

FOOTBALL.

LUTON v. NEW BROMPTON.

LUTON STILL UNBEATEN AWAY FROM HOME

Played at New Brompton on Saturday.

Result:—

Luton one goal

New Brompton one goal

Teams:—

LUTON.

Platt

Blackett McCurdy

F. Hawkes White R. Hawkes

Warner Macdonald Brown Pickering Barnes.

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Marriott Beadsworth Snellgrove Sheridan Burns

Elliott Martin Mairn

Floyd Walton

NEW BROMPTON.

The poor form of the Kentish team has had its effect upon their "gate," and not more than 4,000 spectators were present. Beadsworth had been secured during the week to strengthen the attack, and he made his first appearance at inside-left, while Sheridan, who has not enjoyed the best of health since coming South, once more turned out, after an absence of two or three weeks. Luton were exactly as the previous week.

"Bob" Hawkes won the toss and naturally took advantage of a stiffish breeze. New Brompton were the first to become dangerous, Burns and Sheridan bringing the ball down nicely, but, after "Bob" Hawkes had been passed, McCurdy came to the rescue and relieved the situation by kicking into touch. But the incident had not quite ended, for following the "throw in" Beadsworth had a shot at goal; still his aim was too high and the ball sailed high over the bar.

Barnes secured the ball from the goal kick, and was seen racing away down the field, but his centre was too far forward, and neither of the inside men could reach the ball. A minute or so later Luton's outside-left again threatened danger, and this time he tried a shot on his own which Griffiths managed to save just under the bar. At this stage all the attacking work was being done by Luton's left-wing, but another promising opening was thrown away by Barnes getting offside, when White forced the ball up towards Griffiths.

Once more did "offside" pull up the Luton attack, Warner being the culprit this time. But later on he managed to elude Elliott and caused Floyd to kick out. Hereabouts Luton were having by far the better of the exchanges, and the New Brompton backs were kept pretty busy, but hands against Pickering brought relief.

It could not be said the play was of a thrilling nature, both sides kicking out when hard pressed, although, possibly, the wind had something to do with these tactics. A good passing run by the Lutonians came to nothing, though Pickering jumped over the ball when tackled by Walton. At the opposite end Marriott managed to get away from a rush by Blackett, but Snellgrove failed to pick up the centre and danger passed.

From a nice pass right across the field Warner let drive in fine style, but his shot struck the side of the net. But as the referee whistled "offside," it is presumed no goal would have resulted, although it must have been a very near thing. Indeed, it is somewhat doubtful if the presiding official was correct, Warner having sprinted hard to reach the ball.

It was now New Brompton's turn to threaten danger, and their right wing came through in good style, causing Platt to fist away. The ball was quickly returned by the opposite wing, but again Platt was on the spot, and got the ball well down the field. Warner secured, and taking the ball through, put in a nice dropping centre which was not taken advantage of.

Once or twice Brown attempted pot shots, and on one occasion he undoubtedly would have beaten Griffiths, but the ball struck Floyd close in and rebounded up the field. On the whole, play was fairly even, but a dash up the field by Burns almost caught McCurdy napping. Indeed, the home winger managed to get the ball by "Mac," but the latter recovered quickly and secured it at a second attempt.

Pickering put in a very weak attempt, which Griffiths easily disposed of, and just here a misunderstanding between Warner and Macdonald spoiled a good opportunity engineered by "Bob" Hawkes, who put the ball across cleverly. At the other end White allowed Snellgrove just sufficient room to get through, but the home centre did not follow up, and the ball was put very wide.

of the upright. About the most dangerous shot of the first half came from White, who took up a pass-back from "Sandy" Brown, and let drive with considerable force, but Griffiths was equal to the occasion and brought off a very fine save. Platt also did well to stop a grounder put in by Sheridan at the other end of the field.

With half-time fast approaching the home crowd was on pretty good terms, for they quite expected their team to do better on changing over. But Luton were not without hope of netting a point, and, greatly to the relief of the spectators, Brown was given "offside" when it looked odds on his getting a goal. This was a very bad decision, for he came right through the backs. Indeed, they attempted to sandwich him but just failed.

Almost the last incident before the interval was a fine pass right across the goal mouth by Barnes, which Lloyd just managed to touch, but could not get away, and Macdonald who received should have brought about the downfall of Griffith's charge, but he returned tamely, and only a goal kick resulted. The teams returned for refreshments with the score-sheet still blank.

