

CUP CONQUEST.

Luton Town Beat London Caledonians.

(By "CRUSADER.")

Luton Town won their first venture in the F.A. Challenge Cup Competition on Saturday. Their opponents, London Caledonians, put up the grand fight that was anticipated, the feature of their play being the pluck and determination with which they waged a battle that they were losing from the start. As is so often the case with Luton, however, the ease with which they assumed a strong lead in the first half led to a slackening in the second, with the result that they nearly threw away the victory in the second half. The folly of this course annoyed the crowd considerably, and the "Caleys" were not slow to grasp at the chances that came their way, with the sequel that the result was in doubt until five minutes from the end, when a penalty kick clinched the issue in Luton's favour.

THE FIRST HALF.

In the first half the "Caleys" were seldom aggressive, and but for the fine goalkeeping of Evans, and the sturdy defence of Fulton and Gates, the home side would have had a bigger lead than 3-1. Evans kept his charge intact in face of furious onslaughts for half-an-hour, saving shots in the most brilliant fashion. Eventually he was beaten by POINTON, who made a fine run, and after centreing, got the ball following a deflection from a defender, and scored from close quarters. SLOAN equalised for the "Caleys" within a minute or two after good work by McCree. The Town defenders did not think the ball crossed the line, but from the stand it appeared to be well on the net side of the upright. Luton then attacked with great vigour, and before the interval REID had crashed home from a rebound after Clark's shot had hit the goalkeeper, and CLARK notched the third from a clever centre by Pointon.

LUTON 3

CALEDONIANS 1

In the second half the Town had very much the better of the exchanges for 25 minutes, but Evans and his backs were in great form, and though often lucky, frustrated attack after attack. A change came over the game when some of the Town players began to take liberties, and to fiddle about instead of keeping play in the "Caleys'" half. With the "Caleys'" wingers, McCree and McGeorge, showing increased activity, and the halves gaining confidence, the Town defence was pestered by speedy raids. Harper had several shots to stop, and eventually MAY seized the ball after loose play in the Town defence, and went through to score a nice goal. Sloan nearly beat Harper with a great shot just afterwards, the goalkeeper bringing off a thrilling save, and from that point the Town again assumed the upper hand. They were fortunate to get a penalty kick, however, Gates being adjudged guilty of handling when endeavouring to trap a high centre, and REID made no error with the spot kick. This put the result safe for the Town, but the spectators had been on tenterhooks until then.

PLENTY OF PLUCK.

The "Caleys," as a team, were neither as fast nor as clever as the Town, but they had superabundance of energy and pluck, and never ceased trying. It appeared as if they were played out at the interval, but they soon proved otherwise, and finished quite as strongly as the Town.

Evans was a great goalkeeper, and stopped all that could be reasonably expected, and much for which he would have been forgiven had he been beaten. The backs played valiantly and cleverly. Gates especially showing good judgment in kicking and tackling. The halves were lacking in speed, though all out to the last ounce, and all the forwards played well. McCree and McGeorge were very entertaining wingers, and the inside forwards had good knowledge of goal location, and at times showed neat combination. Without suggesting that any man was individually better than the Town players, there was talent among the "Caleys" that would find a place in Luton's first eleven if it were available.

GALLERY PLAY.

The Town only got what was predicted. They maintained the skill and speed shown against the Rangers the previous week, but they forfeited much glory by gallery play in the second half. Harper probably saved the match by that fine stop from Sloan. Richards did solid work, and never attempted too much, but Till playing delightfully as ever, was inclined to dribble in the second half, and this penchant for artistry led to the "Caleys'" second goal. The halves were usually on top, but the flank men occasionally lost touch with the opposition, and Rennie was tarred with the same brush as Till. The forwards had pace and skill, and mastered the "Caleys'" middle men in the first half, but were disposed to take things easily in the second half. With the exception of Agnew, every man was on top form, but the inside left is making a mistake in trying to do too much, and was not accurate in his passing.

Mr. Parsons had an easy task with the whistle, though the award of a penalty seemed open to question.

There were 10,923 spectators who paid for admission, and the receipts amounted to £667 15s.