

The Western League.

LAST MINUTE GOAL.

A POOR GAME.

Hard Luck, Croydon Common.

Luton on Monday gave a very poor display against Croydon Common on the Ivy Road Ground, and the thousand odd spectators who gathered will want better value for their money if they are to continue their patronage. That fact is painfully evident. Some even came away before the end, and did not see the winning goal scored.

The following were the teams:—

Croydon Common: Furr; Christie and Meston; Hammond, Wolstenholme, and Hayward; S. Garrett, Lewis, Teal, MacDonald, and Barnfather.

Luton: Platt; Gregory and Dimmock; F. Hawkes, Bradley and Jones; Brown, Stansfield, Menzies, Moody, and Johnson.

Referee, Mr. L. Bullmer (Northampton).

The play for quite a long period at the commencement of the match was very dull and hopeless. True, there was very little to get enthusiastic over, except for a quick turn by Jones, who sent the ball just on the wrong side of the post. This was followed by a pretty shot by Moody, who took a pass by Menzies first time and put just wide. Luton had the better of the play until our old friend MacDonald headed just over the bar. Lewis twice sent the ball in front of the goal, but no one was at the right spot to meet it, and it went behind.

Furr, the old Hitchin man, had very little real work to do, except to guard the ball over the line when the other side were attacking. Once he had a red-hot one from Fred Hawkes to clear, and he got rid of the ball in a safe fashion.

The Luton side were rather poor at finishing. They got the sphere into the vicinity of the Croydon goal, but once there, the finishing movement was very poor. The centres for the most part were between the other forwards, and thanks to the way the visitors paid them attention the inside men were rather impotent to do damage. MacDonald was the most dangerous man on the visitors' side, and he tried a shot at goal whenever he got the opportunity. Menzies was altogether lacking the dash of Bradley in the centre-forward position. His passes to the other men were none too clean. The visitors' goal had a narrow escape from downfall about this time, for following a foul by Hammond, for which he was cautioned, Moody headed in, and Furr fumbled the ball, but Stansfield, with an over-head kick, landed it over the bar.

Croydon broke into vigorous outburst in defence, but they were very redoubtable in this department of the work of the day. The first corner of the day fell to Luton, a shot by Stansfield being put behind by Christie. Moody headed the ball over the bar from a difficult angle.

Bradley endeavoured to break through from half back, but he was fouled, and the ball went across to Moody, who shot just by the post.

F. Hawkes eventually got the ball into the net, but rather unaccountably the referee disallowed the point. It transpired subsequently, that Stansfield was standing offside close to the goal-keeper. This was a good bit of luck for the visitors, for Stansfield was doing nothing but observing the play.

The second half opened much on the lines of the first, Luton getting the sphere down well, and then failing again. Croydon had a turn at the other end, and got a good goal, for MacDonald got off alone on the left wing, and guessing for position, he rushed the ball up and then shot. "Peter" punched away, but was not successful in clearing, and MacDonald breasted through. This was a little bit of a surprise for Luton, for the visitors hardly deserved this lead. Still it was hoped that this would brace the play up a bit. Menzies, who had been limping from the restart, left the field after 10 minutes of the second-half had expired. Bradley went partly centre-forward and retained his old position at centre-half as far as he could. Johnson received a good pass right from across the ground, and centring, Bradley and Moody allowed the ball to go to Stansfield, who hit the top of the net inside the goal with a smashing shot, thus equalising the scores.

Bradley was putting new life into the game by his kick and rush, and soon proved too much for Meston, who rather resented this dash. Johnson was badly brought down by Hammond, and a corner followed the free kick, but this was eventually cleared by a drive by Brown, who landed the ball just wide of the post.

Platt made a great save from Garrett, who got quite clear, the Luton goal-keeper getting his fist to the ball which came low. Fred Hawkes eventually relieved the pressure with a good kick. The one-back game played by the home side made the game a little bit of a farce. Barnfather got away as the result of some loose play by Jones and Gregory, but "Peter" once more proved his resourcefulness and made a clearance. Play hovered about the half-way line until Dimmock sent very wide from a long way out. Lewis threw away a glorious chance, the defence allowing him to dodge backwards and forwards.

Just before the finish Johnson received a pass right across the field, and dashing up found himself confronted only with Furr, whom he beat very easily by a hard drive just inside the post. A most inglorious game then ended—

LUTON

2 goals

CROYDON

1 goal