

Football.

The Southern League.

KETTERING v. LUTON.

Played at Kettering on Saturday. Result:--

Luton	1 goal.
Kettering	1 goal.

The teams were as follow:—

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. Hawke; Durrant, Blessington, Allen, Moody, and Allsopp.

Referee, Mr. P. R. Harrower (London).

Luton accomplished a very good performance on Saturday, when they went to Kettering and effected a draw. As a matter of fact, they deserved to win, for they had much the better of the play, particularly in the first half. They were unlucky, however, in having a fine goal by Bob Hawkes disallowed, because the ball had touched Allen, who was in an offside position, and Frail was also unlucky in missing the corner-kick when the Kettering goal was scored.

The game, says the "Kettering Telegraph," was started in beautiful summer-like weather, the sun shining brightly up the pitch, and at the commencement of play about 2,000 spectators lined the ropes. Luton won the toss and kicked up the slope, they having the advantage of the sun. The opening exchanges favoured the visitors, but Allsopp shot over, and Durrant followed suit. Then the Ketts got down by the agency of the left wing, and Frail had to save from Grant. Allen and Allsopp endeavoured to break through, but Adey pulled them up. Lindsay was twice called upon, and he kicked away finely. The Kettering forwards nicely worked their way down, and Frail had to save from Beeson. At the other end Durrant centred finely, but Allsopp missed, and the ball went behind. This was a splendid opportunity, and the Luton left-winger ought easily to have scored.

After this, Kettering pressed for some minutes, but the Luton defence was very strong, and broke up several well-intended raids. Then the Lutonians went away at a rare pace and forced a corner, and the ball coming to Moody, he scored a good goal twenty minutes from the start. This unexpected reverse put fresh life into the game, and Kettering went to work with a will. Lindsay twice kicked away finely when hard pressed. A foul by Moody on Eccleston gave the Ketts an opportunity, and Durrant returned and shot over. Luton were awarded a free for a foul by Martin on Blessington, but Lindsay placed behind. A further free to the visitors was of no avail. Directly afterwards the Kettering goal looked certain to fall, but Eccleston cleared.

Mearns twice had to save from Bob Hawkes. Kettering next had a run down, and Frail saved from Grant. Moody dispossessed Draper, but contrived instead of shooting, and Mearns, running out, was enabled to clear. Mearns was next tested by a beautiful long shot from Williams. The Lutonians still maintained the upper hand, and Mearns was forced to concede a corner, which proved fruitless. The Lutonians were soon attacking again, and Blessington, when apparently offside, appeared to have a good chance, but shot by. R. Hawkes stopped the Kettering right, but Eccleston gained possession and tested Frail with a grounder. At the other end Mearns saved from Moody. By the agency of the right wing, Kettering took the ball down, and Frail had to save from Beeton. Offside against Allen stopped a likely raid by Luton, and the interval arrived with Luton leading by a goal to nil.

The second half opened spiritedly, and Mearns had to save from Blessington, repeating the performance a minute later with a shot from Allsopp. Bob Hawkes raced through in grand style, and shot into the net, but as Allen, who was offside, had previously touched the ball, the point was disallowed. Again the Blues bore down, and Durrant sent in a shot which brought Mearns to the ground, but Martin nipped in and cleared. At the other end, Williams conceded a corner, and from this a regular melee ensued in the Luton goal, White eventually clearing. Brown and Beeton made another unsuccessful attempt, and Luton then pressed severely, but relief came through Durrant getting offside. Williams was forced to concede a corner. Crick placed this beautifully, the ball dropping under the very bar. A brief scrimmage ensued, and then the ball was seen to rest at the back of the net, Draper, who had gone up while the corner was taken, apparently giving the ball the final touch. Luton responded with several vigorous attacks, and Mearns for a time had to be very much on the alert, but gradually the game slowed down, and nothing further being scored, the result was a draw of one goal each. This was not entirely to Kettering's liking, fortunate as they were on the day's play, because they had been hoping to avenge the defeat sustained at Luton earlier in the season.

Taking the game altogether, Luton were very much the superior team, and a victory by two or three goals would not have been above their merits. Allen played a very fair game in the centre, and it was unfortunate that he should have been the means of depriving Luton of that splendid goal obtained by Bob Hawkes. I understand that he did not touch the ball, but the referees ruled that when in an offside position, he was in the way of the Kettering back, and thus impeded him in his attempt to tackle Hawkes.