

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

LUTON V. SWINDON.

THE REDS WIN THEIR LAST LEAGUE GAME.

The Luton men paid their first visit to Swindon on Saturday to complete their list of engagements in the Southern League. The home side were unable to muster full strength, and were compelled to take the field without Reynolds, Done, Shaw, and Kemp. The first-named had not recovered from the injury he received at Southampton the previous week, and it was understood that the others could not get away from their duties. Under the circumstances an entire re-arrangement of the forward line was necessary, the right wing being composed of Jerrom and Walman, and Jones crossing over to the left with Hayward. The vacancy at half-back was filled by Dibsdall. Luton were represented by their strongest team. The weather was very unfavourable, a drizzling rain falling at the time for the start, while there was a high wind blowing. Consequently the attendance was much below expectations. The teams lined up in the following order:

Luton:—Boe, goal; M'Cartney and McEwen, backs; Watkins, McCrindle, and Collins, half-backs; Finlayson and Gallacher, right; Galbraith, centre; Prentice and Jack, left, forwards.

Swindon: Williams, goal; Noble and Richardson, backs; Lawless, Dibsdall, and Ross, half-backs; Jerrom and Walman, right; Andrews, centre; Jones and Hayward, left, forwards.

Referee:—Mr. E. G. McDonald.

Linesmen:—Messrs. G. Worboys and J. Williams.

"Dick" Jones, the home captain, won the toss and Luton had to play in the face of the gale. Directly after Galbraith had started the ball, a free-kick against the home side enabled Luton to attack. Swindon quickly returned, however, and a well-judged pass by Andrews enabled Hayward to cover some ground, but he kicked by. A couple of bursts by Finlayson and Gallacher were nullified by Ross, and off a centre by Hayward, McEwen gave a corner. Nothing was done with this, and by means of a neat round of passing, in which all the forwards participated, Luton changed the scene of operations. Williams easily kicked away a long shot, but Richardson immediately missed the ball from a kick by Watkins, and Noble had to clear. After this Swindon forced the pace, and just failed to score out of an exciting tussle near their opponents' goal. The ball eventually got out to Disball, who put in a fine shot which Bee got away, and a pretty screw from Jerrom met with a similar fate. From a pass by Jones, Hayward swung across a rattling centre, but Walman missed it, and Jerrom's return proved ineffectual. Dibsdall afterwards shot wide, while Walman missed another opening. The Town, aided by the gale, kept up

A BOMBARDMENT OF THE LUTON CITADEL

and once they seemed certain to score, but no one could put on the finishing touch. Notwithstanding injuries to Lawless and Walman, Swindon continued to press, and Bee got away a soft shot from Jones, while he afterwards saved from Hayward at the cost of a corner. Again was the ball worked close into the Luton goal, but try how they would Swindon could not get through, McCartney and McEwen showing sound defence. Watkins, Finlayson, and Gallacher succeeded in raising the siege, the first-named shooting heavenwards. After Williams had coped with a long delivery, Jones, Andrews, and Hayward returned to no effect, and when "R.L.J." attempted to repeat the performance "on his own," Watkins tripped him amid loud boos. From a bully in Luton goal Jones despatched the ball to the upper side of the horizontal, and a clever overhead kick by Dibbald went in the wrong direction. The Luton forwards made occasional journeys into the home half, but Richardson, Noble, and Rose displayed sound defensive powers. Once Finlayson got over a splendid centre which Jack failed to turn to account, and "Finny" afterwards missed a fine opening. Thus the interval arrived with the state of the poll:

Having to face the wind, Swindon did not entertain any hopes of winning, but they started the second half with a good deal of energy, and Hayward, rushing down, shot wide. Then Luton made dangerous incursions into Swindon quarters, and came near scoring, but were kept out. At length they obtained a goal in a rather lucky fashion: Watkins put in a long shot from a free-kick, and Williams, in clearing, threw the ball against Galbraith, off whom it rebounded into the net. Directly afterwards Lawless was again kicked by Collins, and was this time so badly hurt that he had to be carried from the field. The referee cautioned Collins. Under the circumstances Jones fell back among the halves, Hayward playing alone on the left. Frequent attacks on the Town goal followed, the Luton backs and halves continually dropping the ball in, but the home men defended stoutly. Once Andrews broke through, but he was surrounded by opponents, and he had to pass to the right, where McEwen compelled Jerrom to kick by. After Jack had shot wide he got back again, and, beating Noble, sent in a good centre, from which Ross, in attempting to clear, turned the ball into the net, thus giving Luton a second lucky point. The visitors soon returned, and Galbraith put the ball past Williams, but was palpably offside. Luton continued to do most of the attacking, but there was very little in the play. Williams stopped several shots in excellent style, but was at length beaten by a delivery from Finlayson, the ball bouncing over his head when he ran out to meet it. Luton gained one or two corners after this, but could do nothing with them, and the result of an uninteresting game was: Luton, 3; Swindon, 0.