

WESTERN LEAGUE.

CROYDON COMMON v LUTON.

Luton Play with Ten Men Over an Hour

BROWN BADLY KICKED BY WESTON.

Luton Playing Strong at Finish Almost Equalise

When the Western League Fixture was made with Croydon for yesterday, it was on the understanding if the time for playing was extended by a new rule which was passed at a subsequent meeting the date was to be altered. But Croydon have so many fixtures, when they came to rearrange it was found impossible to do so although Luton pressed them right up to the last. Croydon have now seven fixtures to fix up through postponements of one sort or another and they absolutely had no date to give which could be used. Therefore Luton made up their team as much as possible with non-starters for the cup tie, yet still keeping it as much as possible first team. Unfortunately Rigate broke down on Tuesday, at his trial and this meant Brown had to be pressed into service, and as it happened he was the one to get hurt. He had been running round Meston time after time and was again beating him for speed when the Croydon back kicked Brown on the ankle, the ball going over the line at the same moment. It appeared a deliberate kick and the referee gave a foul. He received attention from the trainer and did return to the field for a minute or so, but acting on Lawson's advice ultimately came off for good. The kick was just above the ankle and it is not expected to keep him out of the cup team, as the injured foot received immediate attention and it is not like a strain.

With Brown off, naturally Croydon had more of the game, but it was only just on half time when they opened the score. For a time in the second half they continued to have the better of the exchanges and scored again. But Luton kept up their reputation for finishing strongly, and not only did they score through Haycock, but appeared likely to equalise right up to the final whistle. Without doubt the absence of Brown for over an hour gave Croydon their victory, for at the time of his retirement nothing had been scored.

R Chapman and Tildesley were at full back for the first time in the premier eleven, and the Bedford boy, as on Saturday, got through the most work in a whole-hearted manner. He gives distinct promise of making a really fine back. Tildesley is yet quite out of condition, but kicked strongly and certainly did better than against Norwich Reserves. Johnson was Luton's most dangerous forward, and he led up to all the attacking work after Brown left. Still Haycock played well with one side of the field to himself, and his goal was a clever one, clean beating both Meston and Evans. For Croydon Nixon played a good game, more particularly in the first half, while the veteran Wolstenholme was always well in the picture and taking the game through was the "Robins" best player.

The Teams were as under ;—

Croydon Common: Evans, Gardner, Meston, Hammond, Wolstenholme, R. Moreton, Nixon, Toal, Hayward, L. Wagstaffe and E. Hathaway.

Luton: Platt, R. Chapman, Tildesley, F. Hawkes, White, Fleckney, Brown Haycock, Menzies, Bradley and Johnson.

Referee: Mr. G. H. Muir, Southampton.

At the start both sets of forwards made good runs but were well held in check by the backs, and neither goalkeeper had a shot to handle during the first ten minutes. Probably Bradley had the easiest chance during the period following some forcing play on his part coupled with Menzies, but Bradley's final attempt at scoring was wild and the ball sailed yards over the bar.

Platt had the first shot to deal with, a long attempt from Nixon coming to hand with Wagstaffe in close attendance and Platt was compelled to give a corner to relieve the situation. Another dangerous looking customer came along from the same quarter, but Platt had his eye on the ball as it travelled from Nixon's toe and he calmly watched it right across the goal and over the line about three yards wide of the upright. Johnson ran through and centred finely and the ball was bouncing about in front of goal for quite a prolonged time, but neither of the inside men could get a fair kick at it, and Evans returning one tame attempt placed the ball to Brown, but Norman's shot went just wide in trying to miss Meston who was standing just in front.

Tildsley let Nixon in just after and it looked a bit dangerous until Chapman rushed across and kicked the ball into touch right off the home player's toe. As the opposite end Bradley forced the play, and finally the ball came out to Brown who sent in a terrific drive just over the bar. It was a fine shot and must have scored if the elevation had been lower. Again some telling work on the part of Brown finished up with a shot from Menzies, but again the ball was put too high in the air and Evans was not called upon.

It was just here when Brown going through again met with his injury, and for a time this took the sting out of Luton's attack. Therefore it was no surprise when the home left wing broke away to see Hayward convert a pass from Wagstaffe and thus open the score for Croydon. This however was close on half-time and the players truned round without leaving the field with the score standing,

CROYDON COMMON	ONE GOAL,
LUTON	NIL.

Notwithstanding the handicap of having four forwards only, Luton were doing their best to bring matters level and Menzies put out a clever pass to Johnson, who working towards goal let drive with a rather wild shot which went well over. Another run on the part of Johnson gave Bradley an opportunity but Gardner hung on him and succeeded in blocking the way into goal. A rather lucky goal fell to Croydon as a result of a run down by Hathaway who planted the ball in the centre and Toal had nothing to do but touch it through. Following this the Robins for a short time monopolised the play, but some telling work on the part of Chapman who was all over the shop wherever his help was required prevented an increase in the score. Wolstenholme sent in one really fine shot which appeared to be passing harmlessly over but dropped just under the bar, Platt having caught

the ball and kicked away, making a really fine save.

Luton afterwards played up better and after a time managed to break in with certainly the best goal of the match. The ball was going into touch near the centre line when Fleckney cleverly stopped it and with the same kick punted the ball forward to Johnson, who dashed away with it in fine style. He dropped across a beautiful centre just by the middle of the field, and Haycock pushed his way through and scored with a fine cross drive, Evans having no chance. Having tasted blood Luton went all out for the equaliser. Menzies put in one especially fine effort which seemed to beat Evans, but the home goalkeeper just managed to stop it, although he fell in saving. Johnson several times dropped across grand centres, but the absence of Brown prevented the opposite wing improving matters, although Haycock did much good work under the circumstances. Still nothing further was scored and Croydon ran out winners with the score

CROYDON COMMON ... TWO GOALS

LETON ... ONE GOAL.