

## LUTON WIN A LIFELESS GAME.

## DIFFICULT TASK IN NEXT ROUND.

It is fairly safe to say that unless Luton display more vigour in their next cup-tie than they did on Saturday against Tunbridge Wells Rangers, they will pay their usual early farewell to the competition, for they have to visit Selhurst to play Croydon Common, their Southern League rivals. Luton at their best should win or draw, for they have already shown themselves to be a superior team, but they will have to go all out to accomplish this. The result of Saturday's game was a victory for Luton by 3-0, and the fact that the ground was frozen and that the Rangers were far below Luton's class perhaps accounted for the tame display. There was a fairly good crowd to witness the game, the gate amounting to £104.

The ball was kept too much in the air for effective play, and little attempt was made at combination except on the Luton right wing, where R. Hawkes and Wileman were far too clever for Bellingham and Kent, while Stephenson, who got in the wars, forced the game in the centre. One or two of the Tunbridge players were over vigorous and rather spoilt the game by unfair tactics, although this criticism does not apply to Livesay, the visiting right back and captain, who was without doubt the cleverest and cleanest member of his side. Luton's superiority was more manifest at half-back than any other division, and the work of Wilson in particular was greatly admired. Bateman, who was taking the place of Abbott, who is unfortunately "cup-tied," did all that was asked of him in goal, but this was not much.

Luton won the toss, and at the start the Rangers got away, but Luton soon repulsed them, and when Livesey made a poor clearance things looked dangerous for the Rangers. Bob Hawkes centred to Streeton, but he was not given an opportunity to shoot, and then Stephenson shot just over the bar and had his ankle hurt. The Rangers got going, but Bob Hawkes worked the ball up finely, only to see it go over the line. Tunbridge Wells Rangers had a narrow escape. Worth sent in a fine shot from the left, which Archer was very lucky to save, the ball passing across the goal only a few inches outside the line. Bob Hawkes was playing a splendid game at forward, his passing being finely judged.

Stephenson, with a left foot shot from the right wing, almost beat Archer, who just tipped the ball over the bar. The Rangers then got away through Hollamby, who centred finely, but Bateman ran out and cleared. At the other end Livesay saved from Worth and Archer from Wileman. A dull period followed, and then came the first goal. Wileman took a long shot which Archer dropped in the sawdust, and the referee at once pointed to the centre for a goal. It was a bad blunder on the part of the goalkeeper, who was quite clear of all opposition, but he eventually got the ball away, and it was quite a surprise to find a goal had been scored. The Rangers protested, but after consulting his linesman, the referee adhered to his decision. Just after this, however, Stephenson forced his way through and netted what appeared a really fine goal, but it was disallowed, as the Luton centre-forward was judged to have fouled someone in getting through with the ball. Half-time came with Luton a goal to the good.

The second half was little more exciting than the first, although two goals were scored instead of one. Soon after the re-start, Bob Hawkes settled the result with the only brilliant attempt of the whole match, and the ball entered the far corner of the net at a terrific pace. It was now simply a question as to how many goals Luton would win by. But only another goal came along. Streeton being the actual scorer, although he simply headed the ball by the goalkeeper while standing within a yard of the line, the ball coming from a brilliant centre from the foot of Wileman almost from the corner flag. Result:—

LUTON 3, TUNBRIDGE WELLS RANGERS 0.