

LUTON v. READING

Played at Luton on Tuesday. Result:—

Luton	2 goals.
Reading	nil.

The teams were as follow:—

Luton—Lindsay; Dow and McEwen; F. Hawkes, White, and Pritchard; Kellett, Eaton, Lamberton, R. Hawkes, and Penman.

Reading.—Naisby; Blacktin and Raisbeck; Riley, Bannister, and Brown; Bainbridge, Higginson, Long, McIntyre, and Corrin.

Referee, Mr. R. Horrocks (Bolton).

Luton turned out minus Dow, and played the one-back game until his arrival, which was delayed for about four minutes after the start. The weather was terribly wet, and the game suffered accordingly, the spectators being few in number. Luton almost had a goal in the first seven minutes. A good bit of work by Eaton gave Kellett an opportunity, and from a good centre the Reading custodian only just managed to clear. Another splendid centre by Kellett caused Naisby to rush out to clear. Luton had much the best of the game for the first ten minutes. Lamberton tested Naisby with a good shot, but the custodian was all there.

Bob Hawkes looked like scoring, but he was bundled off the ball at close quarters, the charge looking very much like a push. Playing with rare dash, the Luton lads kept up a lively bombardment, and Eaton was grassed just as he sent in a beauty which only just raised its objective. At the other end McEwen checked occasional rushes with consummate ease. Play gradually settled down, but Luton were still aggressive. The rain simply poured down, but considering the state of the ground play was wonderfully accurate.

Lamberton got going and in a splendid run got towards the Reading goal with only Naisby to face. The latter rushed out and saved, but Eaton obtained possession and pushed the

ball through the open goal, at the same time measuring his length on the turf alongside Raisbeck, who had hotly pursued him. A rousing cheer greeted Luton's first goal, which came after 25 minutes' play. After this Reading got down on several occasions, but none of the shots were dangerous. Riley, at right-half, gave his forwards several chances, but the visitors' front rank did not show very brilliant football. Luton obtained a free kick close in which was taken by Bob Hawkes, who passed to White, but the latter missed the ball.

A nice bit of work by Bob Hawkes and Lamberton ended in the latter netting the ball, but he was ruled offside. Riley put in a splendid shot which Lindsay saved coolly, and then Reading exerted pressure, the Luton defence being kept busy for a spell. Lamberton, who up to this stage had played a remarkably dashing game, got going on his own, and again a race between he and Naisby ensued. The custodian reached the ball at the same time as his opponent Lamberton, with great pluck, did not give way, but his kick was diverted. At half-time Luton were leading by one goal to nil.

An amusing episode occurred on the resumption. Corrin had, during the interval, changed his jersey, and the referee ordered him to put on the original one, as the substitute was not the same colour. Luton were soon busy, and in the first few minutes of the second half the Reading goal had a narrow escape, Blacktin saving in marvellous fashion. After Reading had made a short visit, Raisbeck headed towards his own goal, and Kellett passed to Lamberton, who, however, only put in a weak one. A few minutes later Kellett sent in a shot Naisby slipped by the ball, which lay for a second on the line but Raisbeck dashed up and cleared. Luton would not be denied, and another rush ended in Eaton notching a second goal.

Reading now pressed, and Lindsay was called upon twice but he dealt with both shots easily. Kellett beat Raisbeck and gave a pass to Eaton, who shot close in, Naisby effecting a lucky save. Lamberton had another dash and ended up with a hot shot which struck the outside of the net. An amusing incident occurred shortly afterwards, Bob Hawkes, Penman, and Naisby all being on the ground, but the ball was scrambled away. The Luton goal was then subjected to severe pressure. In and out bobbed the ball, McEwen and Dow having a lively time, but after Lindsay had fisted away he got possession and cleared.

Again Naisby had to race for the ball, this time against Bob Hawkes, but the Luton player arrived too late. Naisby saved again in splendid style, and a little later rushed out and cleared another. Dow skilfully stopped a combined rush by the Reading forwards, and then Kellett beat Raisbeck, but his shot went outside.

Towards the end Naisby was repeatedly tested, but he kept a good goal, though some of his saves were extremely lucky. Bannister retired about eight minutes before the close of play, and some diversion was caused through Kellett being repeatedly pulled up for offside.

Bravo, Luton! Unfortunately, the jubilation is tinged with the regret that the turn of the tide has come too late. But whether Swindon win or lose their match, Luton can congratulate themselves on having finished up the season with a glorious victory. From start to finish there was only one team in it, and that was not Reading. The Luton forwards showed up better than they have done for a long time, and it is a great pity that Kellett, who was the best of a capable lot, was not included in the team a little earlier.

The halves did excellent work, F. Hawkes being, perhaps the most prominent, whilst to McEwen fell the honours of the defence, though he was ably backed up by Dow. Lindsay gave a cool display in goal, but he was not called upon anything like so often as Naisby, who saved his side from a much heavier defeat. The Reading forwards gave a disappointing exhibition, but the halves showed good form. Blacktin was the better of the backs, Kellett being much too good for Raisbeck.