

SPORTS AND PASTIMES.

FOOTBALL.

DEFEAT AT SWINDON.

LOST BY ONE ODD GOAL.

At half-past 8 on Saturday the Luton team started on their journey to Swindon to do or die for the honour of the club. This is the first of three hard matches away from home this month.

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According to the original fixtures Luton should have gone to Reading, but as the latter club were engaged in the English Cup Tie with Bolton Wanderers the return League fixture had to be re-arranged, so the Swindon match was brought forward from April 9th, and it is not unlikely that the Reading match will be played on April 9th, so altogether the matches may be amicably arranged without interference to anyone.

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It will be remembered that when Swindon visited Luton on December 12th they were beaten by 3 goals to none, and if they had been defeated by double the number, it would only have about represented the difference between the two teams.

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Swindon at home and Swindon away, though, are two different teams altogether, and when playing in front of their own partisans they play like veritable demons. They have got a crowd of supporters that cheer them on and seem to put a rare lot of "go" into them. There is a fair amount of lung power in the Luton crowd at times, but Swindon can give our supporters a start.

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The Rev. E. Reid, who used to assist them, has already left the town; whilst they are forcibly deprived of the services of Alex. Milligan, their right back, who is serving a month's suspension for attempting to play under Queenberry's rules with Smith, of Kettering, instead of Football Association rules.

Luton made one change in the team from last Saturday and that was of playing Peter Turner at outside left in place of Allaopp. The inclusion of Bert Moody again gave general satisfaction to the club's supporters, for Bert played a highly creditable game on his first appearance this season, and was nearly if not quite the best of the forwards.

Under the care of Referee A. Green, the teams lined up as follows:—

SWINDON.

Hemmings,
Atterbury, Archer,
Logan, Bannister, Oakden,
Beardsworth, Lean, Hogan, Pugh, Cowley.

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Turner, Moody, McKee, Eaton, Durrant,
R. Hawkes, White, F. Hawkes,
McEwen, Bennett,
Thompson.

LUTON.

Saturday morning at Swindon was wet and in the afternoon the ground was in a terrible state, pools of water being conspicuous. Despite of the elements, the attendance numbered nearly four thousand, and the teams were lustily cheered as they appeared. Bannister won the toss, and Swindon had the aid of the wind.

The home side got away at once on the right, but little McEwen was in the way, and the players knew it. Then Eaton and McKee made progress, until Bannister got in their track. A fine run made by Turner, ended in a centre, which Atterbury, however, got away.

Swindon forced a corner, but it was very badly placed. From a free kick, Cowley tried hard for goal, but could only send wide.

McKee was, questionably, ruled off-side when admirably placed, and he protested against the decision. Next, Moody was stopped for a similar infringement, and then Bannister adopted illegal tactics in tackling McKee, and was penalised accordingly. McEwen had to kick out to stop Beardsworth, and for a few minutes the Luton defence had plenty to do.

Durrant, at last, magnificently raised the seige, distinctly beating Archer in the race for the ball, but his pass was not accepted by McKee.

Atterbury again cleared from Turner, and Swindon's right wing made progress, only to find a stumbling-block in McEwen, who was playing with fine judgment. Despite his splendid efforts, however, Swindon got dangerous, and Atterbury put wide from long range, while Beardsworth put behind from centre by Cowley.

Swindon rushed back, and sent the ball wide. Eaton looked very dangerous, but was ruled off-side. Thompson had to be particularly smart to stop a hot shot from Cowley.

Luton forwards, I must say, did some very clever work, but the ball would not move in the mud. The Swindon halves, too, constantly stopped them. Two free-kicks against Swindon were abortive, and at the other end a pass from Lean went wrong. So far, the pace had been far from fast. The ground was dreadfully heavy.

Some nice work by McKee and Moody gave Turner a chance, but he was off-side. Luton were awarded a free-kick just outside the penalty line, but Bob Hawkes shot very much wide of the mark. Bannister was guilty of a stupid foul, and Luton pressed.

Hemmings saved from Turner at very close quarters. The game was far from being entertaining at this stage, the players being handicapped by the "heavy going." Off-side frequently stopped Luton, who were smarter forward than their opponents, but Swindon showed very determined defence and gave nothing away.

Archer cleverly stopped Durrant, but the latter afterwards got in a centre from which Swindon emerged victorious after a tussle under Hemmings's nose. Then the game went in Swindon's favour, and again Thompson had to save from Hogan, while Bannister struck the bar with a terrific shot. Bennett subsequently clearing, Luton were kept on the defensive, but their rear men were great.

McKee was off-side right in front of goal, and a free-kick brought Swindon relief. Hogan did some clever work, but missed the mark, and Cowley had several efforts spoilt by Bennett, while on one occasion he was clearly off-side.

Turner spoilt several good bits of work by lying up too far. Bennett got the better of a struggle with Cowley, and Swindon appealed unsuccessfully for a free-kick.

Half-time:—

LUTON 0

SWINDON 0

On resuming Luton made tracks for Swindon's goal but Archer stopped Durrant. Swindon then applied pressure and after the Luton goal had survived one bombardment Hogan beat Thompson with a low shot. After this Luton attacked strongly and Hemmings saved grandly from McKee, who had run the ball up well. Even play followed, Swindon kicking out when hard pressed. McEwen did some grand work and Bob Hawkes was always conspicuous.

Thompson saved finely from Lean, after McEwen was beaten, and also averted a corner by running out of goal. Moody was pulled up by Atterbury, when going strong, and Hemmings had to save from R. Hawkes. A corner fell to Luton without result. Swindon attacked again, Hogan being hurt in the process. Thompson was called upon once or twice, but was always safe. Luton had a turn of attacking, and Hemmings saved from Moody and Durrant.

Result:—

SWINDON	...	...	...	1
LUTON	...	...	...	0

Luton missed an excellent opportunity of going to the front again on Saturday, says *The Telegraph*. 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 they are now fourth on the list, Bristol Rovers, who vanquished West Ham United, ousting them from third place. Luton are now two points behind 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.

The *Express* said: Defeat No. 2 for Luton has been recorded, and Swindon, metaphorically, shake hands with Fulham upon the accomplishment. To those whose gauge of the respective merits of Southern League sides is necessarily based upon positions in the table, Swindon's victory would seem startling; but Swindon have been playing so well of late that victory was bound to come, sooner or later.

"Signalman" in the *Morning Leader* says:—I can understand how it is Luton have so often escaped defeat, for their defence is about the best I have seen this season, and if the forwards were correspondingly good we should not have to look further for the champions. Swindon acquitted themselves admirably in the rear ranks, a reserve named Archer doing well in Milligan's place, and the forwards shaped satisfactorily under difficulties, Hogan again playing with great judgment in the centre. Swindon's victory is a distinct feather in their caps, and will do them a lot of good. Mr. A. Green refereed ably.