

UNLUCKY LUTON.

BEATEN AFTER HAVING ALL THE GAME.

On Saturday afternoon, the Luton Football Club played Plymouth in the Southern League on the Dunstable-road ground. The weather had been more or less frosty all the week, but under the genial rays of Old Sol the ground had become slightly less hard, with a top surface left rather slippery.

The following were the teams:—

LUTON

Lindsay

Turner

McEwen

F. Hawkes

White

R. Hawkes

Eaton

Ross

Lamberton

Moody

Barnes

O

Jack

Wright

Picken

Buck

Dalrymple

Banks

Charlie Clark

Leech

Andrew Clark

Saul

Horne

PLYMOUTH.

Referee, Mr. Tillotson.

Luton kicked with the advantage of the wind, but Plymouth soon found their feet, and Hawkes stepped in very opportunely. On the slippery ground Luton then made the pace, but Clarke robbed Lamberton before he could get in his pass. Barnes forced a corner for Luton, and Moody headed just by from the kick.

Luton had the better of the subsequent play until Clarke returned with a good kick to which McEwen made a fitting response, the attack on the Plymouth goal ending with a shot from Hawkes, which went high over the bar. Eaton then centred behind. Clarke was forced to kick out in the subsequent play.

A corner was forced by Luton on the right, but was placed just too far to be of any use to the Luton side. Barnes came back to assist his side, and the ball went out rather unluckily for the home team. A free kick for hands came to nothing for Luton, the slippery turf interfering with the play.

Clarke was compelled to concede a corner, which was cleared with difficulty, and then the ball was sent behind. Then hands was twice given against Plymouth, and from the second well-placed by McEwen, Horne only just succeeded in guiding the ball over the bar.

Luton made a hot attack, but the ball went just wide of the Plymouth goal. Keeping up the pressure, Horne had to clear twice from Barnes and Ross. Picken looked like improving the position of Plymouth as he took the ball up from a mis-kick by White, who, however, recovered sufficiently to kick the ball into touch.

Plymouth were here pulled up for off-side. From a fine, passing run Ross had a glorious chance, but he was ruled off-side. The Plymouth left-wing played rather prettily, but Wright was off-side.

Plymouth saved the situation by a foul just outside the penalty line, but Plymouth lined the goal and safely piloted the ball away.

Dalrymple put in a long shot at the Luton goal and Lindsay kicked away. Saul was roundly hooted and cautioned by the referee for a bad foul on Barnes, but the kick was resultless and in the subsequent play Saul was badly put over by Eaton to the crowd's evident delight.

A foul was given against R. Hawkes but McEwen cleared the kick, and a moment later the same Luton player had to kick out again. A pretty bout of passing led to a further attack by the home side, but Moody was given off-side. A similar result was arrived at when Plymouth went forward. Exciting play followed a corner for Luton, the ball being headed wide by Moody by the merest shave.

Though Luton had had much the greater part of the play the visitors were the first to score, Picken profiting by the merest bit of loose play on the part of the Luton defence, and, springing in, put in a shot which gave Lindsay no chance. This success had the effect of improving the play of the visitors, and Jack made a good run, but in centring the ball placed behind.

Saul repeatedly came in for unwelcome attention from the crowd, who could not forget his treatment of Barnes. Plymouth had to kick out once to relieve the pressure. Play raged about the middle of the field, until Eaton, from a long pass, shot wide of the Plymouth goal. Barnes gave the visitors' defence a deal of trouble, but try how he would the defence always seemed to out-manceuvre him. On the Luton right Clarke was proving himself a tower of strength.

HALF-TIME :—

PLYMOUTH	---	---	---	1
LUTON	---	---	---	0

Lindsay had to save from a corner, but Luton raced away, and Horne was called upon by Barnes and Bob Hawkes. The visitors forced the game, and weak play by White and McEwen gave them another opportunity, and Wright added the second goal. White struck the Plymouth cross-bar, and the ball came back into play. Some exciting work resulted in front of Horne, and two corners proved useless to Luton. Jack had a grand chance of running through, but his final shot went to Lindsay, who guided the ball round the post. The corner proved resultless. Moody put through from a pass by Ross, but was ruled off-side. The visitors then broke away, but Turner cleared. Both sides were very evenly matched, the ball travelling from end to end, but each side being repulsed in turn. An exciting bully took place in front of Horne, but Luton could not improve the situation, and were eventually very unluckily beaten.

RESULT :

PLYMOUTH	---	---	---	---	2
LUTON	---	---	---	---	0

NOTES ON THE GAME.

The following notes on the game are from the pen of "Strawopolis." :—

Plymouth's team varied somewhat from their usual side. Horne appears in goal whilst Saul, the ex-Gainsboro' Trinity man, is playing at back in place of Ashby their usual man. The forwards too are changed and Picken is acting as pivot, whilst Wright is partnering Jack on the left-wing. I wonder how many spectators present remembered the fine display Wright and Jack gave at Luton seven years ago for Bolton Wanderers in the Cup-tie, when Luton lost unluckily by one goal to none.

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The weather was again gloriously fine, and the ground somewhat "boney," whilst it needed all the football supporters' enthusiasm to keep themselves warm.

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Quite 5,000 spectators were present when Luton won the toss. The ground was very slippery, and the players found a great difficulty in moving about. Play opened somewhat tamely, but as soon as the players got warm Luton made a prolonged attack.

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Within ten minutes Luton gained three corners, all of which were cleared, and then later on came another couple. It was only occasionally that the visitors got a look in at the other goal, for what the halves could not accomplish McEwen and Turner did easily.

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Barnes and Moody were playing very prettily on the Luton left wing, but one grand manoeuvre on the Luton right saw Ross just miss with a grand shot when he was beautifully placed. It was hard lines for Luton, for on a good day Ross must have scored.

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Plymouth were inclined to be a trifle rough, and after having had several fouls given against them near their own goal, Saul brought Barnes down in a most brutal manner. The crowd resented the action, and it was, indeed, a most dangerous bit of dirty work on such a ground.

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For a time play was confined to midfield and deteriorated somewhat. The visitors were con-

tinually getting off-side and spoilt what few opportunities they had. Off another foul Luton forced a corner, and the locals had very hard lines again in not scoring.

From a run down by the visitors' right Dalrymple centred and after a little bobbing about in the centre Picken landed the ball in the corner of the net. It was a good goal in one sense, but decidedly lucky, for on the run of the game Luton ought to have been leading by two goals at least.

Play was not so interesting, although for a time Luton did the pressing. The forwards could get near the goal with their shooting, but not near enough to score goals. When half-time arrived Luton were still a goal behind.

On resuming Lamberton nearly got through in the first minute, but just missed the post and then at the other end Plymouth forced a corner. After this Luton attacked for some minutes and three times Horne saved very smartly.

Luton's luck was right out for from a breakaway Wright popped on a second goal for the visitors. It was most disappointing for the spectators, for Luton were certainly the better side although they were two goals behind.

Luton resumed the attack and Horne was busily engaged. Twice he saved luckily and then Fred White had very hard luck with a shot that hit the bar, and the ball rebounded into play.

Luton still tried hard and forced a couple of corners, but it seemed all to no purpose, for the visitors' defence refused to be beaten. They were certainly somewhat fortunate to keep a clean score sheet.

At the other end Plymouth got a corner from a mis-kick, but Luton quickly took the ball to the other end.

A little later Luton got right through, Moody netting the ball from a pass by Ross, but he was just off-side, and the point did not count.