

# LUTON v. NORTHAMPTON.

Played at Northampton on Easter Monday.

Result:—

|                   |          |
|-------------------|----------|
| Luton .....       | 2 goals. |
| Northampton ..... | 1 goal.  |

Teams:—

Luton—Platt; Blackett and McCurdy; F. Hawkes, White, and Gallacher; Warner, MacDonald, Brown, Pickering, and Barnes.

Northampton—Perkins; Drennan and Durrer; Neal, Chadwick, and Tirrell; Frost. Platt, Turner, A. S. Walker, and Maris.

Referee, Mr. G. H. Muir (Southampton).

The usual holiday crowd accompanied Luton to the Boot Metropolis, and Northampton streets wore a familiar appearance with blue favours greatly in evidence both before and after the match. Notwithstanding the heavy holiday programme, it will be seen the team was practically at full strength, R. Hawkes being the only absentee, and he had promised to assist the Reserves in their Cup-tie.

Northampton were unable to avail themselves of the amateur brigade on account of their joining the Pilgrims on a Continental tour, and fell back upon their original attack to a large extent, although Joe Turner seemed rather out of place at centre-forward; indeed, before the finish he went outside-left and appeared more at home there.

Luton played a winning game right through, and have not been seen to greater advantage for some time. But up to the interval they had not found a way by Perkins. Still, it was only a matter of time, for it was seldom the Northampton forwards were seen at all. On the other hand, the Luton attack was continually in evidence, and just how the Northampton defenders kept them out in the first half it would be difficult to determine. Perkins certainly had something to say in the matter, but even he was not called upon so often as the attack warranted.

The Luton spectators were in high glee, but badly wanted a goal to clinch their arguments as to the superiority of their pets in the wordy duels with the home crowd. The arrangements for dealing with the crowd were not of the best, and the game had to be stopped more than once through the spectators encroaching on the touch-line down one side of the field. Indeed, right round the pitch spectators were inside the ropes in large numbers. What was urgently needed was a larger staff of police, but while the crowd were noisy they were not unruly to any great extent, although when Luton scored their first goal a scuffle in the "threepenny" enclosure ended up with the referee escorting a spectator or two across the field.

It was early in the second half when Brown opened the score, following a miskick by one of the Northampton defenders, and to hear the shouts from the stand one would imagine the game was being played at Luton. Where the Northampton spectators hid themselves at this moment is a mystery, for the ground appeared to be one mass of Lutonians shouting and waving their hats and favours in a manner most tantalising to a Northampton supporter.

It was now only a question as to how many goals Luton would win by, and the Lutonians were naturally on good terms with themselves and everybody else. As it happened, Pickering scored another with a grand burst through and ending up with a terrific drive, Perkins having no chance to stop it.

It was just as well this second goal came along when it did, for the Northampton forwards for the first time asserted themselves during the closing ten minutes and made matters a bit more even. About three minutes from time they managed to get a goal through the agency of Maris, who was now playing centre. He got the ball from a wing pass, and just squeezed it between Platt and the goal-post. Peter touched it but could not prevent it entering the net.

Although the margin was of the smallest dimensions, it gives no idea of the actual game, for even against Bristol Rovers Luton had not any more of the play, and it might easily have been a similar score. The whole team played in great style, and it would be unfair to single out any individuals for special mention.

When the Christmas gates with Watford and Northampton resulted in a total of £440 being taken, doubts were expressed as to the wisdom of pooling with these clubs, but it is satisfactory to note this amount has been exceeded on the returns, the two gates being—Watford £230 and Northampton £222, thus bringing the total up to £452.