

Luton Town Football Club.

ENGLISH CUP—Divisional Final.

LUTON TOWN v. FULHAM.

AN EASY VICTORY FOR LUTON.

This season the qualifying competition in the English Cup brought Fulham to Luton for the first time. Considerable interest was shown by the home supporters, although there was never any doubt as to the result. The Fulham club have done some smart things this season, but their best performance was their defeat of Watford in the third round by 3 goals to nil, after making a draw at Watford. In the previous rounds, they overcame Willesden Town by 3-0, Watford 1-1 and 3-0, and Luton Amateurs 4-1, while Luton beat Queen's Park Rangers 3-0 and Lowestoft 5-1.

In the visitors' ranks, Lacey played vice Lloyd, who has been suspended by the Football Association for striking an opponent in the Watford cup tie, while Luton played Street and Gall for Sharp and Hilsdon, both injured. An excursion train brought 100 Londoners to Luton, and the weather turned out fine for the match, though the ground was very heavy, owing to the recent rains. About 2,000 were present, and the Red Cross Band discoursed some sweet music. The referee was Mr. S. R. Carr, of London, and the teams were as under:

Luton: Frail; Lindsay and Street; Hawkes, White and R. Hawkes; Durrant, Blessington, Gall, Moody and Allsopp.

Fulham: Head; Graham and Dwight; Spackman, Lacey and Tutthill; Tannahill, Cowan, Hopkinson, Meade and Porter.

Luton won the toss and Fulham kicked off against the wind. The home forwards attacked at once, and Gall opened the scoring with a fine low shot into the corner of the net after five minutes' play. The Fulham backs were hard pressed, and Blessington and Gall made good but unsuccessful efforts to increase Luton's lead. The visitors now tried an assault and Porter shot behind, while White cleared a dangerous attack by the visitors.

However, Luton had their opponents well in hand. Head saved from Gall, Moody and Durrant, while R. Hawkes shot over. Lindsay cleared from Meade at the other end, and Luton getting away again, forced three futile corners. From a fine centre by Durrant Gall registered goal No. 2. A good effort by White went just wide, while Moody and Durrant both missed a fine centre from Allsopp with an open goal before them. Luton had all the play right up to the interval, when the score was:

Luton.....	2 goals,
Fulham	0 „

On resuming, Luton at once got down, though Graham relieved, and a miss by Street let in Tannahill, but Frail cleared. Gall missed badly a centre from Durrant with only Head to beat. The Fulham custodian ran out and cleared from Blessington. Another bad mistake by Street nearly brought disaster, but Frail just managed to clear. A foul against Allsopp availed Fulham nought, and Head saved grandly from Blessington. Luton got down again and after Moody had missed, Blessington dashed in and netted the 3rd point after 11 minutes' play.

The referee cautioned Porter for kicking Frail, but directly after from a centre by Meade, Cowan beat the goal-keeper with an easy shot. Durrant was given offside when in a good position, while a desperate scrimmage in front of Luton's goal was relieved by Cowan shooting over. Durrant skimmed the bar with a fine effort and a moment later Gall scored the 4th goal in grand style. A penalty was awarded to Luton from a foul on Blessington by Lacey, but Head saved at the expense of a fruitless corner. Luton attacked again and after Blessington had missed, Moody scored the 5th goal, while Blessington netted an offside point. Nothing further was scored, the game ending

Luton.....	5 goals,
Fulham	1 „

NOTES.

Fulham did not create much of an impression upon the home crowd on Saturday. Their style of play was of the kick and rush order, and against such teams Luton can scarcely show themselves to any great advantage. No doubt, in their own particular class, the Fulham club are formidable opponents, as they have plenty of weight and speed. However, they were never really dangerous at Luton, except perhaps, on one occasion in the second half.

As to Luton, Frail did his little in goal well, and when he missed the penalty the crowd laughed heartily. Lindsay played in very effective style and often averted danger. His partner, Street, however, was very weak and miskicked several times. It was through a mistake of his that the visitors gained their solitary point.

In the middle line, Bob Hawkes worked hard but has been seen to better advantage, and perhaps the heavy ground affected his play to some extent. White worked like a Trojan in the centre, and made several good attempts to score "on his own." Fred Hawkes also did well. The Luton halves were far superior to Fulham's.

Among the forwards, Gall played a very useful game in the centre and his 3 goals were smartly got. He appears to succeed better in the centre than at inside left, and although he made one or two bad mistakes, he atoned for these by his goals. Blessington and Durrant were as clever as usual, but I think that Blessington lies too far back at times, thus missing good chances. Moody and Allsopp never gave the opposing defence much rest. The Luton forwards have certainly played better, but the bad state of the ground was a severe handicap.

For Fulham, Head played a champion game in goal, and saved his side from a much heavier defeat. He was ably assisted by his two backs, although Dwight was limping during the game owing to a knee trouble, he showed fine defence with Graham, the old Millwall man.

Spackman was easily best of the halves, Lacey played fairly at centre-half, but Tutthill was not up to the mark. As to the forwards, they are all big men, but they lack combination. Hopkinson was only fair in the centre, Cowan, formerly of Swindon, and Tannahill, late of Bolton Wanderers and recently a Millwall and Tottenham player, made a moderate right wing. Meade, of Tottenham and Woolwich Arsenal fame, did well at inside left, while Porter, formerly of Ilford, sent across some smart centres, which were not utilised.

The referee was very fair and gave satisfaction to all, while the behaviour of the crowd was all that could be desired.

To-morrow Luton have to play away from home once more for a Southern League engagement at Tottenham. The Spurs are not going very strongly this season, so that if Luton can muster at full strength, I see no reason why we should not at least equal last season's perform-

ance and bring back one point. It is a pity that Sharp's leg does not improve for he is sadly missed in the defence. I hope he will be able to turn out before the more serious Cup-tie matches a fortnight hence. On the Bury Park enclosure the Reserves meet the Brighton and Hove Albion in the South Eastern League.