

LUTON v. CLAPTON ORIENT.

Played at Luton on Monday. Result:—

Luton 1 goal.

Clapton Orient 1 goal.

The only satisfactory thing about the game was the weather, which was delightful. The play was as uninteresting as it well could be, and the marvellous thing is, not that only a few hundred people turn out to see these Monday exhibitions, but that any can be found with sufficient enthusiasm to brave an hour and a half's disappointments.

Luton were not strongly represented on this occasion, Bob Hawkes, Blackett, Barnes, and Brown all being absentees. Else partnered McCurdy at back, in the half-back line White had Gallacher on the right and H. Lane on the left, and the forward line comprised Warner, Wiles, Macdonald, Pickering, and Latheron. Clapton did not play Lamberton, who did duty for Luton last season, their team being as follows:—Redding; Reason and Holmes; Proudfoot, Bowden, and Codling; Gibson, Hammond, Leigh, Dougal, and Bourne. The referee was Mr. C. H. Baylis (Hitchin).

The ground was very lumpy, and this accounted somewhat for erratic play. Luton for some time had the better of the play, but the forwards were decidedly lacking in finishing power. Then after Macdonald had been wrongly given offside—and it was not by any means the only mistake made by the referee—the visitors got away, and a shot from Dougal unexpectedly found its way under the bar, Platt, who got to it, failing rather badly. Peter was smart enough during the rest of the game, but he certainly ought to have saved this shot. It was the only goal of the first half, and the Orient, who had given a poor show, might well congratulate themselves on crossing over with a lead.

In the second half Luton began with a little more spirit, and at the end of seven minutes Pickering put the ball across the mouth of goal, thus enabling Wiles to equalise. Soon afterwards there was quite an exciting incident. Pickering was making a dash down the field, and upon being tackled, passed to Macdonald, who had a clear run. The custodian came out and deliberately fouled him, the referee giving a penalty. The ball kept on its way, however, and rolled into the net, but the referee adhered to his decision. Warner took a flying shot and sent the ball high over the bar. Later on Luton ought to have scored, and once Macdonald hit the post with a good shot. This was the nearest they got, and a lifeless game ended in a draw.

Nothing need be said as to individual players, except that Wiles, Luton's new man, quite failed to realise expectations.