

ENGLISH CUP.

COVENTRY CITY'S REPLAY.

Hatters Visit Highfield Road.

CITY'S CUP HOPES VANISH.

LUTON WIN BY ONLY GOAL.

VISITORS' SUPERIORITY IN SCRAMBLING GAME.

Victory to-day meant much to Coventry City Football Club. Entry into the second round of the English Cup Competition would bring with it the welcome opportunity of meeting Liverpool at Coventry on January 31. Such a prospect was alluring enough to make it certain that the Bantams would be "all out" to beat the Hatters. There was sound foundation for the belief that the Citizens would go further in the Cup contest as a result of to-day's encounter. Though the Southern Leaguers put up a brave fight last Saturday at Luton, the Citizens on their own ground were likely to possess just the extra amount of force and confidence that would carry them over to Round 2.

To-day's was the first occasion since January 16th, 1913, that Coventry people had had the opportunity of seeing an English Cup-Tie on the Highfield Road enclosure. On that occasion, seven years ago, the Bantams met Manchester United in the first round, having drawn at Manchester. The result was a victory for the United, 2-1, the gate numbering 20,042, and the receipts being £813. To-day's was the City's 15th venture in the Competition proper, but the Club had in the past done a great deal of cup fighting in the qualifying rounds.

Despite the fact that Luton Town are not a club calculated to provide anything like the maximum amount of interest, and also notwithstanding the circumstance that there is so much unemployment in the city, it was anticipated that there would be a great attendance at Highfield Road to-day. The booking of reserved stand seats at "The Midland Daily Telegraph" office had been proceeded with at a brisk pace. When it is remembered that the previous attendance record of the Highfield Road ground must have been practically equalled during the present season's League games it was reasonable to suppose that to-day's cup-tie gate would beat the previous highest figure.

One factor that had served to augment interest in this afternoon's game was the style of football adopted by Luton Town last Saturday. It was of the most robust character, and some amount of feeling was engendered as a result. Fortunately the "casualties" to the Coventry side were of a minor type, and this morning's report concerning the team was that all the men were fit. Whilst it was anticipated that the same side would take the field as on Saturday at Luton, yet there was a possibility of one change. Mr. Pollitt would decide, upon examining the ground this afternoon, whether to play Alec Mercer or Wynn at inside right. If the ground should prove very heavy Mercer would be introduced.

Quite a large contingent of Hatters' supporters arrived in Coventry this morning, and were to be seen about the streets displaying the club's colours.

One feature of to-day's match which needed emphasis, in view of the opinion expressed regarding the increased price of admission to the stands and stand terraces, was that under the new F.A. rule the net gate receipts of a re-played tie have to be divided into thirds for the benefit of the Association and the competing clubs.

ON THE GROUND.

By two o'clock the ground was well filled, and the waiting time was occupied in the usual cup-tie crowd fashion, plenty of enthusiasm being displayed. The appearance of a supporter wearing the local Club's colours and carrying a blue and white umbrella on which was mounted a live Bantam, evoked much cheering. The City's colours were in evidence everywhere, whilst the ringing of bells and the blowing of motor horns added to the clamour.

The Lutonians were wearing their club's red and white in straw plait and straw hats, and made their presence well known in the grand stand.

The weather had greatly improved, and the match started under excellent conditions. There was little wind, and the ground appeared to be wonderfully dry considering the recent rains.

THE TEAMS.

Coventry City did not find it necessary to make any changes from the team that appeared last Saturday. Luton made one change—the custodianship. Whitehead was placed between the posts instead of Summers, who is still suffering from the effects of a kick on the head received in the first meeting of the team. Whitehead is a Luton lad. The teams were as follows:—

Coventry City.

London,

Roberts,

Chaplin,

Robinson,

Hanney,

Fenwick,

Dougall, Wynn, Walker, Jones, Sheldon (A.)



Bookman,

Dodd, Simms,

Roe, Hoar,

Parker,

Rutherford,

Urwin,

Dunn,

Elvey,

Whitehead,

Luton Town.

Referee: Mr. A. L. Grinstead, London.

THE GAME.

LUTON'S EARLY LEAD.

Hanney led the side out and won the toss, and elected to play towards the town. In the first minute Luton attacked. Three stoppages for infringements were necessary in as many minutes, and then a short cessation was necessary owing to Elvey being hurt during a City attack.

