

TOWN HONORED OF VICTORY AT NEWPORT.

Three hours was all the time the Town spent at Newport, but there was much that was eventful crowded into it. With Lennon and Walker fit again, Luton relied on the same team that beat the County on the Town ground, but Newport dropped Flanders at back and Blott at outside left, and introduced Walker in a re-shuffle on the middle line. Teams:—

Luton Town: Bailey; Lennon, Turrell; Molyneux, Walker, Roe; Hoar, Higginbotham, Simms, Mathieson, Bookman.

Newport County: Cooper; Arch, Griffin; Grove, Walker, E. Edwards; W. F. Edwards, Dobson, Dorkin, Lythgoe, Price.

Referee, Mr. F. Tedman, Croydon.

Starting with the wind, Luton were not as prominent as the homesters in the early stages, but only twelve minutes had slipped by when Simms headed the opening goal. This success came as the result of a corner kick by Hoar, and the Town's second success just before the interval came in a similar way, except that in this instance Simms shot in. Luton's half time lead was thoroughly well deserved. Newport played like a beaten side on resuming, and their discomfiture seemed complete when, inside a quarter of an hour, Hoar got clear away from a pass by Simms, and, cutting in, shot in low and hard. Cooper went down to the ball, but it rebounded off his arm inside the post, and was well over the line before he turned, and, swinging round, scooped it out with his right. It was so obviously a goal that the Town players did not wait for the whistle before they rushed up to give Hoar the customary hand wringing. Meanwhile, the ball had been kicked up the field, and when he saw the Luton men leisurely walking up to the centre and Newport going on half-heartedly

playing it occurred to Mr. Todman to enquire of one of the linesmen what had happened. The linesman consulted contented himself with some motions, and so the referee went across to the other one. Then there was a point to the centre of the field, and everybody—except the referee—were still expecting Luton were three up when Mr. Todman took the ball and threw it down.

This extraordinary incident not only robbed Luton of a seemingly easy victory; it nearly brought them defeat. They were so incensed that they naturally persisted in arguing it out with the referee and giving expression to their feelings and they had to suffer for their demoralisation. The homesters showed appreciation of their unexpected piece of good fortune by a wonderful rally, which sent a hitherto subdued crowd wild with delight, and within ten minutes the scores had been equalised, Devlin heading through from a corner and Lythgoe netting at close range from a scrummage. It was not until then that the Town players seemed to realise the necessity of pulling themselves together, and it required sterling defensive work for some minutes to save the situation, and finish up with a result of:

Newport 2, Luton 2.

The only explanation that could be elicited from the referee for robbing Luton of what every onlooker recognised to be a goal was that he was unsighted. What the linesman thought about it could not be ascertained, but it is hardly likely that all three officials can have been unsighted. Mr. Todman evidently realised after the game that a mistake had been made and was profuse in apologies—but they don't make up for lost goals.

WAS IT A GOAL?

Questionable Decision Saves Newport a Point.

Newport County 2 Luton Town 2

Newport County deserved to draw with Luton Town at Somerton Park, but whether they actually achieved this result will long be a subject of controversy. Certainly the referee ruled that they did, but with the scores level and with only a couple of minutes to go, the ball was driven hard to the Newport goal.

Cooper scooped it up and cleared, but from the Press-box it appeared as though the ball actually passed over the line. Luton players appealed; Newport spectators held their breath, and the referee ruled against the visitors.

The game was full of thrills. Playing with a strong wind, Luton had the good fortune to be two goals up at the interval, thanks to clever manœuvring and quick shooting on the part of Simms, who scored twice.

Good midfield play after the interval enabled Price and W. F. Edwards to force the pace, and Devlin and Lythgoe netted.

There certainly was an effort on the part of the County to combine, but in front of goal they were woefully weak. Walker was the best of the Newport halves, and Arch and Flanders (backs), and Cooper, in goal, all displayed good qualities.

Luton were really less effective than the home side in midfield, but Molyneux and Roe fed the forwards well, and in defence their efforts were well sustained by Lennon, Tirrell and Bailey.

Newport County: Cooper; Arch, Flanders; Groves, Walker, Edwards (E.); Price, Dobson, Devlin, Lythgoe, Edwards (W. F.).

Luton Town: Bailey; Lennon, Tirrell; Molyneux, Walker, Roe; Hoar, Higginbotham, Simms, Mathieson, Bookman.