

UNITED LEAGUE.

LUTON v. NEW BROMPTON.

Played at Luton on Monday. Result:—

Luton	3 goals.
New Brompton.....	2 goals.

Teams:—

Luton—Farr; Hogg and McCurdy; F. Hawkes, Jones, and Jackson; Latheron, Macdonald, Murphy, Fitzpatrick, and Barnes.

New Brompton—Martin; Harvey and Elliott; Lloyd, Marvin, and Lissenden; Warrington, Marriott, Lee, Hartley, and Smith.

Referee, Mr. A. W. McQue.

Luton turned out their best available team, but were without Platt, R. Hawkes, and Brown, and New Brompton also made two or three alterations in their front rank, Cunliffe, the old Portsmouth player, being the most notable absentee. McCurdy won the toss, and Luton had the better of the opening exchanges, which were not very interesting. Nearly a quarter of an hour elapsed before Farr was called upon to save, and Luton had meanwhile been busy at the other end without much result.

The visiting forwards showed a weakness in the early part of the game by manœuvring for an opening when they ought to have shot, but this could not be said of the Luton quintette, Fitzpatrick especially showing a disposition to take advantage of every available opportunity. The first real attempt, however, was made by Murphy, whose header caused Martin to give a corner.

Steve Smith, who will be remembered as having played for Portsmouth at outside-left, showed that he has lost none of his old pace, and one centre from his foot went right across the mouth of goal, hitting the far post. None of his comrades were at hand, and the ball being sent up the field, the Luton right wing and centre were prevented from shooting. The sphere went to Fitzpatrick, who missed by inches.

The inside-left was not long, however, in opening the scoring. While Luton were attacking, Marvin, the centre-half, made an attempt to relieve the situation, but Fitzpatrick obtained possession and drove the ball home by means of a low shot. The ex-soldier had another chance a minute later, the custodian having some difficulty in clearing a drive from Barnes, but Fitz took a flying shot and the ball went over.

The second goal was scored within a couple of minutes after the first, and it was the result of a centre by Latheron, who was playing very well at outside-right. Barnes met the ball near the far upright and touched it to Murphy, who easily steered it by Martin. Just before the interval New Brompton had one or two possible openings, and once Hogg displayed considerable smartness in preventing the outside-left from shooting.

When play was resumed Fitzpatrick was the first to show up, and as a result of his clever play, Jackson was able to send in a fine shot, only just missing the mark. Then the visitors sprang a surprise on the home defence, and Hartley getting an opportunity, scored with a shot which found the top corner out of Farr's reach.

Luton replied with a corner and a grand long shot by Jones, whilst Fred Hawkes attempted to emulate his Saturday's performance, but Martin saved at the expense of a corner. Barnes also got through, and though hampered by the opposition just missed the bar with a rising shot. On the whole, however, the Bromptonians had the greater share of the play during this period, and once or twice it looked any odds on their getting an equaliser. About a quarter of an hour from the finish, however, the homesters went to work in real earnest, and gave Martin an exceedingly busy time in goal.

The custodian once failed to properly get hold of a capital shot by Barnes, and the ball seemed likely to twist back into goal, but Murphy applied his head and sent over the bar. Barnes followed on with a couple of splendid shots, which Martin did well to save, and a couple of corners were beautifully placed by Latheron and Barnes respectively, but the defence triumphed over all these attempts. A very fine long shot by Jones was punched out by Martin, and then Steve Smith raced to the other end and obliged Farr to give a corner, which was not improved upon.

Luton returned to the attack, and after a fruitless corner a goal came when it was scarcely expected, Jones being the operator. Luton continued to press, and the nature of the play may be judged from the fact that Hogg sent in a shot to which Martin had to give a corner. But in the very last minute of the game the Bromptonians again surprised the home team, Steve Smith getting away and scoring with a grand cross shot.

The game all through was considerably above the average of Monday matches, but I think Luton might have done better had they

thought it necessary to go all out. Jones, for example, was as clever as usual, but he rather overdid the trickery business, and sometimes a good deal of work went to very little purpose. Fitzpatrick was again in excellent form, and Barnes also being up to concert pitch, we had a pretty effective left wing, whilst Murphy rendered very good service at centre-forward. Macdonald was not great, but Latheron was always ready to take anything that came his way.

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Martin was the shining light on the other side, at any rate during that period in the second half when Luton were "keeping the pot a-boiling," and forward Steve Smith played wonderfully well, whilst the inside men were also smart. Warrington, on the right wing, however, was not quite up to his reputation.

The gate at Luton on Saturday totalled about £123.

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