

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

LUTON v. BRISTOL ROVERS.

Another defeat has to be placed to Luton's Southern League record. The fact is all the more disappointing as the fixture was at home. We are now getting down very low indeed—as a matter of fact, though nominally not yet at the bottom of the League, virtually we are there. It is true that Wellingborough are at the bottom, but whereas the Northamptonshire team have played six matches and have two points, Luton have finished eight matches for three points.

Saturday's match showed that our men were not altogether the cause of the disastrous result, if one may put it like that. Every man, I believe, did his level best to win, but the fact is we want some new players. Penman, who has been tried, dropped, reinstated, and so on, has not come up to expectations. A team that is so often being pulled about and patched up, seldom gives a good account of itself. On Saturday it was Lamberton's turn to be dropped out on account of an injured knee, Bob Hawkes being placed amongst the quintette.

Luton lost, but they ought not to have done. Everyone who saw the match will agree that they ought at least to have secured one point, and altogether they experienced hard luck. True, Bristol were the first to score through Lewis, and maintained the lead up to the interval. But when Luton equalised through Ross they ought to have kept their goal intact. Twice the Rovers' goal had hairbreadth escapes, Cartlidge being both times all but beaten. Hawkes, Penman, and Barnes were shooting most of the time, but on nearly all occasions the leather was sent across the goal-mouth.

In the ten minutes which followed the equalising shot, the visitors made desperate efforts to obtain the lead, and succeeded in doing so through Clark. It was, however, a very soft goal, and came quite unexpectedly. The attack ought to have been easily cleared.

Though the match was fast and exciting from a spectacular point of view, there was not very much to admire beyond the splendid defence and goal-keeping on both sides. Luton's backs were never better. "Mac" was very prominent in the first half, and Turner was fairly safe, though in Dunkley he had a worthy foeman. Clark managed to take the steam out of the Luton skipper, and beat him time after time, but for all that McEwen never gave in. The Bristol defence was equally sound. It is not often that there is such an exciting finish to a match as we had on the Bury Park on Saturday.

The gate amounted on Saturday to £80, which says much for the town's prosperity at this season of the year.