A mighty kick by Chaplin put Coventry on the move. The ball went over to Dougall, who hesitated too long to be able to turn the chance to account. Hanney was hurt in charging an opponent, but soon recovered. The Citizens attacked, and Fenwick tried a long shot, which looked dangerous. He had aimed too high, however.

The first goal of the game came nine minutes from the kick-off. The Luton forwards broke away and overcame the City defence by the strength of their rush. Hanney went down in the attack, but the game proceeded with him on the ground, and SIMMS securing in goal front, was able to fire into the net.

one into the net.

Then the City got going, and vigorously pressed their way goalwards. Strong kicking by the Luton defence sent them back.

Twice Luton were pulled up offside, which was fortunate for the homesters who were having their work cut out to hold them. Directly after Dougall was given possession when well-placed, but the whistle went against him. The City forced a corner but Sheldon put behind. At the other end the town were awarded a free from which Rutherford tested Lindon direct. The Coventry halves sent the ball along to Dougall who transferred to Jones, offside. As a consequence of an incident near the Town's penalty area the referee cautioned Dunn and gave the City a free practically on the line. From the kick Walker headed wide. The Bantams attacked but Jones was knocked off the ball before he could shoot. Luton broke through and kept up the pressure for several minutes without endangering the City goal. The sun was now troubling the Citizens, having broken through the bank of cloud.

A free to the locals gave Roberts the opportunity of testing Whitehead with a long shot. The goalie diverted the ball only for Sheldon to receive and shoot. Whitehead was able to get the ball behind the posts and from the resultant corner the visiting defenders cleared the homesters out.

Coventry made several attacks. Wynn had a shot diverted, and Dougall sent in a swerver which went wide. Good work by Chaplin and Hanney came in useful, and gave Walker a chance of getting through. When he came up against Dunn, however, he was powerless to proceed further. When Sheldon was brought down there was an angry shout from the crowd. The free kick put the visitors' goal in danger. Wynn was not able to do the trick, but the City forwards followed it up with another vigorous attack, made possible by Dougall's fine centre, from which Walker headed over.

Sheldon, on resuming, was able to send in a lightning shot which skimmed the rigging. Then Dougall supplied Wynn with a nice one, and the inside man had hard lines with his effort. Nevertheless a corner was forthcoming from it. Getting away from this Luton made matters merry for the Coventry defence. The most exciting incident of the game occurred hereabouts. From a misdirected kick by Hanney, Simms broke through neatly, and found himself with only Lindon to beat. He dribbled up to goal, when Lindon threw himself forward and diverted the shot well wide of the goal. The

corner gave Luton another chance, from which Roe missed. Half-time:

Luton Town	1
Coventry City	0

At the outset of the second half Jones and Fenwick combined neatly for the former to be placed in possession in a dangerous position. He could not pull the ball round, however, sufficiently to equalise.

Play was of a rough nature in the opening stages, and called for Mr. Grinstead's intervention and a warning to Fenwick. Splendid work by Roberts and Chaplin was seen, and was very necessary too. At the other end Walker and Sheldon tried hard to get through, but were unable, and the ball went up to Lindon's goal. The City's citadel had a very narrow escape, for despite splendid resistance by the home backs, Dodd was able to get the ball to Simms, whose shot was by no means clever. It was a fine chance missed, but Rutherford set his forwards going again immediately, and a fine bit of work by Hanney nullified a threatening dash by Roe.

Sixty minutes had gone and Coventry City had not opened their score. A nice centre by Dougall led to Hanney putting in an ineffective daisy-cutter. A corner to the homesters proved of no advantage.

Again Simms had only Lindon to beat soon after, and the goalie avoided disaster in fine fashion by rushing at the man just at the right moment. Whitehead was tested by the left wing and then Simms made another breakaway. He was beaten by Roberts.

A glimpse of combination between Dougall, Jones and Sheldon led to the Citizens forcing a corner from which they failed to score. This was followed by a free from a dangerous quarter and the Luton goal had a narrow escape, the ball going off Walker's head into safety. Jones had a fine opening but tapped the ball too far forward.

Another dangerous breakaway by Luton threatened trouble which was only averted by a corner being conceded. At the other end Jones put in what was Coventry's best effort for goal of the afternoon. He missed the mark by inches. Sheldon found the wrong side of the net directly after from Jones's pass. Sheldon, Jones and Walker followed up a another promising effort but a fruitless corner was the outcome.

