

Luton Town Football Club,

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

LUTON TOWN v. NORTHAMPTON.

A FINE VICTORY FOR LUTON.

The first meeting of these teams took place at Luton on Boxing Day in fine but cold weather before a large holiday crowd of some 3,500 spectators. The visitors played Wilson at outside left in place of Dilkes, who was at right back in place of Bennett. Luton were at full strength, with the exception that Woods played vice Allsopp. The elevens lined up as follows, under the direction of Mr. A. R. Partridge, of Brockley.

Luton: Frail; Lindsay and Williams; F. Hawkes, White and R. Hawkes; Durrant, Blessington, Gall, Moody and Woods.

Northampton: Cook; Dilks and Durber; Murrell, Dainty, and Howe; Frost, Crump, Benbow, Brown and Wilson.

Luton won the toss and the opening play was in favour of the visitors, but Lindsay cleared from Crump. A capital run and centre by Woods was the next incident, while Hawkes made a fine effort to score from Durrant's centre, and Blessington nearly headed through. After 20 minutes' play, Moody centred smartly and Durrant scored a fine goal. Cook had to save from Gall, and Brown put over at the other end, but Luton returned to the attack, and after one or two unsuccessful efforts, Gall scored No. 2, giving Cook no chance. Northampton pressed, but the Luton defence could not be beaten. In another attack, Gall scored the 3rd point, the ball striking the post and entering the net. Directly after, Blessington skimmed the bar with a grand shot, and Luton had all the play up to the interval, when the score was:—

Luton 3 goals, Northampton 0.

On resuming, Northampton forced a fruitless corner, while a foul against Luton did not help them, Benbow placing in the net untouched, and Cook had to save from Williams and White, and Benbow gave a corner to a shot from Durrant, but the kick proved futile, and Gall shot just by the post a pass from Bob Hawkes. Soon afterwards, Cook, in saving from Moody, knocked the ball into the net, and thus Luton gained their fourth goal. The Northampton custodian saved cleverly from Blessington, and Gall headed on to the net. The visitors forced a corner, but Hawkes cleared, and Luton did likewise at the other end. Benbow cleared well from Durrant, and another foul against Luton was shot over by Dainty. The result of a fast game was:

Luton 4 goals, Northampton 0.

NOTES.

The game was an exposition of real good football. In the first half some particularly smart play was witnessed. Frail did not have much to do in the home goal. Lindsay played a grand game at back, and kept the opposing forwards at bay in fine style. Williams also showed up well, although he made a few mistakes. All the halves worked hard, and Bob Hawkes, although limping a little, was indefatigable.

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In the front rank, Gall was fair in the centre, but lost some fine chances through slowness. Still, his two goals were beauties. The Luton right wing gave the visiting defence a sultry time, while on the left Woods played splendidly. His speed is a great advantage to him, he has a good command of the ball and should make a capable player in time. Moody also did well.

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As to the "Cobblers," Cook's admirable goal keeping alone prevented Luton from reaching double figures; some of his saves were little short of marvellous, and he was deservedly cheered by the spectators. Durber, the old Southampton man, was very effective at back, and often cleared when it appeared certain that the home forwards would get through.

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Among the halves, Dainty, the old Kettering man, proved a stumbling block to the home forwards. Howe and Murrell, both of Wellingborough, also did well, but they found the Luton wings too clever for them. All the forwards possess a good turn of speed, but they lack combination and cohesion.

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Benbow, late of Notts Forest, played well both in the centre, and also at back in the second half when he changed places with Dilks. Crump and Frost on the right were very fair, Crump especially working hard to retrieve his side's downfall. As a team, I do not think Northampton are so strong as last season. The referee gave satisfaction to all.