

READING DRAW.

Desperate Encounter.

"JACK EQUALS HIS MASTER."

BOB HAWKES MISSED.

After their splendid performance of Wednesday the followers of the town team anticipated another brilliant victory with Reading, but in this respect they were disappointed. Although the weather was dull, there was quite 7,000 spectators present to watch the struggle.

"Bob" Hawkes was absent from his place through having gone on the Swedish tour with the English Amateurs, and his services were greatly missed. Dimmock, who occupied the vacant position, but who is really a back, was not able to shine. Platt, who is gradually gaining his usual health was again absent from his accustomed position between the sticks, and his place was ably taken by Jarvis, who on Wednesday gave such a brilliant display. But for Dimmock's appearance in the team, the composition was the same as that that romped to victory on the previous Wednesday.

Herbert Smith was also absent from the visitors' team, he having accompanied Luton's favourite on the Swedish tour.

Mr. G. H. Bromley, of Portsmouth, held the whistle, and the teams faced each other as follows:—

Luton:—Jarvis; Gregory and McCurdy; F. Hawkes, Jones, and Dimmock; Brown, Haycock, Bradley, Moody and Johnson.

Reading: Newbigging; Wilkes and Crump; Mainds, Boden and Hancock; Huggins, Wheatcroft, Tarplin, Leonard and Burch.

Luton defended the town end, and Bradley kicked off for the homesters, and Reading, through Huggins was the first to become dangerous, when a long shot from the left just missed. Gregory placed well up the field, and Bradley receiving a short crisp pass from Brown, made a feeble attempt at the goal, Newbigging clearing with that perfect ease which proved to be the dominant feature of his play throughout the afternoon. A "free" for the homesters was taken by Bradley, who passed to Brown, but he fumbled with the sphere and eventually was robbed by Mainds. Reading now pressed to the attack, and Burch tested Jarvis, who was found to be quite ready. Huggins now became prominent with a pretty movement on the left, the finish drawing forth the applause of the crowd, and soon after the same player hit the cross-bar with a long drive.

Johnson was pulled up for offside, when taking a beautiful pass from Moody, who had run round Hancock. The game seemed to drop considerably in its exciting moments and for the next five or ten minutes, football appeared a thing of bygone ages. The tactics adopted by both sides were of the spoiling order.

Both goals were subjected to long erratic shots, which either went wide, or dropped short. The crowd began to get uneasy with this kind of play, and it thenceforth began to brighten up. A free for the visitors just outside the penalty area of the home goal threatened danger, but this was nobly averted by Gregory, who receiving sent to Bradley, the latter placing the leather into the arms of the Reading goalie.

Moody and Johnson executed a pretty movement on the extreme left, but Crump broke up the advance. Bradley now directed operations for the home forwards, and the visitors' custodian

was called upon, he acquitting himself in fine style. The bustling dashes of Bradley gave the biscuit men considerable anxiety, especially their defence, who were both commissioned to watch the Luton centre, and this they did.

Bradley was being continually followed about by two or three of the biscuit men, but this sharp surveillance did not interfere to any great extent with the home player, who had many times set his forwards on the move.

Tarplin now fastened on to the ball, and made a dash for Luton's goal, but he had not reckoned with McCurdy, who bringing the visitors' centre down, sent the leather back. Dimmock now made a few slight mistakes, his passing to the wing being short and erratic. His name was repeatedly uttered by members of the crowd, this apparently putting more vigour into him, and his play now looked up a bit, and on several occasions he was responsible for some good drives.

F. Hawkes, getting the ball to his liking, tried a shot which was cleared, and the Luton front rank now worried Newbigging with several teasing shots. He came through the ordeal with flying colours. Bradley set Moody on the move, but he was robbed by Wheatcroft. Reading executed a movement which threatened danger to Luton, and had it not been for Jarvis's cranium the visitors would have scored. Fortunately, however, things turned out differently. In post haste the ball came right up the wing, with Leonard directing its course. With a good centre this player sent across to Burch, who being in an unmarked position put in a clean drive, which struck Jarvis on the face, the ball going over the line. The resultant corner kick was got rid of by Gregory.

