

Luton Town Football Club.

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

LUTON'S FIRST VISIT TO PLYMOUTH.

STILL UNBEATEN.

On Saturday, the Luton team journeyed to Plymouth to meet the new Argyle club, who for the first time appear in the Southern League this season.

There is nothing like success in football to ensure adequate returns in gate money, and the 10,000 spectators who lined the ropes at Plymouth came prepared to have their money's worth. The brilliant day was somewhat discounted by the appearance of crape on the arms of the Argyle men, who were mourning with Mr. Stanley Spooner, one of the directors, in the loss of his wife.

The teams were:—

Luton: Thompson; Bennett and McEwen; Hawkes, Holdstock, White; Durrant, Eaton, McKee, Storey, and Allsopp.

Plymouth: Robinson; Goodall and Clark; Leech, Clark, Digweed; Dalrymple, Anderson, Peddie, Picken and Jack:

The home team started well, and a dash by Picken, Peddie and Anderson was exceedingly dangerous for Luton, and Thompson was soon called upon to defend a shot from the first-named. It was evident that the home team were bent on forcing tactics, but repeated attempts to score were frustrated first from Bennett and McEwen, and finally by Thompson again. Clark figured very prominently in the next exchanges, but the defence of the Luton men, especially McEwen, repelled his efforts, and a corner only resulted. This proved futile, and then Luton went for all they were worth, and forced corners galore. No goals resulted, for Robinson was playing a grand game. Eventually the home forwards got into their stride again, but up to half-time there was no score.

On resuming, mid-field play prevailed for some time. Eventually Argyle attacked strongly, and, led by Clark, did some splendid work; but ill-luck dogged their efforts. On the other hand, McKee got between the backs, and beat Robinson, but offside was declared. Although Argyle had by far the best of the game, they could not get past Thompson, and a great deal of kicking out by the Luton defenders was a feature of the game. Dalrymple passed to Clark who just skimmed the bar. The Luton defence proved too strong, and in the end there was no score.

NOTES.

The sanguine partisans of Argyle had their hopes doomed to disappointment. If the game could be judged only by the first half, nothing except praise could be bestowed on the Luton men. Right up to the interval, play was fast, clever, and exciting. Both goals underwent narrow escapes, and if Argyle had the better of the game in the first half an hour, Luton more than equalised matters after that period, until the change of ends.

With the remark that Luton's kicking out tactics were unnecessary, as they were practically the equals of Argyle, let it be at once said that McEwen played a champion game at left-back. He seems to be a sort of player who steps in where angels fear to tread. He kicked in any position, and altogether gave a dashing display. Hawkes was the best of the halves, and his clever head-work was of great service. Holdstock and White were about on a par, but Holdstock had a strenuous task to take care of Jack Peddie, who was at his best.

Durrant gave an eclipsing exhibition in the forward department, and he was, perhaps, the most brilliant individual winger on either side. McKee played a hard, stolid game, but did not keep his wings together with the skill of his vis-a-vis. Storey came second to Durrant, and played a downright artistic game. Allsopp did fairly well, but Eaton was not noticeable. In goal, Thompson was as safe as a bank. Archie Goodall, on Argyle's side, was a revelation at back.

The necessity of an additional player for Luton Town has caused the Directors to sign on Peter Turner as an emergency forward. He is also reported as being able to play half back. Turner, it will be remembered, played for the Arsenal at inside-left three years ago, and was with Middlesbrough for the past two seasons.