

TWO MORE LEAGUE POINTS.

SWINDON WELL BEATEN.

On Saturday we should have been at Manchester playing the United in the English Cup, but for Fulham. As the Luton club, long before the cup-ties were talked of, had left January 14 an open date with the mystic words "F.A. Cup" opposite it, and as we have disposed of this matter, another fixture had to be arranged. There is another club which has received disappointment in the cup struggle at the hands—or feet—of an amateur organisation called Green Waves, at Plymouth, and, needless to say, this club was Swindon.

It was therefore a meeting of disappointed teams which took place on the Bury Park ground on Saturday. In the Southern League, both Luton and Swindon have met with varying fortunes. The local club occupied a very lowly place, but recently they have risen in the scale, and though it is true they are two or more matches in hand, they occupy quite a respectable position.

It is rather curious to note how strong the clubs are in the Southern League after the first three. There are 14 clubs with between 13 and 21 points, one with 21, one with 20, two with 19, three with 17, three with 15, three with 14, and one with 13. Poor Wellingborough act as the buffer at the bottom of the table. The importance of even one point to any club is therefore exemplified.

The following were the teams:—

LUTON

Lindsay

Turner

McEwen

F. Hawkes

White

R. Hawkes

Eaton

Ross

Lamberton

Moody

Barnes

O

Chalmers

Badsworth

Lean

Poppitt

Bowell

Logan

Stringfellow

Wolfe

Attenbury

Erentz.

Dixon.

SWINDON.

Referee, Mr. C. C. Fallowfield.

The visitors won the toss, and Luton kicked off towards the railway end goal. Luton first attacked, this following a return by Turner, and in the ensuing play Ross placed a shot which just missed the post by inches only.

The visitors were pulled up for off-side, the referee giving a grand tootle on the whistle, which everybody could hear. Bowell forced the play to the Luton end twice, but though both attempts looked promising the ball was taken behind.

Bowell then scored for Swindon through a misunderstanding on the part of the Luton defence. The visitors got away on the left, and Chalmers placed in a fine centre, which Mac endeavoured to leave to Albert. Before they could accomplish this purpose Bowell rushed in and the ball was placed in the net.

The result, though unlooked for, was a complete surprise for the Luton men, but they set about the play with a will, and Eaton centered just as Chalmers had done and Barnes, who was well up, headed into the net and brought the scores equal.

Bob Hawkes was fouled shortly after this and the free kick led to an attack by Luton, which, however, was frustrated. Swindon were pulled up for a foul, and there were some injunctions to them to play the game. Luton continued to monopolise the play, but from a promising centre Moody was adjudged to be off-side.

Once more Luton pressed on the right, but the effort came to nothing. Moody was all but fouled in the penalty area, being brought down an inch on the wrong side of the line for the extreme penalty. Bert appeared to be quite clear, and it was just a little bit hard lines that he should have been brought down at this place.

Swindon forced the pace to the other end, but they were repulsed, and Bob Hawkes diddled an opponent and gave Barnes a first-class chance, which he accepted. Running down he was fouled by Erentz, but eluded the full force of the charge, and then shot for goal. Dixon made a poor repulse, and Barnes dribbled the ball into the net.

Barnes was accorded a flattering reception on his return to the grand-stand side of the ground, and he thoroughly deserved it. Lamberton soon got off the mark, and found himself in a splendid position in front of the goal, but the referee unkindly ruled him off-side.

Bowell again got an opportunity of proving his worth to the Swindon side, but Poppitt got too far ahead in his endeavour to score, and was ruled off-side. Ross placed in a ripping shot which Dixon could only tap over the bar, but the ensuing corner was cleared.

Swindon indulged in the luxury of a corner, which Mac kicked away, and the ball was quickly taken to the other end; but in the anxiety to shoot another goal Lamberton and Ross endeavoured to give the ball a double kick which, needless to say, did not come off.

Swindon were applauded for a fine piece of passing, which failed to materialise, Lean shooting wide of the goal. Eaton and Ross put in a nice passing run, and Eaton put in a shot which was cleared, but Lamberton sent the ball just by the post.

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Lamberton's leg gave way, but play had only to be stopped for a minute, though the Luton centre was evidently not in his previous form.

A little unpleasantness marked the play of the following few minutes. Wolfe kicked Moody and received a caution, and then White fell down, and one of the visitors kicked him when on the ground. Half-time:—

LUTON	...	...	...	...	2
SWINDON	...	...	...	...	1

Lindsay had to clear very soon after the start, and the ball was then carried into the vicinity of the Swindon goal. A corner was forced by Lamberton, Erren'z having to kick behind, but the ball was badly placed by Barnes.

A foul brought Luton up again, and the Swindon men had just a shade more of the game, and Mac had to kick out for safety. Poppitt had a good chance, but he placed wide of the upright. Lindsay had a hard tussle with a couple of the Swindon men, and came out of the fray with an injured head.

