

MILLWALL v. LUTON.

Played at New Cross on Saturday. Result:—

Luton	3 goals
Millwall	3 goals

Luton.—Mitchell; Elvey and Dunn; F. Hawkes, Frith and R. Hawkes; Roberts, Wileman, Simms, Rollinson and Hoar.

Millwall.—F. Wood; Fort and Woodley; Borthwick, Wilson and Liddell; Whittaker, Williams, Davis, Moody and Lamb.

Referee, Mr. J. Lilley (Bushden).

Luton were compelled to make one change from the team which beat Watford the previous day. Roe having met with an injury to his thigh in the last few minutes of the Good Friday game, and Wileman therefore returned to his old position. Millwall's team was not decided until just before the game started, and it was then found that F. Wood, the ex-Tufnell Park goalkeeper, was taking the place of Orme, while Butterworth was given the preference over Nuttall among the halves. The defeat sustained at Bristol the previous day had rather spoilt Millwall's chances of championship honours; still the prophets quite expected them to win, Luton's wonderful away record notwithstanding.

At the start Millwall were decidedly the smarter side, particularly forward, and it almost appeared Luton would be overwhelmed, so much dash did Moody and his comrades put into their play. The ball was kept on the move all the time, and it seemed invariably to have a Millwall player behind it. Fortunately Mitchell and his backs were steady at this stage or it is difficult to know what might have happened. While the shots which were put in were not always on the target, there was plenty of force, as a rule, put behind the ball when either Moody, Davis or Williams got in their final attempts, and the Luton goal suffered many narrow shaves.

Still, the opening goal did not arrive until the game was a fifteen minutes old, Davis getting his chance when Williams screwed the ball back practically off the goal line, and beat Mitchell easily. The goal was quite deserved, but it was quite a different matter with the second point, which quickly followed. Doubtless the referee was strictly correct, but it was hard lines nevertheless, and at the time seemed to quite give Mitchell a winning advantage, for on the play up to this point a two-goal lead was an impossible handicap for Luton to surmount. The goal arose out of a remarkable

incident, such as seldom happens, and was a misunderstanding all round.

In the first place, a Millwall half back took a throw-in and immediately the linesman concerned was noticed to wave his flag and the referee blew his whistle and stopped the game. Naturally the impression was that a foul throw had been awarded to Luton, and the referee himself at first understood that was indicated by the linesman's signal, but it appeared that what the linesman objected to was the exact spot from which the ball was thrown in, and on finding this was the cause the Millwall player promptly picked up the ball and threw it in again.

It would not have mattered in the ordinary way, but the Luton players were leisurely walking up the field for the expected free kick, and most of the home players were also moving in the same direction, several of them actually facing their own goal when the shouts of the crowd caused them to turn round, and to their astonishment a goal had been scored, Moody having got his head to the ball as it came across the field and directed it into the net. The Luton players surrounded the referee in a united protest, but he explained he was quite helpless in the matter, although he was willing to admit it was a very unfortunate incident from a Luton point of view.

It was rather curious that from this point Luton took a bigger share in the game, and set up several promising attacks, giving the Millwall backs something to think about. Still, it could not be claimed that they gave the spectators any real fear that Millwall would lose the advantage they had secured, for, on the whole, the game went more in the home team's favour until Fort broke down through an old thigh trouble. He had scarcely left the field when Hear gave the Luton supporters present their first opportunity to cheer by scoring a brilliant goal from the vicinity of the corner flag with a swerving shot. It is more than probable the ball was over the line before Wood touched it, but he could not hold it, and only helped it into the net.

Having now reduced the handicap, Luton went all out for the equaliser before half-time, and almost did the trick; indeed, the Millwall goal had a remarkable escape just before the referee whistled for the interval. Simms fired in a shot from close range and it looked a certain goal, but Wood just managed to touch the ball, and it rebounded on the upright and glanced back into play amid a crowd of players, neither of whom could get control. It was almost carried over the line as it cannoned off several players' legs, but ultimately it was scrimmaged clear and Millwall were still leading at half-time.

Moody was noticed to have fallen among the halves and Liddell took the place of the absent Fort, but the old Lutonian was ever to the fore when his side were attacking, and, together with Lamb, was responsible for still another goal, the ball being forced up by this pair, and once more Moody's head did the trick, and thus Luton were two goals behind for the second time during the game.

But they did not maintain this lead for long. Rollinson, getting a clear opening when the ball came across from the right wing, neatly placed his shot out of Wood's reach into the net. It was now Luton's turn to run riot, and the visiting forwards were continually on the attack; therefore, it was no surprise to find them equalise. Roberts sent in a terrific drive from some 20 yards' range, which looked a scorer all the way, but apparently the ball hit the upright, for it came back into play and Simms seized upon his chance by promptly sending it into the net, thus placing Luton on level terms.

At this stage Luton actually appeared likely to win, but Bert Moody rearranged his men and left Woodley in sole charge of the back division, and this seemed to quite upset Luton's tactics, for they were continually being pulled up for offside, and Roberts was rendered practically useless on this account. Before the finish Lamb almost gave his side the victory with a sharp drive, which struck the cross bar with a bang, for Mitchell would never have got to the ball, and it was a mere question of inches. Luton's away fortune stood them in good stead, and they came away with a point that few expected in the opening half-hour of the game.

The fortunes of the game fluctuated considerably, and Luton were at once lucky and unlucky. It was a very unfortunate incident which gave Millwall their second goal, but undoubtedly the absence of Fort had a big influence on the fortunes of the game, and in this Luton were favoured. While after drawing level they deserved to actually win, taking the game all through, a draw was a fair result. With such variations of play it will be gathered each department was seen to advantage at various stages on both sides, but Moody stood out as the player of the match, and his work whether in attack or defence was always telling.