

SOUTHERN LEAGUE --DIV. I.

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LUTON DROP POINTS AT TOTTENHAM.

Last Year's Result.—'Spurs, 1; Luton, 0.

Few matches in the Southern League this season have aroused so much interest or been so eagerly discussed as that between the 'Spurs and Luton, played at Tottenham on Saturday. Both teams had fared so well in the race for honours up to Saturday, that visions of the championship were entertained in the respective camps. As was anticipated, a great crowd, numbering probably 20,000 persons, witnessed the match, which ended in favour of the North Londoners by a goal to nil. One could not but feel a certain amount of sympathy for the Strawplaiters, who, after keeping their opponents at bay for eighty-five minutes out of the ninety, had the fruits of their hard struggle wrested from them in the few remaining minutes. The goal came from a corner-kick, taken by Murray, V. J. Woodward putting the ball past Platt. The 'Spurs, it is true, did the major part of the pressing, but the forwards were not good enough to get the better of the Luton defence until near the close. Woodward made his first appearance for Tottenham since he returned from his pilgrimage, taking up the centre forward position (in the second half he went inside right). Although generally well marked, he frequently got his forwards going, displaying the masterly conception of the game which has gained him so many admirers, but the Tottenham quintet, although at times their footwork was pretty, were certainly not seen at their best. In large measure this must be attributed to the Luton halves, who hung on to their men like leeches. Bobby Hawkes was always in the thick of the fray, and his brother Fred did great deeds at right half. While according the Strawplaiters' intermediate trio their meed of praise for their determined defence, it cannot be said that they successfully combined the duties of breaking up the opposing attack and supplying their own forwards with the ball. Bob Hawkes was the only one to feed the men in front of him with anything approaching accuracy, and even he frequently placed the ball on the toes of the Tottenham backs. Luton were well served in the rear division. Joseph Blackett was always to the fore, and his partner, McCurdy (albeit his display was marred by the giving away of a penalty, which Tait missed), played a good game against his old club. Platt, in goal, brought off some fine saves, although the 'Spurs' weakness in shooting made his task lighter than it would otherwise have been. As in the case of Luton, the best feature of the 'Spurs' play was their defence. The halves were in great form, and Hughes has probably not given a better exhibition in his career than that of Saturday. Bull was quite equal to the task of holding Brown, and the visitors' fast front line found progress very difficult. Watson and Tait were unbeatable at back, the former being especially effective, and Eggett had comparatively little to do. The most troublesome shot with which he had to deal was probably one of R. Hawkes' "pots," which Eggett saved by throwing himself at the ball.

Tottenham Hotspur.—Eggett; Watson and Tait; Morris, Bull, and Hughes; Walton, Kyle, V. J. Woodward, Glen, and Murray.

Luton.—Platt; Blackett and McCurdy; F. Hawkes, White, and R. Hawkes; Warner, McDonald, Brown, Pickering, and Barnes.

Referee, Mr F. Bye.