



SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

LUTON v. SWINDON.

VISITORS BADLY BEATEN.

The Swindon players failed very badly indeed in their match against Luton on the Bury Park ground on Saturday afternoon. There was a gratifying attendance of spectators, quite 3,000 being present at the kick-off. The teams were as follows:—

LUTON: Ord; Lindsay and Sharp; Hawkes, White and Williams; Durrant, Blessington, Brown, Tierney and Colvin.

SWINDON: Menham; Vernon and Downie; Codling, Logan, and Richardson; Oakley, Becton, Pettican, Bradshaw and Cowan.

Referee: Mr. A. Peters (Kettering).

Luton won the toss, and selected to play from the railway end of the ground. The visitors kicked off, and at once commenced to attack. Lindsay got away a good shot from Cowan, and a foul followed against Swindon. A well-directed shot was saved by Menham. The visitors' custodian shortly after again narrowly escaped disaster, Blessington, skilfully fed by Durrant, nearly scoring. Luton worked hard to establish a lead, but the defence was good. Colvin also had an unsuccessful shot at goal, and a few minutes after the same player obliged the visitors to concede a corner, but with no tangible result. Luton continued to have all the play, and Brown once appeared to have the goal at his mercy, but the ball went across the goal-mouth.

Luton tried all they knew to score. The visitors defended stoutly. Durrant accomplished several creditable pieces of work, and on one occasion nearly scored. A corner followed, and a loose scrimmage took place outside the Swindon goal. A foul was eventually given against them, and Brown subsequently obtaining possession, rushed the ball into the net. A storm of applause followed upon this success. It transpired that the Luton crowd were a little too previous, as the referee disallowed the point, upon the ground that Brown had infringed the offside rule. The ball was still kept well within the visitors' territory, and Colvin made a shot at goal which, had the ball not touched the cross-bar, would have inevitably found its billet.

Menham continued to be kept very busy, and almost immediately after he was called to clear a smart return from Tierney, followed by another from Brown. From a well-judged centre by Colvin, Blessington, getting close in, made an unsuccessful attempt to head the ball through. It was evident that things were getting too warm for Swindon. Luton never failed to keep up the pressure. A foul was given against Codling, and a short but sharp struggle took place outside the visiting goal. Sharp delivered a hurricane shot, the ball striking the cross-bar and rebounding, Brown at once dashed in and sent the ball into the net.

Luton 1, Swindon 0.

Luton still continued the attack. Within the space of a minute they were once again swarming around Menham's citadel, and from a pass by Durrant, Brown once again distinguished himself by increasing Luton's score. This success put the spectators on very good terms with themselves, and hopes were confidently expressed that the home team would prove in the end victorious. Swindon still played a defensive game, and it was only on very rare occasions that their forwards could get away. Colvin, who is a particular favourite, did yeoman service, and his lightning-like sprints down the wing delighted the spectators. Play had not re-started many minutes when he neatly passed to Brown, who all but headed the ball through the uprights.

Their reverses appeared to infuse the visitors with more energy, and breaking away, Cowan took the ball down the field in brilliant style. He was brought up, however, by Sharp, and Luton were once again attacking. Menham was repeatedly called upon to save. Cowan came to the rescue and relieved the pressure, and for

some time the visitors showed much better form. Luton quickly got away again, and Brown sent in a well-directed shot which Menham saved brilliantly, but at the expense of a corner. When half-time arrived Luton was still on the offensive, the score standing:

Luton 2, Swindon 0.

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On resuming, the score standing :
Luton 2, Swindon 0.

On resuming, by some good combination on the part of the Luton forwards, Swindon again continued to have a critical time. Brown received a stinging blow on the nose from the ball, the force of which felled him to the ground and the game was suspended for a few minutes. Play was of a one-sided character throughout the greater part of this half, relieved occasionally by several spasmodic rushes on the part of the visitors, who frequently had opportunities to score but never availed themselves of them. After about 20 minutes' play, they managed to force a corner, but Luton soon got away, and Brown receiving a pass for the third time netted the ball amid much enthusiasm. No other goals were obtained, and at the call of time the score stood :—

LUTON 3, SWINDON 0.

NOTES ON THE GAME.

Quite a feature of the visitors' play was their lack of combination, and the erratic shooting. Luton took the field at full strength, and played a much more skilful game all round than their antagonists. The forward line combined splendidly, and on the play the scoring did not represent the superiority of Luton over the visitors. Brown, who worked well, had the satisfaction of scoring all the points, and in him the local directorate have at last captured a very efficient centre forward.

Colvin proved of valuable service, although at times he held the ball too long in his possession. Durrant and Blessington worked exceedingly well together, and Tierney, although suffering from an injured hand sustained in the match against Portsmouth the previous week, played up pluckily. The defence of the home team was very sound, and it was only at rare intervals that Ord was called upon to save.

The gate amounted to £60, and if the Directors could be assured of this every fortnight, the Club would soon prosper. To-morrow, Luton expect to play the same team as was victorious over Swindon at Brentford. I look forward to Luton capturing another 2 points.