

FOOTBALL.

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

LEYTON v. LUTON.

THE TOWN'S TERRIBLE TROUNCING.

Another disaster to add to the long list this season! Playing Leyton on the latter's ground in the Southern League on Saturday, Luton were badly beaten by 5—0. The Town therefore qualify to retain the wooden spoon, and this they look like retaining for a little while as Portsmouth, the second team from the bottom, are two points ahead and Leyton, the next club, have three points more.

It is difficult to blame anyone in particular for Luton's defeat, but the fact that the team lacked the services of Hogg, Jones, Pearson and Rankin made a lot of difference. A Eling was given a trial in the forward line and without doing anything noticeably good was quite as good as any of the others in the front string. But the team played like so many separated units and the lively Leyton forwards gave the visiting backs a rare hustling. Brown's re-inclusion at centre forward, failed to put spirit into the attack and he was very slow, while the score indicates how the defence stood the onslaughts of the homesters. There was a crowd of between 2,000 and 3,000 spectators. The teams were in charge of Q.M.S. Rowley, and were constituted as follow:—

LEYTON:—Skiller; Meredith and Ramsay; Cresser, Moles and Clark; Kingaby, Wood. Busby, Silor and Walker.

LUTON:—Platt; Dimmock and McCurdy; F. Hawkers, White and R. Hawkes; Rigate, A. Eling, Brown, Moody, and Walders.

Bob Hawkes lost the spin of the coin, as usual, and Sandy Brown set the ball rolling. Luton were quickly on the move, but Ramsay cleared, when little Jack Eling was dashing in. Meredith twice drove Luton back and McCurdy then put paid to the account of the home left wing. For the first few minutes play was uninteresting, but McCurdy cleared from Busby. The Leyton centre was given his chance from Walker, but headed well over the bar.

Ramsay set his forwards on the move again and McCurdy was in difficulties with Wood when Platt dashed out and kicked the ball into touch. Silor then threw away a good chance by kicking wildly and aimlessly. "Keep it up, Leyton," rang out an encouraging voice from the crowd and indeed the Londoners had been having the better of the opening exchanges. Brown got close in and Ramsay miskicked when trying to clear.

Fred Hawkes went close to scoring with a long dropping shot. The home forwards quickly carried the ball to the other end from the goal-kick and Wood had as good a chance from a centre by Walker that he could expect, but unsteadily shot behind.

Luton got dangerous with a sprint up the left wing until Walders centred the wrong side of the line. Leyton dashed off, passed the backs and drew Platt out of goal. While he was absent Bob Hawkes dashed in to prevent his colours from being lowered and in his anxiety gave away a corner that was rendered fruitless to the home side by a foul.

Dimmock, in a moment of pressure, was forced to pass back to Platt, who had to clear in a hurry. Wood got the better of the visiting left back just afterwards and tried a lengthy shot that gave the goal-keepers difficulty. McCurdy miskicked and the failing to pay the socs shrdlo shrdlhmhmhmhmhm Leyton forwards clustered in the goal mouth. One shot was stopped more by luck than judgment, but Wood found the net with a hard kick. This occurred fifteen minutes from the start. The Leyton forwards came down again in a line and Wood scored a second goal only two minutes after the first smartly.

The Londoners were keeping the Strawhatters backs very busy and Platt was called upon again to run out and relieve. Luton set up an attack more likely to succeed than any which had preceded it, but the leather passed over the line. Bob Hawkes stopped Busby's career and was prominent again a moment later. From him the visitors got in the vicinity of the home goal, and after a deal of manoeuvring Rigate passed to Moody, but the whistle immediately sounded for offside. Skiller then did well to save a shot from Brown for an abortive corner.

Bob Hawkes attempted to set in motion a promising movement but Walders' middle went astray. Platt's hands came into play again when the home right wing had deceived Dimmock. Meredith miskicked the ball on to Moody who harassed him into conceding a corner that proved resultless. Ramsay then headed out a centre from the foot of Moody but Luton refused to be driven back. A free kick, taken by Fred Hawkes, close in almost spelt success for the Town, Eling heading over the horizontal bar. Leyton had by this time worn themselves out and the crowd endeavoured to encourage them to renew their early efforts which had resulted so successfully, but Luton had the better of matters at this stage and Eling should have scored easily from a centre by Walders, but ballooned the ball.

Platt dealt cleverly with a long shot by Moles and the Strawhatters resumed the aggressive, their attack lasting until McCurdy sent behind. Moody proved himself a very hot handful for both Meredith and Ramsay, and went within an inch of bundling Skiller into the net with the ball in his arms. Dimmock headed out a centre by Kingaby but Busby returned and Platt brought off a fine save. At the other end Skiller negotiated well an unexpected attempt from Moody. Two successive corners were forced off Leyton, the second of which placed by Walders, almost resulted in the downfall of the London side's colours. A centre from Walders was too fast to be converted by Eling, who was excellently placed and the ball passed on to Rigate, who weavily allowed the ball to go behind. The interval found Leyton ahead by 2-0.

Luton set off with a dash in the second half and Moody twice kicked the ball the wrong side of the post. Within three minutes from the resumption Busby got past the backs and beat Platt with a neat shot. Leyton quickly returned and after Dimmock had headed the ball out Platt had to kick away. Busby only just missed the post with a fine header immediately afterwards. Luton were in difficulties again. There was an appeal for hands against one of the visitors in the penalty area, but the referee refused to allow it.

Skiller...

Skiller brought off a good save from Moody who had just been given offside. Clark was injured and required the services of the trainer. He had to leave the field for a while and was assisted off. Kingaby was a thorn in the side of Dimmock and now got in a shot that Platt kicked out with Wood in close attendance. Luton made an excursion to the other end, where Rigate placed a centre on the top of the net.

Fifteen minutes from half-time Leyton scored again, Wood obtaining his third point through a centre from the left. Dimmock was watching him closely and brought him to the ground just as he shot, but Platt was well beaten, and the score now stood at 4-0 in favour of the home-sters.

Kingaby found himself with a fine chance, but surprised everyone by banging wildly behind. Skiller did cleverly in saving a hot one from Walders. At the other end Platt accomplished an even better performance in dealing with a flying shot from Wood that was just passing under the bar. A free kick for handling was taken by Bob Hawkes who kicked past the posts.

The Leyton forwards were playing with any amount of spirit and had a good idea of the whereabouts of the goal posts so that it was difficult for the few visiting spectators from Luton to understand the reason for their lowly position in the Southern League table.

Fred White fouled Wood badly as he was making tracks for goal but just outside the penalty area. The fifth goal fell to Leyton about ten minutes from the finish. The forwards sprinted up in irresistible fashion and Busby, receiving from Wood, ran through and scored in a fashion that left Platt no chance. Rigate got in a ground shot from the wing which Skiller saved in none too certain a style. Another good attempt from Moody missed the post by an inch. In the opposite half a try by Clark had a similar fate. Five minutes from the final whistle Eling was injured and was carried off the field, but pluckily returned in a minute or two. Brown looked like going through all alone but shot weakly wide of the mark. Skiller brought off a very fine save from a corner, and the poor game came to a conclusion with Leyton winners by 5-0.