

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

LUTON TOWN v. SWINDON.

LUTON JUST WIN.

The return match between these elevens should have taken place on Jan. 5th, but Luton were engaged in the English Cup on that date. For a consideration of £10 Swindon consented to fill the open date thus left on Saturday for the return game in the above League. When the teams formerly met, Swindon won by 2 goals to 1, and Luton were anxious to reverse this verdict. The visitors are not over strong, although they have accomplished the defeat of Southampton and have drawn with Tottenham Hotspur this season.

Saxton appeared once more in the home team, and Cox played vice Holdstock at centre half, the visitors being at full strength. The Luton team appeared with black armlets as mourning for the Queen. The weather was fine, but a strong wind was blowing, and only 1500 spectators turned out to witness the encounter. By a curious mistake on the part of the League committee, there were two referees on the ground to officiate—Mr. F. S. Walford and Mr. J. Stark,—the latter eventually having charge of the following 22:

Luton—Ord; White and McCurdy; Clifford, Cox and Williams; Durrant, Blessington, Gray, Tierney, and Saxton.

Swindon—Menham; Ritchie and Stephenson; Richardson, Downie and McEleney; Brown, Davies, Kirton, Logan, and Oakley.

Luton won the toss, but kicked against the wind. Luton were the first to get away, but Durrant shot behind, while directly after the same player was given offside, but the penalty proved futile. Swindon got down well, but McCurdy cleared from Davies, and a foul against the visitors was put behind by McCurdy from Williams' place kick. Luton were also penalised for fouling, but without avail. Luton attacked again, and from a nice pass by Blessington, Tierney opened the score with a grand shot after ten minutes play. The visitors forced a corner from the kick off, but the ball was put behind.

Luton assumed the aggressive again. Gray missed a nice centre from Durrant, and a fine centre by Saxton was also put behind. The visitors got away again, but Davies put over from Oakley's centre. The home team returned to the attack again, and Durrant put over a good centre by Saxton, and Menham saved finely from Durrant and Saxton in succession. The visitors caused the Luton defenders to be very smart in clearing on several occasions, and from one of their breaks-away while Luton were vainly appealing for offside, Kirton ran through and equalised the scores with a very tame shot.

Gray was soon after fouled by Downie, but the penalty was cleared, and McCurdy cleared from a similar offence against Tierney. Offside against Durrant lost a fine opportunity of increasing Luton's score, and a foul against the visitors was likewise unavailing. Menham saved well from a fine "header" of Gray's, from Cox's place kick for a foul against the visitors, and Kirton almost gave Swindon the lead when he got clear, but he put over the bar—a lucky escape for Luton.

Blessington shot over the bar when he only had Menham to beat, and Ritchie gave a corner, and from a return by Williams, Blessington headed on to the bar, but the visitors got the ball away again. Menham saved from Durrant, and Tierney shot over the bar. The interval arrived with the score:—

Luton	..	..	..	..	1 goal
Swindon	..	..	..	..	1 ,,

On resuming, Luton at once began to attack, and Menham gave a corner to a grand attempt by Durrant, but the kick was cleared, while offside against Brown was futile. McCurdy cleared from Davies, and at the other end Durrant lost a fine chance through hesitation. A foul against Swindon was cleared, as was a similar offence against Luton, while play had to be suspended owing to Kirton getting injured, but he soon resumed.

Luton continued to press, but the visitors defended well. Menham saved grandly on two occasions from Durrant, but from a melee in front of the Swindon goal, Gray beat Menham and thus gave Luton the lead. The visitors got away again from the kick off, and Oakley shot behind after White had miskicked. A foul against McCurdy was cleared, and Menham saved marvellously from Saxton from a centre by Durrant. Luton claimed a goal on the ground of having taken the ball over the line, but the referee ignored their appeal. The visiting custodian saved in masterly fashion on several occasions. Luton had all the play from now to the finish, but no more scoring took place, and the game ended—

Luton	..	..	..	..	2 goals
Swindon	..	..	..	..	1 ,,

NOTES.

The game was rather tame. Ord in goal, was in his usual form, but he was not severely tested. McCurdy played well at back, and stopped the visitors right wing in fine style on several occasions. White also played a good game although he mis-kicked once or twice.

Of the half-backs, Clifford played a sound game, and was about the best player on the field. Cox was not a success, and has much to learn. Williams played effectively as usual. The forwards lacked combination, and their shooting was poor.

Gray in the centre, has not yet shown his capabilities, but he got hurt during the game and was not much good for playing in the second half. However, his first goal for Luton proved to be the winning point. Tierney played well, but is inclined to be tricky, and neglect his partners. Saxton, Blessington, and Durrant all played well together.

Menham, for the visitors, effected some marvellous saves during the game. He is a very big fellow, clears his lines in fine style, and was repeatedly applauded. At back, Ritchie defended splendidly, very well assisted by Stephenson.

McEleney and Downie both showed good form, as did Richardson, but he had a warm handful in Tierney. Of the forwards, Kirton was the best, and he is the fastest man in the team.

Brown, late of Bristol Rovers, made some good runs on the right, and his partner, Davies, showed promising form. Oakley and Logan, on the left, made some good runs and got across some dangerous centres. They are a well balanced team, and when they get going require some stopping. The referee gave satisfaction.