

FOOTBALL NOTES.

[BY "SPECTATOR".]

THE SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

MILLWALL BEAT LUTON.

GOOD PLAY—AND A DEAL OF EXCITEMENT.

There was a little bit of the old time flavour in the football match against Millwall on Saturday. The game throughout was exciting, and it was decidedly unlucky for Luton that the visitors should have got off with a victory and the two League points. Luton were without Lindsay at back, and his absence made all the difference in the game. Hilsdon was given an opportunity of showing what he could do at centre forward, in place of Moody, and he fully merited the change. R. Hawkes appeared at half-back, and Williams took Lindsay's place at right back. Almond took Moran's place on the Millwall side and Lee occupied the position at left half. It was doubtful whether Morris or Lee would take this position.

* * *

The following were the teams:—*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, J. H. Gettins and Watkins. Referee: Mr. W. T. Reed (Brockley); linesmen: Messrs. C. J. King (Wellingborough) and A. J. Kips (London).

* * *

Luton commenced the game with great gusto, and the home players were all over the visitors for the first 10 minutes. Millwall appeared all at sea and could not get on at all. When a player got possession of the ball he was at a total loss to know what to do with it, and generally the Luton halves, who were a very lively lot, robbed him of the ball which was dancing round Sutcliffe before the defence was aware of it.

* * *

The Millwall goalkeeper was by no means sleepy, and he defended his charge with great vigour and repulsed several shots in a masterly manner. If the experience of the first 10 minutes taught the home players anything they should have known that Sutcliffe was not to be beaten by a long shot. With these he had no difficulty, and rather enjoyed the play than otherwise.

* * *

It looked as if Sharp had given the Millwall forwards a golden opportunity when he partly missed his kick, but White happened to be on the spot and kicked out most opportunely. The Millwall forwards at length got a footing, and Freddy Hawkes was called upon to rob the great Gettins, who was missing a good many passes at this point of the game.

* * *

Blessington received the ball from Hawkes, and after tricking several of the Millwall players passed on to Durrant, who made a determined run down the field, and the backs had to kick out. From the throw-in the ball was placed behind, and thus the pressure on the visitors' goal was relieved.

* * *

A foul was awarded against Millwall when Luton were close down. The visitors stationed themselves in a line across the field and Williams's task of placing the ball was not an easy one. He, however, placed over the bar and on to the net at the back of the goal.

* * *

Hilsdon led a very dangerous rush to the Millwall end from the goal-kick, which was taken by Sutcliffe, and for a time the visitors found plenty to do in keeping back the Luton attackers. Up to this point Millwall had not had much of a look in. Durrant received a grand pass from White and went up the wing with great speed, but he ran the ball too far and the Millwall backs watched it over the line.

* * *

Not by any means was Durrant disheartened, for he tried his luck again and this time got in a splendid shot, which Sutcliffe punched back to Bob Hawkes, who passed to Gall instead of shooting again. Luton were in high form, and even yet Millwall had done nothing of consequence.

* * *

Again the Luton forwards got down by means of a grand run on the part of Durrant and Blessington. F. Hawkes passed to R. Hawkes and the latter placed the ball just outside the goal. This was a very commendable effort, and deserved a better fate.

* * *

Millwall nearly got through at this point. Sharp was pressed and passed back to Frail, who appeared to hesitate in kicking back again, and one of the Millwall forwards got his foot to the ball and stopped its progress. The ball was eventually got away, though it was rather a narrow escape. Williams was next forced to kick out when Gettins and Watkins were giving some trouble.

* * *

Astley and Hulse got on the run, but R. Hawkes rushed in and robbed them, and a free-kick was given against Luton. Storrier had next an opportunity of showing his power of clearing the ball, but he placed into touch, though he had plenty of time to take better aim. Gall came very near to doing the trick soon after this, but the ball went over the top of the goal.

* * *

Luton had terrible luck subsequently. It appeared that they must score, but, notwithstanding all efforts, Sutcliffe remained unbeaten and Luton could not open the account. The home players were all over the Millwall side, whose efforts generally culminated feebly. R. Hawkes gave the other team a chance by fouling an opponent, though it was not a case where a free-kick should have been awarded. He had placed his hands on an opponent's back, but it is questionable whether he actually pushed him.

* * *

Millwall now had a turn at pressing but only for a short time, as Sharp was prominent with some excellent kicks. Gall and Allsopp gave a display on the left wing, but Easton relieved and Millwall went to the other end and before long they had scored.

