

Football Notes and News.

[By "GOALPOST."]

LUTON'S DEFEAT IN THE ENGLISH CUP.

MILLWALL'S OLD TRICK.

When the referee's whistle blew at 4.10 on Saturday afternoon Luton Town had once more said "good bye" to their chance of winning the English Cup this season—not that their chances of securing the trophy were ever fancied; but it was thought more than probable that they would get through the first round, and thus materially benefit the club financially as well as add to their own laurels in the field. But such was not to be the case, and Millwall were victorious by the odd goal, the final result being 2-1 in favour of the Dockers.

Whatever may be said about the result, it must be admitted that the better team won. Millwall showed better form all through, and resorted to their old trick—they hustled and hustled Luton off their feet, and those tactics were a large factor in their winning the game.

Both sides were at full strength, as will be seen from the following:—

Luton: Platt; McCurdy, Gregory; F. Hawkes, Jones, R. Hawkes; Brown, Haycock, Menzies, Moody, Stansfield.

Millwall: Joyce; Stevenson, Jeffreys; Riley, Comrie, Blythe; Dean, Shand, Twigg, Jones, Tellum.

It was not until the last moment that the directors decided which of the two players, R. M. Hawkes or Jones should play left-half, it being thought at one time advisable to play White at centre-half.

Millwall won the toss, but decided to kick against the wind, and Menzies kicked off before 10,000. Millwall at once attacked, but Jones, when in a good scoring position, shot aimlessly. McCurdy and R. Hawkes had all their work cut out, but they did it well and at length Luton pressed, Comrie saving the situation by kicking out. Both teams were much in earnest, and, so far, equally matched, as shown in the end-to-end play that followed. Then the visitors got the better of it, and McCurdy was prominent in checking their rushes. Stansfield sprinted along the left, but sent behind. Gregory handled, but the Luton custodian cleared, following the free kick, with ease. After Platt had saved from Dean, Brown became prominent. From his centre Menzies scored a grand goal for the home team.

This success did Luton much good, for they pegged away with renewed persistency. Brown again appeared to advantage, compelling Joyce to punch out a very hot shot. Jones (of Millwall) then outwitted his Luton namesake, and initiated an attack that appeared dangerous. When Gregory cleared, however, the game assumed a more even aspect, and half-time came with Luton leading by the one goal scored.

Millwall pressed after the resumption, and Dean got away, only to shoot out. Luton retaliated, Haycock putting in a fine sprint. He was robbed, however, by Jeffreys in the nick of time. Millwall came again, and Tellum forced a corner off Gregory. Haycock cleared, and then Joyce had to save. Again Dean got down, and caused Platt to bring off a grand save.

Millwall were working hard. Dean forced another corner, and still another. At length Shand passed to Dean, who scored with a fast grounder. In the vigorous game that ensued Twigg was temporarily disabled. Stansfield forced two corners, which were fruitless. Brown had a chance at the other end, but slipped. At length the persistent efforts of Millwall told, and Tellum scored again five minutes from the end. Luton tried hard to get level again, but failed, and Millwall won by 2 to 1.

In one sense it was very hard luck for Luton to lose the game. Admitted that Millwall were "streets" ahead of the Strawplaiters, that was no reason why the visitors should have obtained the necessary point by what was so palpably an off-side goal. Never before has such an off-side goal been given on the Ivy-road ground. One does not in the least accuse Mr Fallowfield of partiality towards Millwall, but all the same it was a great error of judgment on the referee's part.

Tellum, who netted, was of course well on side, but the two players from whom the ball came across to him, were quite—at least one was—as much as ten yards off-side. Luton, too, at the time, ought to have entered an emphatic protest; at the best it was only a milk-and-watery appeal, and without any consideration the point was ordered to stand.

It came as an agreeable surprise to see Menzies open the score in 10 minutes; but Tellum should have equalised shortly afterwards, as he missed the chance of a lifetime. The home centre-forward ought too, many thought, to have had a penalty for being brought down by Stevenson. But the referee allowed the players considerable latitude, and numerous fouls went unpunished. Millwall were the chief offenders—they were out to win, and their bashing play all but unnerved Luton.

In the second half there was practically only one team in it, due to the fact that the home defence completely broke down. McCurdy received a nasty cut during the first 45 minutes, and had little faith in himself afterwards. Gregory fell away also, and with the weakest half-line for many a month, and a bottled up forward line, it was little to be wondered at that Luton were so severely penned in. Moody was very disappointing, and Menzies' passing to the inside men was exactly what Millwall wanted. Our two wing men were for a considerable time together simply passengers. Platt was almost the only man who was really brilliant on the home side; Peter did great things in goal, and could not in the least be blamed for the two shots that got by him.

The attendance was returned at 9,800, and the gate receipts amounted to £302.