

FOOTBALL.

LUTON V. SOUTHAMPTON.

UNFORTUNATE DECISION ROBS LUTON OF ONE POINT.

Played at Southampton on Saturday. Result:

SOUTHAMPTON 2 GOALS.

LUTON 1 GOAL

LUTON.

Platt

Blackett

McCurdy

F. Hawkes White R. Hawkes

Gallacher McDonald Brown E. Dobson Barnes.

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Mouncer Brown Harrison Hedley Tomlinson

Meston Hogg Lee

Hartshorne Clark

Clawley

SOUTHAMPTON.

Referee, Mr. H. Smith (Boston.)

From the manner the home players started it appeared Luton were in for the severest hiding of the present season, for their forwards were continually threatening to bring about the downfall of Platt's charge, and but for the steadiness of Luton's defence at this stage their goal record would have received a severe blow. The opening movement of the game saw Harrison get the ball well out on the left to Mouncer, who forced a corner off Blackett. This was well-placed, and for a moment or two matters looked ominous. The ball went out to Hogg, and he took a flying shot, which Fred Hawkes did well to stop with a relief kick which placed the ball well up the field.

For a change Barnes managed to get away with the ball, and putting across a well-judged centre, caused Clawley to rush out in order to prevent Macdonald getting in a shot. It was a daring move, for it was a close thing as to which of the two would get to the ball first, but fortune favoured the brave, and Clawley earned the applause of the crowd by bringing off a sensational save. This, however, was merely a temporary alteration, for the "Saints" forwards were quickly down at the opposite goal, and Mouncer tested Platt with a good shot following a spell of rather severe pressure. This was got away in good style, but an even better piece of work must be placed to Platt's credit when Mouncer was allowed to put the ball across when he was obviously several yards off-side. Platt appealed strongly, but the referee would pay no heed, and both Hedley and Tomlinson put in well-judged attempts which Platt, although claiming for the infringement, had the judgment to stop, one save being really brilliant for the ball came at a most difficult angle.

Still, it could not be expected such pressure could go without some tangible reward, and less than ten minutes from the start saw the home side one up. It was rather a simple-looking goal when it did come, and was certainly rather fortunate, for Brown appeared to get the ball from one of the Luton defenders while standing unmarked. However, he made good use of it, and beat Platt with a swift cross shot which went into the goal well out of the goalkeeper's reach.

Hereabouts Luton had a lucky experience, for a fine pass from Harrison to Tomlinson terminated in the ex-Chesterfield man dropping in one of his many dangerous centres, and no less than three shots were put right into the Luton goal. One shot from either Mouncer or Brown looked a certain goal, but it struck the cross-bar and rebounded into play, Platt bringing off a save from the return attempt in great style. Barnes and Dobson made a pretty run down the wing, but the former's centre was not taken advantage of by Gallacher, although it must be confessed the ball came rather awkwardly. Luton were midway through the first half before they really settled down to any sustained attacking work, but from this point to the interval they more than held their own. One glorious chance came to Brown with no one but Clawley to beat, but the Saints' goalkeeper managed to bring off a brilliant save, and although Gallacher put in a hot return shot, the ball hit someone and danger was averted. It was a lucky escape for Southampton and hard luck for Luton.

But the equaliser was not far off, for Dobson cleverly worked the ball through the home defence and placed it nicely for Macdonald to rush through. He was tackled by Clarke, but he shook off his rather close attentions and enticed Clawley out, but he could not prevent Macdonald opening the score for his side. There was still some ten minutes to the interval, but both teams appeared content to mark time, and no further scoring took place.

In the first minute of the second half Dobson made a dash through with the ball, but no one was far enough up to improve the occasion, and it was easily got away. At the opposite end a rush was made which looked rather dangerous for Luton, but Platt held the fort in good style. He was badly kicked by Brown while making a daring save, and the game was stopped for two or three minutes, but he did not leave the field, although the trainer was called upon to administer certain remedies which the crowd took for something stronger than water.

After a quarter-of-an-hour's play in the

After a quarter-of-an-hour's play in the second half Hedley managed to get the ball by Platt, but no score resulted on account of off-side. Five minutes later a rather ticklish customer was put in by Hogg along the ground, but Platt managed to dispose of this cleverly just a foot or so from the upright. There was only about sixteen minutes to go when a great misfortune befel Luton. Two corners were forced by Southampton, and from the second what the referee judged to be a goal resulted. As a matter of fact, the ball was put over the line, but it swerved back into play just in front of goal. The Southampton players made a determined rush, and Platt was quite prevented from getting to the ball, being bundled into the net before he could reach it. But to the delight of the spectators the score was allowed, and as this meant losing the match to Luton it was decidedly hard lines, for the defence had played magnificent football and fully deserved to share the points.

Although disheartened by this unfortunate decision Luton continued to play up, and forced three corners in succession without any such luck falling to their share. Again Bob Hawkes was making one of his characteristic rushes when he was bowled over just outside the penalty area. He took the resulting place-kick, but the home players lined up, and the ball rebounded off one of them well down the field. No further scoring was done, although once Meston managed to beat Platt with a long shot, but the whistle had gone for a foul by one of his own side just previously.

After the first twenty minutes Luton quite held their own, for if the Southampton forward line were the better attacking brigade, so well did the Luton defence stand to their guns matters were quite balanced thereby. Naturally, the changes made in the Luton vanguard did not tend to improve the combination, whatever other advantages could be claimed for it. Dobson, for one, did not appear quite at home for a start, but he improved as the game progressed, and quite justified his trial by the manner he worked up to the goal. Gallacher did many good things, but once or twice was rather slow in getting off the mark.

The Southern League table now stands:—

—Goals—									
	Pld.	Won	Lost	Drn.	For	Agst.	Pts.		
Fulham	...16	... 9	... 1	... 6	...21	... 8	...24		
Tottenham Hotspur	14	... 9	... 3	... 2	...24	... 9	...20		
Southampton	...15	... 8	... 3	... 4	...24	...18	...20		
Plymouth Argyle	...15	... 8	... 4	... 3	...22	...13	...19		
Portsmouth...	...15	... 6	... 3	... 6	...27	...15	...18		
Bristol Rovers	...16	... 8	... 6	... 2	...32	...22	...18		
LUTON	...14	... 6	... 4	... 4	...29	...18	...16		
Brentford	...15	... 6	... 5	... 4	...15	...16	...16		
Millwall	...16	... 5	... 6	... 5	...21	...21	...15		
Norwich City	...14	... 5	... 5	... 4	...19	...16	...14		
Reading	...15	... 5	... 6	... 4	...18	...19	...14		
Queen's P'k Rangers	16	... 6	... 8	... 2	...28	...24	...14		
West Ham	...16	... 6	...10	... 0	...16	...19	...12		
Northampton	...14	... 5	... 8	... 1	...12	...32	...11		
Watford	...14	... 3	... 7	... 4	...17	...25	...10		
Swindon	...14	... 3	... 7	... 4	...12	...29	...10		
New Brompton	...15	... 2	... 8	... 5	...10	...36	... 8		
Brighton	...14	... 3	... 9	... 2	...10	...25	... 6		

The complete results of Saturday's match