

F.A. CUP.

LUTON TOWN'S BIG TASK.

How much depends upon Luton Town's visit to Bury for the first round of the Competition Proper of the F.A. Cup? Much more than we know. When people see the crowd on the Town ground and estimate the gate receipts at so many hundreds of pounds more than is really the case, they little realise how soon that money is swallowed. It is quite certain that there will be no profit on this season's working unless the Town win at Bury on Saturday. A good run in the competition would perhaps place the balance on the right side, but there is no other way, unless, of course, there is an absolutely phenomenal run of success in the League—a run that will bring four or five thousand spectators more than the average attendance every week until the end of the season. There is little prospect of that, and we have to look to the Cup Competition to restore us financially.

If we do not win or draw at Bury, then the Club will be in a parlous state. The players realise that, and they are confident of putting up a great fight and hopeful of achieving victory. We hope they will, and we believe that a good number of supporters intend making the journey on Saturday.

The players left Luton for Southport this afternoon, and will proceed to Bury on Saturday morning before lunch. We cannot say at the moment of writing what the team will be, for it is not yet known if Tirrell and Hoar will be fit. The latter is the more doubtful. Walker is expected to be all right, and of the other members of the team the report is all serene. Providing Tirrell and Hoar are pronounced fit, the players making the journey will be Gibbon, Lennon, Stephenson, Tirrell, Molynaux, Jennings, Walker, Roe, Hoar, Higginbotham, Reid, Butcher and Clarkson. If Tirrell cannot go, Graham will be included.

The constitution of the team will not be decided until Saturday morning, but it is satisfactory to know that the middle line that did so well at Millwall has been retained intact, with Jennings pivot. It is no less satisfactory to some of us to know that Walker will fill the centre-forward position. I fancy he will make good there, and if he gets Higginbotham and Butcher working for him as they have worked for Simms in Cup-ties, I fancy the Bury defence will know all about it.

Bury play in white jerseys and blue knickers, and so the Town have to change. There have been rumours that they would play in red, but these are incorrect. They will play in black and white stripes, a broad stripe that looks smart and effective, and is rather different from the ordinary stripe. So in the matter of colours the supporters will be all right in retaining their black and white.

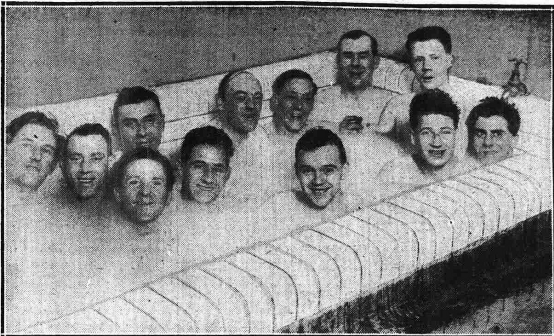
It is now pretty well known that the London, Midland and Scottish Railway will run an excursion, a corridor restaurant car train, leaving Luton at 9.5 a.m., at a fare of 20s. 2d. there and back. Luncheon will be served on the forward and dinner on the return journey, and passengers are requested to obtain tickets in advance at the Company's station, Luton. Cars start for the ground from the centre of the town of Bury, Knowsley-street Station being about five minutes' walk. The cars may be full before reaching Knowsley-street Station, in which case it would probably be better to walk to the starting point. Bury (Bolton-street) Station is nearest to the centre of the town, being about 200 yards distant, and this is the station from which the train will leave for home.

The Town players will catch the 4.40 from Bury and the 5.50 from Manchester.

For the information of supporters journeying it is worth while knowing that the Bury Club will not issue any reserve tickets before Saturday, and in order that the Luton supporters may be able to get good accommodation, Mr. C. Green has arranged that the number of travellers from Luton on the special train on Saturday morning shall be wired to Bury, with approximate number of 2s. 6d. tickets required. The Town officials cannot be worried about getting tickets at all, but have succeeded in making these arrangements. There is total accommodation for about 35,000 people; covered accommodation for about 15,000; and the grand stand accommodates about 2,000.

We hope there will be a big crowd of excursionists, and that they will be rewarded by seeing the Town win.

THE ORDER OF THE BATH.



A happy snapshot of the Luton team, who are to meet Bury in the First Round of the F.A. Cup Competition.
Photo by E. Hulton and Co., Ltd., Manchester.

DEFEAT!

LUTON TOWN OUT OF CUP TOURNEY.

LUCK WITH BURY.

(By "CRUSADER.")

BURY 2 Goals
LUTON 1

BURY.—Richardson; Neap, Adamson; Brooks, Callagher, McCrae; Robbie, Stage, Bullock, Burkinshaw, Aitken.

LUTON.—Gibbon; Lennon, Tirrell; Molyneux, Jennings, Eor; Hoar, Higginbotham, Walker, Butcher, Clarkson.

Referee: Mr. G. M. Pardoe, Kidderminster.

