

LUTON AND THE CUP.

MILLWALL DEFEAT THE LOCALS.

HOW LUTON LOST.

The long talked-of Cup-tie between Luton and Millwall is over and the Dockers have secured the right to fight in the next round. The match took place at Millwall on Saturday. There was a large crowd present, some 8,266 persons paying for admission to the ground, the gate realising £270. Probably this would have been greater but for the other attractions of grounds not far off. Punctually to time the Great Northern Railway excursion arrived at Poplar, and the walk to the ground occupied all the available time before the kick-off, and when the earliest of the visitors arrived the teams were on the field practising at goal. The following were the teams and the officials:—*Millwall*: Sutcliffe; Easton and Storrier; Riley, Bell, and Morris; Moran, Astley, Hulse (captain), Jones, and Watkins. *Luton Town*: Frail; Lindsay and Williams; F. Hawkes, White, and R. Hawkes; Durrant, Blessington, Moody, Gall, and Allsopp. Referee: Mr. G. H. Muir (Southampton). Linesmen, Messrs. C. Frowde (Weymouth) and J. B. Lingham (Northfleet).

The weather was rather dull at the time of the kick-off, but the conditions of the past few days had not marred the pitch greatly. The ground had been liberally sprinkled with sand, so that the officials had done their best to make the field playable. Luton won the toss, and there was a little cheer from the group of spectators from Luton when Lindsay pointed out that he would kick with the advantage of the wind. Hulse kicked off for Millwall two minutes before the advertised time. The home side made the first onslaught, but White returned finely and Luton was found in the vicinity of the Millwall goal. A foul against Williams allowed Millwall another opportunity of visiting the neighbourhood of Frail's charge. Easton took the kick and Frail had to save, the Luton goalkeeper punching the ball half way down the field. Moran came along again, but shot wide. Allsopp showed his paces on the left and finished up with a grand centre for goal, but the strong wind caught the ball and it went over the bar.

Then Millwall scored. A promising run was made on the right, and Lindsay seeing that his men on that side of the field were getting pressed left the Millwall left unguarded. Moran centred, and the ball went to Jones. Williams went to tackle him, but the Millwall forward allowed the ball to go to Watkins, who, with only Frail to beat and within six yards of the goal-line, shot and struck the post, the ball glancing into the net. The spectators—except those from Strawopolis—went into paroxysms of delight at this early success. The point appeared a lucky one, but nevertheless counted all the same.

The Luton men went away with rare dash after the re-start, but Allsopp was ruled offside. From the free-kick Millwall again got down, but Luton repulsed their efforts, and gave the Millwall defenders plenty to do. The ball was passed from one player to another until Easton kicked it back to Sutcliffe, and Moody made a dash for the goalkeeper, but the latter avoided him and cleared. Durrant made an excellent attempt on the right, but failed to get in his shot, being well watched by Storrier. The ball eventually went into Sutcliffe's hands, and that player got rid of it with a long kick. When an accident happened. Jones and White went to head the ball, and then came into collision. Both men fell to the ground. After the game had been stopped a minute or two Jones was evidently not in a position to resume, and he was carried off by two of the players. White's head was rubbed, and he was able to commence again, but evidently he had been much shaken, as he was not able to display his accustomed dash for some time afterwards.

The Millwall side acted in a true sportsmanlike fashion, and declined to play the one-back game, as some teams would have done. Luton pressed severely; in fact, for a long time the whole of the play took place in the Millwall half. Moody got in one good shot, but Sutcliffe cleared. Durrant and Blessington got in one of their excellent runs on the right, which culminated in a corner from which Durrant placed over the bar. Sutcliffe had a very anxious time shortly afterwards. The ball passed to and fro in front of the uprights, but at length Durrant placed over the bar. Had he have passed back to the centre, something might have been done, but he was too pressed to look out for all the chances. Allsopp gave Easton a surprise by the way he went by him, but the Millwall man managed to steer the ball into touch. White gave Sutcliffe a very hot shot to save. This he failed to hold, but managed to get rid of the ball.

Jones came on at this point and was loudly cheered on resuming. Luton pressed and Durrant centred right across the field, but there was nobody there to accept it. Blessington having been given off-side Allsopp was pulled up for a similar offence. From the second kick Jones had a chance but shot over the bar. A little later the same player forced the game, but shot by the post. Sutcliffe sustained a couple of charges from the Luton men. He had caught the ball six yards out, and Allsopp at once charged him. He managed to recover, but Gall also knocked against him. The Millwall man still held the ball and eventually cleared. Moran got in a grand centre, but Watkins failed to repeat his previous performance. Then Sutcliffe was called upon to save again. Durrant centred, but the wind carried the ball behind.

