

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

LUTON v. TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR.

For the first time for many seasons Luton were defeated by Tottenham on Saturday, though the margin was the narrowest possible—one goal to love. Last season at Tottenham we made a draw of one goal each, while on the Bury Park we had the satisfaction of winning 3—2.

The contest was expected to be an interesting one. While Luton have gone down in the League, the Spurs have lately done well on their own ground. Luton went to Tottenham with every incentive to work hard for a draw or a win, if the shadow of relegation to the Second Division were to be lifted. In the event the visitors had rather hard lines to be beaten, but Tottenham came off winners by the margin of one goal, somewhat luckily scored by O'Hagan.

Brearley, Glen, and Woodward were the most notable absentees from the local side, which was otherwise at full strength. Morris played in the half back line, and Stansfield took the centre forward position, with Chapman and Berry on his right, and Kirwan and O'Hagan happily returned to their familiar places on the left. For Luton, R. Hawkes was announced to turn out at left-half, but at the last moment Pritchard came into the team in his place.

Tottenham won the toss, and took advantage of the breeze. Barnes and Moody took the ball along the left wing, and a good centre landed the ball in front of goal. It went out to Eaton who lifted it back, but Eggett punched away just in time. After a hot attack by the Spurs, Luton broke away, and were pressing when Chapman had to leave the field for repairs. In his absence Luton forced a corner, from which the ball away. Eaton got a chance from a nice pass by White, and might have shot, but passed across the goal instead, and the backs managed to clear. Directly afterwards O'Hagan opened the score for the Spurs. A good run by the right wing enabled Stansfield to shoot, and Lindsay saved well, but before he could get the ball away O'Hagan dashed up and put it through. The game continued fast and exciting, Moody and Barnes being prominent in the Luton forwards. At half-time the score was: Tottenham 1 goal, Luton 0.

In the second half, it was a case of Greek meeting Greek. Soon after resuming, Eggett saved magnificently from Ross. Berry once had a rare opening, getting the ball from the foot of McEwen, who mis-kicked, going away alone. He trod on the ball when racing for goal, and had to pass it across, O'Hagan getting it in a manifestly off-side position.

A long kick from the Luton end found Tait and Watson undecided. They left it to Eggett, and the latter fumbled the ball, dropped it, fumbled it again, and was still playing with it when the referee gave a foul against one of the home backs for wrongfully charging and holding a Luton forward who had hurried up. It was just outside the penalty line, fortunately, but the home goal had a very narrow escape.

Morris fouled a Luton man, and the free kick, pretty close in, was taken by Turner, who made a grand shot at goal. Eggett jumped at the ball, but did not touch it, and it hit the cross-bar with a smash. From the re-bound the Luton forwards got on to it, and Eggett made a grand save, with Ross on top of him.

The ball was rushed to the other end, and Kirwan hit the cross-bar with a great shot. Luton again returned to the attack, and Eggett had a few goal kicks. The visitors were having all the best of it, but their forwards did not seem able to shoot.

The Spurs had rather more of the game during the last ten minutes, and Bull made a good shot at goal from near the touch line, which Lindsay had to handle. Eggett made a fine save, and Ross had a grand shot at goal, which just went wide of the posts, a very near thing. No further score resulted, and the whistle went with Tottenham victors by a goal to love.

The teams were:—Tottenham Hotspur: Eggett; Watson and Tait; Morris, Bull, and McNaught; Berry, Chapman, Stansfield, O'Hagan and Kirwan.—Luton: Lindsay; Turner and McEwen; F. Hawkes, White, and Pritchard; Eaton, Ross, Lamberton, Moody, and Barnes.