

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

READING v. LUTON.

LAST MATCH OF THE SEASON.

Played at Reading, on Wednesday. Result:—

READING	THREE GOALS.
LUTON	NIL

The teams were as follows:—

LUTON — Jarvis; Hogg and Dimmock; F. Hawkes, White and F. Albano; Rigate, Farrant, Pearson, B. Pettengell, and Walders.

READING—Rae; McGhie and Wilkes; Walker, Hancock, and Mainds; Mayo, A. E. Smith, Wilks, Reid, and Geo.

Referee, Mr. T. J. Tappin, London.

Luton made two changes from the team which suffered the fruitless journey to Reading the previous Saturday, White and Pettengell taking the places of Jones and Eling, neither of whom were available.

The home officials were certainly fortunate on selecting the day for the re-play, as the afternoon turned out decidedly the pleasantest of the month and quite 2,000 spectators assembled.

Reading were giving a new player, in A. E. Smith, a trial, and he came out with distinct credit, because of the whole-hearted manner he put into his work. It was given out to the Press he was a "soldier player," but otherwise no particulars could be gleaned as to his football career.

In the first half there was every indication of a draw, for although once or twice the Reading attack got down, Jarvis was never over-worked, and shaped quite confidently at everything that came to hand.

Without being an exciting 45 minutes, the football was interesting, and for a game in which nothing hung, the exchanges were spirited indeed. Still, the crowd were naturally anxious to see goals, and therefore the second half aroused greater enthusiasm. The players did not leave the field at the interval, to enable Luton to get their train, the match not commencing until 5.45.

Quite early in the concluding half, Gee, who was playing clever football, at outside left, worked himself into a fine position, and sent a terrific cross shot just over the bar. This was rather a lucky escape for Luton, as Jarvis could never have stopped such an effort.

The Luton forwards have not put in better work efforts, and a very promising movement was brought about by a dash through on the part of Pearson, who sent the ball well out on the right wing, only for Rigate to be given off-side. Evidently the referee did not notice the position Rigate came from, and it was one of the few bad decisions Mr. Tappin gave.

At this point, Luton were having a big share of the exchanges, and appeared likely to open the score more than once. Farrant gave Rigate a nice opening, and Luton's outside right sent in a fine attempt. Rae dropped the ball, and only prevented a goal at a second attempt in an extremely lucky manner, for Pearson was close up.

All at once a decided change came over the game and Reading made good use of it by netting the ball three times within ten minutes. The first came from Swith, who put in a hard cross ground shot, which went clean through the back of the net.

Two minutes later, Gee got across one of his fine centres, and Reid, rushing up, headed the ball over Jarvis's shoulders into the extreme corner.

Since Jarvis has been substituted for Platt, he has been extremely unlucky, in having goals put through by players of his own side, and once more he suffered in this respect. A free kick was given against Dimmock, just outside the penalty area, and from this a hot attack was set up, the ball eventually coming to Reid, and he sent the ball forward in such a way that Jarvis had a clear view and would have easily saved, but unfortunately Hogg got in the way and altered the flight of the ball, and although Jarvis made an attempt to prevent a score, the ball went over his arm into the net.

This concluded the scoring, but for the final 20 minutes of the game it was almost a continuous attack on the Reading goal.

The Luton forwards have not put on better work than during this period all the season, and nothing but a wonderful display on the part of Rae prevented at least a draw.

Being three goals behind this may appear extraordinary, but Luton quite deserved to notch at least three goals.

Pearson put in half-a-dozen really fine shots, and Farrant also played up to his reputation in this direction, and gave Rae a couple of shots to deal with which would have quite deserved a goal in ordinary circumstances, but it was apparently not to be, and Luton concluded their unlucky season pointless.

Except for the fatal ten minutes previously mentioned, Luton certainly held their own, and the result gives an altogether false impression of the game.