

FOOTBALL.

CUP-TIE LUCK.

LUTON HAVE THE GAME.

SOUTHEND SAVE THEMSELVES.

Brown and Menzies Away.

BRADLEY FIGURES AT CENTRE.

Luton have never been a lucky cup team, and on Saturday tradition again asserted itself. Southend were looked upon very favourably, and under ordinary circumstances it seemed a win for Luton. Then Brown was injured on Wednesday, Menzies came on with a gathered toe, and chaos seemed to reign, until anything might have happened. Luton eventually drew, and will re-play at Southend on Wednesday. The teams on Saturday were:—

Luton: Platt; McCurdy and Gregory; Fred Hawkes, Jones and R. Hawkes; Stansfield, Haycock, Bradley, Moody and Johnson.

Southend United: Cotton; Thomson and Molyneux; Harrod, Owen and Blott; Birnie, Frost, Ronaldson, Wright and Jack.

Referee: Mr. W. Burgess (Surrey).

"Bob" tossed, and Molyneux guessed correctly, and so Luton started the ball, and an early attack was nipped in the bud, but from an attack on the other side of the field Harrod was obliged to kick out. Ronaldson broke away in the play which followed, but kicked wide of goal.

Moody gave Stansfield a fine pass across the ground, but the ball eventually went behind. Moody at once forced a corner, and Cotton jumped up to fist away very smartly, and from the ensuing play the ball went behind.

The visitors then forced the game down on the Dunstable-road side of the field, but Gregory and Hawkes held them well, and Birnie got off-side. Luton then pressed by means of some hard work, and the ball getting across to the right Stansfield transferred with an overhead kick. The ball came back to Johnson, who netted through a crowd of players.

Bradley knocked Cotton down into the net as he jumped to fist the ball, and the referee gave a free kick. A visit to the Southend goal was frustrated. The visitors forced the play on the right, and the ball was eventually carried over the line. Gregory was hustled into giving a corner, and Ronaldson scraped the goal bar with a shot, the ball coming to Jack, who returned, but Bob Hawkes headed away.

Johnson did well to catch a ball on the touch line, and centred, and Molyneux put the ball over his head into Cotton's hands, the goalkeeper fortunately standing behind the back. This was very fortunate for the visitors.

Luton were soon destined to lose the lead, for following a free kick for a foul by Jones, the ball hovered in front of the Luton goal. Wright received the ball on his head, but pluckily following up had no difficulty in beating Platt. Thus he equalised through a rather soft goal.

There was a lull after this unexpected reverse, but the crowd was aroused by a foul on Johnson, and following this Bradley guided the ball over the bar.

Frost nearly netted the ball, following another free kick for hands against Gregory, and Platt fell down to the ball and fisted away rather luckily. The United were playing the cooler and better game, Luton badly needing a centre forward.

Blott had a weakness for kicking out. Then in the play which followed close to goal a Southend man tried to kick a Luton man off his legs, but the referee did not see it, and on appealing to a linesman he also was blind to the infringement, though nearly everybody in the crowd saw it.

Play was certainly exciting in the next few minutes, with really nothing happening. Bradley was allowed to go on from an offside position, but Cotton came to the rescue. Cotton was put down very heavily again by Bradley, and on the centre forward getting up and going for him again he was pulled up for offside.

Twice Cotton had to save in quick succession, and there was no rest for him from Bradley's attentions, for once more he found the back of the net. Moody obtained a corner, but this was cleared. Southend were having quite as much of the play as Luton when the whistle blew for half-time with the score:—

Luton 1 goal, Southend 1 goal.

On taking the town side of the field the linesman found cause to complain of the crowd, and the referee wasted three minutes in going over there to see what was the matter.

The game was eventually started, and in the first minute the referee brought up Bradley for a supposed "foul," apparent to no one on the field. Gregory unwittingly gave a corner, which was sent behind.

Play was taken to the other end, but without anything resulting, and then the linesman needlessly interfered and pulled Luton up for an alleged foul by F. Hawkes. The kick was cleared.

The game about this time was utterly lacking in science, and with a greasy ball and slippery ground anything might have happened. The United left wing broke away by kick and rush methods, but Fred Hawkes came to the rescue and sent the ball among the spectators.

Birnie in the next minute shot hard at goal, but Platt was all there, and caught the ball. The referee was making frequent errors, and he made a glaring blunder which was, however, to the advantage of the home side, the decision evoking ironical applause.

Bradley made the crowd's hair stand on end as he dashed through the defence, and went for goal like a young bull. The goal seemed at his mercy, and he showed nice judgment by putting apparently outside Cotton's reach, but he got his hand to the ball and punted out.

Bob Hawkes followed up with a great effort, and completely beat Cotton, but the ball went too high, struck the cross-bar and returned to the field, where Haycock took a hasty shot by the corner of the net.

The same forward placed the ball into Cotton's hands from a difficult angle, and once again the attack was renewed, only for Johnson to head over the bar. Luton were having as much of the play as they could desire, but the goal seemed as far off as ever.

Fast play from end to end followed, but little of real advantage to the contestants occurred. Then the United were united in the defence of their goal, for Luton peppered it hotly, and quite a long gruelling took place in front of Cotton.

It looked any odds on Luton leading as Moody shot hard, but once again the cross bar was not high enough for the ball to go under. The sphere returned to the field from the cross piece, and Johnson then sent by the opposite post, this effort being similar to that which got the goal.

The linesman on the far side of the field once more failed to see an advantage which should have accrued to Luton, for the ball went off one of the United men behind the goal, but he signalled for a goal kick.

Molyneux made his men gasp as he nearly scored a goal against them, the ball going behind the Southend goal from a corner kick to Luton not a yard from the post. Cotton had no earthly chance with the ball, and it would have been hard luck on him if it had gone through.

The flag kick was taken by Stansfield, who sent direct to Jones, and "Abe" headed just under the bar, but a foul was given against Moody, who was adjudged to have charged Cotton before he had the ball. This, then, was rendered of no effect.

The Luton goal was in great jeopardy, and a little slackness on the part of Southend and the coolness of Gregory probably allowed Luton to join in a re-play. Platt hesitated in the old way, rushed out too late, but Gregory smothered the ball until he could return, and then kicked away. It was a perilous moment.

All the forwards on the Luton side had a "go" at goal, but to no purpose. Moody directed a shot to the corner of the goal, but Cotton again intervened and averted danger miraculously. To the end Luton was the superior team, but they could only draw.

Luton 1 goal, Southend 1 goal.