

Luton Town Football Club.

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

BRISTOL ROVERS v. LUTON TOWN.

ANOTHER DEFEAT FOR LUTON.

For the fourth week in succession Luton were called upon to journey away from home. On Saturday, League points were at stake at Bristol, where it was fully expected that the Rovers would defeat Luton somewhat easily. Still, after Luton's fine show in London the previous week, it was thought that they might perhaps make a close fight, but with Sharp on the injured list and Bob Hawkes unable to get away to make the journey, the prospects of Luton were never bright.

The Rovers have been doing remarkably well of late and although Swindon beat them on their own ground a fortnight since, the Rovers last Saturday gained a fine victory over the Dockers at Millwall by 2 goals to 0. It is a curious fact that Luton have as yet to gain their first victory at the expense of the Bristol club. Last season Luton made a draw here, but lost at Bristol by 4 goals. The Rovers were at full strength, while Luton played Street and Williams for Sharp and Hawkes respectively. There was a large crowd on the Stapleton-road enclosure when the teams took the field under the direction of Mr. S. R. Carr, of London, as follows :

Bristol Rovers : Cartlidge ; Dunn and Griffiths ; Davies, McLean, and Lyon ; Muir, Wilcox, Corbett, Howie and Marriott.

Luton : Frail ; Lindsay and Street ; F. Hawkes, White and Williams ; Durant, Blessington, Hilsdon, Moody and Allsopp.

The weather was very unfortunate and after a downpour of rain in the morning, the ground was like a quagmire. The sun shone the first half, when there was a rough wind and about the interval the rain came down again. Luton had to face wind and sun, but for half an hour their defence resisted all Bristol's attacks. After Wilcox's had scored an offside point, Marriott put on the home club's first goal. White equalised for Luton with a dropping shot, but Howie and Dunn put Bristol well ahead at the interval. In the second half, Graham scored a fourth point and the result was :—

Bristol Rovers 4 goals, Luton 1.

A Bristol writer comments on the players thus:—"To my mind the Rovers were the better side in each department, in spite of the bulk of the Luton men, who loomed large on the horizon when they turned out to commence the fray. It was soon made evident that weight is not everything, though I have every admiration for Allsopp as a versatile forward, and Lindsay as a lion-hearted back. Frail was not the equal of Cartlidge in goal, for he too often was slow in getting to the ball. This was surprising, as the backs in front of him were worthy of full trust, Street, as well as Lindsay, doing well. The halves were vigorous and plodding, but not brilliant ; whilst the forwards lacked that one great essential—accuracy in shooting."

The other League matches on Saturday resulted as follows:—Southampton defeated Queen's Park Rangers at the Dell by 2 goals to 0 ; Millwall beat West Ham at Canning Town by 3 goals to nil ; Reading gained a victory over Wellingboro' on the ground of the latter by 2 goals to 1 ; Kettering defeated Northampton at Northampton by 2 goals to 1 ; New Brompton had the best of Brentford at the Kentish enclosure by 2 goals to 1 ; and Watford at home, defeated Swindon by 5 goals to 2.

In the Amateur Cup, Lowestoft Town, who are Luton's opponents in the English Cup, defeated Norwich City on Saturday by 4 goals to 2.

To-morrow, after the absence of a few weeks, Luton are once more at home, and their opponents will be Lowestoft in the fourth round of the English Cup. For the past three seasons Luton have had to journey to the East Coast, but they have been fortunate enough to be drawn at home on this occasion. Although there is no fear of the issue, a good game should result. Lowestoft are one of the smartest amateur teams now playing.