

"HATTERS" IN THE DEN.

SECOND GOAL-LESS CAME WITH MILLWALL.

(By GRUBBER).

MILLWALL ATHLETIC 0 LUTON TOWN 0

In one sense, the game at the Den, New Cross, provided nothing to talk about, for neither side got a goal. They are getting used to this sort of being New Cross, for it is ten weeks since the "Lions" managed to beat a visiting goalkeeper. They came along on Saturday to the number of 18,000—spectators, not goals—and many of them had a pathetic cocksureness that a goal was bound to come, while others came as those who have no hope. The latter were the better judges, for it is the jolliest of companions. The Town had quite a nice little following, and I think we were all satisfied that they did well to bring away a point. With the exception of the Mayor, who was in the front row, the rest were in attendance, the great draw in this respect being Walker, the new centre half, a four foot who says little but thinks a lot. A nicely proportioned youngster, he will, I fancy, be a feature in Luton. We arrived at the Den before the "Lions" had begun to feed, and Billy Lawson made the period of waiting a most agreeable experience as well as an educative one. Then Harry Bailey arrived in sergeant's uniform, carrying his baby, and he had a lot of fun in the interval. He was a little before he changed the khaki tunic for the red jersey. There were several changes other than that concerning Walker, and only Butcher of the previous match was seen in the new kit. Millwall had Fort in again at right back, but a bout of the flu kept Lansdale out of the side for the first time this season, and Wood took his place in goal. Voisey again made a reappearance in the middle line, and Moule displaced Hannaford at centre-forward, while Musgrave was preferred to Dwyer. The latter was not so contentedly on the wing, but the sun was shining when the players turned out as follows:—

MILLWALL.—Wood; Fort; Woodley; Voisey; Riddell; Griffiths; Kelly; Sayer; Moule; Sutherland; Musgrave.

LUTON.—Bailey; Lennon; Hull; Moynex; Walker; Sayer; Butcher; Simms; Mathieson; Bookman.

Referee.—W. R. Russell, Swindon.

Simms is unfortunate in losing the toss, for he has to face a fairly strong sunlight and a cold breeze that will prove troublesome. There is also plenty of scope for green seeds, for there are large patches of sand, especially at the end nearest the dressing room. The "Lions" are soon on the move, but Lennon allows the ball to trickle out, and Fort plays a long kick. Walker transfers to Hoar, and the latter is away, thanks to quick footwork by Butcher. Griffiths is left hopelessly in the rear, and Voisey is left to fend for himself. Fort comes over and concedes a corner, and then the "Lions" pack well, and the ball is rushed away. Sutherland's twinkling feet enable Kelly to get a move on, but the ball comes across quite simple and Bailey gets it away. The "Lions" are inclined to roar, however, and Lennon shows some acrobatic play as he back heads, and finally Walker lifts the ball out of danger. A neat trick by Mathieson and a lovely pass by Simms, and Bookman has a clear field. But the winger overruns the ball. Parker stops Voisey's return and sets Hoar off. The winger is again too fast for the opposition, but the linesman's flag goes up, and the centre is given outside—a decision he dislikes. A similar decision a moment

later, and then Sutherland and Musgrave put in a dazzling run, and the latter centres from within six yards of the goal. Bailey misses the ball, but Hull hampers Sayer, and Parker gets the leather away all right. The "Lions" right now has a chance through Hull clean raising his knee, and Kelly dashes through and centres cleverly for Sayer to head the ball a few inches wide—a good effort, anyway. Butcher's ingenuity is good for Hoar, and the latter again bursts through at top speed, and things look bad for the "Lions" until Simms pushes Fort, and this enables the "Lions" to get going again, but Lennon bravely holds up the home left wing and sets his vanguard going. The "Lions" backs are adopting the one back game with some degree of success, for Simms and Bookman are given outside. A surprise effort by Kelly brings Bailey into the picture, the goalkeeper getting a cheer for slipping a great shot over the bar. The corner is squarely placed and Moule heads in, but Bailey catches and clears with alacrity. The "Lions" are going great guns now, and Bailey is again applauded for a brilliant save close to the upright.

Offside against Bookman nips another Town effort short, and Sayer and Kelly, combining with wonderful skill, the former fires in at a great pace, but Bailey is on the spot, catches the ball safely and clears. Woodley's offside practice again works, and as a "Lions" rush, one of the Town backs hooks the ball into his own goal, but Bailey saves grandly as he is foul fouled by Sayer from the "free" Hoar is away, and beating Griffiths and Woodley he centres to Simms, who puts the ball out.

