

FOOTBALL NOTES AND NEWS.

By "Grasshopper."

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

LUTON v. SWINDON.

Luton visited the Railway town on Saturday, and not only failed to bring a point home with them, but actually left both points behind. However, it must be regarded as a fair performance if a team succeeds in making a draw on foreign soil, and another fact to be considered is that Swindon were never such a strong team as they are this season.

All the same, a beating by 4 goals to love requires a deal of explaining. Some say the fault lies with the front line, and true, the forwards did not shine on Saturday. But, then, there was another "chop," Pickering being dropped in preference to Gittins. Brown was again fit and well, and once more took the centre position.

At the start the locals were favoured with the breeze, and soon gave evidence of some really dashing play. Luton had a good opportunity, which Schofield spoiled by getting offside, but still the visitors played on the offensive. R. Hawkes shot a "beauty" from a free, but the home custodian rose to the occasion, and effected a fine save.

After 20 minutes' play, Wardrope broke through, and succeeded in opening the scoring for the homesters. After this some doubt was felt at a decision of the referee (Mr. Ibbotson) in regard to Barnes being seized by the Swindon goalkeeper just as he was about to shoot. Luton appealed for a penalty, but it was not awarded. The visitors, however, began to play much better, and the home side were lucky more than once in keeping them out. Then McCurdy mis-kicked, and Murphy easily beat Platt.

With this reverse, Luton's chances had passed. The homesters, taking advantage of the situation, plied Platt with a number of shots, Birkes scoring in front of an open goal. Failing to clear a corner, the visiting custodian had once more to acknowledge defeat to Birkes. For 15 minutes while one of the home men were off the field hurt, the visitors did all the attacking, but they never looked like goal-getters.

No, the blame for Saturday's reverse does not rest with the forwards. The defence was not strong, and scarcely ever sure. Platt might have saved the flag-kick, but he could not be blamed for at least two of the goals.

Result: Swindon 4 goals; Luton nil.