With two minutes to go Coventry attacked vigorously and Sheldon was unable to direct the ball through a bunch of players. From a free on the call of time the ball was headed over Whitehead's goal. Result:

LUTON TOWN	1
COVENTRY CITY	0

COMMENTS.

Hannev won the toss on this occasion, and it was peculiar that he chose to face the fast setting sun, for this was apparently the only prevailing disadvantage on an afternoon perfect for the game. The utmost enthusiasm prevailed straight from the start, and it was soon evident that the referee was not going to have a repetition of the rough play that occurred at Luton. Hannev was brought down heavily by Dunn, and the referee at once warned the Luton man of the consequence of further conduct of the kind.

The Coventry forwards were very slow in getting off the mark, and it was deplorable the manner in which Sheldon and Dougall in quick succession wasted glorious chances. They chose to play the fancy game, and were rightly hustled off the ball. Thus were fine chances lost, and it was evident that a change of style was necessary to bring success. The greatest ill-feeling was being shown by the players at this early stage.

Luton took the lead quite early in the game, Hoar making the opening nine minutes from the start and sending across an accurate centre that Simms had no difficulty in converting. True Hannev was on the floor while this movement was accomplished, but he was unnoticed by the official.

Coventry had to play for a time without their captain, but Hannev was soon back again. Then Chaplain was down with a foot injury, though, fortunately, the Bantams were able to maintain full strength. A shot by Fenwick was the only dangerous Coventry effort in the first twenty minutes. Dougall, while tricky in his runs, was very loath to part with the ball, and allowed the defence to recover. A free to Coventry eighteen inches from the penalty line was awarded, along with another caution for roughness, and the kick saw Walker's header pass across the goal into touch. Elvey, the Luton right back, was playing the game in fine style, and he was quick and scrupulously clean in his work. Roberts, in placing a free kick, was the first to call the Luton goalie into play, and Whitehead fisted out, though in his save he was injured, and had to stand a time. Luckily for the custodian, another shot from Sheldon was charged down.

The game was proving most disappointing from a playing point of view, and a deal too much attention was being given to the man. The Coventry forwards were very ragged, though they were having the lion share of the play. Roberts brought off a fine save by closely covering Chaplain when the Luton right wingers got going. The two Coventry defenders were kept well on the run by the long passes that the Lutonian forwards were so fond of. Wynn and Walker both came near the mark, the centre forward's header from a free by Dougall being a fine effort, just grazing the cross-bar.

Dougall gained much credit for a move that encircled Dunn and Parker, though he was unable to get his centre to the spot where Walker and Jones were patiently waiting.

The Luton breakaways were fraught with great danger. Twice Chaplin had to put back to London, who, in the five minutes before the interval, had a very anxious time. A mistake by Hanney sent the visiting left-winger away without molestation, and the Coventry players were mere lookers-on. There was one exception, London, who challenged Simms, and caused the ball to rebound for a corner. Two such awards were the fate of Luton, and after Roe had missed a great chance, Roberts brought to a close the last incident before the interval.

The roughness was intensified in the second half, and Fenwick for two palpable fouls very nearly had marching orders. This had a salutary effect on the play. Coventry forced their way through, Walker being the artist, and when in difficulties he sent out to Sheldon. The winger forced a corner that gave Jones the opportunity for a dangerous long shot that was well covered by Whitehead. Luton's attacks were becoming much more frequent, and Chaplin and Fenwick each accomplished a very fine clearance.

The scramble continued on fairly even lines for a time, and some excitement was raised by a fine save by London. He was the only opposition in front of Simms, and he left his charge as the last resort. His judgment was perfect, and he got the ball away, Chaplin completing the clearance. Dick Roberts broke down another dangerous incursion, Luton showing a great deal of method in approach, but lacked precision at the critical moment.

Coventry warmed to their work at last, and made things strenuous. Several nice movements resulted, and a header by Walker from a free kick was the only shot that went anywhere near for a time. Jones and Walker combined, for the former to miss the mark by a hair's-breadth. Sheldon had several chances, but dropped two centres and a corner behind. Coventry could not press home the slight advantage held in the last few minutes, and Luton gained a victory that they well deserved, and with it the right to meet Liverpool in a home match.