The "Hatters" now get away on the right. Hoar again scudding down his wing, and from his centre Butcher shoots in, and Wood rattles luckily saves at the foot of the net. Bookman is well away when given outside.

There is some dissatisfaction hereabouts with one of the linesmen. He has been very assiduous indeed.

WAGGING HIS FLAG when there has been a chance for a free kick against Luton, and Parker is angry when twice penalised for fouls. On the second occasion Parker is right in front of the goal, and although he raises his heels, his toes are on the line. Then there is a mix-up near the corner flag, and an appeal by the Town players for a foul, but the linesman's flag, and gives one to Millwall. A goal nearly comes as a result of this, but Bailey makes a great save, and Butcher initiates a warm attack and sends through to Simms. At the right moment the latter sends out to Bookman, and the latter careers through at top speed and puts well across. Butcher seizes and shoots, but Wood is smart and saves.

The "Lions" make a big effort now, and Moynex and Lennon put in good work, the latter being positively brilliant, and when the Town are away again, Bookman is penalised for trying to push Fort out of the way. Walker is improving rapidly, and he now breaks up a movement by the home forwards and sets Bookman going. More trouble with the linesman, and then Parker comes into the picture with

a dashing bit of work. A brilliant passing movement by the home forwards enables Kelly to centre right from the line, but Butcher saves again and Hull comes to the clearance. Butcher manoeuvres cleverly and sends out to Bookman, and the latter beats Voisey and goes through cleverly. He delays his centre, and Fort runs into the fence with such force that the winger's leg goes through the lattice and he requires the attention of Billy Lawson.

Play resumes to find Hoar and Butcher bent on mischief. Although Griffith trips Hoar he fails to bring him down, and the winger gets clean through. Had his fired shot been a goal he would have scored, and certainly it is an effort worthy of a goal, but he centres. Wood gets to the ball as Simms' head is nodding at it, and the ball falls into the hands of the goalkeeper. Mathieson hits it with terrific power, but it rebounds off a defender; Butcher seizes and shoots, and the ball hits the bar and just off over the top. Hoar is three or four yards out from the goal.

The "Lions" are again putting on severe pressure, and Bailey saves cleverly from Kelly. Two corners fall to the "Lions," but neither is scored, and in the goal area there is a loud appeal for "hands," but the referee ignores it until the spectators cry with persistent clamour. The referee then sees that he saw a goal by the "Lions," and then he sends a linesman. Fortunately he does not consult the gentleman who has caused so much dissatisfaction, but one who refuses to be better game than Luton the "penalty" fails to materialise. The linesman comes in for

A LOT OF "BAITING," but he looks as if he can stand it. Bailey now has to advance and clear, and clear he does. His goal is nullified by Hoar getting offside. Then Voisey makes a great effort on his own, and he gets through smartly, finally tapping to Kelly, who centres brilliantly, but the ball passes right by the goal. Then the referee is able to tap it through, and when Musgrave returns it, Hull jockeys Sutherland offside. The referee now makes an unfortunate blunder, and he sends a linesman in a passing movement, and the latter is well behind the ball when it comes across, but the referee gives him a free kick, and the ball is sent into the net. Fort then badly trips Butcher near the penalty area after being tricked, but Mathieson makes poor use of the free kick.

It is a desperate effort by the "Lions" before the change of ends finds Bailey again refusing to be beaten, and the whistle sounds retirement.

INTERVAL: NO SCORE. We have resumed at a smart pace, and now we have much difference the wind has made for Hoar. And, being difficult in getting the ball out of danger, Parker and the linesman at it again, and then Hoar going through at great speed, but Walker with one shot, and the ball into the middle for Butcher to shoot quickly, but Wood brings off a smart save, and when Walker tries a shot, the direct shot is saved by Hoar. A goal nearly comes. For a few minutes the "Lions" are beating off assaults, in which Hoar and Butcher are the main factors, and Moynex helps them after landing up Musgrave. A burst by the latter, but he is missed in a lovely left-foot drive that looks a scorer. Bailey, however, leaps like a cat and hands the ball over the bar. The referee then sends a linesman to the echo. The corner kick is well placed, but Voisey sends wide. A spell of midfield play and then the linesman and the referee are busy, and the former picks the ball up and refuses to allow the game to proceed until the referee has spoken to Parker. A burst by Hoar, and the referee is busy, and the referee is as he transfers to Bookman, and he elips across a nice centre, but Wood rushes out and takes the ball from Mathieson's head, and in

