

SPORTS AND PASTIMES.

FOOTBALL.

THE SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

QUEENS PARK RANGERS v. LUTON.

Played at Park Royal on Saturday and resulted as under:

LUTON	3 GOALS.
QUEEN'S PARK	2 GOALS.

The teams were:—

LUTON.

Platt.

Blackett McCurdy

F. Hawkes White R. Hawkes

Warner McDonald Brown Pickering Barnes.

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Gardner Ryder Bevan Sugden Murphy.

Downing Hitch Yenson.

Newlands Lyon.

Kingsley.

QUEEN'S PARK.

It will be seen that the visiting team was at full strength, except for the inclusion of McDonald in place of Gallacher. In the Rangers' team Bevan was able to take his place at centre forward again in spite of his severe shaking at Plymouth, and Lyon had recovered from an accident he received a few weeks back, and was able to resume his place at back.

The weather was almost ideal, and there was an attendance of about 10,000 people when "Bob" Hawkes won the toss, and chose to play with the wind in his favour and the sun in his opponents' faces. Hardly had the ball been set rolling before Warner made a dash towards the Ranger's goal, only to be pulled up by Downing, against whom an abortive free-kick was given.

A minute after the home goal had a narrow escape, Pickering being penalised when right under the bar for impeding Kingsley. The Rangers managed to find their way to the other end, where a swinging pass from Bevan was sent wide by Murphy. Play was fast and interesting, and both sides were exerting themselves to the full in their efforts to bring about a win. Each set of forwards were doing their best, but there was little to choose between them, and the Luton defence was particularly prominent.

Kingsley had some little difficulty with a long-range shot by Brown, which he only saved at the expense of a corner. McDonald relieved the pressure by heading this behind, after some very promising-looking efforts by the Luton men to force the ball into goal. The Queen's Park men found their feet again, but Murphy made a bad miss.

The pace was still very hot, but the players seemed in no way inclined to slacken it for the present, and a hard one from McDonald found Kingsley ready. A moment later Warner was cleverly robbed by Downing, and the Rangers once again began to press, and a centre by Gardner was allowed to pass unnoticed.

A minute later a shot by Sugden went wide. A mistake on the part of the Luton backs almost accomplished the downfall of the visitors' goal, and a few seconds after the ball travelled behind after Bevan and Murphy had tried unsuccessful shots. A pretty piece of combination brought the Rangers into shooting distance again, but Ryder's heading proved erratic.

Twenty minutes from the start Luton drew full blood. Thanks to the fact that the home defenders considered that the right wing required practically all their attention, Barnes and Pickering were able to have things a little bit to themselves, and it was a shot by Barnes which brought about Kingsley's defeat. Their unexpected defeat only spurred the homesters on to greater efforts, and their forwards began to give Blakett and McCurdy a warm time.

But the defence was as safe as it could be, and the crowd's hopes had to be disappointed for the present. An attempted equaliser by Ryder flew high over the bar, and a moment afterwards play was transferred to midfield. A return by Bevan and Sugden spelt danger, but an infringement of the off-side rule brought the effort to a conclusion. Tricky play by Sugden came in for some applause from the crowd, and the same player almost accomplished his object with a fast shot which struck the post.

1883.

Luton's second goal was entirely unexpected. A forward pass by Hawkes travelled out to Warner who was then unguarded, and he sent in a high, dropping shot which completely deceived Kingsley, and swerved past him into goal. No sooner had play started again than the Rangers were hovering around Luton's goal, and Bevan missed the cross-bar with a good attempt.

A minute later the same player forced a corner, which was well placed, but cleverly punched away by Platt. Downing returned the ball, but again the Luton goalie's ready fists came into service. Luton took up the running again, and Barnes found a chance opening, and scored with a fine shot which completely deceived Kingsley. The interval arrived a minute later with Luton leading by 3—0.

The second half opened promisingly for the Rangers. Less than a minute had elapsed before the homesters were pressing. Sugden passed out to Murphy, who returned it in fine fashion, and Sugden immediately placed his side one ahead. This lessening of Luton's lead made the Rangers especially active, and their forwards began to display a dashing style, but found the visiting defence a hard nut to crack.

A mistake by Newlands let in the Luton forwards, but a weak, long shot from the foot of Barnes was easily accounted for by Kingsley. The visiting forwards increased their efforts and more than held their own, but were unable to find a weak place. Before very long, however, the Rangers found their feet again and Platt had to punch the ball away.

At the other end a swift centre by Warner was allowed to pass unheeded, but a moment later Pickering received from Barnes and forced Kingsley to leave his charge in order to kick away his shot. A second attempt by Warner just missed the post. Platt had to punch away a shot by Gardner, following upon a run down the field by Murphy.

The Rangers' left wing ran down in good style, but their efforts were put to a stop by McCurdy and Sugden then sent behind. Once more the Rangers pressed hard, and White relieved temporarily. In a minute they were back again, and a fast daisy-cutter aimed just inside the goal post by Ryder was saved without very great difficulty by Platt.

Off-side helped to make the Luton men keep to their own half of the field. Sugden receiving close in from Gardner headed over the bar. Gardner sent very wide just after. Barnes led the Luton forwards to the opposite end and centred well, but Brown disappointed the supporters of his team by kicking high over the cross-bar. Another dashing attack by the visitors alarmed Newlands into sending the ball flying out of play.

A fast, difficult shot by Brown was cleverly saved by Kingsley, and the Rangers again found their feet. A neat header by Sugden was placed out of the danger zone by Platt, and this set Luton going again, and McDonald found Kingsley in good form. Just before the finish the homesters made a dangerous dash, and Ryder was successful in reducing Luton's lead with a clever shot. The "blues" thus ran out winners by 3—2 after a hard game.

Taken on the whole Luton deserved their one goal lead, because of a superiority in shooting and a greater persistence before goal.

Strange as it may seem, they had more of the game in the second half than in the first. In the first "forty-five" the teams were evenly matched, except that the Rangers were rather inferior to Luton in defence. But in the second period Luton more than held their own, but their shooting was not so deadly. To win two points from the Rangers at Park Royal, however, shows what the team is capable of, and they made a good impression on the Londoners.