Luton retaliated, Moody becoming prominent with a pretty run. However, he was robbed by Mainds. Jones was then pulled up for what appeared to the crowd a fair charge, and Jarvis effected a brilliant clearance.

Reading were showing better football, and they immediately forced a corner, which was futile. Jarvis brought off some brilliant saves, and for this there was great rejoicing. Bradley broke away, but he missed the mark with a fine shot, and Brown shortly afterwards sent wide, followed by an erratic shot from Johnson. The ball hung dangerously round the home goal, and a score looked certain, until McCurdy relieved the pressure.

Huggins, who up to now had played a quiet but brilliant, and at times a dangerous game, was hurt as a result of a collision with Hawkes, and he left the field for a few minutes, and when he again took his place, he received a hearty welcome.

Jones made an opening for the home forwards, who with some pretty combination worked the leather towards the visitors' goal. Moody getting into a good position swung the ball right into the corner of the net with a terrific drive, thus chalking up the first goal of the game. Reading then played with more determination, and their bustling methods at times became dangerous, but the home defence was equal to the occasion and they kept the visitors at bay. A corner to Luton was fruitless, and Johnson soon after tried a shot which hit the cross bar bouncing out of play. At the other end, Burch got in a good shot which Jarvis cleared and sent well down the field. Bradley opened up his forwards with a pretty movement, and eventually the shot hit the bar, and the ball was sent behind by Haycock. The half-time whistle went with the score reading:—

LUTON ONE—READING NONE.

The second half saw some pretty play on both sides, Huggins being conspicuous for the visitors. Reading set their minds on equalising matters, and after both ends had been continually visited and both goalies brought off some fine saves, the visitors accomplished the task they had set themselves. Luton first forced two abortive corners, the visitors got into their step and work-

ing their way through the home defence, Tarplin finished up by banging the leather into the net, Jarvis failing to hold a ground shot from Huggins. As a result of this turn of events, a stern tussle ensued, Brown sending across the line with a long drive.

Reading gave the home defence trouble with their accurate ground passing, and with dogged determination they again visited Jarvis, who this time was found ready for a shot from Huggins. The incident was the forerunner of a corner for Luton, and after a melee in front of the visitors' citadel Jones sent behind. A free to the Strawhatters again put them in a good position, and it seemed as if they were bound to score. The huge crowd were rejoicing at the strenuous efforts of their favourites to pull ahead.

Over eagerness spoilt a good chance, and Brown cleverly hoodwinked Maunds, but his shot was injudicious, and Newbigging with characteristic coolness swung the ball out of danger. Coming again, Brown was fouled just outside the penalty area, the free being handled inside the fatal line by Wilkes.

A penalty kick was awarded, and Jones remembering that the teams were on equal terms placed the ball well into the net with a lightning shot, drawing forth the applause of those around the arena. This reverse put bleeding on their mettle, and they played with great vigour, taking the ball to the home area, where the hatters' defence were temporarily placed in difficulties. Jones coming to the rescue relieved the pressure.

Reading, however, were not to be daunted, and they seemed bent on once again making matters even. Jarvis effected a brilliant clearance, and Bradley made a spirited reply, when at the critical moment, he was bowled over by Crump whose tactics at this point were the subject of comments by the referee. Huggins got the ball well in hand and after running round Hawkes and Gregory tried a shot which was kept out by the home custodian. At the other end Brown and Bradley tried to pierce the rigging in their efforts to place Luton beyond the reach of the biscuit men, but this they failed to do.

Reading retaliated, and Boden and Huggins were conspicuous for some splendid shots, which however, were ably dealt with by Jarvis. A rush by the visitors' forwards was then made and Leonard receiving placed the ball into the net with a lightning shot, putting the teams on equal terms.

The restart saw the teams fighting for superiority, and both goalkeepers were called upon. Long shooting was frequently indulged in. Bradley sent in a lamentably wide shot, and at the other end Tarplin only just missed the mark. The final whistle now went, with the match a draw, the score reading—

LUTON TWO—READING TWO.