

The United League.

LUTON v. GRAY'S UNITED.

Played at Luton on Monday. Result:—

Luton	9 goals.
Gray's United.....	1 goal.

The Luton team was as on Saturday, except that Macdonald appeared at centre instead of Brown, and Barnes, who has not been in the best of health, was given a rest, and his place at outside-left was taken by Latheron, of Middlesborough. Barnes could have played had it been necessary, and I am requested to say that there is no ground for the alarmist rumours which have been afloat with regard to his health. He has had a cold, and that has upset him a bit, but otherwise he is alright.

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The following did duty for Gray's:—Mearns; Tranter and Austin; Mayes, Freeman, and C. Axcell; Taylor, McKierman, Johnson, Rose, and J. Axcell. The referee was Mr. A. Spurgeon (London). The easy victory obtained by Luton at Gray's on Wednesday affected the attendance considerably, and the spectators numbered only a few hundreds.

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The visitors started well, and were soon on visiting terms with Platt, but play was not long in his vicinity, and at the other end Pickering tested Mearns with a fine shot. Then Gallacher

received, and put in a good centre, from which Macdonald, who appeared to be offside, headed through. This was the first goal, and it was some time before a second came along, though Mearns was kept pretty busily employed in the meantime. Once Blackett, from a free kick, hit the bar with a terrific drive.

Pickering had the honour of scoring the second, taking a pass from Macdonald and sending in a shot which Mearns got at and eventually threw out, but not before it had been well over the line. The third goal was a very curious one. The visitors did not like a foul given against them, though it was perfectly justified, and the captain withdrew all his players from the defence except one back, who apparently declined to act in such a childish spirit, and Mearns. From the kick the ball was turned over to Blackett, who took it down, dodging the back, and scoring a very fine goal on his own.

The fourth goal came through the instrumentality of Latheron, who received as the result of a nice bit of play by Pickering and Bob Hawkes, and put in a centre from which Macdonald headed through. This was all the scoring before the interval, and Luton crossed over with a lead of four goals to nil.

The second half had not long been in progress when Fred Hawkes got an opening, and, acting on the advice of Blackett, who shouted, "Go on yourself, Fred," he went and scored a grand goal, Mearns touching the ball, but not being able to keep it out. By way of a variation, Gray's next took the play to the other end, and, amidst cheers, Mayes registered their first and only goal with a beautiful shot.

This was quickly replied to by Luton, Warner notching number six with a fine effort, the ball passing just under the bar, and Pickering added another with a shot which went through off Austin. The eighth, however, was one of the best of the series, and was the result of an individual effort by Warner, who, having changed places with Gallagher, made a grand run up the field, and neatly tricking the back, scored a magnificent goal.

Pickering almost did ditto a moment later, but failed with his shot. At the other end, Johnson had the goal at his mercy from a middle by Taylor, but sent high over, and then, after Mearns had received another very severe testing, White had the satisfaction of scoring the ninth and last goal.

The game calls for little in the way of comment, as Luton were so easily superior to their opponents. Gray's are a nice well-balanced lot, and in their own class might do very well, but they are a long way behind Southern League form. Luton fairly made rings round them, and might have scored even more freely had they gone all out. Still, they showed some very nice passing, and Pickering especially was in capital form. Macdonald did not start too well, but when he warmed to his work he played a very smart game. Latheron did not get too many opportunities, though Bob Hawkes gave him some nice passes, but on the whole he created a fairly favourable impression.