and the spectators cheered lustily whenever anything of extra importance occurred. The 'Spurs indulged in a sturdy attack when the end was drawing near, while at the visitors' extremity Moody missed by inches with a shot that deserved a better fate. The narrowest escape experienced by the Hotspur occurred just before the conclusion of the game, when Clawley brought off a marvellous save from a shot by Moody that would have beaten nine goalkeepers out of 10. There was no scoring, however, and so the match terminated with a sharing of the points with the positions as follows:

LUTON, 0; HOTSPUR, 0.