

FOOTBALL

LUTON v. SOUTHAMPTON.

AN UNLUCKY DEFEAT.

DEMONSTRATION AGAINST FRY.

On Saturday the Southampton team came to Luton in search of Southern League points—and secured the full number. Thus the League champions succeeded in repeating their performance of last season, when they won by 4—3, a narrower margin than now, for their latest triumph was obtained by 2—0. The game was not a particularly good one, and though the better team won it must be conceded that they had all the luck that was going. The weather was delightfully fine and that, in combination with the prominence of the visiting team, was accountable for the largest attendance of spectators of the season. The charge for admission on the day was fixed at a shilling; but some thousands of those present had exercised a wise discretion and had obtained tickets previously at sixpence each. The "gate" was a good one, yet there was still room for improvement. As to the teams, Luton was represented by the usual eleven, while Southampton had the assistance of C. B. Fry (the famous Corinthian and international) at right back. The sides, which were heartily greeted on emerging from the dressing rooms (a special round of applause being reserved for Fry, by the way), were made up in this way:—

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

Southampton: Robinson; C. B. Fry and Molyneux; Meston, Bowman and Lee; A. Turner, Wood (captain), Brown, Chadwick and J. Turner.

Referee: Mr. H. D. Casey (Tottenham); linesmen, Messrs. J. Hockley (Wellingboro') and W. F. Chappell (Kettering).

There was some jubilation amongst the crowd when it was seen that Lindsay had won choice of ends. The advantage was not very great, however, for there was only a slight wind. Early in the game Ord was called upon to clear, which he did satisfactorily. Then the "blues" went away to the visitors' end, and for a considerable space they managed to have the best of matters. They attacked very hotly, and the Southampton defenders had all their work cut out to prevent a score. Hawkes opened the ball with a capital shot which only just missed the mark, and so well did his comrades support him that just afterwards Robinson was called upon to kick away. It was already noticeable that though both sides were infusing considerable keenness into their play the Southampton lot were a bit better together than the Lutonians. The seashiders were smart upon the ball and knew how to dispose of it, whereas the locals were somewhat lacking in directness. The homesters were checked by off-side: but the repulse was not long allowed to affect them, for they were soon engaged in attacking once more. Colvin, who was showing to advantage in his encounters with Fry—the short and the long of it, with a vengeance—on one occasion profited by a miskick on the part of the Corinthian and sent in splendidly, Robinson experiencing some difficulty in keeping the ball out. The home forwards were now playing finely, the left-wingers being especially conspicuous, though Blessington was performing plenty of useful work on the right. Southampton Brown secured some distance from goal and put in a first-rate run at the conclusion of which he called upon Ord to save, which that player did in good style. Colvin forced a corner, which proved resultless, as did another which was obtained almost immediately afterwards. A foul drove the home contingent back for a space. They were soon "at it" again, though, and Durrant barely missed with a stinging shot. Luton Brown put in one which was a whit too lefty, and Tierney followed suit. Hereabouts Robinson was pluckily charged by Durrant. The keeper, who held the ball in his hands, pushed the forward down with the ball. An appeal for a penalty kick was disregarded by the referee. The Southampton goal experienced another narrow escape from Colvin, and at the other extremity Ord brought off a good save. Durrant was held down by an opponent, and on this occasion a foul was allowed. White steered over the bar from the free-kick. The home centre man sent wide of the goal. Another foul was awarded against Southampton for holding Brown, though again

foul was allowed. White steered over the bar from the free-kick. The home centre man sent wide of the goal. Another foul was awarded against Southampton for holding Brown, though again without the desired result. The Sotonians next indulged in a prolonged attack and it seemed that they must certainly score. The assault was put an end to, however, by Bowman sending over in very erratic fashion. A foul was given against Luton close to goal and the kick was taken; but the referee had sounded his whistle, and so the whole performance had to be gone through again. Still there was no score, the home defenders managing to clear. Ord once more distinguished himself by saving neatly, and then Colvin (who had been giving Fry plenty of trouble) was bowled over by the burly back, the midget turning a complete somersault. Whereat there arose a yell of derision from the crowd. Meston tried a long, straight drive and this was allowed to score. Lindsay was not in his proper place at the time, and the reverse must be blamed to him. It was a grand shot, but the half-back was lucky to score. Colvin was not by any means disconcerted by the treatment which he had received. At one stage he unsuccessfully tried a flying shot, and followed this up by completely beating Fry and sending in an attempt which deserved a better fate than to go outside the post. Ord effected a brilliant save later on, and as the interval was approaching a foul was awarded against Luton close to goal. The danger was averted, however, and when Colvin was penalised for some offence against Fry the home defence proved sound. The midway positions were:

SOUTHAMPTON, 1; LUTON, 0.

The first half had been enjoyable by reason of the capital play of both teams. The same cannot be said of the second period, for not only did the game deteriorate but considerably more fouling was indulged in than need have been. The spectators were highly incensed, and their cries doubtless had some effect upon the play. It is no going too far to say that the actions of Fry were mainly responsible for the game being spoiled. His appeals were frequent and determined and there is no doubt that the referee paid more attention to this dominating personality than he ought to have done. On one occasion the Corinthian declined to take a free-kick until his opponents had been scrupulously removed beyond a six yards range, and this served to provoke derision. Colvin came off badly in this half, and there is no doubt that Fry lost his temper. It is charitable to take this view of the unsportsmanlike and utterly silly way in which the amateur behaved. It is significant that the crowd, which had generously cheered him when he came on, booed him during the second half. But to return to our muttons. Shortly after the re-start Southampton Brown got away well and was fouled when near goal. Fry took the kick and indulged in a pantomimic display when some of the Luton forwards got nearer to the ball than the six yards allowed by the rules. Just afterwards he charged Brown off the ball in very bad style, and a foul was given against him. The "blues" narrowly missed scoring, a very fine but somewhat fortunate save being effected by Robinson. A little later on the Soton centre put on the second goal, though when he took the pass from which he scored he appeared to be yards off-side. Still, the referee awarded the point and it counted. Molyneux collided with Durrant and came a cropper, this necessitating his absence from the field for a time. It was an unfortunate mishap, but Durrant was in no way blameworthy. Again the Soton right back fell foul of Colvin, and once more the referee had the courage to take the proper course. A corner fell to Luton, and with a beautiful shot Colvin just missed. Williams sent over when in a good position. Then a couple of corners fell to Southampton in rapid succession, the second coming off Hawkes. Tierney was nastily tripped by Fry within the Soton 12 yards mark, and a penalty was appealed for. The referee did not consent. Robinson effected a grand save from Tierney, and his *vis-a-vis* also showed to advantage just after. The closing stages of the game witnessed a collision between White and A. Turner, the result of which was that the forward was incapacitated for a space. When the end of a miserable second half came it was found that the scores were:

SOUTHAMPTON, 2; LUTON, 0.

At the close of the game a section of the crowd made a rush for the dressing-rooms and gave Fry a hostile reception. It was said that something was thrown at him; but he was not injured in any way. The officials of the club and the police rendered all the assistance in their power. Fry and his wife drove into the town in a closed carriage and their departure was the signal for another noisy demonstration outside the ground. It is understood that there was some idea on the part of the Soton officials of reporting the ground on account of the behaviour of the spectators; but on condition that a letter of regret was written to Fry this was abandoned.