

FOOTBALL NOTES.

[BY "SPECTATOR".]

LUTON DEFEAT TOTTENHAM.

STILL WINNING LEAGUE POINTS.

Saturday's match with Tottenham Hotspurs had been looked forward to as one of the best of the season. It was a great pleasure to find that the weather, except, perhaps, for a strong wind, was all that could be desired. Consequently the gate was a large one. The Hotspurs were without Copeland and Tait, but turned out the following team:—Crawley; Erentz and Watson; Morris, Hughes and Jones; Dryburgh, Warner, V. J. Woodward, Cameron and Chalmers. Luton's side was: Frail; Lindsay and Williams; F. Hawkes, White, and R. Hawkes; Durrant, Blessington, Davidson, Moody, and Allsopp. Mr. H. Ward (of Nottingham) was the referee, and Messrs. A. G. Neale and C. J. King were the linesmen.

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There was a loud shout of satisfaction when it was seen that Lindsay had won the toss. The locals started from the railway end and played towards the Bury goal. Tottenham went off with a rush and forced a corner off Williams, which proved of no use. A throw-in, close against the Luton line followed, but eventually a free-kick for a foul by one of the Tottenham players relieved matters. The home forwards made a spirited attack, but the ball went behind. Durrant made a good attempt to save it, but the wind carried the ball over the line just as he reached it.

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Subsequent play ruled on Luton's left and Allsopp put in a spirited run and centred finely and Watson gave a corner, which proved of no avail. Bob Hawkes was fouled and Lindsay took the kick. The backs relieved. From a centre by Allsopp, Watson had to kick out to save Durrant the trouble of shooting. The pressure on the visitors' goal was eventually relieved by the ball going behind. The wind, evidently, was a bit too strong to be of great assistance to the home side. Two fine centres by Durrant fell just over the goal. A free kick against Luton and a corner at the Tottenham end were both cleared.

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Moody was roundly cheered for a fine piece of play. Durrant had got in a very hot centre and Moody rushed up and got his head to the ball in the nick of time, but the effort went wide. It was all done so quickly that any goalkeeper might have been easily beaten. Then a shabby piece of play on the part of Tottenham received what it deserved. Bob Hawkes was making for goal when twice he was fouled, the second time inside the penalty-area. The referee pointed to the little patch of white 12 yards from the goal and the players lined up, the first to be in his place being Clawley, who evidently recognised that the decision was correct. Lindsay took a short run at the ball and followed it up with a mighty kick and the flutter of the goal net showed that the first point to Luton's credit had been notched. Clawley had not the ghost of a chance.

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The cheers which went up at this success could be heard all over the town. No sooner had the sphere been taken to the centre and re-started than the crowd shouted itself hoarse when Luton again attacked. Hands for Luton about 20 yards from the Tottenham goal looked very dangerous. Davidson put in a grand shot, but Erentz very luckily got in the way, and the goal had a rather lucky escape. But another goal had yet to come. The Luton men were continually on the move and despite the heat—for it was very warm on Saturday for the players—they made another grand assault. This time it was Allsopp who put up the pace. He received a very clever pass from Moody and rushing by Morris got in a shot at goal. Clawley stopped the flight of the ball only to present Davidson with an easy chance of scoring, which needless to say he at once took. The applause was tremendous.

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Chalmers and Lindsay next had a fine tussle, but the former fouled the Luton captain, and was punished. Davidson, in his anxiety to add another point, got off-side, and was promptly ruled so by the referee. A foul against Morris on Bob Hawkes was noticed by the referee—and the crowd. Twice Clawley had to save from smart shots by the Luton men. A corner followed the second, and was taken by Durrant. From this Chalmers, who had been very persistent in attacking, which he did not always accompany with fair means, made a spirited run down, and after running past Lindsay was brought to a standstill by Williams, who was excelling himself in defensive play. F. Hawkes robbed the left-wing and passed to Allsopp, who shot wide.

