

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

NORWICH v. LUTON.

Taken altogether, Luton's visit to the Canary town on Saturday had a satisfactory result, though when the half-time wire arrived announcing that Luton was leading by the odd goal, a feeling existed that the Townies might win after all. The wish was probably father to the thought.

Norwich, who are new-comers to the Southern League, and who, as all know, have this season secured the services of "Punch" McEwen and Ross, have done very well indeed, having secured one point for every match played—that is to say, of their 13 matches they have won 5, lost 5, and drawn 3.

Considering that Luton had to make the 130 odd mile journey on Saturday morning, and had scarcely had time, after getting out of the train, to stretch their legs, the team did very well to draw. Naturally both sides were at full strength, as will be seen from the following:—

Norwich City: Williams; Archer and McEwen; Livingstone, Bushell, and Bennett; Muir, Graham, Ronaldson, Ross, and Brown.

Luton: Platt; Blackett and McCurdy; F. Hawkes, White, and R. Hawkes; Warner, McDonald, Brown, Pickering and Barnes.

The homesters were the first to act on the aggressive. The leather was taken right in front of Platt, where it was passed from player to player in most dangerous fashion. Ultimately Luton breathed freely when a clearance was effected. Norwich soon got back, however, and Ronaldson shot wide, and Brown good-naturedly sent the ball into Platt's hands. For a long space there was only one team in the running, and that team was Norwich. Most of their onslaughts were due to the efforts of Brown and Ross — a capital left-wing. Shots were showered at Platt, who showed no signs of wavering.

Subsequently Barnes and Pickering got away, and twice in rapid succession the former hit the bar with clinking shots. Then Norwich returned to Platt, who had to save from Ross, while McCurdy threw his body in the path of a shot from Ronaldson. About ten minutes before the interval, and after a spirited attack by Luton, Brown hit the side post with a rare shot. He caught the ball as it rebounded, but failed to find the netting, although he had an open goal.

A corner fell to Luton as the result of their attack, and in the scrimmage which followed they were awarded a penalty kick. This was turned into a goal by Blackett. Luton were the better side during the remainder of the first half, and at the interval were leading by 1-0.

In the second half Norwich for a time attacked persistently, and Platt had to save a fine shot which came from Ross. Luton seemed quite unable to shake off their worrying hosts, and it was well for their side that Blackett was in such fine fighting trim.

Save for one dangerous rush, Luton were penned in, and, to avoid Ronaldson scoring, he was fouled inside the penalty area. This resulted in Archer equalising with the resultant penalty kick, twenty-five minutes from the interval. After this Norwich pressed, and Ronaldson nearly gave the City the lead. A tough fight followed, and in this Luton showed up very well indeed. Williams had to save several hot shots. When the game concluded Norwich were attacking, but the score was still 1 all.

When the half-time result was announced on the Town ground at Luton, there was great enthusiasm, and there was general confidence in the prowess of the "Blues." But the penalty against Luton was a bad bit of business.

McEwen accompanied his old team to the railway station on the return journey, and assured them that Luton was yet the strongest team Norwich had had to meet on their own ground this season. Appreciating the strength of to-morrow's opponents, "Mac" agreed that Luton had a big thing on hand, but believed they would pull through all right.

The Southern League games on Saturday were barren of surprise, with the possible exception of the game with Brighton and Bristol Rovers, by which Brighton gain two much-needed points at the expense of the champions. The two leaders, Tottenham and Fulham, justified and maintained their high position by winning their games away from home. There is no surer sign of success than this, while Fulham have at last found their scoring boots, and have actually scored three goals in a single match; their average on Friday last was exactly one goal per match. West Ham, Plymouth, and Southampton each won their home fixture by the decisive margin of two clear goals against Queen's Park Rangers, Millwall, and Swindon respectively.