

UNITED LEAGUE.

LUTON v. HASTINGS.

Played at Luton on Monday. Result:—

Luton 2 goals.

Hastings nil.

Teams:—

Luton—Platt; Hogg and Jackson; F. Hawkes, White, and Fitzpatrick; Warner, Pickering, Brown, Murphy, and Barnes.

Hastings—Jarvis; Turner and Vincott; Kent, Wood, and Griffiths; Rigate, Perkins, Beney, Thair, and Hadden.

Referee, Mr. L. Bullmer.

This was the last home Monday match of the season—with the exception of Easter Monday—and it also attracted the smallest gate, but it cannot be said that the play was superior to the occasion, for, owing to the recent sharp frost, the ground was quite hard. Under the circumstances, therefore, it was scarcely to be wondered at that neither side exerted themselves unduly.

The only changes in the Luton team were that Macdonald was given a rest, Pickering going inside-right and Murphy being included at inside-left, while McCurdy's place at left back was filled by Jackson. The visitors were not quite at full strength, and although they have done well in the English Cup this season, it looked as though Luton had a rather soft thing on hand.

Fred Hawkes lost the toss to Turner, the old Luton back, and Luton scored in the first two minutes. Following a corner taken by Barnes, Hawkes put the ball well in front of goal, and Pickering made one or two attempts to dispose of the ball to advantage, but found himself hampered. However, Brown happened to be near, and promptly taking advantage of an opening, shot the ball into the net.

This early success did not have a good effect on the game, for the visitors put very little dash into their play, and Luton were content to just hold the upper hand. A couple of good shots by Warner were well saved by the goal-keeper, one at the expense of a corner, and Jackson showed up well in defence, but Murphy was rather weak with his shooting.

Once White nearly got through, but Brown happened to be in the way of his shot. This was rather unfortunate, but the centre-forward did the right thing a minute or two later when he tipped the ball to Pickering, and the latter had the pleasure of scoring. This happened after half-an-hour's play.

Directly afterwards Murphy was getting through nicely when he was fouled by Turner, and the referee awarded a penalty to Luton. Brown took the kick and kept the ball low, but he did not pay enough attention to the direction, the shot going by the post. Shortly before the interval the Hastings custodian hurt himself in falling down on the hard ground to get at a shot by Pickering, but was able to continue playing.

Generally speaking, the play during the second half was uninteresting, for although Luton had two-thirds of the game, their efforts lacked sting. The best attempts were made by Warner, but on one occasion Pickering might have got through if he had not stopped to appeal to the referee. Brown also had one or two chances, and a shot from his foot shortly before the finish deserved a better fate than to only produce a corner.

Hastings, for whom Griffiths played a good game at left-half, had some opportunities, but for the most part their shooting was very poor, the outside men in particular not caring to take the risk of turning sharply on the ground, which was so hard that the pitter-patter of the boots could be plainly heard as the men ran about.

Once, early in the second half, Hogg put the ball on to the centre-forward, who did not take his time and shot over, but later on the same player got in a neat header from a centre by the outside-left. Platt brought off a smart save, and the resultant corner was not improved upon. Luton's remaining fixtures in the United League are at Leyton, Hastings, and the Crystal Palace.