Luton appeared to have fallen off considerably, but a long pass by Turner sent Barnes on the run. The ball went out, and from the throw-in Fred White headed the ball forward, and as it went behind one of the Swindon men touched it and gave a corner.

This was well placed by Barnes, and Moody headed past the goalkeeper very neatly, thus adding the third point for Luton.

Another one of the visitors received a caution for a foul on Ross, who nearly scored a goal half a minute later, the ball taking the paint off the post.

Eaton added a goal from a fine run by Barnes, the latter giving the former an easy chance, the goalkeeper only just keeping the ball out of goal from Barnes's shot.

RESULT:

LUTON	...	...	...	...	4
SWINDON	...	...	...	...	1

NOTES ON THE GAME.

The following notes on the game are contributed by "Strawopolis":—

Early in the morning rain threatened, but fortunately the wind changed, and a bright ideal afternoon favoured us as we journeyed to the Dunstable-road enclosure. The only thing that caused the least discomfort to the spectators was the cold, and it was bitterly cold, too. Those supporters of the club on the stand that brought their rugs were very wise.

On the first day of the season Swindon gave Luton a beating by one goal to nil, and I remember McEwen saying Swindon gave him one of the toughest afternoon's work he had ever had. Swindon of late though have not been doing at all well, and they are figuring near the bottom of the table.

Everyone was delighted to see Lamberton and Moody reappear after their injuries of last week. At one time it was very doubtful, but by tenderly care Billy Lawson had brought them round pretty fit. Both teams were at full strength, except that Dixon, of the Reserves, played in goal in place of Hemmings, the usual custodian.

For a time play was not of a very bright order. Swindon made one or two clever runs, but they finished up rather tamely. The ground was slippery, and appeared to bother the players a bit.

A shot by Barnes was well saved by Dixon, and then the ball was taken to the other end. A slight misunderstanding appeared to take place between McEwen and Lindsay, and Bowell, the outside right, took advantage of it, and popped the ball past Lindsay.

It was a surprise to the spectators, but it caused the Luton players to be put on their mettle, and within a minute from a run down by the right wing and a centre by Eaton, Barnes headed the equalising goal very smartly. If I remember rightly this is Billy's first goal this season. It is not the actual scorer though that deserves all the credit as a rule.

Play afterwards levered up considerably, and we saw some good all-round work. Some very clever touches were made by Luton's left wing, and several times the visitors' defence was severely tested. Chiefly through the left wing the visitors made a few good runs. Chalmers, the old Watfordian, still retains his form.

Once Moody was badly tripped just outside the penalty area, and Bob put in a rasping shot, which Dixon saved smartly. A little later Moody, having beaten Erentz grandly through strategy, gave him a teaser, which Dixon only partially saved, and Billy dribbled it round very nicely, and scored a second goal for Luton amidst tremendous cheering.

Luton were playing with every confidence, and some wonderful cleverness was shown at times. Once the three inside went through grandly, and Ross put in a hot shot that Dixon tapped over the bar. The corner was fruitless, and so was one at the other end for Swindon, a series of mistakes being the cause of the corner kick.

The slippery state of the ground was bothering the players a lot, and once or twice Luton would have scored if they could have held their feet better. One brilliant shot by Eaton was deserving of success.

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Lamberton got hurt, and play had to be stopped for a moment. It was his knee again, but he refused to retire.

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After a foul against Swindon on White, Luton got down again, and Ross put in a long shot. Dixon saved it, but only at the second attempt. It was a very close thing for another goal.

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On restarting Lamberton nearly got through in the first half-minute, and directly afterwards followed suit. A corner to Luton was badly placed by Barnes, and then the Swindonians put in a couple of runs through Chalmers.

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A long shot by Swindon was well saved by Lindsay, and again he saved at close quarters. Swindon were certainly having the best of the play for a few minutes, and they forced a corner which Turner cleared. It took all the shouts of the Luton supporters to get the locals away from their own quarters, and then after forcing a corner, which was beautifully placed by Barnes, Moody headed a nice goal, Dixon trying in vain to save it.

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This third goal encouraged the spectators and put them on good terms with themselves, and play for a time was taken into the visitors' quarters.

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Luton played much better afterwards, and time after time showed far too much cleverness for the visitors, only to have the bad luck in just missing the posts with their shooting, one shot by Ross being particularly noticeable.

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For a time play became somewhat tamer. Both sides seemed to tire a bit in the mud, and only a few free kicks from fouls caused any incidents of note. Eventually Luton got away, and Lamberton was left with a clear opening, but he shot straight at the goalie, who ought to have saved, but he only half gathered the ball, and Eaton rushed up and scored Luton's fourth goal.