

English Cup.

LUTON v. CAMBRIDGE UNITED.

Played at Luton on Saturday. Result:—

Luton 9 goals.
Cambridge United 1 goal.

Luton—Naisby; Chapman and Potts; F. Hawkes, Bushell, and Johnson; Brown, Quinn, Smith, Moody, and Stansfield.

Cambridge United—G. W. Bellamy; J. Rowell and W. G. Wright; F. H. Cole, J. Valiant, and A. Argent; B. J. Murfit, P. E. Waits, B. Francis, H. F. Allen, and R. A. Strong.

Referee, Mr. G. L. Miller (East Dereham).

The luck of the draw gave choice of ground to Cambridge, who earned the right to go into the hat by beating Kirkley by 4 goals to nil, before a gate which brought in much less than £20. The United had had three Cup-ties at home, and so they were not unwilling, for a consideration, to come to Luton. They were guaranteed £50, and half the gate over £80. Probably Luton would have beaten them at Cambridge, so that the United could not be blamed, from a financial point of view, in foregoing the right of ground on which they should make their exit from the Cup. Like all amateur teams, they were not quite to time in turning out.

The impatience of Luton to make their acquaintance was quickly shown, for after Fred Hawkes had lost the toss and Smith had started the ball, the whole quintette went away in a line. The two wingers were mere spectators of the three-inside game. Smith passed to Moody, Quinn had the pleasure of touching the ball back again to the centre, where Smith put Bert Moody with the ball right between the backs, and before the defence was aware that the game had been started, Moody was confronting Bellamy, with sad results from the United's prospects of entering the next round. Moody, in fact, very easily netted.

Then poor Cambridge had not had the honour of kicking the ball, which wholly belonged to Luton. Spectators hardly knew what to make of this auspicious start, and at the incompetence, at first sight, of the United men. Francis then re-started the game, and by a rush and long kick, Chapman found the ball at his feet. He cleared and passed to the halves. Luton thereupon made the mistake of attempting too much. The halves, particularly Johnson, were inclined to play to the gallery, whilst this little weakness gradually extended its influence over the Luton forwards. Stansfield dallied with the ball until Cole stepped in and kicked out.

Cambridge made tracks for the Luton end, but Potts intercepted, and then Smith was ruled off-side. The Luton centre-forward had the ill-luck to prevent Luton scoring, and incidentally sustained a tremendous smack on the head which must almost have given him concussion of the brain. Stansfield ran down and centred; Smith saw that Quinn was better placed than himself, and allowed the ball to go to the inside-right very close to goal. Quinn took the ball on the run, and shot like an eighty-ton gun. The ball caught Smith on the head, and bowled him over like a shot rabbit, head over heels into the net. The goalkeeper seemed more inclined to look after Smith than his own charge, whilst Quinn also rushed up to the Luton centre-forward to see what damage had been done.

The referee, of course, at once stopped the game, and Billy Lawson sprinted from the grand stand and quickly took the injured player in hand. Six of the men picked Smith up as if to carry him off, when, to the relief of the spectators, they took him to the space between the goal-line and the fence. With Lawson in command, the players had no hesitation in resuming. The trainer massaged his friend for about ten minutes, and at the end of that time Smith, almost unnoticed, worked his way back into the field of play and merged himself with the rest of the team in an ensuing attack on the United goal.

The Cambridge men did better, and Rowell shot the ball by the post. This was only a flash in the pan, however, and Moody and Quinn looked certain to score, but Bellamy made a good save. Quinn and Rowell kicked together at the ball, which went skywards, but Stansfield returned it into the centre of the field, and the ball eventually struck the goalpost and rebounded into play. Strong caused Naisby to handle. The Luton men then attacked, and Brown sent in a cross-long shot—centre, which Moody headed through, though probably the ball would have gone into the net in any case.

Brown and Quinn initiated the next movement which led to a goal. They worked the ball from the Luton half well into the Cambridge half, and then sent to Smith. The latter passed to Moody, who drew the defence on him. Then, passing between a couple of men who were hampering him, Moody gave the ball to Smith, who stood unmarked. His tumble had not made the Luton centre-forward lose his ability to score goals, and so for the third time during the afternoon Bellamy found himself defeated by a shot he had no chance of saving.

