

MIDLAND LEAGUE.

DERBY JUNCTION v. LEICESTER FOSSE

The first match of the Fosse in the Midland League fixtures took place at the Aylestone Ground, when they met the Derby Junction. There was a fair attendance, and the weather was very hot. Both sides were well represented, and an even game was witnessed. A start was made at 4.50, the visitors kicking off from the railway end—facing the sun. For a few minutes the ball remained in the centre of the field, but was then worked into the Fosse ground and kicked behind. From the kick-off the visitors' right wing ran up and shot into goal, but it was well cleared, and Johnson got away down the field, and passed to Webb, who, after a nice piece of play, shot just over the centre of the bar. Directly afterwards Bennett had a chance to get past the goal. A sharp shot from Davis was headed away by Dare, and the ball was transferred to the other end. Hardy ran in very close and shot, but Old threw out. A strong rush was made by the visitors, who looked like scoring, but Old fisted out, and Nuttall collapsed. A good pass from Bennett put Webb in possession. He shot across the goal, and Atter forced a corner. Play followed near the Derby goal, and eventually Bennett sent in a capital shot, the point only being lost through the ball rebounding from the goal keeper. From a centre by Atter, Herrod put in a straight shot, but it was too high, and the ball just went over again. From the goal kick Hardy got away, and passing the Fosse backs, was in a fair way to score, but Old saved with a long kick, for which he was rewarded with loud cheers. Just before half time the home team had a chance, after good combined play, but when it came to the finish

Atter failed at the shot, which went too high. At the interval neither side had scored. Play on resuming was very general for some time. The visitors pressed along the right wing, and threatened, till Bailey cleared. The compliment was returned, and Atter got away, but, with two men against him, was soon stopped. A scrimmage followed near the Derby goal, and Webb nearly scored, Allsopp playing splendidly. Directly afterwards play became warm round the visitors' goal, and a smart shot from Atter proved too good for the goal-keeper. The Junction men then woke up, and tried hard to equalise. A hot melee ensued in the mouth of the home goal, which was well defended by Old and Nuttall, the latter finally clearing. A corner was obtained off Bailey, but the ball was sent in low, and easily cleared. The visitors then pressed vigorously, but without effect, the home defence being very strong. Lord got away by the Fosse right wing, and, after a brilliant run, passed to Atter, who made a splendid shot, but the ball struck the crossbar, and re-bounding, was returned to mid-field. A corner was conceded by Derby Junction, and being well dropped by Atter, another followed. Nothing ensued, however, and the ball was taken to the other end, but did not remain there very long, as two more corners were claimed by the Fosse. Time was called directly afterwards, and the match ended in a victory for the Fosse by one goal to nil. Fosse: G. Old, goal; S. Rowson and H. Bailey, backs; E. Lord, E. A. Nuttall, and W. Davis, half-backs; H. Webb and E. Herrod, right wing; A. Bennett, centre; J. Atter and E. Johnson, left wing. Derby Junction: Allsopp, goal; Cunningham and Orle, backs; Cotton, Middleton, and Dare, half-backs; S. Smith and W. Smith, right wing; Hardy, centre; Bradford and Swindell, left wing. Referee, Mr. Clarke.