

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

LUTON TOWN v. SOUTHAMPTON.

THE SAINTS GAIN A FINE VICTORY.

The visit of the Southern League Champions to Luton on Saturday had been looked forward to by all lovers of football for some time past with a great deal of interest. Up to Saturday week the Saints had not been defeated, when Portsmouth beat them by 4 goals to 3. Thus the Saints came to Luton with some amount of confidence, which the event justified, and Luton sustained their first defeat of the season on their own ground by 2-0. Last year the Saints opened the season at Luton, when they were victorious by 4 goals to 3, and in the return Luton also suffered defeat by 5 goals to nil.

Both teams were strongly represented. C. B. Fry received an encouraging cheer on making his appearance with the Southampton team. The weather was grand for football, and a large crowd of some 3,000 assembled. The shilling charged for admission, however, will not benefit the club to a great extent, only 265 paying that sum. Mr. H. D. Casey, of Tottenham, was referee, and the teams lined up as under:—

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

Southampton: Robinson; Fry and Molyneux; Meston, Bowman, and Lee; A. Turner, Wood, Brown, Chadwick and J. Turner.

Luton won the toss, and Southampton kicked off against the wind. Luton were the first to attack, but Ord had the first shot to save from Brown. Fry cleared from Colvin, and Hawkes dropped a beauty just over the bar, while Robinson kicked away from Durrant. Meston stopped Colvin in fine style, Lindsay and Ord cleared from Turner and Bowman respectively, and a mis-kick by Molyneux saw Robinson bring off a grand save, the keeper throwing himself full length. Molyneux headed out a fine effort by Colvin, and Brown getting possession made a good run half the length of the field, but Ord saved his final effort. Fry cleared well from Tierney, and Luton forced two corners, but Robinson saved grandly on each occasion.

Lindsay cleared a "free" for a foul on Brown, and Durrant made a good run, his final centre going just by the post, while Brown made a fine effort to score, but the ball went just wide. Tierney shot behind with a hard drive, and Robinson ran out and cleared a centre by Colvin, while Ord had to save at the other end from Chadwick. Two fouls to Luton were futile, and Robinson had to clear from Brown. A foul against White on Bowman was got away by Durrant. Up to this point, Luton had well held their own, but the Saints now began to cause the Luton defenders some anxiety. Sharp cleared a dangerous centre from A. Turner, and Meston just got away a shot by Brown at the other end.

After some mid-field exchanges, and a "free" to each side, the Saints made a strong onslaught on the home goal, and after Ord had cleared on two occasions, he was beaten by Meston with a long drive into the corner of the net after 35 minutes' play. From the kick-off Luton got down, and Colvin hit the post with a fine effort. Hawkes cleared a dangerous centre from Turner, and Colvin again hit the post with only Robinson to beat. At the other end, J. Turner missed an open goal, and Fry cleared a foul against Brown. Luton tried hard to equalise before the interval, but half-time arrived with the score:

Southampton 1 goal, Luton 0.

On resuming, Luton were the first to attack, and Lee had to clear from Durrant. A fruitless "free" was awarded the Saints for a foul by Lindsay. From a "free" for a foul on Brown by Fry, Durrant hit the bar with a grand shot, the ball afterwards being sent behind. The referee cautioned the spectators on one side of the ground for reprehensible criticisms. Ord had to save from Chadwick, and Robinson from Colvin. A dash by the visiting forwards was stopped by Brown being given offside, but directly after some pretty passing by the Saints' forwards resulted in Brown beating Ord for the second time from a pass by Turner, who received the ball from White, the keeper making a gallant but unsuccessful effort to reach the leather.

This reverse disheartened the home team for a time, and the Saints were having all the play. Luton, however, soon rallied, and in an attack on the Saints' goal, Molyneux twisted his ankle, and played to the finish with difficulty. Hands against Brown was futile, and a foul against Fry on Colvin was cleared at the expense of a corner, which Colvin just shot by the post. The home team made desperate efforts to score, but the Saints' defence was impregnable.

Molyneux cleared from Blessington, and Ord gave the Saints their first corner, but Turner placed behind. A "free" to Luton was placed behind by Lindsay, and Ord saved grandly from A. Turner. Fry caused some amusement by his grotesque appeals to the referee for each little touch that he received. A bad foul by the amateur on Tierney was put high over the bar by Blessington, and Molyneux cleared a foul on Hawkes by Lee, while Ord made a grand save from Wood on the line. Robinson cleared from Blessington, and in an attack on the home goal, Turner got hurt in a collision with Sharp, and it was at first thought that he was severely injured, but happily he was able to resume play. No further scoring took place, a fine game ending with the score:—

SOUTHAMPTON	2 goals
LUTON.....	0 „

NOTES.

This game was the best that has been seen on Luton ground this season, and Southampton fully deserved their success. Both elevens strained every nerve for victory, but the Saints were stronger in front than Luton, and it was due to this that the game was won by the visitors.

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For the winners, Robinson, in goal, was very safe, and time after time he cleared most difficult shots. At back, Fry played a rare game, although inclined to be rather vigorous and to worry the referee, he helped his side to victory. He kicks with much assurance, and his heading was admirable. He was ably assisted by Molyneux.

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The middle trio was a tower of strength, Bowman playing a fine game, but the pick of the line was Meston, who was in great form throughout, and his goal was a superb effort. He worked unflaggingly, and stuck to his wing well. Lee also played a good game, and for a young player, shows much promise.

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In front the Saints are very strong. Brown is a fine player, and a dangerous shot. The brothers Turner, on the extreme wings, also play a good game, and the captain, Wood, at inside right, was always busy, and made a capital show. Chadwick, at inside left, hardly came up to previous form at Luton, though playing well. As a team, they are a fine combination, and will be hard to overcome during the season.

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For the home team, Ord played his best game of the season; he made some fine clearances and his play was free from mistakes. At back, Lindsay, while playing well, discounted his performance by unsportsmanlike methods when beaten by an opponent. Sharp played fairly well, but found the opposing wing too clever for him.

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The middle trio all worked hard, Hawkes showing up prominently. Williams also never gave up trying. White had Brown to deal with, and although beaten on two or three occasions, he never left his man. A slight mistake on his part, however, was the cause of the Saints' second goal.

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In the forward line, Brown played his best game so far, and had hard lines on two occasions in not scoring. He made some fine bursts into the Saints territory, and fed his wings judiciously. Tierney and Colvin showed improvement, and the former especially worked very hard. Blessington and Durrant made some good runs on the wing. The line, however, fail in shooting. In mid-field their play is all that could be desired, but in front they are lacking. The referee was very fair.

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To-morrow (Saturday) Luton are engaged in the English Cup, meeting Watford on the

latter ground. Both clubs met two years ago in the divisional final of the cup, when after a draw of 2 goals each at Luton, the Luton team just scraped home by 1 goal to nil in the re-play at Watford. The teams have met twice in friendlies, Luton winning at home by 5 goals to nil, while a draw of 1 each was the result at Watford. The kick-off is fixed for 2.30, and a large number of visitors are expected on the Herts County ground. Mr. Nat Whittaker will referee.