

LUTON v. QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS.

Played at Luton on Monday. Result:—

Luton 1 goal.

Queen's Park Rangers nil.

Teams:—

Luton—Jarvis; McCurdy and Gregory; F. Hawkes, White, and Jones; Brown, Haycock, Menzies, Johnson, and Stansfield.

Queen's Park Rangers—Shaw; Macdonald and McEwen; Duff, Morris, and Downing; McDonald, Rogers, Greer, Drake, and Barnes.

Referee, Mr. J. T. Howcroft (Bolton).

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Monday matches are rare during the second half of the season, and it is as well that they should be, for they are not games to enthuse over. The match with the Rangers was no exception to the general rule, and the fifteen hundred spectators did not keep themselves warm by cheering.

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The opening play was in favour of Luton, and when the Rangers did get away the movement originated with Barnes, who later on put across a fine centre. Gregory met it and kicked the ball over the goal—about the best thing he could do under the circumstances. Drake shot by when he had a good chance, and at the other end Johnson ought to have converted a centre by Menzies, who had worked out on the right.

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At the end of a quarter of an hour Luton experienced the hardest of hard luck. A cross shot by Brown hit the post and was returned to the mouth of goal, where there was a scrimmage, and the outside-right headed through. The sphere appeared to have been touched by a defender when Brown completed the movement, but he was given offside.

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Within a minute Brown put across a fine centre and Haycock shot into goal, but again it was disallowed owing to Stansfield's close proximity to the custodian. This was also very hard luck, as Shaw could scarcely have saved in any case. But Luton had their reward a quarter of an hour later. Menzies seemed likely to get through, but passed forward to Johnson, who was fouled. The referee did not notice the offence, however. The ball went out to Stansfield, who centred well, and Menzies scored an easy goal with a cross shot

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Twice Jones prevented Rogers from shooting. Good play by Barnes, who was the best of the visiting forwards, might have led to a goal, but McCurdy finally cleared after two or three players had fallen. Although Luton deserved the lead on the run of the play in the first half, a change came over the scene after the resumption, the Rangers playing by far the better football.

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During one period of five minutes or more the Luton team seemed to fall to pieces, and the Rangers were allowed to do all the attacking. At length Luton did break away, and Haycock should have improved upon a centre by Stansfield, but shot straight at Shaw. Drake also missed a good opportunity by shooting wide when the ball came to him from McDonald, who had a lot of work to perform, but did nothing brilliant.

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After this White forced a corner with a fast low shot, and on two or three other occasions Luton all but scored. A centre by Johnson went across the mouth of goal, and Brown returned the ball. Stansfield tried to head it, and was given offside. Menzies made a splendid opening for Haycock, feinting to shoot and then leaving the ball for the inside man, but the latter was not ready for it. Shortly before the finish Shaw only just saved a hard drive from Haycock.

Undoubtedly Brown was the smartest forward on the field. He was much too good for McEwen, who appeared in place of Fidler. On two occasions—once early in the game and once during the second half—McEwen fouled Brown rather badly, and for the second offence he was reprimanded by the referee. The other forwards played well, considering it was a Monday match. Johnson's experience with the Reserves as an inside forward has assisted him in filling the vacancy caused by the injury to Moody.

White and Jones were both in good form, but Fred Hawkes assisted the forwards more than did his two colleagues. McCurdy and Gregory were a pair of capable backs, with the latter always in the picture when wanted, and Jarvis did his part extremely well. The Rangers are not such a first-class combination as they were last season. Barnes is about the best forward they have got, and Morris did a lot of smart and effective work at centre-half.

Riverdale v. Melrose.—Played on the West Ward Recreation Ground on Saturday, and ended in a win for the former by 2 goals to 1. All the goals were scored in the first half, Farr and White being successful for the winners. Riverdale team—Andrews; Bell and Weedon; Gostick, Shedd, and Smart; Farr, Dickinson, Smart, Stimson, and White.

The following is the League table:—

	Played	Won	Lost	Dn.	Goals		
					F.	A.	Pts
Northampton	25	17	6	2	62	30	36
Southampton	26	13	8	5	51	35	31
Swindon	25	13	8	4	62	31	30
Portsmouth	26	11	9	6	48	41	28
Bristol Rovers ...	25	12	9	4	41	42	28
Crystal Palace	26	10	9	7	47	39	27
Millwall	25	12	10	3	42	37	27
Queen's Park R ...	25	10	8	7	34	31	27
Luton	26	11	11	4	39	39	26
Reading	26	6	8	12	42	42	24
Norwich City	25	8	9	8	38	53	24
West Ham United ...	25	10	12	3	34	32	23
New Brompton ...	25	10	12	3	32	41	23
Exeter	22	10	9	3	33	40	23
Plymouth A	23	8	9	6	21	28	22
Brighton	25	8	12	5	36	40	21
Leyton	23	8	10	5	29	33	21
Watford	26	7	12	7	31	46	21
Southend United...	20	8	8	4	31	29	20
Brentford	26	7	14	5	33	51	15
Coventry City ...	25	8	14	3	37	58	19

The great surprise of the Cup-ties on Saturday was the 3 goal to 2 victory of Norwich City at Liverpool. Tommy Allsopp scored the Canaries' first goal, and it was from a pass by him that the second accrued. The winning goal was scored in the last minute. Plymouth Argyle beat Exeter City by 2 goals to nil, and at Nottingham, the Forest only just managed to beat Brentford by a goal to nil. Tottenham vanquished Fulham by the only goal of the match, whilst Millwall drew with the Arsenal at 1 goal all. A similar result was arrived at at Leeds, where West Ham were the visitors, and at the Palace, Burnley effected a goalless draw.

The total gate receipts for the sixteen Cup-ties amounted to £15,485, giving an average of £968 per match. The biggest gate was at Tottenham, where £1,835 was taken, but at Woolwich, Millwall divided £1,123. At Portsmouth, Sheffield Wednesday shared £1,238, at Leeds £973 was the total, at Crystal Palace £773, and at Plymouth £700, whilst Brentford participated in a £620 gate at Nottingham, and Norwich City shared £884 at Liverpool.

By scoring 2 goals to 1 at Reading on Saturday, Northampton made their position at the head of the League much more secure, as they now lead Southampton by five points and have a game in hand. Leyton and Southampton drew at 2 goals all, and Southend United and Coventry City beat Bristol Rovers and Queen's Park Rangers respectively by 2 goals to 1.