

The Southern League.

LUTON v. TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR.

Played at Tottenham on Saturday. Result:

Tottenham Hotspur	1 goal.
Luton	nil.

The following players turned out:—

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

Tottenham—Eggett; Watson and Tait; Morris, Ball, and McNaught; Berry, Chapman, Stansfield, O'Hagan, and Kirwan.

Referee, Mr. A. G. Hines (Nottingham).

Of course, paper form was all against Luton, but tradition held out hopes of a division of points. This time, however, although the exchanges quite warranted the usual result, the accident of goal-scoring went in favour of the "wagger side." It will be noticed Pritchard once more came into the team vice R. Hawkes, the latter having broken down when giving his injured ankle a trial run on the previous Thursday. Several changes will be observed in the Spurs' side; indeed, with the exception of the left wing, the forward rank had quite an unfamiliar appearance, while McNaught made one of his now rare appearances with the first eleven.

McEwen lost the toss, but there was really little to be gained on this score, and Luton were the first to force the play. Barnes bringing the ball down nicely on the left, slung across to Eaton, who promptly returned it to the centre of the goal-mouth. Moody attempted to reach the ball with his head, but Eggett made a dash and just succeeded in punching it away before Moody could quite accomplish his object. It was a daring save, and quite deserved the cheers of the home-spectators.

During the first quarter of an hour the game was very fast, the ball travelling from end to end in double quick time. The Irish International left wing were the usual pair to threaten danger so far as Tottenham were concerned, and gave Turner considerable anxiety, but he stuck well to his work, and generally caused one or the other to put the ball out of play. Following a place-kick for White handling near the half-way line, the Luton goal was put in danger, and it was some minutes before the defence could get the ball away. Time after time did the Spurs' halves or backs return the ball, and hereabouts, with the exception of Eggett, practically the whole of the players were in the Luton half.

Ultimately Eaton and Ross forced the game, but the latter's pass was a trifle hard, and Eaton could not prevent the ball travelling into touch just over the centre-line. But this movement relieved the pressure and the game was contested more in midfield. The referee stopped the play because of some injury to Stansfield's eye, and after trying his hand to remove the cause without effect, the Tottenham player left the field, but he quickly returned. In the meantime, however, Moody had forced a corner which gave Eggett a chance to exhibit his ability, for F. Hawkes, with a clever overhead kick, gave Ross an opportunity to test the Spurs' goalkeeper with a well-directed attempt, but the custodian proved equal to the occasion and punched the shot away.

Just as Stansfield returned, still another stoppage was caused through Chapman being injured in a collision with White, and he limped off the field for good. This happened after some twenty minutes' play; therefore for ever an hour the Spurs played with ten men only, but they did not alter the disposition of their defence, contenting themselves with four forwards. Almost immediately the only goal of the match was netted. The ball was shot in from the Tottenham right wing during a regular mix-up of the Luton defence, and Lindsay stopped the drive taking effect at the first attempt but failed to get it away, and with O'Hagan in close attendance had the misfortune to have it returned before he could recover from his original save. It was rather a lucky point, but it was sufficient to defeat Luton as events turned out.

Although the Spurs' attack was short-handed, they quite held their own up to the interval; indeed, so far as attacking was concerned they were good value for the goal lead. A few minutes before the interval, however, Lamberton, getting a chance about a dozen yards out, put in quite the best shot of the day, but unfortunately the ball struck the post. It was decidedly hard lines for Luton, as Eggett appeared well beaten, not expecting the shot. The two outstanding incidents following this spelt danger for Luton, but nothing came from either. First McBwen let in Stansfield, who got almost clear away, but Turner in some way blocked his progress and forced him to put the ball over the line instead of getting in a shot at goal. Then O'Hagan appeared likely to get through, but F. Hawkes fouled him just outside the penalty area, and the free kick was cleared.

On changing ends, Luton did much better; undoubtedly the extra exertion of playing one short had told upon the Tottenham attack, and thus the Luton defence was not so often troubled. Any way, Eggett was the first called upon, Ross putting up a nice cross attempt, but Eggett once more brought off a fine save. Still Luton kept up the pressure, but without quite engineering an opening. At length O'Hagan relieved the danger, and, taking the ball by Turner, who missed his kick, appeared likely to increase the score at Luton's expense, but Turner recovered in time and kicked into touch.

This was only a temporary change, and the game was once more principally in the Tottenham quarters. During this period a rather curious ruling of the referee gave Luton a free kick inside the penalty area. Eggett had been compelled to leave the goal to get at the ball, and he was scarcely able to hold it a yard or so wide of the post when Lamberton made a dash forward, but Watson brought him down, and naturally strong appeals were made for a penalty. For some reason, however, Mr. Hines awarded an ordinary free kick, and this the Spurs got away.

