

FOOTBALL.

Southern League.

MID-WEEK MATCH.

The Champions Conquered.

Queen's Park, the Ishmaelites of the Southern League, visited Luton on Monday. Ordinarily speaking, the visit of the "Champions" should result in a big gate, but Monday's match only attracted a meagre attendance, there not being more than 1,500 spectators present—zero mark for a Southern League match. McCurdy and White re-appeared in the home team, while the Rangers had McEwen for Finler at left back. Teams:

Luton.—Jarvis; McCurdy and Gregory; F. Hawkes, White and Jones; Brown, Haycock, Menzies, Johnson and Stansfield.

Queen's Park Rangers.—Shaw; MacDonald and McEwen; Duff, Morris and Downing; McDonald Rogers, Green, Drake and Barnes.

Luton were all over the visitors to start with, and after a terrific hurly burly in goal Brown headed through. The point was, however, disallowed for an offside infringement. Barely had the game been resumed than Brown burst through on the right for Haycock to score. This point was also lopped off for a similar infringement, so that Luton had twice netted the ball to no purpose. There appeared from the Press box to be very little fault with the first of these points, the ball apparently going to Brown off one of the backs.

The Rangers by a series of throws in got to the other end from a corner kick. Brown was badly fouled by McEwen, and there seemed a prospect of the players coming to fist-cuffs, but common-sense intervened in time; Referee Howcroft improving the occasion by giving the big back a lecture.

After twenty-five minutes' play, Menzies opened Luton's account with a clever shot from a difficult angle, the ball just entering the net at the far post. Luton were fully entitled to their lead.

A really fine passing movement by the Rangers followed, but Rogers' final shot was charged down by Jones.

Some amusement was caused by Johnson sending Shaw flying just as the Rangers' man was fielding a shot from Brown. The keeper was completely spread-eagled.

Freddy White was doing well at centre-half, while Jones was in rare fettle at left-half, and brought off a really clever clearance when Rogers and MacDonald were in the goal area.

The Rangers were playing up for an equaliser, and Barnes was cheered for the clever way in which he strode past F. Hawkes and McCurdy. His centre, however, came to Gregory, who made a wonderful clearance.

Johnson, with a glorious chance of going through, missed a rare opening after Stansfield had drawn the defence. A good shot came, hot and humming, from the foot of Brown, but Shaw was in the line of fire. Half-time:

LUTON	1 goal
RANGERS	nil

The second half saw the Rangers do better in that they had more of the game than hitherto, but the three inside men were woefully weak, and wasted much of the good work of Barnes and McDonald. The short passing game was over-elaborated by the Rangers, and the Luton halves, with terror-like tactics, worried the forwards incessantly. White played as good a game as any man on the field, and deserved to score with a shot that Shaw had to fling himself at before he could turn it round the post.

Brown and McEwen still kept up their "pleasantries," but the Lutonian was not to blame, the visiting back resorting to shady tactics repeatedly when beaten by the clever winger. He received "final notice" of a future "ejectment order" from the referee before he improved.

Jarvis, as understudy to Platt, was great. Despite the lethargic progress of the Rangers' forwards—they are by no means a championship side this season—he had more than a little work. As the advertisements say, it was done with "neatness and despatch." Luton have not lost a goal in their last three matches, which goes to show that the defence is coming out strong. In two of these Jarvis has held the fort.

Stansfield, after promising well in the first half, fell away to nothing in the second, but Brown was always dangerous. It could not be called a great game, but in a "nipping and an eager air" the men had to keep moving. The play was never exciting enough to sow the seeds of heart disease, and the players seemed to lack that encouragement which a good gate always gives.