The game hereabouts was noticeable for some really spirited attempts on the part of Fred Hawkes to score. His shots reminded one of the expert knife thrower who skilfully places the blades within an inch of another man standing against a wooden wall. Hawkes could graze the point on the crossbar, but always on the wrong side. Even when right in front of goal he would shoot, and up would fly the ball and just escape hitting the crossbar or the goal-post. Fred had tremendously hard luck in potting for goal. Brown made the defence look very silly by his dodging, and his efforts were always dangerous. From his centre again Smith headed by the goalkeeper and secured the fourth goal.

Before half-time the United managed to put a slightly better complexion on the game. Chapman failed to hold the left wing, and Strong, who seemed the best of the visiting forwards, centred. Waits fastened on the ball, and drove it home past Naisby. The crowd, who had quite a sympathetic feeling for the plucky if ineffective work of the visitors, cheered them lustily at this success, perhaps hoping that a little vocal encouragement would make them more confident and give a better show. At half-time Luton led by 4 goals to 1.

The second half was painfully in Luton's favour, though it took the home side twenty minutes to add to the score. Cambridge dashed off and got to the Luton end, but the forwards seldom shaped like getting goals. Naisby ran out some twenty yards to join in the fray, and for a long time after this he had to scent the battle from afar. Smith hit the crossbar with a tremendous shot which shook the structure, and then a series of kicks by Cambridge served only to take the ball nearer their own goal, Rowell finishing

it up by an attempt at an overhead kick which resulted in Luton getting a corner. Fred Hawkes was cheered when he drove the ball straight to Bellamy.

Smith with a lovely shot struck the post, Bellamy being quite beaten. Brown immediately secured and ran round Wright and Argent, finally sending to Moody. A deft pass to Smith left the centre-forward again unmarked, and he easily scored the fifth goal for Luton. Quinn ended a first class run by the Luton forwards by shooting over the bar, whilst the ball was next got away from the Cambridge goal by Rowell, Bellamy being out of position. After this Luton played up in better style, and no sooner was one attack driven home or frustrated than another resulted, and Cambridge had a warm time.

Moody added the sixth goal after Brown had placed in a good centre, whilst Smith headed the ball to Quinn, who drove it home into the opposite corner of the net, and Quinn also notched the eighth goal. To avoid the temptation to head the ball from a corner, Smith changed places with Johnson. Stansfield placed to a nicety, and Johnson headed into the net. Smith hit the crossbar, and others decorated the white furniture of the goal with daubs from the muddy ball, but the nine goals were all that Luton got, though the crowd, never satisfied, asked for double figures.

Generally speaking, the game resolved itself into a spectacular display. Had Luton played earnestly all the way through, double figures could have been registered, but nine will suffice. The visitors tried hard, but their best was poor stuff, and except when they kicked and rushed forward, they rarely threatened danger. Some were inclined to blame Chapman for allowing them to score. At the worst, it only encouraged the visitors to give the crowd better value for money. Everyone admitted that Cambridge played a sporting game. They did not pack the goal at every opportunity, but boldly sailed out to attack. That, of course, was the game that would have paid against some teams.

The Luton men showed cleverness all through. They wove carpet patterns on the turf, and occasionally electrified themselves sufficiently to make a really genuine attack, and generally the attempt came off. Whilst praising the goal scorers, it must not be forgotten that Brown had a very large share in the big total. His centres furnished more than one goal, as did Stansfield's, and in awarding the palm for deadliness of aim to Smith, Moody, and Quinn, the other two forwards should not be forgotten. The halves, backs, and goalkeeper were always sufficient, when they chose, to keep their opponents well in check.

The gate receipts amounted to £102, the larger part of which went to Cambridge, who had been guaranteed £50 and half gate over £80.

Luton's bad luck in the Cup Competition draws continues. The draw for the next round took place on Monday, and as a result Luton have about the toughest job of the whole lot, being deputed to visit Rochdale or Stockport County. These clubs played a goalless draw at Rochdale on Saturday, and did the same again at Stockport on Monday. Rochdale are a Lancashire Combination club, while Stockport County occupy a very good position in the League Second Division.