A HOT TUSSELE, Riddell kick the ball out for a corner, but the referee sends a goal kick. The wind is not quite so strong now, and the players are controlling the ball much better, and following clever work by Sayer, Bailey is tested by Moule and saves finely, while Lennon nearly strikes Butcher on the head and gets the ball away smartly. The Town right wing is the most dangerous wing on the field, and they again beat the opposition, but the linesman quite get the ball on the screw, and the referee. A glaring foul committed by Griffiths on Moynex draws yells of disapproval from the crowd, and a centre from the referee. Then Sayer fouls Simms, and the referee sends a linesman. The referee is not quite nice. Simms puts in a brilliant dribble and pass, but Woodley just manages to get his foot to the ball before Hoar and Butcher can get it. Walker is now playing finely, and he feeds his forwards quite nicely. A hot attack on the "Lions" goal, succeeds more good work by Butcher and Hoar, and the latter gets in a dangerous centre for Wood to punch away. Follows a long period of midfield play, but largely to the referee's advantage, and both pairs of backs whip the ball into the field whenever danger threatens. Clever tackling and kicking by Lennon elicits much admiration in the stand, while Fort is a potent figure at the other end. Mathieson has not done anything striking, but a terrific shot from forty yards' range makes the spectators take a second look at him, and then the referee sends a linesman. A vigorous opponent, gallops through to put in a fast shot, but Wood saves all right. A moment later Bookman is wrongly adjudged offside when he takes a pass from Mathieson and has a clear field. The Town are now on top, and Simms makes a wonderful dribble, beating Woodley, and the referee is forced to the left of the goal, but sends a perfect centre right in front of the foot of Mathieson, who has only Wood to the left. The Irish international takes his time—too much so—and then attempts to hit the ball hard, but it scrapes slowly past the upright, much to the chagrin of the Town players and the joy of Wood and Co.

The Town go for goal again, and Fort manages to hold up the active Butcher, but Bookman has another turn, and winning clean through he has a fine chance.

but centres poorly, and Wood manages to beat the ball and clear.

A spurt by Kelly finds Bailey at home to a good shot, and then Fort right wing. Then the left wing has a turn, and Wood cleverly saves from Mathieson, after a run by Bookman. Bookman again runs across and a lucky interception of Fort's foot prevented Simms taking a gilt-edged chance.

The ball is in midfield when the end comes, and no goal has been registered.

COMMENTS.

A useful point certainly, and perhaps on the run of the game we ought to be thankful, but I am disposed to think that those Lutonians who made the journey to New Cross will feel that we should have had both. In the first half the "Lions" were the better side. Afterwards the game was very much in Luton's favour, and against a less resolute defence we should have won well. With the exception of the altercation between Parker and the linesman, who would be better game than Luton the game was quite pleasantly contested, and by no means devoid of science, although it was not exactly a thrilling game. Many of the better goals of the season at that venue, but that was because the "Lions" were in their best form. Certainly they played a much better game than at Luton the previous Saturday, but they never impressed me as likely to score many goals. Exactly why I cannot say, for in Kelly, Sayer and Griffiths they had three forwards of a very high standard. Fast and clever all three were, but only the extreme winger showed much shooting ability. The other two were very tricky and found their partners, but did not show very much. There was no better than Hannaford as a centre-forward, and Musgrave, although he began well and gave Moynex a lot of trouble, was not so good in the second half. In the first half, Voisey's return made a hold for the referee, and a rattling game, while Riddell was just as good at centre-half, and he stuck to Simms closer than a brother. Griffith did good work at times, but was not so scrupulous. The referee was not so good in the second half, and he was not so good in the first half. The Town forwards were not at their best as a line, but Hoar and Butcher were the best wing on the field. Hoar played his best game of the season, being fast and strong, and striking well. Almost invariably he beat his man, and once past he could not be caught. Butcher was a clever and unselfish partner, and his quick footwork was a dainty passer was the main cause of Hoar's remarkable success. An sure Butcher is better at inside right than at inside left. His courage is not to be measured by his inches, and he was far over.

WORKING FOR A GOAL. Simms' light was rather dimmed at times owing to the close companionship of Riddell, but he stung the ball out to the wings, and dribbled well, but did not get a chance for many shots. Mathieson was also in less dangerous mood than usual. His footwork was clever, but he seemed inclined to hang too far down the field, and one missed his readiness to shoot. Bookman consequently suffered a little, but he had an off day, and did not touch his best form until near the end, although, of course, his injury in the first half was a painful one.

