

FIRST AWAY VICTORY.

BRAVO, LUTON!

RANGERS BEATEN AT PARK ROYAL.

THE SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

Five matches on Saturday in the Southern League ended as follows:—

Brentford (h) ...	1	Swindon ...	1
Brighton and Hove (h) ...	2	Plymouth Argyle ...	0
Bristol Rovers (h) ...	6	Southampton ...	1
Luton ...	2	Queen's Park R. (h) ...	1
Portsmouth (h) ...	1	New Brompton ...	1
Reading (h) ...	0	Fulham ...	0
Tottenham Hotspur ...	2	Millwall (h) ...	0
West Ham (h) ...	2	Watford ...	0

(h) Home team.

The League table now stands:—

	Pld.	Won.	Drn.	Lost.	For.	Agst.	Pts.
Bristol Rovers	25	16	5	4	56	25	37
Reading	24	15	4	5	46	26	34
Southampton	24	14	5	5	42	28	33
Tottenham Hotspur	25	11	7	7	42	24	29
New Brompton	27	9	10	8	36	30	28
Brighton and Hove	26	11	5	10	35	28	27
Portsmouth	23	12	2	9	45	39	26
Northampton	23	11	3	9	36	35	25
Plymouth Argyle	24	10	4	10	38	33	24
West Ham	26	9	6	11	33	31	24
Fulham	23	8	7	8	31	27	23
Queen's Park R.	25	8	6	11	35	41	22
Millwall	27	8	6	13	26	39	22
LUTON	26	9	3	14	34	44	21
Swindon	27	9	3	15	34	52	21
Brentford	25	6	8	11	23	30	20
Watford	22	5	3	11	21	25	19
Wellingborough	24	5	1	18	22	76	11

On Saturday Luton secured their first away victory in the League at the expense of the Queen's Park Rangers at Park Royal. Heavy rain had made the ground very "sloppy," and the going was very bad. There was a terrific wind, and the side which won the toss had a big advantage. This proved to be the luck of the Rangers, and it was entirely owing to the misuse of the assistance of the wind that they lost the game.

The following were the teams:—

QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS.

Collins

Lyon Newlands

Bowman Hitch White

Murphy Ronaldson Bayon Downing Singleton

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Barnes Moody Lamberton Ross Eaton

R. Hawkes White F. Hawkes

McEwen Turner

Lindsay

LUTON

Referee, H. Ward.

The Rangers won the toss, and Luton kicked off against a hurricane, and also faced the sun in this half.

Ross at once was prominent, and passed to Eaton, but the ball went behind. Then the Rangers broke away, but the wind carried the ball out.

Downing placed just by the Luton goal. A foul for Luton proved of no avail.

A corner for the Rangers was got away, and then Hitch put in a cross shot which went outside.

The difficulty appeared to keep the ball low, for the Rangers continually shot high over the bar.

Barnes made a nice run, and forced a corner, but the Rangers broke away.

Lindsay saved a fine shot from Hitch, and then twice Luton were incorrectly pulled up for offside.

A foul throw assisted Luton, but the Rangers then attacked, and Fred Hawkes relieved the pressure.

A corner immediately followed, but nothing came off this as the ball was placed behind.

The Rangers still had the advantage, and play was only changed by a casual break away by Luton's left wing.

Turner was compelled to kick out, and the Rangers were penalised for a foul throw in.

Play was a bit slow, owing solely to the wind, which played odd pranks with the ball.

Lyon

Luton came to the relief at a critical moment.

Bob Hawkes caused Collins to handle for the first time in the game, but this slight attack was cleared, and following a corner for Luton Bevan shot high over the bar.

Once more play was mostly at Luton's end, and the defence was sorely tried.

Bevan made a most determined effort, and after beating McEwen he rushed by Turner and shot past Lindsay from six yards out.

Luton recovered from this reverse, and Barnes raced away, but Lyon cleared by putting out.

Luton came again, but only to have their effort cleared again by the Rangers' backs.

Hitch got hurt in a collision with Fred White, and play was suspended.

Barnes broke away on the left, but he was outpaced, and then at the other end Lindsay managed to put the ball over the bar.

Lamberton nearly got through, but was brought down on the penalty line; and then Moody passed to Barnes when Lamberton was well-placed. Moody then dropped on a centre from Eaton, and Collins leaving his charge the ball was put through by Bowman.

This appeared rather a soft goal for Luton, but they had been rather unlucky in not getting in more shots.

The visitors kept the ball more in their opponents' territory, but the Rangers at length broke away, and Singleton ought to have scored, having no one to beat but Lindsay from five yards.

The Rangers brought the ball back, and it struck the cross bar without going in. Half-time:—

QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS	...	...	1
LUTON	...	...	1

The Rangers were the first to press, but Hitch placed behind.

Lamberton was given offside.

Play was much better in this half, the Rangers playing well against the wind.

Twice Collins had to save hot shots, and he got rid of both well, play being very even.

The winning goal of the match came from the foot of Moody. Lamberton was penalised for charging the goalkeeper after the ball had left him, and Newlands took the kick. He slipped as he kicked, and the ball going to Moody the Luton inside-left took a flying shot, and the ball found the net.

The Rangers then showed the best form of the day at this point and the Luton defence was sorely taxed. Once Murphy got quite clear and shot hard, but Lindsay happened to be in the way of the ball, and easily cleared. It was a narrow escape.

Towards the end the Rangers goal had a narrow escape. White took a longshot, the ball bounced in front of Collins, and just scraped over the bar. Collins made no attempt to stop the ball, and the crowd gave a gasp of relief when the ball appeared outside the net. It looked to them that it would just go under the bar. Luton were still attacking when the game ended:—

LUTON	...	...	2
RANGERS	...	...	1

NOTES ON THE GAME.

The match was not a brilliant one, and one could not expect that it would be, considering the high wind and the rain-drenched pitch. When the Rangers won the toss it looked as though Luton would have their work cut out to stop half a dozen goals being scored.

The wind blew quite a hurricane, and dead into the Luton goal. It was rather amusing to see the players shoot at the wind-swept goal. The ball travelled at a terrific pace, and as the spectators could not get into the field of play, somebody from the playing pitch had to fetch the ball.

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The Rangers' shooting was most erratic. They had several good chances in the first half, but failed to steady themselves.

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It was rather lucky for Luton that they got the goal and thus equalised the score at half-time, but in the second half they were much the better side. The wind dropped considerably in the second moiety, and the play improved accordingly.

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The scoring at the end of the game just about represented the state of the play.

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There were only about 3,000 spectators present on a pitch that could accommodate nearly 10 times that number. I was not at all surprised at this, as the weather was shocking.