Although the home side now enjoyed the advantage of a strong wind it was Luton who were first dangerous, White forcing the play in the centre of the field and giving the ball to Barnes. The latter gave Griffiths quite as much as he dared about. Indeed, he almost fumbled the ball, but ultimately got it away before another Lutonian could get up.

Platt was not too safe a minute or so later during a spell of pressure, and almost punched the ball through, but it travelled wide, and only a corner resulted, which was easily disposed of. Cheered on by the spectators the New Brompton players were seen to much greater advantage, and Luton's defence was seriously troubled, but they managed to keep their goal intact until twelve minutes after crossing over.

When New Brompton did succeed in taking the lead the goal was somewhat in the nature of a surprise. Marriott was allowed to get a pass from Beadsworth; working through he was tackled by McCurdy, but the ball cannoned off the Lutonian, and Marriott put up a curling shot at a good pace which reached the net high up in the extreme corner, Platt not being able to reach although he made a dash for the ball.

An unexpected pass-back from White went for corner, although Platt did his best to keep the ball in, but nothing came of it, and Barnes raised Luton's hopes by getting away down the field, only to be pulled up by Walton. On the opposite wing Warner was given offside when in a good position for shooting, but his final attempt only landed on the side of the net. Coming again Warner put in a splendid centre, but although Brown and Pickering were well up they failed to reach the ball, and it passed over the goal line well wide of Griffiths.

Marriott just here was allowed to go through although apparently yards offside, but F. Hawkes came to the rescue just in time, and although he could do no better than concede corner this was badly placed, and a rather ugly situation was averted. Burns tricked McCurdy, greatly to the delight of the crowd, but their triumph was very short-lived, for White got the ball well away from danger, and Barnes soon transferred the play to the opposite end with a good run.

Walton attempted to get the ball right on the goal line but it went over, and, greatly to the disgust of Griffiths, the referee awarded a corner to Luton. This decision was taken badly by the crowd, but worse was to follow, for Barnes placed grandly, and Griffiths running out missed the ball altogether, and before he could recover Brown had equalised the score. There was still some twenty minutes to go, but the New Brompton players never afterwards put that amount of dash into their work which appeared likely to bring off a victory.

Luton quite held their own during the final stages, Pickering almost adding to the score with a clever bit of midfield play; he finished by passing to his partner, but Barnes could not quite reach the ball. F. Hawkes on one occasion let Burns get through, but White effectually blocked the final attempt. Again the home in-de-left was given a chance when Blackett just failed to hold him, but he made a terrible mess of the opening by shooting wildly. Warner, with a tricky run, made a diversion,

but he turned the ball over to Brown, who was not too well-placed, and could not quite force his way through the backs. There was about 10 minutes to go when another burst by Luton's right-wing looked very dangerous, but the ball was put wide of the goal. On the opposite wing Barnes got away nicely while the home players were appealing for "offside," but Pickering could not steady himself and his shot went wide.

Again did Barnes force the game, and, attempting a single-handed run he led drive from long range, but the direction was bad and the crowd cheered ironically. With only a minute to go Griffiths saved finely from Warner, this being the last opportunity to alter the score, and the teams retired with a single goal netted by each side.

On the whole a division of points was a fair representation of a somewhat poor game. Neither side played the combination game for any sustained period. Possibly the home side put the more vigour into their work, especially in the early stages of the second half, but their shooting was wild in the extreme, Marriott's goal being the only shot which deserved to score.

Luton were always the cleverer side in mid-field work, although the rough ground bothered them considerably, McCurdy and Blackett both played a safe game at full-back, and were seldom at fault; while Platt had very little work to negotiate. White and Co., although not as clever as in some recent games, compared very favourably with the home halves, who should certainly know the ground better than strangers can be expected to do. Barnes was seen to great advantage, but Warner's game was partly spoilt by the many times he was pulled up for "offside." The inside forwards were given little room to work through, and "Sandy" Brown's reputation had evidently gone before, to judge by the attention he received.

Marriott was by far the most dangerous of the New Brompton forwards, and he had something to thank his new partner for this, for Beadworth gave him the ball in any and every opportunity. Burns, on the extreme right, also came through in good style at times, but Snellgrove has yet a deal to learn before he earns fame at centre-forward. The home defence was vigorous without being particularly clever, Walton being the pick in this division.