

Luton Town Football Club.

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

LUTON TOWN v. MILLWALL.

ANOTHER DISAPPOINTING DEFEAT.

The meeting of these two old rivals had been eagerly looked forward to, and the fact that the great international goal keeper, J. W. Sutcliffe, of Bolton Wanderers, was in the visiting team, and that the Dockers' latest capture, David Storrier, formerly identified with Everton, was making his first appearance, lent additional interest to the fixture. The Millwall eleven is practically a new one and although they opened the season poorly they have since made rapid strides.

Another pleasing feature of the match was the appearance of the Red Cross Band and they received an ovation from the crowd. Lindsay's suspension weakened the home team, and Williams was called in to fill the vacancy, while Bob Hawkes again appeared at left half, and Moody was dropped in favour of Hilsdon. The Dockers were at full strength, with the exception that Almond played vice Moran at outside right. The weather was fine, but very cold, and a large crowd of some 2,500 lined the ropes when the referee, Mr W. T. Reed, of Brockley, whistled the following 22 into order:—

Luton.—Frail; Williams and Sharp; F. Hawkes, White, and R. Hawkes; Durrant, Blessington, Hilsdon, Gall and Allsopp.

Millwall.—Sutcliffe; Easton and Storrier; Riley, Bell, and Lee; Almond, Astley, Hulse, Gettins and Watkins.

Luton won the toss, and elected to defend the railway end. The opening exchanges were in favour of Luton, and Sutcliffe was early called upon, but was equal to the occasion. Durrant shot behind twice, and the same player caused Sutcliffe to clear. R. Hawkes shot behind, and Gall skimmed the bar with a flying shot. Sutcliffe cleared well from Durrant. Two fouls against Luton stopped their further progress, and Allsopp just missed netting a fine centre from Durrant.

A sudden break-away by the visitors resulting in Watkins sending across a fine centre which Frail saved, but in saving he fell, and was immediately surrounded by three or four forwards, and although he threw the ball out, Astley secured and promptly netted before Frail could recover himself. Only 20 minutes had passed when Millwall scored the only goal. Luton played up well after this, and Durrant called upon Sutcliffe, while Easton gave away the first corner, which, however, proved abortive. Sutcliffe fisted away twice in succession. At the other end the visitors gained two fruitless corners, Frail saved well from Gettins, and in another attack Fred Hawkes tripped Astley, and a penalty was awarded, but Bell hit the bar, and from the rebound the same player put behind. Luton took up the attack after that, and Sutcliffe cleared well from Allsopp and Gall put behind. The interval result was

Millwall 1 goal.

Luton 0 „

On resuming, Luton attacked, and Sutcliffe cleared twice from Durrant and Hawkes, and some good play by F. Hawkes was nullified by the ball going out of play. The homesters penning the visitors in their own half, forced four corners, but all to no avail, as Sutcliffe frustrated all efforts to beat him. Storrier cleared splendidly from Allsopp, and Gall missed badly a grand centre from Durrant. Luton made desperate efforts to draw level but they could not get the ball past Sutcliffe, and the only thing of note before the close was a shot from Gettins which went just wide of the post. The end came directly after, and the result of a fairly good game was

Millwall 1 goal.

Luton 0 „

NOTES.

The Luton team were consoled with for their narrow defeat, as a draw would have been a fair result. Millwall's only goal was very lucky and many complained that the referee ought to have blown his whistle when Frail was on the ground. It was rather curious that the only point should have been scored in Millwall's first break-away. At times the game became lively, and reminded one of the old-time rivalry between the clubs.

For Luton, Frail was very safe in goal, and successfully dealt with all except one of the shots that came his way. He had much less work to do than Sutcliffe. Both backs played a good game, and Williams excelled. Sharp showed an improvement on his display of the previous week.

In the middle line the halves played well. The two Hawkes's were in great form, Bob playing a clever and scientific game, and Fred was also very effective. White did not allow Hulse much latitude, and the way he upset the famous Gettins at times caused great merriment.

In the first rank Blessington shone most, and gave a very clever exposition. Durrant played a fine game, and had hard lines in not scoring on more than one occasion. Hilsden tried very hard and was a great success, and Gall played fairly, but should look after his partner better. Being left practically to himself, it cannot be expected that Allsopp could do himself justice. On the day's play, however, Luton did not deserve to be defeated.

As to Millwall, they have to thank their goal-keeper for saving them from defeat. The great International, indeed, gave a marvellous display, and his fisting was the feature of the match, while his kicking was also very strong. Sutcliffe cleared his lines finely whenever the home forwards got dangerous. He was ably assisted by both his backs, and Storrier made a very successful debut in the Millwall eleven. Storrier kicks strongly, tackles fearlessly, and having good speed, should prove a valuable acquisition to the Dockers. His partner, Easton, was moderate and inclined to be rough.

The Millwall halves never gave the home forwards much latitude, but for individual cleverness the Luton line could give them points. Bell played soundly at centre-half, and Lee was also prominent, but Riley was not a success and showed too much vigour.

In the front rank, all worked hard, but they missed several opportunities of scoring, and their shooting left much to be desired. Hulse was fair in the centre, but was a lot below form, while Astley, who comes from Bolton Wanderers, and Almond, late of Sheffield United, made a decent right wing, the former being dangerous when he got away. Watkins, on the extreme left, found young Hawkes a tough customer to deal with, and it was very rarely that he got past him. Our old friend Gettins, was effective at inside left, and also played very fairly.

Why certain noisy fanatics, a few of whom made themselves conspicuous on the stand on Saturday, should be continually "nagging" at a player simply because he happens to be an amateur I cannot imagine. I think that the best thing such spectators could do, both for the interests of the Club and for the sake of true sport, would be to stop at home and learn to treat a player with respect, whether he be a "pro" or an amateur.

The referee was very weak in the initial half, and some of his decisions were much open to doubt, but he improved a little after the interval. The crowd was a very well-behaved one, and the selections given by the Red Cross Band were greatly appreciated by all, and especially by London visitors.

To-morrow (Saturday), Luton will journey to Reading, where they have a stiff task. The "Biscuit Boys" have just begun to find their feet, and draw on Saturday at Kettering. If Luton hope to make a good show, the forwards will have to pull themselves together and don their shooting boots, for they appear to be sadly at sea at present. On the Bury Park enclosure the Reserves meet Gray's United in the South Eastern League, and a close tussle should be witnessed.

In the Southern League on Saturday, the following results were achieved: Portsmouth defeated Wellingborough at Fratton Park by 4 goals to 1; Southampton defeated New Brompton on the latter's ground by 2 goals to 1; Tottenham accounted for Northampton at Gilpin Park by 2 goals to 0; Swindon again accomplished a smart performance by beating the Queen's Park Rangers by 2 goals to 0 at Swindon; and Watford just got the better of Brentford on the Middlesex ground by 3 goals to 2; while West Ham deprived Bristol Rovers of their unbeaten certificate by defeating them by 1 goal to nil at Canning Town.