

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

LUTON v. PLYMOUTH ARGYLE.

THE FIRST GAME ENDS IN A DRAW.

Though this was the first match of the season at Luton, I am afraid we shall not have the pleasure of witnessing many games for the next eight months of the standard of Monday's, when Luton made their debut at home. While the Lutonians had lost their first encounter, the Argyle had the satisfaction of winning theirs at Plymouth.

The teams took the field under ideal conditions and before a crowd of, say, about 6,000. This is the sort of gate we want, and we can be perfectly certain of one thing—that if our team will only maintain Monday's form, these are the kind of gates we shall have.

It was rumoured that Blackitt had received an injury at Watford that would prevent him playing in this match, and we were naturally much relieved to see our best back take the field with the other ten men.

Platt (the late Liverpool custodian) did duty for the first time for Luton, F. Hawkes again took his place at right half, with White in the centre and the quintette which we hope to do duty for us right up to the end of April, took their place in the vanguard.

The following represented Plymouth:—Sutcliffe; Saul and A. Clark; Leech, C. Clark, and Mortimer; Briercliffe, Buck, Willcox, Buchanan and Corrin.

Mr. A. Green, of West Bromwich, had charge of the whistle.

From beginning to end it was a grand game, and very fast withal. Indeed play opened so fast and the ball changed its venue so rapidly that everybody could well imagine the pace would not be kept until the end—especially in the month of September.

It was a game in which the defence showed up in marked contrast to that generally witnessed on the old Bury Park ground; and who could blame the critics for drawing satisfaction from the fact that our backs are apparently all that could be desired.

It was a treat to see Blackett play—so cool, calm, and collected — and never once was beaten, either. Though McCurdy was not so strong as his colleague, he defended with sound judgment. And Platt. In the Liverpool man, we have, I think, a goalkeeper second to none in the South. The two marvellous saves which he brought off on Monday gave the crowd some idea of what he can do. Sutcliffe, at the opposite end, also achieved a fine performance.

Our halves played fairly. F. Hawkes was of course, not up to form, as an injury received on Saturday handicapped him considerably. White did what he always does—his best. The Cap'n was, as usual, "in the thick of it."

The forwards seem at present to be a little stiff; they had not the passing "swing" which characterised the play of the other side. Gallacher played a good game, but Brown and Barnes also were carefully watched.

It is not worth while going into details. A draw of no score, I am quite certain, met with the approval of the spectators as a whole. Though naturally we should all have been delighted to have seen Luton romp home victorious, one could not help recognising the magnificent game which the visitors played. Being slightly a heavier team, in one sense the Argyle had the advantage, if there was any; and although Luton were deserving of a goal in the first half, so were the visitors in the second, when for the last quarter of an hour they pressed repeatedly, and I am afraid our men were getting rather worn down. To sum up the game in a sentence, it was a struggle in which dogged tenacity preponderated on both sides.

There was a certain amount of "green" about Monday's match. The ground was opened by Mr. J. W. Green; the same Mr. Green kicked off; the Secretary of the Town F.C. (Mr. C. Green) was in evidence during the ceremony; it was a Mr. A. Green who refereed; and, to crown all, the visitors wore their famous "green" shirts.