

LUTON v. SOUTHAMPTON ST. MARY'S.

THE "REDS" WIN EASILY.

One of the most interesting of the Southern League fixtures down for decision on Saturday was that at Luton between the Town Club and Southampton St. Mary's. The sides had never met previously, and there was little evidence to guide the reader of form in forming an estimate of the probable result. Accordingly the meeting provoked considerable speculation in the newspapers and amongst enthusiasts generally. The weather during the early part of the day was bad in the extreme, and though bright sunshine flooded the field during the game, the turf showed unmistakeably that it had previously been deluged with something else. The threatening nature of the atmospheric conditions did not interfere seriously with the attendance, for there was a large crowd present, the locals being joined by about a couple of hundred followers of the Southampton club who had availed themselves of a cheap trip. A goodly proportion of these visitors betokened the direction in which their sympathies tended by prominently displaying red and white favours, those being the colours of the Southampton men.

With fair regard to punctuality the elevens turned out as follows:—*Luton Town*: Goal, Bee; backs, Cheshier and McEwen; half-backs, Watkins, McCrindle, and Howe; forwards, Brown and Finlayson (right), Galbraith (centre), Allen and Prentice (left). *Southampton St. Mary's*: Goal, Barrett; backs, Marshall and Hamer; half-backs, Furby, Littlehales, and Thomson; forwards, Baker and Nineham (right), Offer (centre), Angus and Hollands (left). It will be seen that Gallacher was still missing from the home ranks, his Reading injury being accountable for his continued absence. Southampton lacked Ward, their usual centre forward, and Taylor, a half-back. The referee was Mr. T. Radford, and the linesmen were Messrs. G. Muir (Southampton) and H. Arnold (Luton), the last-named coming in for a particularly hearty greeting. The home contingent won the toss and set their opponents to face the sun. No sooner had Offer started the game than the Luton forwards secured and raced up the field, a corner being forced by Watkins. This was unproductive, Prentice sending behind the goal-line, and then hands against McCrindle and some bad passing by Finlayson were noted. After a couple of throws in had improved the visitors' position, Prentice put in some very fine efforts and Finlayson shot splendidly, a profitless corner following. Howe failed to score by the merest trifle, and thereafter the Saints got down into the home confines. Their stay was not of long duration, however, for soon Allen and Brown were found testing Barrett's capability, the right-winger sending in a particularly warm one. The Saints threatened danger once just now, but their forwards proved themselves unreliable by steering the leather into touch. Brown sent in a beauty which the visitors' custodian cleared marvellously, and Finlayson followed this up with another brilliant attempt. Things looked ominous for Luton a little later, a particularly bad display in front of goal almost resulting in disaster. Fortunately this was staved off, and then from a splendid pass across the goal-mouth Brown shot yards too high. When Finlayson had had another try, Offer managed to get close to Bee and gave the home keeper some trouble, a bad kick by the custodian enabling the visitors to resume the attack. Hands against Howe was awarded, and then a brief cessation was rendered necessary by Prentice sustaining a slight injury. The Southampton players subsequently struck the side of the net with a fair attempt, and they displayed something approaching good form later on. Prentice was stopped for lying off-side, but he atoned for this by scoring in excellent fashion a minute later, Galbraith having just previously sent in a beauty. Prentice continued to show up very prominently, and after Finlayson had shot over the bar hands was awarded against the "reds." Galbraith failed by inches, and when the Saints had made an incursion into their enemy's territory hands against Allen presented them with a chance which they failed to avail themselves of. Watkins dispatched the leather high over the cross-bar, but Galbraith made no mistake just afterwards, that player putting on a second notch with a capital long-shot. A corner to the leaders presented Brown with an opportunity, but the right-winger merely struck the bar. Galbraith evoked some laughter by a long attempt which went very wide of the mark, and then some good play on the part of Allen and Prentice was followed by Finlayson sending behind. Brown made amends for a bad kick by securing cleverly, but he failed to make the desired use of the opening. A corner to Luton was followed by Galbraith scoring another pretty goal from a pass by Allen, this putting the locals three up. When Bee had given a good exhibition, hands against McCrindle was awarded near the home uprights, and from the free-kick Angus scored. With the totals as follows ends were changed:

Luton, three; Southampton, one.

An alteration in the front rank of the Saints was noticed in the second period, Angus going into the centre and Offer taking inside right. The earliest feature in the second half was a free-kick for hands against the visitors, from which McCrindle sent into goal; Barrett cleared, but the ball was promptly returned, and Allen ultimately raised the siege by sending over. The Southampton men became dangerous thereafter, but McEwen relieved excellently.



Prentice obtained possession neatly and almost managed to increase his side's lead, the ball striking one of the opposition backs. Finlayson also missed by very little, a corner falling to the "reds," which proved unproductive, however. Hands against Furby enabled the home contingent to attack hotly, but the pressure was removed by Galbraith handling in front of goal. A like decision against the strangers brought the fray into their confines once more, and Prentice was unlucky in failing to score with an attempt which fully deserved success. Brown missed, and Watkins came to the rescue when the Southampton men were getting uncomfortably close to Bee. Persisting in their attempts the Saints at length managed to get within shooting distance, and Hollands merited better luck than to strike the side of the net with a good one. Prentice was always to the fore and the nimble little left-winger compelled Barrett to give a corner, which was as unproductive as its predecessors. Galbraith was slightly injured, and when play was resumed Finlayson tested Barrett's capacity with a well-judged shot, which the keeper only just managed to keep out. When the home centre forward had once more sent over instead of under the bar Prentice incurred two adverse decisions, one for getting off-side and another for a foul. The operations were not long removed from the Southampton quarters, though, for in a minute or two yet another corner was awarded to the Bedfordshire men, who should have profited by it. A good centre by Howe, who had been exhibiting plucky play, enabled Galbraith to have another try, but this was just as far off from producing the wished-for point as the others. After a foul against the sea-siders, Galbraith sent into the custodian's hands, and the same player failed to get hold of an admirable centre. The visitors were now having vastly the worst of matters, and in quick succession free kicks were awarded against them for infractions of the rules. From one of these Cheshier sent the ball into the net, but no score was allowed, the ball not having touched the necessary second player. Prentice barely failed, and when the other side had paid a visit to the Luton end Allen shot badly. A foul against the home players was followed by Allen scoring in first-rate fashion. From this time on to the finish the homesters had got the measure of their bulky opponents, and when the end came the score was :

Luton, four; Southampton, one.

The display given by the "dark horse of the Southern League" was not by any means one which augurs well for their chances of securing championship honours. They were beaten at all points. Hollands and Offer were the best of the forwards, though the latter was far too selfish. The defence was fair, and Barrett made a very effective custodian. On the Luton side Gallacher was sadly missed, though Brown did passably. The game was very pleasantly contested, and the behaviour of the spectators was irreproachable.