Of course, everybody will be interested in Walker, and I hope I shall not be misjudged in saying that I prefer him at centre-half. Walker is a smart player, and I shall be surprised if he is not signed for next season, but I should lose no time in giving him the right half. He is not an improvement on Parker in the pivotal position, but he showed a particular

knowledge of the game, and was very good indeed in the second half. He certainly overshadowed Moule, but he did not cover so much ground as does Parker, and he was not quite so quick on the ball. These faculties will come, I am convinced, and it was especially pleased with his distribution of the ball, although occasionally he overshot his forwards. He is certainly a find, and with more experience he will make a fine player. Parker likes more to do than he can get as a wing half. When he got thoroughly accustomed, however, and perhaps a bit nettled by the whims of the linesman, he went into it with vim and resolution, and somebody then had to play second fiddle, but he often looked longed to be in the thick of it. Moynex was a bit slow in getting off the mark, but when wound up, he played Musgrave with ease, and in the second half he earned a lot of praise. Lennon was the best back on the field. His kicking was perfect, and he took the ball in all sorts of weird positions, giving his length, and the accuracy of Frank Hoar, but he played very well when he got set down, and with one exception he made no serious mistake. He kicked with great accuracy, and the accuracy of Lennon, Harry Bailey had a great reason for a splendid day. He is obsessed with the idea of a "clean sheet," and the fact that he managed to keep his certificate unblemished in both games against his old club, was a gratifying feat. He was not merely confident; he was safe as the Bank of England, and if that is safe in these days, and he saved all sorts of shots in the coolest fashion. He had a great day.

Mr. Russell was better than a week ago, and one linesman was satisfactory, but the other—well!

ON THE TOWN GROUND.

WEDNESDAY NEXT, APRIL 20TH, SOUTH EASTERN LEAGUE.

LUTON RES.

THORNEYCROFTS.

KICK OFF 3.30 p.m.

Usual "Reserve" Prices of Admission.

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THE LEAGUE: DIVISION III.

Positions to date:

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Crystal Palace	(2)	12	7	10	61	31	24
Southampton	(3)	38	7	13	62	27	49
Swindon	(4)	37	20	9	70	46	43
O.P. Rangers	(5)	38	20	11	75	32	47
Reading	(6)	37	18	12	51	41	36
Millwall	(7)	37	17	12	51	41	36
Watford	(8)	37	17	12	51	41	36
Motherby	(9)	38	14	12	57	48	40
LUTON	(2)	38	15	10	55	52	40
Bristol Rovers	(17)	38	15	7	60	54	41
Plymouth Arg.	(6)	38	9	20	32	38	38
Grimsby Town	38	14	15	9	48	50	37
Northampton	(23)	38	14	17	53	65	45
Newport	(18)	38	15	6	57	62	43
Exeter City	(11)	38	15	7	57	62	43
Reading	(7)	39	11	21	71	41	56
Brentford	(22)	39	17	9	59	62	71
Southampton	(3)	39	17	21	61	62	71

Figures in brackets denote positions at corresponding period last season.

DEFENCE FORCE.

East Anglian Field Co., R.E., D.F.

RECRUITS required at once for the formation of 2 (two) additional Platoons.

VACANCIES for 100 (one hundred) EX-SERVICE MEN on Full Army RATES OF PAY AND ALLOWANCES, including Engineer PAY FOR SKILLED TRADES.

As promotion to N.C.O. Rank will be made at once, it is advisable for suitable men to join up as soon as possible.

Men can be attested at once, and taken on the strength on application to

R.E. HEADQUARTERS, DUNSTABLE ROAD (Opposite Gas Works), LUTON.

R.E., D.F.

R.A.M.C. (T.F.)

2nd Eastern Casualty Clearing Station.

RECRUITS WANTED.

This Unit, which replaces the old Eastern Mounted Brigade Field Ambulance, is now ready to receive recruits.

Respectable young men of good character and education are required to complete the Establishment.

Annual Camp on the first 15 days of August at Eastbourne.

Application to be made to Sergt.-Major A. Cate, R.A.M.C., as to Pay, etc., at the Drill Hall, Grove Road, between 6.30 p.m. and 9, or at the old Volunteer Club, Castle Street, between 9.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m.

W. ARCHIBALD, Major R.A.M.C. (T.).

Officer Commanding 2nd Eastern Casualty Clearing Station.

Luton, 5/3/21.