

Football Notes and News.

By "Grasshopper."

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

LUTON v. SWINDON.

It was gratifying to see Luton score another victory on Saturday when they entertained Swindon in the Southern League tourney. It is a pity that the Town men are so late in the season in settling down to form, though if they only keep it up until April we shall make a very creditable finish. If, however, Luton have done so badly this season, it is not the fault of the players, who are all triers; but the mistake has been largely due to the selection of a centre-forward. That position, which is one of the most important in a team, has had some strange alterations, and at times has been filled by players of doubtful ability. Yet here we had Lamberton all the time, and as McEwen's judgment has proved to be correct, in him we possess a better centre than we have had for some time.

The conditions on Saturday were ideal, and as a result of Luton's sensational win against Fulham, I fancy there was an increased attendance; at any rate, there seemed to be more on the "terrace" than usual. The gate receipts were £70, compared with £72 for the Fulham match.

The teams were:—

Luton: Lindsay; Turner and McEwen; F. Hawkes, White and R. Hawkes; Eaton, Ross, Lamberton, Moody, and Barnes.

Swindon: Dixon; Erentz and Atterbury; Wolfe, Stringfellow and Logan; Bowell, Poppitt, Lean, Beadsworth, and Chalmers.

Referee, Mr. Fallowfield.

Last season the honours between both teams were about equally divided. At home, we defeated the Railway team 3-0, and away lost 1-0.

Lamberton kicked off towards the railway end, but the opening play was in Luton's territory. It was not long, however, before the homesters settled down to attack. The front line were showing some of their previous week's form, and were continually shooting when within range. Ross from a centre by Eaton sent over the bar.

From the kick Swindon pressed, but the ball went behind, and again play was transferred, and Barnes centred, but Dixon had no difficulty in averting danger. A pretty run by the visitors' left-wing ended in Chalmers putting in a beautiful centre, and Bowell, who was well up the field, had an easy task in beating Lindsay.

Then came a sensational incident. Lamberton took the ball down, Eaton centred and Barnes scored to the utter astonishment of the Swindon men who had scarcely recovered from their piece of success at the other end. It was, however, a splendid goal.

Luton were now playing with increased vigour, but I think they found the Swindon defence had improved. Shot after shot continued to be sent in, but the only result was a couple of fruitless corners.

Chalmers eventually got away, and this time successfully beat Turner. Swindon made a desperate attempt to gain the lead, but Luton's defence was able to withstand all assaults. Barnes brought relief, but his magnificent run on the wing finished weakly. Play continued fairly even, and it was a good open game.

Dixon committed a very serious blunder. The ball was sent in by Ross. The Swindon custodian easily stopped, but though he had ample time, for some reason or other he dropped the ball, and Barnes safely placed in the net through an open goal.

After this, Luton seemed to have rather the best of the game, and the railway goal had some narrow escapes. It was almost certain once that Ross or Lamberton would have scored, but one impeded the other, with the result that both failed. Dixon afterwards made a brilliant save from Ross, and half time arrived with—

Luton 2 goals, Swindon 1.

Resuming, Lamberton broke through the visitors' defence. A corner came to nothing, Barnes failing to place well. Swindon came down the field, and Luton were now playing so weakly that one expected to see a goal scored any moment. The visitors were persistent in their efforts, and over-powered the home defence. A scrimmage took place in front of the home goal, and Lindsay was extremely lucky in getting the ball away.

Luton, however, returned to the attack, and pressed vigorously. A corner fell to the lot of the home men. Barnes placed well, and Moody headed into the net. Swindon were now playing largely on the defensive, but another point

oon fell to Luton. Dixon again failed to clear
rom Lamberton, and Eaton easily put through.
The game ended—

Luton	4 goals.
Swindon	1 goal.

Although Luton were by far the better team,
yet I don't think the score accurately indicates
the play. However, Dixon was alone to blame.
I think he ought to have saved the first goal,
and the last as well. Swindon played a decent
game at times, and their defence was good, but
somehow the forwards were not aggressive
enough, and it looked as if they were a little
afraid of the Luton backs.

There was not a lazy man on the home side.
Barnes showed improved form, if anything, but
through an accident Lamberton was crippled
a part of the time. Ross was shooting admirably,
and Eaton thoroughly deserved the goal he
scored. Moody, too, played better than he has
done for some time. All the halves played a
good game, and the backs were always safe.

The following is the position of the Southern
League table :—

	P.	W.	L.	D.	For	Ag.	P.
Southampton	19..	12..	2..	5..	33..	18..	29
Bristol Rovers	18..	12..	2..	4..	38..	13..	28
Reading	17..	12..	3..	2..	34..	16..	26
New Brompton	20..	7..	6..	7..	30..	24..	21
Tottenham Hotspur..	19..	7..	6..	6..	29..	20..	20
Portsmouth	17..	9..	7..	1..	36..	33..	19
Northampton	17..	9..	7..	1..	25..	26..	19
Plymouth Argyle	18..	7..	8..	3..	28..	26..	17
Queen's Park Rangers	17..	7..	7..	3..	25..	28..	17
LUTON	20..	7..	10..	3..	27..	31..	17
West Ham United....	19..	5..	9..	5..	18..	21..	15
Fulham	17..	5..	7..	5..	12..	21..	15
Brighton and Hove A.	16..	5..	7..	4..	21..	17..	14
Brentford	17..	5..	8..	4..	17..	18..	14
Millwall	19..	5..	10..	4..	15..	28..	14
Watford	14..	5..	6..	3..	14..	14..	13
Swindon	19..	6..	12..	1..	22..	36..	13
Wellingborough	17..	4..	12..	1..	14..	48..	9