

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

LUTON v. QUEEN'S PARK.

Played on the Luton Town ground on Saturday afternoon. Result:

LUTON 3 GOALS
 QUEEN'S PARK 2 GOALS

Teams:—

LUTON.

Platt

Blackett

McCurdy

F. Hawkes

White

R. Hawkes

J. Mayes McDonald E. Dobson Pickering Barnes

O

Bevan Ryder Murphey Fletcher Sugden

Downing

Hitch

Yenson

Newlands

White

Howes

QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS.

Referee:—Mr. G. H. Muir (Southampton.)

There was an attendance of about 5,000 spectators. The ground was in fairly good condition, but a strong wind blew from end to end of the pitch. Some interest was caused by the rearrangement of the home front string. "Sandy" Brown had been dropped, and Dobson, the clever amateur who has played several clever games for the Reserves, appeared in his place. Warner was also still absent, Mayes, another of the unpaid, having shown up to such capital effect at Fulham on the previous Saturday that he was again included, and therefore made his first appearance in the first team's ranks before a home crowd.

"Bob" Hawkes lost the toss, so Dobson had to start the ball rolling against the breeze—an extremely important consideration on such a day as Saturday. Play had only just started when Queen's Park began to find the full advantage of the wind, and made tracks for the opposite goal. Blackett saved the situation somewhat fortunately from Murphey, and again the leather caught him on the legs in an attempt from the foot of Downing. The first dangerous move came from the home team, Dobson leading his men up the field in approved fashion, and combining so well with Mayes that by the united efforts of the two amateurs McDonald was able to force Newlands to concede a corner. This came to naught, but the next minute saw the Rangers pressing so vigorously that Blackett gave away a flag-kick. This was placed in dangerously accurate fashion, and Hitch dashed up in an attempt to use that ability for heading for which he is so well known, but he misjudged his effort and skied the ball over the cross-bar.

"Bob" Hawkes received through desperate tackling and passed on to Dobson, who, with a neat twist of the foot transferred it to Pickering, but the latter was given offside just as he was steadying himself to let drive at goal. Finding that having the wind in their teeth was insufficient to daunt their determined opponents, Queen's Park resorted to the one-back tactics, a style which led the crowd to indignantly enquire the whereabouts of the defaulting defender. Perhaps acting on the method of retaliation Blackett drove Bevan into the fence surrounding the pitch with a very heavy charge. The backs on both sides found some difficulty in accurately judging their clearances, but the Luton backs were having the most difficult job in playing against the full force of the wind, which was spoiling combination everywhere. The Rangers forced their way through the ranks of their opponents, and Murphey got in a shot which gave Platt a good deal of trouble, but the latter was able to get the ball away just in time to escape a rush from Sugden, who attempted to scramble the ball into the corner.

The star of the Rangers' defence was certainly in the ascendant when White—accidentally rather than by design—managed to rob Barnes of the leather immediately in front of goal. The first point of the match was an unanticipated piece of luck to Ryder, who received when in a good position, and put in a shot which Platt could not entirely stop. Sugden had every chance to repeat the dose when he received a flag-kick from Ryder, but, instead, he sent high over the bar. The referee's incorrect decision of offside against Dobson prevented Luton from equalising as the result of a good centre by McDonald. A little later a free-kick by McCurdy resulted in Dobson putting the sphere past Howes, only to be given offside. The homesters did their best to get on even terms, and just before half-time they were successful. A cross-shot from the Luton captain was saved rather luckily by the goalie, and a minute after Pickering passed to Dobson, who worked his way

Immediately on the resumption the Rangers attempted forcing tactics, but a fine centre by Bevan was transferred to the other end of the field by McCurdy, and at once the Queen's Park backs began to appreciate the difficulties which their opponents had had to face in the previous half through the strength of the wind. Luton pressed very strongly, and almost continually, giving the visiting defence hardly any peace. Dobson missed by only a few inches, and a trio of corners against the London team were equally fruitless. The homesters' centre-forward, however, seemed to be suffering from over-anxiety and a desire to do too much individually. But the comparison which the crowd instituted between his display and the recent exhibitions of "Sandy" Brown were decidedly flattering to the new-comer.

A clearance by Blackett of a somewhat weak attempt by the visiting quintette resulted in Mayes striking the rigging in a clever attempt, and one of "Bob" Hawkes' favourite drives almost brought about the downfall of the Rangers' colours, Howes having a good deal of trouble with a shot which was travelling just inside the post. Mayes found the goalie in quite as good form with a clever header, and a close centre by Barnes was punched away by the same capable player. But excellent though Howes's work might be, it could not stand against the persistent determination with which Luton assailed his charge. White struck one of his opponents, and Blackett, catching the ball on the rebound, landed it in between the post from 30 yards distance, thereby giving Luton the lead.

Luton continued to hold their opponents in check and rarely allowed their opponents to cross the half-way line. Up to the scoring of Blackett's goal, however, the forwards were somewhat undecided in front of goal. After this success, however, their methods improved, and Howes was given even more of a harassing time. Dobson forced his way through the defence, and was almost inside the goal-mouth when he lost complete control of the ball, and the goalkeeper cleared. Pickering received close in a minute later, and again forced Howes to use his fists, but the most dangerous of all attempts, a lightning shot from Dobson, missed the post by a few inches.

Luton continued to have matters all their own way, and McDonald scored two offside goals in rapid succession. The Rangers dashed to the other end, but Fletcher bungled badly with an almost open goal. The homesters were next minute more successful. Howes just tipped a shot from McDonald over the bar. The resultant corner-kick found Pickering, Dobson and McDonald clustered together in the mouth of goal, and the first-named had no difficulty in tapping the ball past the custodian. Only a few minutes later a shot by Murphey went into the Luton goal off Blackett, and the result was a narrow victory for the homesters.