From a free centre by Eaton, the home goal was placed in danger, as Barnes ran through and met the ball, but Eggett just managed to

turn it aside at the expense of a corner. Immediately after this, Lamberton was once more badly fouled when putting in one of his characteristic dashes, but this time it was outside the fatal area. Turner, however, all but scored with a finely-directed place-kick, the ball striking the bar with a terrific bang. This state of affairs was not at all to the liking of the crowd, who could see Luton snatching points, and it was quite a relief to them when O'Hagan transferred operations, finishing up with a fine cross shot which struck the bar and travelled over to Berry, who tried Lindsay with a return drive. This was punched away in good style, and Bull finally put Luton's goal out of danger by shooting yards over the bar.

Stansfield and McEwen had a race for the ball, and the former just got across a dangerous centre, which Turner, in attempting to clear, headed behind. Before the finish Lamberton put in a couple of good drives, but Eggett was not to be beaten, and thus for the first time in four seasons the Spurs had the luxury of a Southern League victory over Luton, and that at a time when the latter could least spare it.

Taking the game as a whole, a draw would have been a fair result, for in the second half the Spurs were kept in their own half of the field for quite three-fourths of the time. Eggett had considerably more shots to stop than Lindsay, but he proved himself equal to all emergencies, although no doubt he was favoured with a fair amount of luck when the goal-post and bar were struck on the two occasions noted above. The forward work on both sides was by no means of the highest standard, the Spurs, who have usually a large share of attack even if goals fail to materialise, being very disappointing. But of course they have the excuse of being a player short, while with such an artist as Woodward absent, the combination was bound to suffer.

Bull was undoubtedly the outstanding figure of the game, and it was often wonderful how he got to the ball, for he never appeared to exert himself, but he was always on the spot when wanted. McNaught is not yet a spent force, although he gets so few opportunities now. So far as general forward work was concerned, the Luton attack was quite equal to their more famous opponents, but the old fault of weakness in front of goal was once more in evidence, the two extreme wingers being, as a rule, the more dangerous members of the quintette. Neither Moody nor Ross was quite up to his best form. In defence, Turner and McEwen were seen to most advantage, and although once or twice the latter was beaten in a race for the ball he generally came to the top in tackling his opponents. The half-backs played a good game without being brilliant, for after the first "twenty" the Spurs' attack were never able to monopolise the play for any length of time.

Unfortunately for Luton, Swindon did remarkably well on Saturday, making a draw at Millwall. As a matter of fact, Swindon were the better team and deserved to win. They are now two points ahead of Luton, but have played one more match.

The following is the League table up to date:

	Goals.						
	Pld.	Wn.	Dr.	Lt.	For.	Agst.	P.
Bristol Rovers	27	17	6	4	58	27	40
Southampton	26	15	6	5	45	30	36
Reading	26	15	4	7	48	29	34
Tottenham Hotspur.....	27	12	8	7	44	25	34
Brighton and Hove.....	28	12	6	10	39	30	30
Portsmouth	27	13	3	11	51	47	29
Plymouth Argyle.....	27	12	5	10	42	33	29
Northampton.....	27	11	6	10	39	41	28
New Brompton.....	30	9	11	10	37	34	29
Fulham	26	9	9	8	35	28	27
Queen's Park Rangers...	27	9	7	11	37	40	25
Millwall	29	9	7	13	37	40	25
Brentford	28	9	8	11	31	30	26
West Ham United	28	9	6	13	34	36	24
Watford	25	10	3	12	29	32	23
Swindon	29	9	5	15	34	52	23
Luton	28	9	3	16	35	47	21
Wellingborough	27	5	1	21	23	87	11

On Saturday next Luton will be at home to Brighton, and their only chance of escaping the "bottom two" is to win this match. Brighton, however, are a pretty formidable side, being fifth on the League table, and though Luton effected a draw at the seaside town, they will need to be at their very best to annex both points on Saturday. I do hope the forwards will put a little more spirit into their play than has been the case in the last two or three games, for the issue depends upon them.

I hope also the spectators will behave themselves a little better than they have been doing recently. Let them make as much noise as they like; the more, perhaps, the better; but for the credit of the Club and the town, I beg of them to abstain from insulting remarks either towards officials or players. In these critical times, the bad impressions of visitors may do the Club irreparable harm, inasmuch as we may be depending upon those visitors for the maintenance of our position in the League.

The Celtic F.C. and about 1000