

THE GRAND FINALE.

READING VANGUISHED.

Few really expected that Luton would beat Reading on Tuesday, but the 1,000 or more spectators who crowded the grandstand or assembled round the ropes had the satisfaction of seeing the feat accomplished. The weather was very bad, more like November, but the true football enthusiast regards not such things. And they were well rewarded for throughout Luton held the upper hand, and eventually retired winners by two goals to none.

The following were the teams:—

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

Reading: Naisby; Blacktin and Ralsbeck; Riley, Bannister, and Brown; Bainbridge, Higginson, Long, McIntyre, and Corrin.

Referee, Mr. J. Horrocks, Bolton.

Luton kicked against wind and rain the first half, but attached their favourite goal at the railway end. They were soon on the aggressive, too, and Reading's goal had a couple of very narrow escapes. It was very evident that the backs were shaky, and as the game progressed this became more apparent. The wet ground and ball may have had an adverse effect on their style, but both Ralsbeck and Blacktin were not safe.

Following some good play by Kellett, Luton forced a corner which proved unproductive, Lamberton being ruled off-side in the ensuing play. Naisby soon found employment in stopping a shot from Lamberton, and in the next five minutes Bob Hawkes appeared to be through, but was brought down. Mac gave McIntyre a nasty twist at the other end.

Lamberton then received a very judicious pass from the left, and, darting by Blacktin, shot at goal, but the goal-keeper, who had rushed out, sent the ball to Eaton, which dribbled into the net. In doing so the inside-right and Ralsbeck fell and both slid along the ground in the most approved style. The applause which greeted the goal was well deserved.

Luton appeared to have excellent prospects afterwards of improving this sunny position, and Lamberton got the ball into the net following good play by Rob Hawkes, but the referee decided that he was off-side. The centre-forward again made tracks for the goal, but kicking the ball too far a-head, Naisby got there first, but had to concede a corner, which also proved fruitless. Half-time found Luton still with the one goal advantage.

The first incident after the restart was the appearance of Corrin in a stripped shirt, different to his confreres, and he was sent back to change. Kellett gave Lamberton a splendid chance just afterwards, but the centre put in a very weak shot which Naisby saved. This should have been a certain goal for Luton. Once again the same player had a glorious chance, but this time he shot with plenty of powder behind the ball, which however struck the post supporting the goal-net.

Mr. Horrocks got in the way of the ball, which took off his cap, to the great amusement of the spectators. During this half Bainbridge had the leg of his knickers torn in a tussle by McEwen and stayed off the field for the remainder of the game. Following play on the right Kellett shot at goal and Naisby making a very weak clearance, Eaton rushed in and put the ball into the goal from between his legs. Neither side appeared likely to score after this and the game ended in a well-earned victory for Luton by two clear goals. Result:

LUTON	2
READING	0

The following is the final table of the Southern League.—

									Goals			
	Pld.	Won.	Lost.	Drn.	For.	Agst.	Pts					
Bristol Rovers (3) ..	34	.. 20	.. 6	.. 8	.. 74	.. 36	.. 48					
Reading (6)	34	.. 18	.. 9	.. 7	.. 57	.. 38	.. 43					
Southampton (1) — ..	34	.. 18	.. 9	— 7	.. 54	.. 40	.. 43					
Plymouth Argyle (9)	34	.. 18	.. 11	— 5	.. 57	.. 39	.. 41					
Tottenham 'Spurs (2)	34	— 15	.. 11	.. 8	.. 53	.. 34	— 38					
Fulham (11)	34	.. 14	.. 10	— 10	.. 46	.. 34	.. 38					
Queen's Park R. (5)	34	.. 14	.. 12	.. 8	.. 51	.. 47	.. 36					
Portsmouth (4)	34	.. 16	.. 14	— 4	.. 61	.. 56	.. 36					
Watford	34	.. 15	.. 16	.. 8	.. 44	.. 44	.. 33					
New Brompton(16)..	34	.. 11	.. 12	.. 11	.. 40	— 41	.. 33					
West Ham (12).....	34	.. 12	.. 14	.. 8	.. 48	.. 42	.. 32					
Brighton & Hove (17)	34	.. 13	.. 15	.. 6	.. 44	.. 45	.. 32					
Northampton (15) ..	34	.. 12	.. 14	.. 8	.. 43	.. 54	.. 32					
Brentford (13)	34	— 10	.. 15	.. 9	.. 33	.. 38	— 20					
Millwall (7)	34	— 11	.. 16	.. 7	.. 38	.. 47	.. 20					
Swindon (10)	34	.. 12	.. 17	.. 5	.. 41	.. 59	.. 20					
Luton (8)	34	.. 12	.. 19	.. 8	.. 45	.. 45	.. 27					
Wellingborough (14)	34	.. 5	.. 26	.. 8	.. 25	.. 107	.. 13					

The figures in parentheses denote the positions at the close of last season.