

The Southern League.

LUTON v. SOUTHEND.

Played at Luton on Saturday. Result:—

Luton	3 goals.
Southend	3 goals.

Teams:—

Luton—Jarvis; Chapman and Hedley; F. Hawkes, Slennett, and R. Hawkes; Brown, Quinn, Smith, Moore, and Stansfield.

Southend—Cotton; Thomson and Molyneux; Emery, Owen, and Bigden; Brown, Frost, King, Wright, and Crews.

Referee, Mr. E. W. Childs (West Ham).

A really sparkling exhibition of football was given on the Bury Park ground on Saturday afternoon before about four thousand people, in fine weather. There were some battles royal between the teams of these clubs last season—they played at Luton and Southend in the English Cup as well as in the Southern League—but none of the previous meetings had produced better football.

The game was quite as full of incident as a cup-tie, and yet it was fast, while the players depended mostly upon skill. It is true that a quarter of an hour elapsed before Southend took the lead, but Luton were quickly on terms, and although they secured the advantage later on, Southend drew level before the interval. Play was not quite so good in the second half, but there was plenty of excitement.

The result was fairly satisfactory to the home club, for Bob Hawkes was injured directly after the interval and was prevented from taking further part in the game. It was not one of Bob's best days, but everybody was sorry to see him limp off with an injured ankle, especially in view of the ceremony in which he is to take part on Saturday.

In addition it should be taken into account that Luton were playing two Reserves. Jones was still suffering with an abscess on the neck, and his place was taken by Slennett. Moody, who was injured in the match at Norwich on the previous Thursday, was unable to turn out, so Moore partnered Stansfield on the left. There were two Browns on the field, both at outside-right. Most of the Southend men had appeared at Luton before.

Luton delighted their supporters by the way they played in the early stages. During the first five minutes the home team monopolised the play, and in the succeeding stages they kept up the pace. The most satisfactory feature of the play was the vast improvement in the Luton front rank caused by the exchange of places between Smith and Quinn. Smith made a good pivot, for he kept his wings together and often had the opposing defence in difficulties with his individual work.

During the first five minutes Cotton was called upon a number of times, some of the attempts following upon a couple of free kicks and two corners. When Southend did look like making tracks for the Luton goal, it was through the agency of Norman Brown, who will be remembered as having played for the Light Blues last season. Chapman rushed across and stopped the movement by kicking out of play.

Having once taken up the running, Southend became very dangerous in the course of the ensuing play. Jarvis fisted out a centre from the right, and then King shot over. A centre from Brown caused Jarvis to concede a corner, which Slennett cleared with his head. Then Luton got away again, and Quinn might have scored if he had put some powder behind his shot.

Then the scoring commenced. Whilst trying to convert a centre by Brown, King was given offside. The next time Brown centred Jarvis fell as he was fisting out. He had not fully recovered before King took aim and placed the ball in the net. Thus Southend were one to the good. But within the next minute Stansfield ran away on the left, finishing with a high centre. Cotton ran out and missed, and Quinn had no difficulty in scoring.

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A bold dash by Smith looked promising, but he was too much hampered by the backs to do the needful. The ball went out to Brown, who could not prevent it going over the line. Frost, with a clear chance of scoring, hit the upright, and Crews had a splendid opening but was given offside. And so the battle went on. Both sets of forwards were very busy, and a narrow escape at one end was quickly followed by one at the other.

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The second goal for Luton, obtained half-an-hour after the start, was the outcome of good work by Smith. He centred from the right, and Stansfield kicked the ball into the mouth of goal. Smith dashed up and Cotton fell in saving. Quinn was close at hand, and he had an easy task in placing the ball in the net. A few minutes later Moore shot on to the post from a free kick taken by Chapman.

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Southend's second goal was scored not long before the interval by King. In trying to prevent the left wing from getting away, Chapman fell over, and there were cries of "Offside" when Crews commenced his run goalwards. He centred, and King was in the right place. Another individual effort by Smith, who, although marked, made a good shot, was one of the further incidents which happened before the interval.

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In the first minute of the second half Bob Hawkes was tackling Frost when the Luton captain met with an injury to his ankle and had to leave the field. He was unable to return, and the ankle was so painful that after the match Luton's amateur international went home in a cab. King, the Southend centre-forward, almost got through early in the second half but Chapman just managed to get in the way.

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A couple of corners for Luton were not productive. One of the best efforts of the match was made by Fred Hawkes with a long shot which only just missed the goal. After this the play deteriorated somewhat. The Southend forwards were frequently pulled up for getting offside, and one or two of the home men seemed to have lost their confidence to some extent; they let the ball go to an opponent when they should have controlled it themselves.

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Twenty minutes after the interval Southend scored their third goal. Wright transferred to Crews, who was in an offside position but was allowed to race away. He centred, and Frost taking deliberate aim, kicked the ball into the net. When the referee pointed to the centre of the field the spectators showed their disapproval by booing. That one of the linesmen—the one who was close to Crews—shared the general opinion was shown by the fact that he had held up his flag and continued to wave it.

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The spectators called the referee's attention to this fact, but he simply walked to the centre of the field despite the protestations of the

Luton players, especially Jarvis. But it was all in vain. The players lined up and the game was about to re-start. Still the linesman held his flag up, and he suddenly made up his mind to speak to the referee. So he ran to the centre of the field and had a consultation with Mr. Childs. But the referee remained firm, and the goal was allowed to count.

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A great number of the lookers-on hooted the referee, and he must have felt very uncomfortable for some minutes. It really looked as though the mistake would have a great effect upon the game and probably cause Luton to lose. But within a few minutes Molyneux handled and a penalty was awarded. Hedley took the kick with such force that although Cotton got to the ball he could not stay its course.

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With the scores again level and about twenty minutes remaining for play, there was plenty of time for a material change to come over the game. That no other goals were scored was due to the defence on either side, for both sets of forwards tried hard, though they did not keep so well together as in the first half. The outstanding feature of the concluding stages was the individual rushes of King, who kept well up the field and all but met with success on three or four occasions.

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Slennett and Moore played fairly well. The match was a severe trial, and they are to be commended for the exhibitions they gave. Slennett was so much taken up with defensive work that he did not feed his forwards so well as Jones would have done, and the latter's older head was missed when it was a case of judging the flight of the ball. Moore showed good judgment, and proved that he is a capable reserve.

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With Smith operating in the centre the forward line was galvanised into life, and the men showed up better than on any previous occasion this season. Everybody was pleased to see Brown at outside-right again, and Stansfield was as good as usual. Quinn improved. He scored two goals, but it was really a case of putting the finishing touches to the work of other players.

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Fred Hawkes was the best of the halves, taking his share in defensive as well as aggressive movements. Hedley was perhaps the better of the backs, although Chapman's dash in the second half was invaluable. There are some people who think that Potts should be preferred to Chapman, but while the Bedford man continues his present form he is not likely to be displaced. Although a back is expected to clear he should try to kick the ball to his forwards, and it would be well if Chapman kept this in mind. Jarvis was good enough in goal. Crews was the best of the visiting forwards, possessing a rare turn of speed, and King has plenty of dash. Norman Brown made some fairly good runs, but, as usual, was a little lacking in finishing power.