

Southend Succumb.

LUTONS STRONG END.

Bright Forward Play.

A TWO HOURS MATCH.

Town Play Extra Time.

SEASONS BEST VICTORY.

Played at Southend on Wednesday. The teams and officials were as under:—

Southend:—Cotton; Thomson, Molyneux; Harrod, Owen, Blott; Birnie, Frost, Ronaldson, Wright, and Jack.

Luton:—Platt; McCurdy, Gregory; F. Hawkes, Jones, R. M. Hawkes; Brown, Haycock, Bradley, Moody, and Stansfield.

Referee, Mr R. Beckley, Chesham

Linesmen, Mr. G. A. Newbury (Watford), and Mr J. W. Bulley (Tuffnell Park).

It was doubtful right up to the moment of the kick-off if Brown would be able to play, but he decided to try his ankle during the preliminary kick about, and if not fit then Johnson was ready to take the field. When the teams lined up Southend were exactly as Saturday.

Luton were a goal up within two minutes, R. Hawkes being fouled just outside the penalty area, and Moody scored with a long cross shot from a rebound from the place kick. Following this success Luton forwards played some of the prettiest football it is possible to imagine, and quite monopolised the play, but did not push home their advantage in this particular. One of the best attempts was put in by Bradley off a centre by Brown, who was making rings round Molyneux.

In saving Cotton fell, but managed to get the ball away for a corner. Just later F. Hawkes put over a beauty, which would undoubtedly have netted on a level pitch, but the fall into goal caused the ball to just shave the bar.

Southend did a bit better and forced two corners without any tangible result, and Stansfield replied at the opposite end with a grand attempt but again the fall in the ground caused the ball to go over. A free kick for Luton led indirectly up to the equalising goal. For a moment it appeared likely this award would give Luton a stronger lead, but Cotton dashing out took the ball over the touch line, and then with a mighty kick down the field dropped the ball at Birnie's toe, and the latter beating Gregory ran through, finally centring finely, and Ronaldson had nothing to do but touch through. Ronaldson was certainly just offside, but the referee did not think so, and matters were level up to the interval.

The second half had scarcely started when Ronaldson again beat Platt with a fairly long shot over a crowd of players' heads. At first the ball seemed to be going safely over the bar, but it dropped just underneath, amid loud cheers from the delighted spectators. Luton continued to play their game, and about a quarter of an hour from time Haycock, pouncing upon an opening went through with the ball, and finished up with a very clever goal. Haycock kept the ball right at his toe well into the penalty area, and it was impossible to take it off him except by risking a penalty and Cotton was left helpless.

This goal completely beat Southend, and they never really shaped like winners afterwards, although they almost had a goal presented to them by a weak kick off from goal, Platt placing the ball direct to Ronaldson, who had but to touch it back, and it must have been a goal but evidently he was too surprised at his good fortune, and McCurdy coming up blocked his progress. The spectators on the stand quite gave up the game now, and agreed Luton must win, for they were playing by far the stronger game, several of the Shrimpers holding out signs of distress. Still the score remained two each when the regulation ninety minutes had expired.

It was, of course, necessary to play an extra half hour, and Luton very soon rushed a goal, Moody being the last player to touch the ball. Then Brown got a square pass from the other side of

the field and with a swerving run he completely beat Cotton with a cross grounder, the ball hitting the inside of the far upright. It was now simply a question as to whether the light would hold out, for undoubtedly Luton were winners. One linesman appeared very anxious for the game to be stopped, and ten minutes before the finish asked the referee to blow his whistle apparently on this score, but it was always possible to see the length of the field, and the referee would not agree to such an injustice, the result being—

Luton 4 goals, Southend 2 goals.

Cotton did not play so brilliantly as at Luton, although he made no real mistake, but the star on his side was Birnie and his dashes down the wing always spelt danger.

McCurdy proved the better back for Luton, while all three halves were fine. Jones was probably the pick, and did much better than in the first match. With the two wings back to their regular formation Luton's attack was far in advance of their opponents, and it would be difficult to say which forward was the best.

The gate realised £111 9s.