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Davidson next took advantage of a temporary slackness on the part of the defenders and placed the ball just under the bar, and Clawley just lifted it over the bar and gave a corner. Durrant took the kick, but the ball travelled to Chalmers, who made another run down the wing and Bob Hawkes had to give a corner, which was cleared by Blessington kicking out. From a subsequent attack on the Spurs' goal Moody struck the side of the net with a ripping shot. Midfield play followed.

A very near thing happened just before half-time, but with a piece of luck the Luton goal escaped. The Spurs' forwards made a swoop on the goal. Lindsay Frail a chance of clearing called "Joe" out of his goal, but the goalkeeper evidently expected him to kick the ball back. Woodward made a dash by Lindsay, and got his foot to the ball and placed just wide, the ball rolling a few feet on the outside of the net, much to the relief of the spectators, who fully expected the International to do the trick. The referee blew for half-time just afterwards, when the score stood:

LUTON, 2; TOTTENHAM, 0.

To be so far ahead filled the Luton spectators with glee, but no one will deny that the home side on the play was the better team. Apart from the burst at the start and the chance at the end, the Hotspurs never got really into their stride. Not the least important factor of this was found in the good display given by the Luton half-backs. The Red Cross Band then played a selection and marched round the ground, and by the time they had finished the teams had returned to the field and the whistle gave the signal for hostilities to be re-commenced.

Luton pressed at the beginning, but Watson cleared, and Chalmers made an attempt to get through. In this he was not successful, being too closely watched to be able to do so. Allsopp's foot came into contact with Morris's head, but the Tottenham player resented the Luton man's sympathy. Bob Hawkes put in a pretty piece of play, and passed to Allsopp, but the latter failed to make use of it, being closed pressed by Erentz. Morris fouled Bob Hawkes in no uncertain manner, but from the kick Chalmers made an attempt to break through Luton's defence. In this he was not successful, though he managed to get in a shot at goal. Dryburgh had a fine chance given him of shooting, but placed weakly by the post.

The play shifted to the other end, where a grand assault was made on the Tottenham goal. The backs were kept pretty busy, but could not do anything in the way of clearing. At last Blessington relieved them of the necessity of trying by placing the ball past Clawley safely into the net. The enthusiasm at this renewed success knew no bounds. The visitors found it a bitter pill to swallow for they introduced very questionable tactics into the game. From a free kick against Luton Frail had to save. Then Luton made another attack and an unusual incident happened. Clawley had cleared the ball and immediately "went for" Durrant who was the nearest Luton man to him. Needless to say the referee's back was turned. The goalkeeper was seen to strike Durrant and when the latter man stood up again, Erentz placed himself between them and the little performance was repeated. It was very fortunate that Tottenham has not lost these two players, possibly for a month.

Play became rather rough towards the end. Davidson who had been dashing against several of the Tottenham players usually with disastrous results to the latter was at last brought down by Jones. There was no tangible result from this, but soon afterwards Davidson nearly headed through from Durrant's centre. The interest in the match remained to the end, but Tottenham never came very near to reducing Luton's lead, and the result was:

LUTON, 3; TOTTENHAM HOTSPURS, 0.

The cause of the heavy defeat is attributed to the absence of Copeland and Tait, that is by a few of the London papers, but there can be no doubt on the part of those who saw the match that it was the greatly improved play of the Luton men which gave them the victory. There was not a weak spot in the home team. The crowd was highly delighted with the exhibition given by Williams, who could do nothing wrong. Lindsay played a grand game. Though not approving of his method Chalmers proved the most dangerous of the forwards. Great things were expected of Woodward but he failed to shine, though his play in midfield was very neat. He compared badly with Davidson on the other side. The 'Spurs, altogether, gave a disappointing display.

There were half a dozen matches played on Saturday in the First Division of the Southern League, and both the leaders gained easy victories, Southampton defeating Northampton, and Reading vanquishing Brentford. There were no drawn games. Luton defeated Tottenham. Hotspur, Queen's Park Rangers overcame Watford, Swindon disposed of Portsmouth, and Wellingborough were victorious over Bristol Rovers. Southampton continue to keep two points in front of