

LUTON GET THROUGH.

LONDON CALEDONIANS BEATEN IN CUP - TIE.

Amateurs' Plucky Show.

(By "CRUSADER.")

LUTON TOWN 4 goals
LONDON "CALEYS" ... 2 "

LUTON. — Harper; Richards, Till; Black, Rennie, Millar; Pointon, Woods, Reid, Agnew, Clark.

CALEDONIANS. — Evans; Fulton, Gates; Finn, Barr, Munro; McCree, Noble, Sloan, May, McGeorge.

Referee.—Mr. W. Parsons, Hitchin.

Everybody expected London Caledonians to make a good show, and they fulfilled expectations to the extent that the ran the Town close in the result. It would be mean to deprive the amateurs of full credit for a gallant struggle, but it was surprising that so many people were inclined to count them unlucky to lose, or the Town lucky to win. The question of luck was an illusion, due to the manner in which some of the Town players courted disaster. There is no other description for the tactics of the home side in the last twenty minutes, and this fault discounted from the minds of the spectators the fact that the amateurs were outplayed in the first half, and for a considerable portion of the second. There was a big contrast in the skill and speed of the respective teams, and it is no exaggeration to say that the Town had more corner kicks than the "Caleys" had shots.

HAD THE SYMPATHY.

In the first half, with the exception of a few raids, one of which succeeded, the "Caleys" would have been classed as a poor side had they been a League team, but the sympathy was with them because they were amateurs, and that fact was apt to argue a merit that their play, from a scientific aspect, hardly deserved. None should deny them a generous meed of compliment for their resistance, but to get a balanced idea of the run of the play one has but to reflect upon the number of centres that Pointon and Clark put across, the marvellous saves made by Evans, and the narrow escapes of his goal. With the exception of the wing men and goalkeeper there was no player of the "Caleys" that could be rated as good enough to oust a single Luton player from his position.

LATE START.

It may be that the fluster caused by the late arrival of the train from St. Pancras, entailing a change of costume in the train, and a hurried start of the game, upset them a little. That was how it struck me at first, but as the game wore on, and the Town players galloped through almost at will to put the rear-guard to strenuous tests, it seemed clear that the "Caleys" would lose. They had plenty of grit, and played sportsmanlike football. Important was the fact that they stayed the game as well, if not better, than the Town, but for obstruction, combination and individual skill, were out-classed. Evans stood between them and a heavy deficit in that first half-hour, and some of his saves were almost miraculous. Over and over again the spectators were ready to shout for a goal, but his arm would shoot up and the ball would go sailing merrily away from the mark.

WOODS' WORK.

The brain behind most of the Luton attacks was that of Woods, who was too shrewd for the "Caleys'" middle men, and his slithering passes to the wings, or the tap through the centre to Reid, time and again had the "Caleys" in serious trouble. Pointon was often in the picture, and from one of his sprints came the first goal. He ran past opposition and centred for Reid to try and convert, but Gates or Evans deflected the ball, and POINTON dashed up and netted. Fiddling about among the Town defenders, more of which we had later, gave the visitors an immediate equaliser. McCree was a rare handful when he could get the ball, and through his exertions SLOAN got a chance, ran in and shot. Harper scrambled after the ball, which was going away from him, and got his right hand to it, but the pace and grease carried it out of his control, and it appeared to be well inside the post. Harper appealed on the grounds that it had not crossed the line, but I think the referee was right.

TOWN ON TOP.

Then the Town came out on top. The constructive work was too speedy for the "Caleys," and before the interval Clark had shot so hard that the ball rebounded from the goalkeeper before Evans knew much about it, and REID, with a typical first-timer, crashed the ball into the net, the goalkeeper having no chance. Luton assailed the "Caleys'" goal time after time, and the interval was close when Pointon swung across another centre for CLARK to dash up and register the third goal, and the interval came with the score:

TOWN 3 goals
CALEDONIANS 1 goal

In the second half the Town kept play in the "Caleys'" territory for a long time. Evans did not have so much to do as before the interval, because there was not the same nip and enthusiasm about the work of the home forwards and halves. Still, Luton were well ahead on the general run of the play. Evans and his backs were often in sore straits, but

the finishing of the home forwards was poor, and so there was no score.

"CALEYS" IMPROVE.

Then, when there remained but twenty minutes or so for play, some of the Town players adopted methods for which there can be no justification. They refused to loose the ball, and one after another would do tricky stuff, trying to make the "Caleys" look like novices. Now and again it raised a laugh at the "Caleys'" expense, but they stuck to their work as seriously as ever, and eventually they had cause to laugh. Through this dodging about the ball was lost, and MAY, a big and dangerous raider, stalled off attempts to dispossess, and went on to shoot the second goal for the "Caleys." That was a tonic to them, and they showed very clearly that they were not played out. Harper made a wonderful save after Sloan had outwitted the Town defenders and shot straight for the net. Had Harper failed I think there would have been a re-play, or the "Caleys" would have won.

THAT PENALTY KICK.

Fortunately, the goalkeeper was alert, and then the Town had the better of the exchanges again. With five minutes to go Clark put across a high centre. With Reid dashing up Gates did not appear to be quite sure of himself, and failed to trap the ball. It seemed to catch his foot and rebound to his hand. There was an appeal, and the referee, who was fairly close up, gave a penalty kick.



S. REID.

REID coolly netted from the spot, and the game was won.

As the "Caleys" left the field the crowd rose in the stand and gave them a very hearty cheer. It was a well-deserved tribute to a plucky side.

THEIR ONLY COMPLAINT.

The "Caleys" were delighted with the treatment they received from the crowd, and said they had enjoyed the game. Their only complaint was about the penalty kick, which they felt was an injustice. I thought the handling was quite unintentional, but Mr. Parsons was well up, and I know him well enough to feel sure that he would not have awarded a free kick if he had not been convinced. Otherwise he gave a much better display than most of the "whistlers" we get at Luton.

THE TOWN.

There is no need to say much about the Town players. All did well. Harper's save will be remembered. Richards had a tough handful in McGeorge when the latter was well fed, and the captain could claim immunity from the charge that he dallied. No so Till, who was brilliant as ever, but through his dribbling the "Caleys" got their second goal. Rennie was similarly at fault, though playing delightful football, and Black in less degree. The latter was apt to leave his wing opponent rather too much, but is a rare goer, and quick in recovery. Millar had his work cut out, for McCree is a fine player, and was a strong and determined opponent. The forwards played clever football, and showed great pace, with Woods doing the craftsmanship. Agnew was not on song, many passes failing, and he has not yet touched last season's form. Reid again showed his merit, and Pointon and Clark played finely all through.

THE "CALEYS."

The amateurs merited unstinted praise for their determination, and may be assured of a warm reception at Luton. Evans was as good as any goalkeeper seen here this season, and there have been some good men. Fulton played a strong game, but Gates was the mainstay in this division, and remedied many middle-line defects. He was a grand back. The halves were outpaced, and Barr but a shadow of the player who did most to put St. Albans out of the Amateur Cup three seasons ago. Finn and Munro were resolute, and battled bravely. The forwards did not get much work, but the inside men were always on the prowl for a chance, while the wingers were fast and clever, and showed excellent ball control.

There were 10,923 spectators, and the gate receipts totalled £667 15s.