

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

MILLWALL v. LUTON.

Played at North Greenwich on Saturday afternoon. Result:—

Luton 2 goals.
Millwall 1 goal.

The following were the teams:—

MILLWALL.

Joyce

Campbell

Stevenson

Comrie

McLean

Blythe

Bradbury Hunter Heaton Jones Watkins.

O

Barnes Pickering Brown McDonald Warner

R. Hawkes

Gallacher

F. Hawkes

McCurdy

Blackett

Platt

LUTON.

Referee: Mr. T. Arnott.

White had hurt his knee on the previous Saturday and did not turn out, but his place was capably filled by Gallacher. Fred Hawkes was able to appear after his week's rest, and on the Millwall side Comrie deputised Marshall. The players were dressed in the 'Varsity colours—Millwall in dark Blue and Luton in light blue. There was an attendance of about 8,000 people when "Bob" Hawkes won the spin for the coin and elected to play with a weak breeze at his back on the soft pitch. Millwall had an old score to wipe off. Previously, this season they had found the straw-plasters at the tip-top of their form and received a thorough drubbing to the tune of 6-1, so the local crowd were in high hope that, the visitors' condition, not having improved since that eventful day, they would see an act of utter vengeance on the part of their favourites.

In spite of strenuous work by the Luton defence the forwards did not put in their share and for the opening few minutes Millwall had matters all in their own hands. Heaton was the first to find his real power when he drove in a hard shot from long distance. Platt tipped it over the bar just as it seemed to have accomplished its object. The resulting flag-kick was like the many which followed during the game—absolutely unproductive of any good to the side in whose favour it had been awarded. For ten minutes the Luton attacking line were unable to make the slightest impression, leaving nearly the whole of the labours to rest upon the broad shoulders of the trio, Blackett, McCurdy, and Platt. At this stage, as all through the match, the home eleven showed a speed in fastening on to the ball which was especially noticeable when contrasted with the slowness of the visitors in the same particular.

Blackett had the misfortune to have to go away a corner but a minute later made up for it by robbing Watkins of an opportunity just in the nick of time. At the other end an epidemic of miskicking looked like making for the success of the visiting team, but the disease infected Warner who was unable to catch the sphere as he wanted in order to land it in the middle, and a goalkick for Joyce was the only result. Another weak, disjointed attack by the Luton forwards brought the custodian out to kick away and play began to level itself down a little at this present juncture, though Millwall always held the upper hand. A combined run on the part of the dark blues resulted in Hunter eluding the vigilance of McCurdy and putting in a shot which Platt stopped, but Blackett was unable to relieve in time. Hunter's head only missed the target by a couple of inches. Barnes and Pickering drew the play down the other goal-line but Comrie returned without effect, the visiting forwards rapidly coming down the field. McDonald was fortunate enough to receive the ball when in an ideal position and placed the ball just inside the post, with a hot shot, putting Luton one ahead.

Millwall burst away again with rare Watkins induced Blackett to concede him a corner which brought about a dangerous melee just in front of goal. The ball was for a time kept out, but chiefly by luck until Platt had a direct attempt to deal with and, of course, saved. Brown was given his opportunity to shine and raced away, travelling a good distance until Campbell put paid to his account. A clearance by Stevenson found the Millwall players in a heap but they missed all their chances.

As Platt walked to his charge on the resumption he received a hearty welcome from a sportsman-like section of the crowd in recognition of his wonderfully fine display in the first half. Rain began to fall at this point so that the spectators comfort was not increased, while the players' position was not improved by the rapid churning up of the ground. Millwall found their legs first and for a time tried Platt, but found his ability undiminished and had to declare themselves beaten. In the first few minutes they certainly held the upper hand, and gripped it pretty firmly, but the Luton defence was too good for them and they gradually relaxed their endeavours. Luton at the same time increased theirs in a reverse ratio.

Luton displayed more dash at this point than at any other part of the game and for the first time gave Joyce some real anxiety. "Bob" Hawkes sent wide, but others were successful in bringing the goalie's hands and arms into play. Jones attempted to change the position of affairs with a brilliant individual run but his pass found Watkins unprepared for the Luton captain's onslaught and he reluctantly yielded the possession of the ball. Warner rushed away but his centre was also dealt with by McLean. Hunter discovered himself at the other end and endeavoured to give his side the equaliser, but Blackett's cleverness disappointed him. Heaton looked like finding the inside of the goal but was too slow in getting rid of the precious leather and thus bore out the truth of the oft-quoted saying "He who hesitates is lost."

McDonald and Warner found Blythe too big a handful even for the two of them and Hunter set off at top speed. Receiving again from Heaton, Hunter endeavoured to head the ball, but at the same moment Blackett was trying to clear with a kick over his head and Hunter's face was struck by the other's boot with such force that he had to be led off the field. With one man missing the homesters resorted to the one back style. Campbell experimented as a forward but was not a success and yielded up the position in the front rank to Comrie. For some time this re-arrangement of their opponents' ranks caused Luton to be confined in their own half of the field for fear of some infringements of the stern off-side rule. Barnes found a way out of the difficulty and led some of his comrades to the other end. He passed to Pickering who continued the dash towards goal and had an almost certain chance when he was fouled by Stevenson in the fatal area. The referee gave a penalty-kick which was taken by "Bob" Hawkes, who upheld his reputation in such emergencies by landing the ball in the corner of the net.

Blackett now left the field, he having hurt his leg in the first half, but pluckily stuck to his guns. The game was not a couple of minutes older before a second penalty was given—this time wrongly. Galiacher breasted the ball but the referee believed he had handled it and made the award. Heaton took the kick but Platt saved in splendid style, the crowd again applauding him. The players slowed down, and the match deteriorated from the point of view of the spectators who now had to watch it in drizzling rain. Millwall, however, pulled themselves together, and a shot by Comrie struck McCurdy, and glanced off him into the goal. A minute later the end came with Luton victorious by 2-1.