

# LUTON v. NORTHAMPTON.

## DEFEAT OF THE "COBBLERS."

Played on the Northampton ground on Easter Monday afternoon. Result:—

|             |     |     |     |     |     |     |         |
|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|
| LUTON       | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 goals |
| NORTHAMPTON | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 goal  |
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Teams:—

### NORTHAMPTON.

Perkins

Drennan

Durber

Neal

Chadwick

Tirrell

Frost

Platt

Turner

A.

S.

Walker

Maris

O

Barnes

Pickering

Brown

Macdonald

Warner

Gallacher

White

F. Hawkes

McCurdy

Blackett

Platt

LUTON.

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

In delightful summer-like weather, before a holiday crowd of about 9,000, the Strawplaiters visited Northampton and administered to the "Shoemakers" their second defeat in the League this season. The grandstand presented a very pleasing spectacle, as a very large number of female excursionists who were present from Luton wore headgear made of the Luton colours. About half of the stand was one mass of the Luton colours, and all around the ropes the light blue ribbons were very much in evidence. The gate was a record for a Southern League match this season at Northampton.

The homesters were the first to make an appearance and were loudly cheered, but this was nothing in comparison to the shout that went up when Mc. Curdy led his men on the field. "Bob" Hawkes, the Luton skipper, was absent, being at Arlesey assisting the Reserves in the Beds. Cup final.

Perkins won the toss and set Luton to face the sun. Brown kicked off for Luton, and the visitors very soon made tracks for the Northampton goal but were checked by Durber. Another dash for the Northampton goal saw Neal foul Barnes, but the free-kick came to nothing; then Turner was making his way through the Luton defence, but was smartly pulled up by McCurdy the ball going to Pickering, who ran through and shot just by the post. From the kick off the ball was quickly returned by Blackett, and "Sandy" Brown nearly scored with a hot shot. Walker then broke away and ran the ball nearly the whole length of the field, only to feebly put behind when in a good position. Barnes again took the ball into the Northampton territory where it remained for some time, and Perkins had a very busy time, for shots were rained on him from all positions. Chadwick, who was paying great attention to Brown, next fouled "Sandy" just outside the penalty area, and from the free-kick Perkins gave a corner but this was cleared, but not for long for Warner and Macdonald took the ball right up to the mouth of goal which neither could put through; then F. Hawkes tried a pot shot, and from this Perkins had to give a corner. This was well placed, the ball bobbing from one to another of the Luton men but neither could put on the final touch, and finally Chadwick gave another corner, but this was also cleared. Then Turner tricked two or three of the Luton men and passed to Frost, who ran and shot, but Platt caught it and cleared in fine style. This was the first shot that Platt had to deal with although he had been playing now 30 minutes. A corner for Northampton was taken by Tirrell but this was placed behind. From the kick off away came the Luton men.

Some grand passing between the Luton forwards and half-backs set the Northampton defence on their mettle, and from a shot by Warner Perkins gave a corner, but this was only partly



cleared, and Warner made another dash through and missed the goal by inches. Luton were still pressing when the whistle went for half-time.

The second half opened in favour of Luton, who were now playing with the sun at their backs. Barnes broke away and put in a good centre, and the Northampton backs were sorely troubled. The game had not been restarted many minutes when Brown, who had shaken off Chadwick, found himself in a good position with only the two backs to beat, and then ran round Drennan and let drive with a shot right out of Perkins' reach, and at 4.30 had scored Luton's first goal.

A strange incident happened just now. The ball had been placed in the centre to be started, when the referee, Mr. Muir, signalled operations to stop, and could be seen making his way towards a portion of the crowd, where in a short time he emerged holding a youth whom he handed over to the police—rather a strange sight to see a referee marching a culprit across the playing pitch followed by a policeman leading another. I understand these two gentlemen disputed Luton's goal, and the referee happened to see them settling it in true British fashion. The game was started again and Luton made tracks for goal. A beautiful pass by Macdonald to Warner saw "Alf" take a pot shot which deserved to score, but missed only by inches. Northampton then took a turn at pressing, and Blackett was called upon to clear with three Northampton forwards on him. "Joe" rose to the occasion and volleyed down the field in fine style. The ball was returned, and then the Luton forwards gave the finest exhibition of passing that had been given all the afternoon. The ball was passed from man to man and taken the whole length of the field without an opposition man even touching it; in the end Barnes forced a corner.

Pickering, who had been trying his uttermost to score, received a pass close in and had no difficulty in scoring Luton's second goal.

The referee pointed to the centre of the field, but the Northampton players appealed for offside so hard that he consulted both linesmen. After consulting these gentlemen he allowed Luton the goal. After leading by two goals Luton began to take it easy, and Maris who had gone from outside-left to centre-forward broke through the Luton defence and scored Northampton's goal.

It was a grand shot and Platt had no earthly chance to save it.

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Luton thoroughly deserved their victory, and the score of 2—1 does not represent the play, for the "Strawplaiters" were pressing more than two-thirds of the game.

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For the winners, Blackett played a champion game. McCurdy was not quite so safe in the second half as the first, but both were in good form. Platt, who only handled the ball three times during the whole of the game, could not be blamed for the goal that was scored against him. Fred Hawkes was the best half, and his head work at times was very fine. White was a thorough worker at all times. Gallacher at times was brilliant, whilst at other times he was very slow. Barnes and Pickering were the best wing on the field. Brown, who was allowed very little rope from Chadwick, kept his forwards together beautifully, but was a trifle slow when in front of goal. Macdonald and Warner played together grandly in the second half and both had hard luck in not scoring on several occasions.

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For the losers, Chadwick played a great game, and Maris was very smart when he went centre-forward. The backs were very cool, and Perkins was the reliable goal keeper we all know him to be. The gate realised £222.

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There were 1,445 excursionists travelling to Northampton on Monday by the L. and N.W.R. and 274 by the M.R.