

FOOTBALL NOTES

[BY "SPECTATOR".]

THE SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

LUTON v. SWINDON.

A POOR GAME.

There was not a very large attendance on Saturday, at the Luton v. Swindon match, on the Dunstable-road enclosure. This was disappointing, for the afternoon commenced fine, but unfortunately did not continue, so that the end of the game was played on a sodden pitch. There was a storm in the early morning, which did all the damage. The wind was present, and showed its effect only too plainly in diverting the flight of the ball. The following were the teams:—*Luton*: Frail; Lindsay and Williams; F. Hawkes, White, and Bob Hawkes; Durrant, Blessington, Gall, Moody and Woods. *Swindon*: Hemmings; O'Brien and Jones; Oakden, Bannister, and Cowley; Davis, Poppitt, Neyland, Bullock, and Edwards.

The wind in the first half considerably helped the Swindon players, and Frail was soon called upon to deal with a shot, and he made a good save. Fred Hawkes subsequently secured the ball, and passed to Durrant, who centred, and Moody headed just by the post. This was distinctly hard luck on the home team. Gall also made an attempt to get through, but Hemmings caught and dealt with his shot. Luton still kept up the pressure, but a foul against Moody close in to the Swindon goal relieved the pressure. The game waged for a period in mid-field, and then Durrant got away. He smartly tricked Cowley, and appeared to have a clear run for goal, but owing to the slippery nature of the turf he fell, and a splendid chance went a-begging.

Then for a time Swindon had the advantage of the play, and gave the Luton defenders plenty to do. The local half-backs were, however, very watchful and continually robbed the opposition forwards, when they appeared dangerous. There was a good deal of slipping about, and neither side appeared to get into their stride. It was noted with great pleasure that Williams was playing a grand game and he never once missed his kick. Several times he returned the ball with great force and precision, which must have been highly satisfactory to Lindsay. Bob Hawkes put in a capital shot after he had tricked a number of the Swindon players and the ball went close by the goal. Notwithstanding the fact that they had to kick against a strong wind the Luton men still kept up the pressure and Gall this time made a good attempt which went wide of the mark. Durrant also placed by the goal.

Then on the right the visitors made an incursion and Frail in stopping a shot allowed the ball to go in the net. Off-side had, however, been given a long way up the field and so all possibility of it being a goal was at an end. Fred Hawkes made himself prominent by giving away a couple of free-kicks for fouls—a luxury he very rarely indulges in. They were not bad infringements, though. At half-time the score stood:—

LUTON, 0; SWINDON, 0.

The second half opened with a promising attack by Luton, and Gall ended up by putting the ball just outside the goal. For some time the visitors acted altogether on the defensive and Luton had all the game. Time after time the ball was placed at Hemmings, but he saved each time splendidly. He was well backed up by O'Brien and Jones, especially the latter, and try how they would, Luton could not get by. Play was completely spoilt after half the second portion of the game had begun by a heavy downpour of rain. The only shots that reached Hemmings were low and generally long ones, but he saved them all.

Woods had a chance of beating Hemmings, but he placed outside the post. Towards the end of the game Bob Hawkes went in the frontline, but could not get in a shot, and time eventually arrived with nothing having been scored, although Luton had the better of the game all the way through. The result was:

LUTON, 0; SWINDON, 0.