

Football Notes and News.

By "Grasshopper."

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

LUTON v. SWINDON.

Just lost again! We were all sorry to read the fateful telegram from Swindon on Saturday night, for it practically put an end to all hopes of winning the League championship. It is idle now for some irresponsible writer to go on saying that Luton never had the least faith in winning premier place. What! had no thought of being at the top after so many columns of gush? Of course, everyone had high hopes, especially when all went so well up to the new year. Possibly, if we had had more impartial treatment at the hands of one or two of the referees, we should have still been well in the running. However, if Luton now finishes third or fourth from the top it will be a creditable performance.

It must be confessed that interest in the doings of the local team has decreased of late. This can easily be seen at the clubs or at other places where the fraternity meet. The Luton populace, so far as football is concerned, appears to be more fickle in its support than most towns. There were some who boldly proclaimed the notion that Luton were going right through the season without having their colours lowered once; but when the first defeat came, followed by a second, all and sundry appeared rather depressed.

Saturday's fixture was really with Reading, but as the Biscuit men were engaged in the Cup-tie, Luton managed to arrange with Swindon, and they will therefore not have to visit the railway town in April.

There was a slight alteration in Luton's eleven, Tommy Allsopp being dropped in place of Turner, with Moody inside left.

The ground was in a dreadful state, and all against good play, though the weather was fine when the leather was kicked off, before a good gate.

In the first moiety both sides appeared to be evenly balanced. Luton suffered from the old complaint—the forwards were again weak in front of goal, though it must be admitted Swindon's defence was excellent. The exchanges were fairly even, Luton, if anything, having the advantage. Luton tried hard to get the lead, but the Shunters managed to keep their goal intact, and half time arrived with no score.

In the second 45 minutes, the game was even more keenly contested, but Swindon were soon showing better form, and nearly every time the forwards got away they were dangerous. "Mac" and Bennett had their work cut out, and Thompson made some brilliant saves. All the time the homesters kept banging the ball in the direction of the Luton goal.

The Luton men were well up once or twice, and worried the Swindon defence for a quarter of an hour, but failed to obtain a point. The game slackened down for a time, but the home team soon returned to the fray, and one of Hogan's deadly shots took effect, the Shunters thus winning a hard fought game. To Swindon belongs the credit of inflicting the second defeat on Luton this season.

Result: Swindon, 1 goal: Luton, nil.

"Luton missed an excellent opportunity of going to the front again on Saturday. Their principal rivals had engagements in the Cup and they had to play Swindon. The task of meeting such a moderate side away from home exceeded Luton's powers, however, and now they are fourth on the list, Bristol Rovers, who vanquished West Ham United, ousting them from third place. Luton are two points behind both Portsmouth and Southampton, and though they have played one game less than Portsmouth and two less than the champions their prospects of carrying off first honours is not so promising as those of both the South Coast clubs, as Luton have to play nearly all their remaining matches away from home."—Thus says a sporting writer in a London contemporary.