

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

LUTON v. SWINDON.

Played at Swindon on Saturday. Result:—

LUTON	...	...	...	...	1 goal.
SWINDON	...	...	...	...	1 goal.

The teams were as under:—

LUTON:

Platt

Blackett

McCurdy

F. Hawkes

White

R. Hawkes

Warner McDonald Brown Pickering Barnes

O

Chalmers Monks Lyon F. Wheatcroft Dean

Oakden

Hindle

Potter

Atterbury

Gill

Ling

SWINDON.

Referee: Mr. A. Green, West Bromwich.

Luton won the toss and Lyon kicked off before 4,000 spectators. Warner and MacDonald were first noticeable with some tricky work the former being almost clear and in a good position for shooting, but unfortunately the ball struck Atterbury who had raced back and the Swindon defender transferred up the field. A minute later Lyon forced the game in midfield and giving Dean a judicious pass McCurdy was compelled to kick out to relieve the situation. But Swindon were not easily disposed of and kept the ball at Platt's end for a moment or so giving considerable anxiety to the Luton defence, but eventually, Blackett made a clearance with a fine kick.

First corner fell to Swindon, McCurdy not being able to clear otherwise, a centre from Dean but this was easily got rid of and Pickering came through in fine style putting the ball across to Warner but the latter's shot was too high and passed out well over the bar. Barnes hereabouts forced a corner from a nice pass from Brown while Macdonald tried Ling with a nice attempt following a clever punt up from F. Hawkes. This was the best movements up to this point and almost deserved to score but Ling was equal to the emergency, saving in thorough workmanlike manner.

Although exchanges were pretty fast neither string of forwards seemed able to settle down and individual rushes were the strong feature of the play practically the whole first half. Chalmers attempted several times to get through but Blackett held him finely and Platt was seldom seriously troubled. From a mis-kick by Atterbury it appeared likely Barnes would be able to open the score but he failed to gather the ball properly, and thus a good chance was lost.

At the opposite goal Lyon put in a surprise shot which almost went in the corner of the net. Although both teams were playing pretty, vigorous football, little dirty play was observed during the opening 20 minutes. Certainly the worst foul up to this time being when Pickering was brought down just outside the penalty area. Bob Hawkes took the place kick and put in a hard drive to Ling, but the Swindon goalie saved in good style. Luton put up a series of attacks chiefly through centres put across from Warner, and on one occasion after Luton's outside right had kicked, Atterbury in a clever manner, only by fouling Brown, was the Swindon defence able to prevent an almost certain goal.

Nearly half-time a dropping centre from Warner almost did the trick, for just as everyone, Ling included, judged it was passing well over, the ball struck the bar in the extreme corner and rebounded into play. Ling was nearest, and just managed to gather the ball and kick away. If either of the Luton forwards had been there is no doubt a goal must have been scored. During some further attacks Pickering received a knock on the knee, and after limping about for a minute or two he ultimately retired for proper treatment by the trainer, and did not appear until after the interval. Chalmers succeeded in getting through on one occasion, and wound up with a centre which came across Wheatcroft who was standing clear a few yards out, and the latter promptly banged the ball into the net. But the referee disallowed the goal as offside, a decision which the crowd, on the whole, agreed with, although there were naturally a few who shouted for a goal.

Coming again Chalmers got in another centre which looked rather dangerous, but Wheatcroft fouled Platt, and a free-kick for Luton was the only result. Three minutes before the interval Dean put across a centre from the opposite wing, but Monks, who received it, was offside, and nothing of any particular note happened until the teams retired at half-time with a quite even sheet.

