

Luton Town Football Club..

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

LUTON v. SOUTHAMPTON.

A FINE PERFORMANCE.

The big surprise of Saturday was the inability of Southampton, even on their own ground, to overcome Luton, especially as only four days previously the Southampton team had overcome Portsmouth at Fratton Park. That performance, however, must lack some of the credit which seemed to belong to it, seeing that on Saturday Reading, who have lost two-thirds of last season's excellent team, also defeated Portsmouth.

About 6,000 people assembled at Southampton for the first Saturday match of the season, in which Luton made a splendid show. The home side opened the score through Harrison after 25 minutes' play. Storey sent in a fine shot for Luton and from a scrimmage in front of the Southampton goal the ball rolled past Clawley.

Having equalised the score, the Luton men attacked vigorously and had distinctly hard lines. The cross-bar was struck three times and if the visitors had taken the lead, it would have been on their merits.

After the change over, when the score was one all, there was a change of play. Just for one minute were Luton aggressive, but afterwards most of the play was in Luton's half, but without definite result, and the game was left drawn with the score one all.

A London writer says that Luton did best in that they took away a point, but there is no reason to greatly mourn over that loss by the home side. It is quite clear that the front line is not yet together. Evans being unwell, and did not show the football he possesses. Harry Woods was clever as ever, but found McEwen and Hawkes very determined opponents. Fred Harrison began his season's record of goal scoring. The half were all right, but lacked finish. Houlker was absent, being hurt at Portsmouth.

Thompson saved one or two hot things for Luton, and once collided with McEwen, both being cut about the head. McEwen will strengthen the side abundantly, for his play was just as cool and skilful as ever. R. Hawkes was very nearly the best half on the ground, and there was plenty of life about the Luton front rank, Durrant working all through in tremendously hard fashion.

To-morrow Luton receive a visit from Fulham for their opening home match in the Southern League, and given fine weather there should be a big crowd to give the new Southern Leaguers a good reception. Davidson, who assisted Luton towards the close of last season, will be operating at centre-forward for the visitors. Fryer, the giant goalkeeper of Derby County, has also been secured by Fulham.