

LUTON v. SWINDON.

THE POINTS SHARED.

About 4,000 witnessed Monday's match on the Ivy-road ground, when Luton received a visit from Swindon in the Southern League. The "Shunters" are said to be about the strongest team in the League just now, and after Luton's fiasco at Southampton on Saturday, one anticipated the result with mingled feelings. However, in the end the teams shared the points, the final score being one goal each. Some may have thought that Luton deserved the victory, but taken all together, a draw was not an unfair indication of the game.

Smith kicked off for Luton. At the start Fenton, for Swindon got away on the left, and beating Chapman, sent nicely across, but Jarvis picked up in the nick of time. Then Jefferson sent a real beauty from the other wing, but though Lavey and Fleming were well up, the Luton custodian just got the ball in time. After Hedley had twice kicked out from almost underneath the bar, Luton were set going, some nice play on the home left wing following. Smith sent across to Quinn who followed up. Walker endeavoured to shield the ball until it went over the line, but Quinn very trickily got possession and took from close quarters a shot at goal. Skiller tried to stop the shot but the ball cannoned off his hands into the net, and Luton were thus one goal up in about six minutes.

It was noticeable that Luton were still on the aggressive, while Jarvis had little to do. "Brown" put in a long stinging shot, but Skiller easily saved. At the other end Jarvis saved at full length a fast drive from Tout. Luton now attacked, and Quinn missed by a few inches only. Just now there was plenty of life in Luton's play. Skiller saved with difficulty from "Brown." The centres of the Luton outside right were a feature of the game, but they were not all taken full advantage of. Once "Brown" had the very hardest of luck. The home forwards had completely non-plussed the Swindon defence. "Brown" shot across the goal mouth. Smith was exactly a second too slow; Moore was coming at a hot pace, and quite unexpectedly the ball cannoned off the feet of the inside left, and just shot by the upright. The Luton man, of course, never anticipated that the ball would reach him, but anyway it was the hardest bit of luck Luton experienced in the first half.

Shortly after this the Swindon forwards came along the field. The home backs had to admit defeat. Lavey and Fleming had the Luton goal at their mercy; the latter had no difficulty in beating Jarvis, and Swindon were on equal terms after 20 minutes play. The point was obtained by a bad error on the part of Chapman, who ought to have accounted for Lavey, before the forwards got to close quarters. The home right back almost let the visitors in again. Fenton was playing a fine game on the left wing. After this Silto, the centre half, essayed a grand shot, which Jarvis succeeded in tipping over the bar. Swindon often now threatened

danger, and Lavey sent over the cross bar by inches only. However, nothing further of a tangible nature occurred up to the interval.

Play for a considerable time in the second half was exceedingly ragged. It was some time before the teams found their feet again. Two fruitless corners fell to the Blues in quick succession. From one of these Stansfield almost skimmed the bar. The Luton outside right got away again, and tricking Hay looked like an easy scorer, but he had gone too far to get his centre in, and Skiller cleared his lines with difficulty. At the other end Jefferson nearly lowered Luton's colours. Fenton nearly did the same and there were urgent calls from the crowd to "Play up, Luton!" Chapman was exceedingly shaky, and nothing but sheerest luck saved him times out of number. Fenton and his partner Brown were very active, and Hedley had to devote no little attention to that wing, which naturally gave Jefferson and Fleming a good many chances.

Eventually Luton took up the running, and Swindon were put on their mettle. Smith sent in a regular "beauty," which struck the bar. It was thought that the leather had gone in before Skiller took it, but the referee ignored the appeal. No. 2 hard luck for Luton. After this play veered round again, and the visitors were the attacking side, but Jarvis was in fine form, and he brought off a number of very creditable saves. Towards the close the sides fought vigorously to obtain the lead, and so fast and exciting were the exchanges that one would not have been surprised to see either side score. In the semi-darkness, Luton fairly swarmed round the Swindon goal, but failed to penetrate the defence, and the match thus ended in a

Draw of one goal each.

Taken as a whole, the game was very interesting, and with the exception of some 20 minutes in the second half there was plenty of excitement. But the two thrilling incidents were when the ball cannoned off Moore's feet, and when Smith banged at the upright with a terrific drive. If Monday's form was Swindon's best, then Luton were practically as good as their opponents. The visiting forwards were a fine lot, but Jones and his two partners were in rare form, which accounted in a large measure for the breaking up of the Swindon combination. Chapman was the weak link on the Luton side, and through his faulty play the visitors might easily have scored on more than one occasion. Jarvis was fine between the uprights, and Hedley played one of his best games at Luton. Trueman, too, shaped better, and one has a higher opinion of him now than a few weeks back. The forwards played a great game. Moore was the weak spot, and could not keep up with Stansfield's brilliant rushes. "Brown" did well on the wing, but Quinn's style is scarcely convincing. Without a doubt on Monday's form, Smith is the finest centre forward that has yet appeared on the Luton ground. He played a sterling game. Moody was, however, sadly missed from the Luton ranks, particularly in connection with the flag-kicks, of which so many fell to the home side's share. On the whole, there was nothing much to complain about a draw.