

Football Notes and News.

By "Grasshopper."

LUTON v. QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS.

ANOTHER VICTORY.

Luton added another victory to their already excellent record by vanquishing Queen's Park Rangers on the Bury Park ground on Saturday. When Luton entertained the Rangers here last season they won by 4 goals to 1, but the most optimistic football enthusiast never quite expected that result on Saturday, despite the magnificent and consistent form their favourites have been showing since the season opened.

Owing to the injury to McEwen, it was only natural for the Luton players to go on the field with a more decreased measure of confidence than if their captain had been able to defend with his usual vigour and accuracy. Bob Hawkes, too, was absent, his place having to be filled by Williams. With that one exception, the home team was made up of its usual complement.

The Rangers were represented by the following: Goal, Collins; backs, Archer and Newlands; half-backs, Bowman, Hitch, and Bull; forwards, Hamilton, Abbott, Brown (centre), McGowan and Murphey.

Mr. W. H. Ward, of Nottingham, one of the most conscientious referees in the Midlands, had charge of the whistle. Mr. Tappin (West Ham), and Mr. Lynch (Walthamstow) officiated as linesmen. There was a splendid attendance, the gate numbering at least 5,000.

McEwen won the spin, and sent his men to defend the railway goal. This was a wise move, for providing the sun continued to keep out, the visitors would feel that disadvantage more in the second half than Luton would in the first.

A foul against the homesters enabled the Rangers to get down the field, but play was immediately transferred, Collins being called upon by Bennett and Allsopp in quick succession. Durrant next had a pop, the goal being kept intact at the expense of a corner, which, however, was easily cleared. A splendid piece of combination on the part of the home quintette enabled Luton once more to break away. Getting by Archer, Storey centred, but Williams put over.

The visitors now took up the attack, but a foul throw in saved Thompson what would undoubtedly have been an anxious time. Murphey next endeavoured to get through, but Bennett was sure. Brown also failed shortly afterwards to find the net. Then Luton's right wing once more broke away, and Durrant beating the back, sent across to Storey, who had a splendid chance, having only Collins to beat. However, he headed over, and one of the best opportunities of the afternoon was lost. There was not the least reason why Storey should not have scored, and if he had used a little more judgment he must have notched the point.

Queen's Park now came to the attack. Hamilton sent to Murphey, who passed on to Brown, but the leather missed the post by inches. Thompson was also called upon again, but although the visitors kept up the attack they never looked really dangerous. An instant later Luton were in front of the visitors' goal, and forced a corner, but the Rangers got away with some difficulty, and at the other end Murphy failed to convert from Hamilton.

The next point of interest was a sprint by Allsopp, who beat Archer, necessitating Collins coming out to clear. Luton's outside left made another attempt, but the ball went behind. At the railway end a shot from Hamilton proved abortive. Nothing else of interest occurred until half-time arrived, with a blank score.

The homesters, on turning over, endeavoured to rush the Rangers, and lost a good opportunity by Storey being offside. Hamilton relieved the pressure by breaking clean away. McEwen being outplayed, Hamilton had only the goalkeeper to beat. He sent in a real stinger, but Thompson fortunately caught the leather, and Luton's supporters gave a sigh of relief. It was a very narrow shave—but it was the only time the home custodian was seriously tried.

Allsopp was twice offside, whilst a minute later he sent over the bar. Play was transferred to the other end, one of the visitors heading over the post.

McKee sent in and found the net, but was given offside, at which there was much disapproval. Later on a scuffle took place in front of the visitors' goal, and Collins, who at that moment held the ball in his hand, was charged by one of the Luton men. This, too, seemed to be a clear goal, but Mr. Ward disallowed the point, a decision that was received with groans from the stand.

The visitors were now pressing at the other end, Thompson being again called upon. Once more coming to the attack, Durrant broke away, and succeeding in beating Newlands, centred magnificently. Storey, who was coming up, sent in, and Luton notched their first point amidst tremendous enthusiasm.

There was now about five minutes to play, and the game was very exciting. Queen's Park pressed for all they were worth, but their only chance was gone when they failed to score from the corner which they forced from McEwen. Result:—

Luton, 1 goal; Queen's Park, nil.

COMMENTS.

As a game, it was not a first class display, and was not marked by any show of the best football. At mid-field tactics the Rangers were decidedly superior to Luton, and their passing at times was superb. They certainly often showed a prettier combination than did our own men. Williams was, of course, the weak spot in the Luton team, but he has been an all-round player, has rendered good service to Luton, and can scarcely be condemned, if, put in to fill the vacancy, he did not show his best form. Storey was also disappointing, and several times failed to take advantage of the opportunities given him by Allsopp, who worked hard all through. Durrant did not get enough to do, although it is true he was well watched by the visitors. McEwen was relieved as much as possible, but despite his condition he kicked almost as vigorously as ever. All the other Luton men were up to their usual form, and call for no special comment.

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As to the visitors, Archer was a tower of strength to his side, whilst Hamilton was undoubtedly the best forward on the field. Murphey also played a good game. The visitors are an all-round well-built team, and one must be satisfied that, taking everything into consideration, Luton did so well against them on Saturday.

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The referee was so impartial all through the game that when he disallowed McKee's point one must believe that he conscientiously felt that the goal-keeper had been impeded before receiving the ball.

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By Saturday's win Luton now stand first in the League, being equal to Millwall in points, viz., 7 each, but as they have both played a match more than two or three succeeding teams, there is not much in it.

The League table is as follows :—

Goals