

AT NORTHAMPTON.

At Northampton yesterday:—

NORTHAMPTON TOWN	4
LUTON TOWN	1

NORTHAMPTON. — Hammond; Russell, Brett; Allen, Maloney, Odell; Riches, Smith, Bowen, Hoten, Wells.

LUTON.—Banes; Walker, Richards; Clark, Smeaton, Fraser; Daly, Young, Yardley, Woods, McInnes.

Referee: W. E. Russell, Swindon.

In the return game yesterday Northampton had an ample revenge. It was not until well after the interval they got on top, but they merited their success, and were a much better balanced side than on the previous day. It would be exaggeration to suggest that Ralph Hoten was responsible for the whole of the difference, but there could be no question that his return to the team was a real tonic, and it was quite according to the irony of things that he should score three goals against his own club.

There was a splendid following from Luton, hundreds making the journey by special train, and more by road. The official figures of the attendance were 19,251; the receipts £1,112, as against £825 at Luton the previous day.

Luton had to make a change owing to Kingham's ankle being weak, and Walker was brought to right back, Clark coming in at right half. Northampton also had two changes, Riches taking the place of Sissons at outside right, and Hoten for Dawes at inside left.

Richards lost the toss, and the Town had to face the sun, which was shining very brightly.

After a skirmish had been beaten off by Richards, the Town right wing went away, and Daly was tripped by Brett. Hammond punched away the free-kick. The Town played up spiritedly and a great chance was missed through a misunderstanding. Fraser suddenly swung the ball across the goal-mouth, and Yardley made no attempt to touch it, when he was quite correctly placed, and the ball went to Daly, who got a corner kick. Daly shot hard against Russell just afterwards and an appeal for hands was negatived. Then Yardley rushed through and put the ball across the goal-mouth, and Young tore up to take the ball in his stride, but the shot went wide. Walker made a good clearance when Bowen and Hoten were dangerous, but the visitors came again, and Allen's throw-in from near the corner flag hit the side net on the bounce. The Town inside forwards forced a corner, but this was fruitless. Russell robbed Daly, and Banes had to run out and snatch the ball from Bowen's toe. Banes had to handle from Hoten, and then, 27 minutes after the start Northampton scored. A free kick was given against Young, and this was taken by Odell, who lobbed the ball to the right of goal. It was returned, the Town players pausing in an appeal for offside, and HOTEN dashed up and shot as the ball hit the ground: it appeared to be going wide, and Banes made no attempt to get to it, but it twisted against the upright, and thence passed into the net.

The "Cobblers" then had the better of the exchanges for some minutes, but the Town defended stubbornly. Yardley was penalised for fouling Brett when the Town were close in, and then Hammond saved from Yardley. Brett fouled Young just outside the penalty area, and from the free-kick Hammond saved: Yardley promptly charged him over, and it certainly appeared as if the ball was well over the line, but the referee refused the claim, and Hammond threw the ball behind for a corner kick. This was fruitless, as was another won by Fraser's ground-work. Clark got a chance, and drove in a shot which Hammond saved, but only got the ball away at the second attempt. There was a little ill-feeling a moment later in which Hoten, Walker and Smeaton were concerned. After bright work by Yardley and Daly, the former sent the ball across goal, and Young, unfortunately, handled almost on the goal-line. In a home attack, Hoten headed over, and the interval came with the score:—

NORTHAMPTON	1
LUTON	0

The game resumed with the "Cobblers" at once dangerous, Hoten and Wells going through cleverly, but Smith shot over. Riches put in a shot which Banes saved at the post, but the ball had previously gone out. The home left again caused trouble, but only a fruitless corner was all that ensued. Wells later shot wide when he had a fair chance. Russell gave a corner, but this also was fruitless. Woods shot wide, and then Bowen was allowed to go from an offside position, and a free-kick was given when Richards overlooked him and bowled him over. Fraser and McInnes got through, but though the latter centred well there was no shot. Wells was stopped just in time, but a clinking bit of work by HOTEN, and Wells took them through, and the former, receiving a return pass, scored a splendid goal 20 minutes after the restart.

McInnes failed to get up to a pass from Woods, and then Woods shot over. Northampton had to defend, and Young was not quick enough to take advantage of a clever bit of work by Daly and Smeaton. Then in a desultory attack by the "Cobblers," SMITH drove at goal from long range: the ball hit the bar and dropped down on the line for Banes to get it away, but the referee, who was on the edge of the centre circle, allowed a goal in spite of the protests of the team. Before the Town had settled down the "Cobblers" rushed through, and HOTEN snapped up a pass and scored the fourth goal.

The Town played up pluckily, but the "Cobblers" defended strongly. Hammond saved cleverly when Clark shot in from near the corner flag. The Town came again, and a free-kick well out on the right, and CLARK, taking a free kick, beat Hammond all ends up with a tremendous shot. There was nothing further of note, and the game ended:—

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