

THE SOUTHERN LEAGUE

KETTERING v. LUTON.

Luton effected a very creditable draw on Saturday with Kettering, on the ground of the latter. The games between these old rivals are always keen and the one under review was no exception to the rule. There were about 2,000 spectators present at the match which was played in beautiful weather. Lindsay was successful in the spin of the coin, but elected to kick up the slope. The chief advantage was that the visitors had the sun behind them. The following were the teams:—
Kettering: Mearns; Adey and Draper; Eccleston, Martin and Grant; Crick, Parker, Platt, Brown, and Becton.—*Luton*: Frail; Lindsay and Williams; F. Hawkes, White, and R. Hawkes; Durrant, Blessington, Allen, Moody and Allsopp.

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It will be noted that Allsopp re-appeared in the first team, but Kettering were playing without Banks. In the first few minutes the play was in favour of Luton, the forwards getting down nicely. Durrant on one side of the field and Allsopp on the other got within range of the Kettering goal. Both their shots went over the bar. Early in the game the goalkeeper on the home side had as much to do as was comfortable. Still Luton maintained the aggressive, and now and again the Kettering forwards got away and tested Frail, Becton and Parker getting in shots. The Luton goalkeeper played a sound game though and repulsed their efforts.

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Eventually Luton got down and a corner was forced. This was fairly well placed and Moody was successful in heading the ball through. This occurred 20 minutes after the game had been in progress. The visitors played a good game subsequently and frequently tested Mearns. In fact they had all the play up to the interval, but could not manage to score. At half-time the position of affairs was:

LUTON 1 GOAL; KETTERING, NIL.

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The second half commenced with great vigour on the part of the visitors. Bob Hawkes was very prominent with one particularly fine dash for goal. He eventually found the net but the referee ruled that he was off-side. He received the ball from Allen who was playing in the centre in the place of Gall. This was hard lines on Luton. The home side then appeared to understand how things stood for they pulled together well and had a full share of the game. Becton, Platt and Brown were very prominent in the attack but Frail was prepared for all emergencies and dealt successfully with all the shots which were put in at goal.

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A little later, however, he made a mistake. Kettering got down and Williams was obliged to concede a corner. This was well placed and Frail made a dash to get the ball away. He however, mis-judged its flight with the result that the sphere came to Draper who promptly rushed it into the net, thus equalising the scores. There was great jubilation on the part of the spectators at this success, especially as Kettering, if anything had not had by any means the better of the game. The Luton goalkeeper nearly gave Kettering the winning goal shortly afterwards. He ran out to meet the ball but missed it and Platt had an open goal to shoot at but in his hurry placed wide. It is stated that he was pulled off the ball by one of the Luton players but the referee certainly did not agree with that view for he failed to give even a free kick. Of course the spectators appealed for a penalty. There was no more scoring and the game ended:

LUTON 1 GOAL; KETTERING, 1 GOAL.

"Kanny Kett" in the *Morning Leader* had the following comments :—"In the first half Luton looked like winners, for, though playing up the slope, they shook up our defence in a fashion which looked none too promising for the second half. But little Mearns was in fine fettle in the Kettering goal, and though Draper still seems a bit rocky after his illness, Adney played a sterling defensive game. The halves were not quite so sound as usual for Martin was obviously far from well.

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"Only one goal did Luton put on before the interval and that was scored almost before anybody was aware of the fact, a corner-kick of a very unpromising type being smartly netted by Moody when the game was twenty minutes old. The Strawplaiters' forwards kept pegging away at our goal right up to the interval, but they got nothing more. Truth to tell, they deserved it, for they were a far stronger line than our own, the outside men continually getting in some lovely centres which always spelt danger. Were they a bit faster "on their pins" the Luton forwards would really take some holding in.

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"Bob Hawkes played a rattling game for Luton throughout, but a goal which he netted shortly after changing over was obviously off-side, and was so decreed by Mr. Harrower. It was soon after this that the Ketts got fairly going, and when that happened you may take it from me that they took some holding. Brown and Becton on the left made a particularly prominent wing, and, with Jack Platt at centre, constituted a trio to command respect, for the lion's share of the forward work fell to their lot. They gave Frail several "tasters" before they finally scored the equaliser, but had the Luton custodian been content with the common or garden species of goal-keeping we shouldn't have scored at all.

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"Frail has a penchant for rushing out at the ball, and when it comes off it looks very effective. But on two occasions on Saturday it didn't come off. It was a corner-kick which he first went at like a bull at a rag, and completely missing the ball, Kettering had an open goal before them and took advantage of it. Draper giving the leather its parting kick. The Luton goalie nearly put his foot in it again just before the finish, for he rushed out at a shot and missed his mark, and Platt had an open goal before him when he was deliberately pulled off the ball. Kettering appealed vigorously for a penalty, but didn't get it."

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On Saturday the Spurs beat Bristol Rovers by 3--0 ; Northampton beat Brentford by 2--0 ; West Ham defeated Wellingborough by 3--0 ; Southampton accounted for Portsmouth by the same margin, and Millwall thrashed Watford on the West Herts ground by 7--1. The match New Brompton and Queen's Park Rangers ended in a pointless draw and Swindon and Reading also drew at one all.

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