

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

LUTON V. SOUTHAMPTON ST. MARY'S.

A POOR GAME ENDS IN AN EASY VICTORY FOR THE REDS.

For the first time this season, the "Saints" left Hampshire to play their League match with Luton on Saturday. The teams having never met before, more than usual interest was centred in the encounter, the probable form of the visitors being a point much mooted in local football circles. A special excursion train ran from Southampton to Waterloo, conveying nearly a thousand passengers, two hundred of whom continued the journey to Luton, and made a prominent figure on the grand stand with match-cards stuck in their hats, conveying the injunction, "Play up, Saints." Neither side was able to muster at full strength, the visitors lacking their two amateurs, E. T. Taylor at half, and P. Ward at centre forward, while in the home eleven Gallacher had a further rest, owing to his injury at Reading, Brown taking his place on the wing. A heavy fall of rain occurred in the morning, and rendered the ground heavy and sodden. The grand stand was well filled, and the spectators numbered nearly 4,000. The start was fixed for 2.30 to enable the Southampton men to return by the 5.30 (G.N.) to town, and three minutes after that time, the players lined up as follows:—

Luton:—Bee, goal; Chester and McEwen, backs; Watkins, McCrindle (capt.), and Howe, half-backs; Brown and Finlayson, right; Galbraith, centre; Allen and Prentice, left, forwards.

Southampton St. Mary's:—Barrett, goal; Marshall and Hamer, backs; Farby, Littlehalce, and Thomson, half-backs; Baker and Nineham, right; Offer, centre; Angus (capt.), and Hollands, left, forwards.

Referee:—Mr. T. Radford (Clapton and R.A.)
Linesmen:—Messrs. Mr. H. Arnold and J. Muir.

The visitors appeared a big, heavy lot of men, and were well received. The home captain won the toss, and took advantage of the wind, Offer setting the ball rolling. After a bit of give-and-take play, the Luton left got down, Watkins trying a beautiful long shot which grazed the bar. Barrett gave a corner, but Prentice placed wide of the lines. A second flag-kick followed a good try from Finlayson without result, the Reds continuing in the Southampton quarters. Howe also made a smart attempt, the ball just missing the post by inches. So far, everything promised well, thought Lutonians, who forthwith expressed their satisfaction by heartily applauding the initial efforts of their men. A spurt by Hollands was checked by McEwen, and then Luton pressed again, Brown causing Barrett to save twice in succession. At last, Hamer cleared, and Baker shot high over the bar, giving

SEE HIS FIRST GOAL KICK.

The Reds, however, soon returned to the attack, and Allen passed out to Brown, who missed a good opening by shooting wildly over the bar. Hamer miskicking, "Roland" shot in again, but the Saints' custodian saved. The Luton goal was visited in turn, Bee kicking away from Angus, and a pretty shot from Hollands was also cleared in good style. The visitors now had a decent opportunity from hands off Howe; Angus placed the kick, but Bee kicked out with ease. Play was for this brief space in favour of the Hants. men, Baker shooting wide, but the scene of operations was quickly removed by Prentice. Brown centred, and Galbraith sent in a shot which Barrett only partially cleared, the result being that Prentice secured,

AND SCORED LUTON'S FIRST GOAL

with a swift "groundner" within 20 minutes from the start. The success of the Gainsborough man evoked loud cheers. Having tasted first blood, the Luton forwards soon made tracks for Barrett again, and Finlayson had a clear opening, but aimed too high. Only once in the next ten minutes did the visitors break away, and then Offer missed by yards. Next Luton scored again, thanks to a long shot from Galbraith, which Barret could not touch. Still having the best of matters, Luton forced a corner, which Brown placed beautifully,

THE BALL SKIMMING THE CROSS-BAR.

The sun now began to shine brightly, and made conditions much more cheerful than before. After some comparatively uneventful play, close on half-time, Galbraith took advantage of a pass from Allen to score the third goal for Luton. During the remaining few minutes, Chesher handled a few yards from goal. The position was dangerously close, and somewhat luckily gave the "Saints" their first and only point, Angus scoring after Baker had placed well into goal. An encouraging cheer from the crowd was quickly followed by the half-time whistle, the score then being :—

LUTON, 3 GOALS; SOUTHAMPTON, 1.

During the second half, play was at times extremely slow and uninteresting. The order of the visitors' front rank underwent a change, Angus taking the centre position and Offer going inside right. However, the Reds at once showed their determination to maintain their lead, and were not long in making headway. Hands off Littlehales allowed McCrindle to place the leather well into goal, where Barrett saved, Allen then heading over. The Southampton forwards, evidently profiting by the charge, made a short incursion, but McEwen cleared. Then from some smart work by McCrindle, Prentice nearly got clear, and Finlayson next tried a fine shot, which produced a corner. A series of free-kicks followed to each side.

WITHOUT IMPROVING MATTERS,

play slowing down considerably. Barrett was, however, kept on the alert, Prentice once hitting the post, and two more fruitless corners followed after Galbraith had missed in unaccountable fashion a beautiful centre across the mouth of goal by Prentice. One of the halves fouled the Luton centre, but from the kick, taken by Chesher, the ball entered the net untouched. The Reds had nearly all their own way, Hollands only once getting away, and shooting over, while the home forwards failed to utilise several chances. At length, Allen satisfied the longings of Lutonians by scoring the fourth goal. Only a couple of minutes remained, and the only incident of note was an attempt by Offer, which McEwen frustrated with ease. The game thus ended in a decisive victory for Luton by 4 goals to 1.