A corner from Luton appeared. Frail cleared Allsopp.

A corner from Luton appeared dangerous, but Sutcliffe cleared Allsopp's shot. At the other end Frail, who had really not had much to do cleared very finely. Seven out of eight goalkeepers would have been beaten by a shot which Allsopp got in. He was almost on the touch-line, and swung in a good centre. The wind apparently was taking the ball over the goal, when the wind dropped, and the sphere landed just underneath the bar. Sutcliffe was on the alert, and punched over the top of the goal, thus giving a corner. Allsopp was prepared to take it, but the whistle sounded for half-time before he could do so, the score at this point standing:—

MILLWALL, 1 ; LUTON, 0.

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Rain began to fall at this point and rendered the ground very slippery. Aided by the wind Millwall pressed and Moran failed to take advantage of a good effort. Durrant was very nastily fouled by the half-back on that side of the field. Lindsay took the kick but the goalkeeper was impeded and a free-kick given. E. Hawkes about this time got in a terrific shot. The ball passed through a group of players and appeared to strike Sutcliffe, who was luckily standing in the way. This was decidedly fortunate for Millwall. Fortune seemed to be dead against the visitors for Millwall broke away on the right and scored a second goal. Jones put the leather in the goal and if he was not off-side nobody ever was. The Luton players appeared to think so also, for they slackened their efforts.

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It was now felt that the game was safe for the home side. Before there was a hope that the visitors would equalise, but even that consolation appeared to vanish. The Luton men stuck to their work commendably and Sutcliffe had to save and he cleared splendidly. Lindsay cleared from a corner and at the other end a foul was given against Blessington. The Lutonians came again and their efforts were rewarded by a corner, the ball going off a Millwall man from a fine centre by Durrant. Nothing came of this. Play ruled in the centre of the field. A throw-in fell to Millwall. Williams foolishly handed the ball when he found he could not reach it with his head and the referee awarded the usual free-kick. This was very finely taken and Hulse met the ball and headed into the corner of the Luton goal, giving Frail no chance.

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The last hope of Luton was gone. The visitors, however, played up as pluckily as ever and a foul against Millwall gave Luton a chance of improving its position. Allsopp made a grand run but the backs intercepted him and off-side eventually relieved the pressure. Storrier, who limped just after the start again got injured. Fred Hawkes got in a hot shot which Sutcliffe fisted out. Owing to the slowness of Gall Millwall cleared when Luton threatened danger. Durrant was loudly groaned at for kicking one of the Millwall players and there appeared a chance of the outside-right having to leave the field. The referee consulted the linesman but Durrant still continued to play.

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In the last few minutes play degenerated greatly and fouls were all too frequent. Allsopp made a fine run ending with an equally fine shot, but straight at the goalkeeper who, it goes without saying, cleared. Hands against Millwall and a foul against the same side appeared to give Luton a chance but nothing came of either. Luton persevered to the finish but could do nothing except to assist Millwall to do the same and the match eventually ended:

MILLWALL 3 ; LUTON 0.

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The general opinion amongst the less rabid supporters of Millwall was that the home side was lucky to win by three clear goals, and I full agree with them. There can be no question that the better side won, for the Millwall players were safe in defence, and very much smarter in attack. The forwards invariably knew where to find each other, whilst the feeding of the halves left little to be desired. Sutcliffe played a grand but very lucky game in goal. The ball seemed to have an irresistible attraction for him, and whenever a Luton man got it he invariably shot it straight for the Millwall goalkeeper. Sutcliffe was very fortunate in being in the right spot at the right time. He had three times the work to do that Frail had.

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Easton and Storrier played a fine defensive game and never acknowledged themselves beaten. The half

backs as a bunch failed to shine like the other players, but Bell appeared to be the best of them. Watkins, Hulse, and Moran were the pick of the forwards. Jones was extremely useful, though he should have been ruled off-side. Frail had few chances of shining, but once he cleared particularly finely. Lindsay was the better back by a very long way, and not one of the spectators ventured the opinion that he played an unfair game. Bob Hawkes was the best of the half-backs, and Durrant and Allsopp of the forwards. The forwards as a whole played a very disjointed game, and never once got going thoroughly. They appeared in very poor form compared with the Millwall five. On the whole Luton have not done badly in the cup-ties. They have now plenty of opportunities of improving their position in the Southern League, which at the present time is a very lowly one.