PROGNOSTICATORS who said that we were sure to lose at Bury have been saying "I told you so," ever since the news came through on Saturday evening. Well, it is time they had a chance of saying so in a Cup-tie, for they have said the same on every occasion that we have had to play away from home. But they did not say it with any knowledge of what they said—nor sound judgment, at any rate—and if they had seen the game at Gigg Lane, Bury, they would have agreed that the game went against us because the winners were playing at home. On the run of the play I think Bury just about deserved the win, but the "jam" was theirs. Good goal though their first was, the chance to get it through came through a most unfortunate circumstance for Luton. Their second was from a penalty kick, and while Tirrell certainly handled, he was only

A STEP INSIDE

the area, and there was no immediate danger. On the other hand we should certainly have had another penalty kick, because the same player deliberately handled well inside the area. At that time we were doing better than at any period of the game, and Bury had about shot their bolt. Bury won because the Town were too long in settling down. The good fortune that attended the home team in their first goal gave immense encouragement, and they were quite the better side in the first half. They played with dash, pace and a good understanding of each other's play, and some of the combination, especially on the right wing, and between forwards and halves, was delightful. When the Town settled down they showed equal pace and dash, but not as much understanding, and with Bury's backs utilizing very cleverly indeed the offside strategy, our forwards were foiled time and again. But they persevered, and had we only had one good marksmen in the front line in the second half, we might have had a happier tale.

Still every player worked his very hardest, and came out of the game almost as fresh as paint. The team must be credited with putting up a strong fight, and, to use an old tag, although vanquished, they were not disgraced.

All the regular scribes of the Bury ground were unanimous in placing the crowd at upwards of 10,000, but the official figures are just over 10,000, and the gate receipts realized just under £1,100. That is more than we expected, but the game, a Cup-tie fight as distinct from League football, was worthy of the attendance. Quarter was neither asked nor given, and although there were some bad fouls, it was

CLEANER THAN MOST

Cup fights. The most serious mishap was when Jennings received a nasty kick in the face from Bullock early on. He was shaky after it for a few minutes, but was soon playing as hard as ever. Why he and Walker exchanged places for the second half I do not know, but I don't think it

effected great improvement, and Walker's best effort was made just before the end, when he suddenly usurped the functions of a centre-forward and cut clean through, only to have his final effort fail. Still, had he got the ball into the net it would have been hailed as one of the finest efforts seen on the ground.

Bury looked better balanced than our team. Their backs were no better than ours on the game as a whole, because they went very shaky in the concluding stages. Their halves did not spoil any better than ours, but they fed better, and that meant a lot to the forwards. There was no doubt about the vanguard being better as a line, for they were always troublesome when they made headway.

The opening stages found Bury the better, for the Town seemed to be a bit nervy. The ground, which looked fit for a game of bowls, was

DECEITFUL,

for it was soft on top and frozen hard below the surface. The ball skidded if it was not at the right angle, and often beat the players. When the first goal came Lennon had stopped the ball all right, but slipped before he could kick it, and he went full length. **BULLOCK**, a fine type of centre-forward, was handy, and he jumped in and got the ball. Tirrell came across and obstructed him, and Bullock himself did not get past the Town captain. But he managed to get the ball just wide enough to be able to shoot, and the ball flew along the slippery surface and went wide of Gibbon, but just inside the upright. It was worth a goal. Gibbon had one or two warm handbats afterwards, but he was safe enough, and at the other end, although chances came, there was not the ability to carry them home. The first goal came ten minutes after the start; the second ten minutes after the interval. There was a burst on the Bury left, and Burkinshaw was dribbling in when Tirrell came across. The forward tried to push the ball to the right of Tirrell, but failed, and it struck the Luton player's hand and body at the same time. Tirrell certainly handled, and there was

NO HESITATION

about the penalty award, and McCRAE scored with a terrific shot. The Town then gave their best of the game. It was largely kick and rush, but they got there, and the

Bury goal area was the scene of exciting scrambles. It was in one of these that McCrae handled and the referee failed to see it, but when a few minutes later the same player committed a like offence he was caught, and **TIRRELL** beat Richardson with a pile-driver. In the closing stages the Town tried hard, and often came near, but had to retire defeated. Gibbon was blameless. He has often been more severely tested, but he had several awkward lots to negotiate, and he did his work thoroughly and well.

In a manner of speaking, each back made a mistake that led to a goal, but there was an element of sheer misfortune in each case. Lennon's was the case of a precarious foothold, and apart from that he played as well as in any game this season. Tirrell could hardly have prevented the ball striking his hand, but he moved it, and that led to the penalty. It was a pity, for he had put up quite

A FINE GAME

against a fast and clever wing. The halves were workers, and although Jennings was shaken up pretty badly, he contrived to keep Bullock under pretty close surveillance. When Walker changed places with him the middle line did not suffer, but the front line was not so good. Both played well in the middle, but Jennings would not claim to be a centre-forward, although he hustled the backs to good effect. Molyneux and Roa were on their best form, and well it was they were, for there was not a weak man in the home vanguard. Both played tireless and skilful football right to the final whistle. Of the forwards it would be difficult to individualise justly. All played well, but there was a lack of understanding, and no combination worth speaking of until late in the second half. Hoar did not get enough work, and Clarkson was the most prominent of the line, although, of course, he owed his chances chiefly to Butcher's smartness. He ran and centred well all through the piece. When Hoar got work he was always a handful, but was not utilized enough. Higginbotham and Butcher each worked as hard and unselfishly as ever, but there was a lack of finish in front of goal. Walker did not fulfil all our expectations, but he is not going to kill my imagination, because he did not do miracles, and I still think that if he were persevered with he would make good here, just as I think he could not be an utter failure in any position to which he became accustomed. His effort almost in the last minute to pull the game out of the fire shows what he can do.

Bury are a fine side, undoubtedly. They have a steady defence, and clever middle and forward lines, with Hoar, Higginbotham and Stage the most prominent of the team.

To sum up, I may say that if Bury cannot win on their own ground, then they are not worthy of their place in the Second Division, but I am confident that if the game had been at Luton we should have been in the second round of the Cup, and the team deserve all credit for putting up such a great struggle.