...sheet.
...early in the second half "Bob" Hawkes
...a beautiful goal after Ling had saved a
...from Pickering. The ball went over the
...of a bunch of players right in the goal
...but neither could get it, while Ling had
...got back into position from his original
...For some minutes after this Luton were
...masters of the situation, so far as press-
...was concerned, but the home defence held
...nice passing movement by Barnes and
...ended up with a grand attempt by
...who only missed finding the net by
...While another spell of attack from the
...pair was fated to finish up with Pickering
...onto the outside of the net. The game
...stopped through Hindle getting badly
...but after returning to the touch-line for
...minutes, he came back to his place appar-
...little the worse for the accident.
...tried hard to increase their lead, recog-
...the fact a single goal was scarcely suffi-
...but Atterbury and Gill were a pair of
...born defenders, while Oakden was none too
...pulous in his attentions to Brown. Still.
...times the Lutonian forwards threatened
...Barnes especially getting through in
...style. Two or three corners were forced,
...they were not improved upon, and the game
...ually veered round in favour of Swindon.
...ring the final quarter-of-an-hour the home
...ers were seen to greater advantage than at
...other period, and the crowd did not forget
...encourage them. Indeed, they kept up a
...tinuous roar during a long spell of attack.
...saved his charge more than once by throw-
...away, but the ball was kept well in his
...ity; and Pickering, standing outside the
...on half, was given offside when he took
...ball from a relief kick. Still, the goal did not
...until 10 minutes before the finish, and
...it was scarcely a satisfactory one, being the
...of the referee awarding a penalty-kick.
...the incident occurred during a regular melee
...Platt, but at the actual moment of the
...ed offence Luton's goalkeeper had got the
...out of danger. Two or three players were
...rently in a heap upon the ground near the
...line, and it was certainly impossible to see
...the opposite side of the field exactly what
...taking place. Anyway, a penalty-kick was
...ded to Swindon, it being understood Mc-
...ly was the sinner, but what he did no one
...state. Dean was entrusted with the kick,
...he drove the ball well home, giving Platt
...the slightest chance.
...courage by this somewhat unexpected suc-
...the Railwaymen kept the Luton defence
...up to their work, Lyon being fouled by
...amid cries of "Play the game, Luton!"
...although the home players put in all they
...they could not again break down the stub-
...defence of Blackett and McCurdy.
...time drew near the Luton forwards again
...up the attack, and it caused the spectators
...ing out their watches and count the min-
...because of fear that even yet both points
...be lost. The Swindon players treated
...opponents rather badly at this stage, first
...ring and then Warner being fouled badly
...practically through, but the free-kicks
...not improved upon. Just on time a com-
...run by Barnes and Pickering ended up in
...ner to Luton, but no luck attended this,
...with the home players content to divide the
...the end came with result at the head of
...report.
...the players left the field the spectators
...ed wildly, evidently being well-satisfied
...the turn of events. Not so, however, were
...Luton players, who were very sore regard-
...the award of the penalty, and were by no
...as quiet in expressing their opinion. The
...could not be classed as a good one, but
...for the few minutes when the Swindon
...were awarded the penalty-kick Luton were
...the better team. Platt had little to do,
...what he was called upon to tackle he got rid
...good style. While Blackett and McCurdy
...ed themselves a fine pair of backs, the for-
...never allowed Chalmers to get so dangerous
...has done at times in past seasons.
...half-back line were all in good form, and
...could be difficult to judge who was the most
...ive member of this division. As to the
...ids, the only fault that could be found

with them was they did not make full use of their opportunities. Barnes and Pickering were, probably, the more often dangerous as a pair, still, their comrades were each conspicuous on occasions, but as a rule were more individual in their efforts.

Ling kept well for Swindon; indeed, their defence as a whole was entitled to a certain amount of credit for the manner they held what has proved itself the most dangerous attack in the League. But their methods at times were not to be commended, as several of the Lutonians can testify. Dean and Wheatcroft were the better wing, and Lyon worked hard in the centre, but Chalmers is not the player of last season judging by Saturday's display.

The writer of the Swindon notes in a contemporary explains the reason the penalty was given against Luton. He says that McCurdy held Wheatcroft. The same writer says that Bob Hawkes was the best player on the field, and that his goal was a beauty and gave Ling no chance whatever. He also says:—"We had nothing to complain about in the matter of the refereeing. I should think not! Luton had though!"

"Millwallian" writes:—Next Saturday Millwall go to Luton, and many have the tussles been between the two teams. Luton and Millwall used to be one of the tit-bits of the season, and is always an attractive match now. Is the Lion going to wag his tail and come home with one or two of the "straw hats" so plentiful in the town? We shall see. It is a big job anyhow.

"The Candid Critic" writes:—We have a wonderful revival in the fortunes of the Luton Club, which should send up the gates of the Strawplaiters to something never yet heard of. Success is a mighty lever, and from second place at the bottom we find them jumping up to second place from the top—surely a startling and brilliant achievement. Their record will indeed bear looking at. Only once in the nine games they have played have they failed to get at least one point. A glance at their team shows, too, that they have only employed a dozen players.

The other teams at the top of the League, however, did not carry all before them, and Luton are now bracketed with Fulham at the head of the competition—quite a welcome change from last season. Already 6 points have been obtained in away matches, being two more than the whole of the seventeen games yielded last season.