



SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

SWINDON v. LUTON TOWN.

ANOTHER DISAPPOINTING DEFEAT.

The Luton team, fresh from their victory over Bristol City on the previous Saturday, journeyed to Swindon on Saturday with hopes of victory, but their hopes were doomed to disappointment. The Swindon team, up to date, had not yet won a match in the Southern League, and on the Saturday previous at Watford they could only make a draw. The Luton team had to be re-arranged owing to the departure of Tierney, and the suspension of Molyneux and Saxton. Burbage was also absent, being unable to get away, and there was no alternative but to fall back upon their reserves. Consequently Durrant and Cox were chosen to constitute the left wing, and Plummer figured as centre-forward.

The match was of some interest to Luton, as being the first appearance for Luton of Ord, the ex-Arsenal goalie. The Luton team was as follows:

Luton: Ord; Lindsay and McCurdy; Clifford, Holdstock, and Williams; Brown, Blessington, Plummer, Cox and Durrant.

There were about 3,000 spectators present when Swindon kicked off against the wind, Lindsay having won the toss for Luton. The visitors were the first to get away, and the home defence had a very anxious time, but the worrying tactics of the home halves prevented them from troubling Menham. Swindon, however, did a share of the attacking, and from one of their onslaughts, Kirton beat both the Luton backs. A melee occurred in front of the Luton goal, from which Sardines opened the scoring for Swindon after 12 minutes' play.

The game was keenly contested after this, the visitors, if anything, having the best of it. At length, the home forwards got going again, and after a spell of pressing, Smith eventually beat Ord for the second time. The Luton team made desperate attempts to break through the home defence, but all their efforts were frustrated by the smart play of the Swindon backs and goalkeeper. The home team continued to make things lively for the visitors' defence, but no more scoring took place before the interval, which arrived with the score—

Swindon 2 goals, Luton 0.

The second half was exceedingly fast, and both teams worked very hard, a considerable amount of vigour being put into the play. The home forwards showed to even better advantage in this half than in the first, and sorely taxed the Luton defence. The visitors, however, kept pegging away, and after Blessington had scored an offside goal, Brown secured possession, and after making a good run, beat Menham with a fine drive, giving him no chance of saving.

Luton now went at it strong. They pressed the Swindon team in their own half, and had hard lines on several occasions in not equalising. The forwards were rather erratic in their shooting, and the excitement that prevailed made accurate play out of the question. As the end approached, the visitors made desperate attempts to equalise, but try as they would, they could not beat Menham.

The Swindon team made one or two dashes down the field just before the finish, but the Luton backs beat them back into their own quarters, where they had a very lively time. Play now slackened, though Luton kept pegging away, but all attempts to score were fruitless, the end arriving with the defeat of Luton with the score:—

Swindon 2, Luton 1.

NOTES,

The visit of the Luton team to Swindon on Saturday did not turn out so successful as was expected. Ord, who was playing his first game for Luton was in good form throughout.

Lindsay spoilt his display by unnecessary vigour. McCurdy played well all through, and was repeatedly cheered by the spectators. The halves were also good, Holdstock again showing up well against Kirton, and stopping his dangerous rushes time after time. Williams and Clifford also put in a lot of very effective work, and never gave up trying.

The forwards were weak. Blessington and Brown were well together, but the left wing was wanting. Plummer, in the centre, was not a great success. Brown was the best of a poor line.

For Swindon, Menham, in goal, was a tower of strength, and was well nigh impassable. In Ritchie and Stevenson, the Swindon team have a pair of powerful defenders, who both kick and clear well, and on Saturday they frustrated all the attempts of the Luton forwards to score.

The Swindon half-backs, however, won the game. They worked strenuously, and completely broke up the Luton attack.

The forwards also played well, but Kirton, in the centre, was too well watched to show his capabilities. Smith played fairly, but Sardines and Edwards, shone best. By winning on Saturday, the Swindon eleven gained their first victory in the Southern League.

To-morrow (Saturday) Watford visit us again, and Luton will have to show good form to secure the points. The kick-off will take place at 3.30.