* * *

They appeared all at once down at the Luton end, and the ball was placed to Frail. The next second the Luton goalkeeper was rolling on the ground and three or four opponents were round him bustling him about for all they were worth. Frail kept hold of the ball and then appeared to try to throw away. Astley was on the alert, and, securing, registered the first and what proved to be the only goal of the match.

* * *

Luton made an appeal on account of an alleged infringement, but the referee allowed the point. Up to now the visitors had displayed anything but good form and they were decidedly lucky to be able to claim a point. There appeared a danger lest Luton should be disheartened after this cruel piece of luck, but the spectators cheered them on. Sharp was penalised soon after the re-start for a foul on Almond, and on the other side of the field the referee had a few words to say on the subject of fouling to Durrant.

* * *

R. Hawkes next showed up with a fine effort. He received the ball well down the field and rushed up among the forwards and a corner resulted. Nothing came of this, and at the other end Millwall secured a corner. The referee, who was trying his best, came in for the crowd's displeasure for some fault, real or imaginary, whilst soon afterwards one of the linesmen made a very palpable mistake. After Frail had saved a good shot White was penalised for fouling Gettins.

* * *

From this Millwall got down and when making a dangerous rush for goal, F. Hawkes was alleged to have brought a forward down incorrectly just within the 12 yards' space. The referee evidently did not know what to do, and decided to consult the linesmen. Having taken the opinion of those gentlemen, who were in a far inferior position to the referee for seeing, Mr. Reed awarded a penalty.

* * *

Bell took the kick and Frail whiled away the seconds of waiting by a dance, which was sufficient to mesmerise the ball and the man too. Bell at length gave a tremendous kick and the ball struck the cross-bar and returned to him. He stopped it, and immediately the referee blew his whistle. This was the last incident before half-time, when the score stood :

MILLWALL, 1 ; LUTON, 0.

Directly on the re-start Luton paid a visit to Sutcliffe, who fisted away. This performance he repeated again soon afterwards. Then Allsopp forced a corner, which rendered nothing tangible to the home side. Allsopp was cheered for some fine play a little later and he well deserved it. Still more corners fell to Luton, but the ball refused to be placed by Sutcliffe.

* * *

Williams nearly let in Watkins, who made a dangerous run down and placed just over the bar. Millwall got down by a series of throws-in. Storrier nearly let in Durrant, who made the mistake of running up into his corner instead of shooting at goal.

* * *

Sutcliffe was repeatedly called upon to fist away several hard shots, but as they were all of long range none took effect. A free-kick was given against Frail for running with the ball. The backs relieved and Gettins obtaining possession tried to show an unappreciative audience what he could do with the ball, and as a result he lost all chance, and F. Hawkes transferred play to the other end.

* * *

After the Millwall forwards, who were displaying something like form, had placed the ball behind they came again directly after the goal-kick, but one of their number got off-side. Each side pressed after this in turn, but no advantage could be gained, and so the game ended in a lucky win for Millwall with the following scores :—

MILLWALL, 1 ; LUTON, 0.

* * *

There was little doubt but that Luton was the better side. The home players had most of the game, excepting perhaps Sutcliffe—and with a less capable custodian than the Millwall goalkeeper they would probably have scored. For dash Luton easily took the lead.

* * *

Hilsdon is to be commended on the way he commenced several promising runs and he gave great promise of being able to do better later on. Opposition half-backs and backs will have to watch him. For pretty football Durrant and Blessington would be hard to beat. Gall was to the fore with some good shots and Allsopp was prominent for a number of dangerous runs.

* * *

The two Hawkes were in fine form and White was ever a source of trouble to the forwards on the Millwall side. The way he watched Gettins about effectively snuffed out anything that the amateur could do.

* * *

Although not such an experienced player as Lindsay, Williams did a lot of useful work, though at times he appeared a trifle slow. Sharp was naturally the better back and few chances he gave away. Frail did not have by any means anything like the number of shots as his vis-a-vis did, and he was not to be blamed for the goal which was unfortunately registered against him.

* * *

Sutcliffe was head and shoulders above all the other

players on the Millwall side. The backs were a bit shaky, but played better towards the end of the game. Bell and Riley put Lee into the shade. The forwards were of a uniform quality, though all of them were looked after and consequently had few chances of shining.

* * *

At Kettering the score with Reading was one all. The 'Spurs beat Northampton and Southampton beat New Brompton by 2—0. Portsmouth chalked up four goals to none against Wellingborough, and Swindon beat Queen's Park Rangers by 2—0. The League table stands :—