

HONOURS EASY WITH THE RANGERS.

The meetings of Luton and Queen's Park Rangers always make a strong appeal to local imagination, and on Good Friday a fleet of motor charabancs and a special excursion run by the G.N.R. conveyed a strong contingent of Town supporters to Shepherd's Bush, where between 18,000 and 19,000 spectators gathered to witness a keen and exciting duel between the following sides:—

Luton Town.—Bailey; Lennon, Tirrell; Molyneux, Walker, Roe; Hoar, Reid, Mathieson, Butcher, Bookman.

Queen's Park Rangers.—Hill; Marsden, Bain; John, Burnham, Ashford; Faulkner, Birch, Chandler, Gregory, Edgley.

Referee, Mr. F. Todman, Croydon.

The match was set apart for the benefit of Gregory, and the inside left had the double satisfaction of a gate of £976 and scoring the only goal of the game. This deciding point accrued nineteen minutes from the kick-off, Gregory heading through off the post from a corner kick by Edgley. That the result was not more pronounced in the Rangers' favour was due entirely to sterling work by the Town defence. The Luton forwards displayed much better form in the second half than in the first, but they were never really impressive. Bookman and Reid threatened most danger, but Hill had few difficult shots to deal with. The halves shone more in defence than in attack, the outstanding figure being Walker in spite of the fact that he had his eye cut in the first ten minutes, had the dose repeated in the second half, and, after returning to take up the outside right position, was compelled finally to retire. Lennon and Tirrell consistently played strongly. The skipper was in particularly great form, and twice showed his happy knack of falling into goal and heading away from under the bar when a goal seemed certain. Bailey's magnificent goalkeeping excited general admiration. He often had to take risks, but his judgment was never at fault and his work reached a very high standard.

The Rangers brought their full winning side to Luton yesterday, but the Town had Fletcher resting with a damaged knee in addition to Walker, and Mathieson took the inside left berth, with Reid in the centre, while Higginbotham made his first appearance during the holidays. There were certainly not more than 11,000 spectators, and the weather conditions were most disagreeable, while the game became nearly as much so after the first half-hour or so. It was evident that the Good Friday meeting had given rise to many an old score, and with a less lenient referee marching orders would have figured in the programme. Bain, Burnham, and John also came in for severe admonitions, and Hill, the goalkeeper, aroused the ire of the crowd and became the object of persistent barracking through his treatment of a youthful spectator behind the goal.

The Rangers began as if they were going to repeat their previous success. Although battling against a wind that was not less troublesome than Saturday's, they exhibited vastly superior combination and kept the ball moving to such advantage that danger was nearly always threatening. Success came their way in fifteen minutes. Edgley centred in from rather a difficult angle, Lennon's clearance was barred by Gregory, and as the ball was deflected across the goal, both Foster and Tirrell were unable to get a kick at it, and Birch steered a shot right across the goal that just scraped in off the post. It was in the nature of a fluke, but the lead was thoroughly deserved, and it was not for another ten minutes that Luton gave any promise of taking command of the game.

Bookman and Hoar were the first to call upon Hill, and Mathieson followed with another from a centre by Hoar which led to the equaliser. Hill was equal to Mathieson's effort, but Marsden had to come to his rescue from Roe's sharp return, and he only lobbed the ball a few yards out for Higginbotham to head just inside the upright. It had taken Luton twelve minutes to equalise and they were afterwards quite a different side. Higginbotham and Hoar were frequently prominent and their joint efforts were responsible for Higgle securing the lead from his partner's corner kick a minute before the cross-over. It was a cleverly got goal, the inside right getting his head to the ball in the midst of a hotly contested scrimmage.

Bain, who had not been any too unscrupulous in his tactics, got the worst of one encounter and had to retire with an injured ankle just before this goal was scored and the Rangers had to play one back all the second half. Within five minutes they had two very lucky escapes, Reid marring a fine chance from a pass across the goal mouth by Mathieson by taking too long over his shot, while Higginbotham had a glorious drive countered by Marsden's head. From the rebound Mathieson beat the goalkeeper for possession and Reid netted, but hands against the Irishman ruled the point out.

Under heavy pressure several of the Rangers' defenders displayed very petty feeling and as their tempers rose so their play degenerated, with the result that the last forty minutes was tame and unpleasant. The outstanding incidents in the play were a penalty, conceded by Burnham in handling after he had miskicked, which gave Higginbotham a well deserved hat-trick, a lovely drive by Roe, which found the net after offside had been whistled and the robbing of Higginbotham of a fourth goal by Reid getting in his way when he had only the goalkeeper to beat. The result.

Luton 3, Rangers 1.

was quite unexpected after the opening exchanges, but was thoroughly deserved. Higginbotham made a world of difference to the forward line. Apart from his hat-trick he was the life and soul of the attack and did the work of two men, opening up the game to fine advantage. The other inside men were not nearly so effective, being slow and loth to part. Both Hoar and Bookman did well, but the latter suffered a lot from Mathieson's weakness for fancy work. The halves showed much improvement, Foster and Molyneux being outstanding in defensive work, but there was still a tendency to keep the ball in the air. The display of both backs was remarkably free from flaws, and Bailey kept a finished goal.

Birch was the Higginbotham of the Rangers' attack, although entirely differing in style, but the line as a whole fell away sadly after early promise. Burnham was the outstanding half, but improved his display by questionable tactics. Marsden was a tower of strength