

Luton Town Football Club.

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

WEST HAM UNITED v. LUTON.

AN UNLUCKY DEFEAT.

The first match this season between these clubs took place at Canning Town on Saturday afternoon in miserable weather. The game was interesting from the fact that Davidson was playing for Luton against his old club. The West Ham team have done poorly of late and it is a long while since they gained a creditable victory. After their success against Tottenham last week, the Luton team set out with confidence, and expected to make at least a draw. Luton played the same team as defeated the Spurs, though West Ham had one or two reserves. The teams were as follows:—

West Ham United: Griffiths; Fair and Eccles; Bigden, Yeuson, and Blythe; Allan, Farrell, Grassam, Wallace and Barnes.

Luton: Frail; Lindsay and Williams; F. Hawkes, White, and Bob Hawkes; Durrant, Blessington, Davidson, Moody and Allsopp.

Referee: Mr. R. S. Worthing.

Luton won the toss, and set the Hammers to face the gale and driving rain. In the first minute Davidson tried the West Ham goal-keeper. Directly afterwards Hawkes put in a hot shot which Griffiths saved very well. The homesters made a good fight against the wind, and Frail ran out some yards to clear from Farrell.

However, Luton pressed again, and from a corner Blessington headed over. Davidson got away and tried a low shot, which was saved. The ground was very slippery, and the players had difficulty in keeping foothold. Luton continued to do all the pressing, but had desperately bad luck. A little more dash and method in front of goal was wanted, especially as the West Ham backs and goal-keeper were very sound.

To the surprise of the crowd, West Ham possessed a lead of 2 goals at half-time, Farrell and Grassam having scored. A feature of the game was that most of the dangerous shots at goal came from the Luton halves. In the second half, two more goals were scored for West Ham by Grassam and Bigden, and then Davidson scored Luton's only goal just before the finish. The result was:

West Ham, 4 goals, Luton 1.

NOTES.

It was a very lucky win for West Ham, though they certainly played a strong and resolute game. A London paper says:—"Bob Hawkes is the leading personality in the Luton team. There are, of course, veterans like Frail, the goalkeeper, Lindsay, at back, and Blessington among the forwards. They all wear well, and are always interesting. But Hawkes, the russet-headed, slim and lithe, has a style all his own. He is a rare stumbling-block to opposing forwards, and he seems to be irresistibly drawn to the ball as the needle is drawn to the magnet. When the game is thick and fast on the other side of the field Hawkes appears to be unconsciously attracted to the centre. Thus very often his wing was left unguarded. At times it seemed as though he were actually playing in the middle of the trio, and not until Allan began to raise a gallop did we see Hawkes drop, as if by magic, into his own place at left-half."

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To-morrow (Saturday) will be another great day for Luton, as the prospective champions of the League, Southampton, visit Luton for the return game. For this match, as is generally known, the Directors are making a charge of 1s. for admission, one half of the gross takings going towards the Close Season Fund. It is to be hoped that the supporters will rally round the Club and thus help them in their endeavour to provide a decent team for next season. Perhaps it is not generally known, that this season the Club has succeeded, for the first time since it has been a professional organisation in paying its way. Over £100 was taken when Tottenham came the other week, and a few more gates of such dimensions for the remaining matches will help the Directors to put a little money aside for close season expenses.

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The arrangements for the Beds Cup final at Biggleswade on Easter Monday are progressing very satisfactorily. Colonel Shuttleworth has consented to kick-off, and after the match Mrs. Shuttleworth will distribute the medals and present the cup to the winners. Being holiday time there is a prospect of a huge gate (writes Mr. Walker), and I rather anticipate a good game. The Luton Clarence intend going all the way, and at the finish I do not expect more than a goal difference. Everything points to a keen struggle.