

FOOTBALL NOTES and NEWS

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

LUTON'S DRAW AT MILLWALL.

Considering all things, Luton did well to share the points at Millwall on Saturday. Last season the "Lions" had rather the better of Luton, as they drew at home 0—0, and won here 1—0. But this year the season opened disastrously for the Dockers, and a fortnight ago they were at the bottom of the League table. Even with the last two wins Millwall are still one point from being next to Reading, the present "wooden-spoonists." With such a poor record no doubt many expected to see Luton return home victorious. Millwall and Luton are about the present oldest members of the Southern League, and whenever they meet a rare tussle is anticipated. On very few occasions indeed has there been much of a margin so far as goals are concerned, so that the result of Saturday's match is in the natural order of things.

Millwall naturally put their very strongest side into the field. For Luton, McCurdy, who was signed on last week, took Hedley's place at back. Trueman also stood down, R. Hawkes returning to the half-line once more. Those two were the extent of Luton's alterations.

Smith kicked off for Luton, and Millwall immediately took up the running. Martin, the home inside left, was soon prominent, and passing nicely to Twigg, the Millwall centre-forward looked dangerous indeed, but in a race for the ball Jarvis luckily beat his opponent. The next point of interest was a break away by Luton; the forwards came along in fine style, and for a moment or two literally bombarded Joyce. "Tiny" was soon in difficulties, and only extricated himself by clinging on to the ball when hotly hustled by several of the visiting players. However, the Millwall goalkeeper eventually cleared his lines, and Stevenson soon set his side going. Whether it was a case of the Luton defence being caught napping, or of their breaking down, the locals were allowed to get within close quarters. Jarvis stopped twice in quick succession, but a moment later the Luton goalkeeper had to admit defeat, Sterling, the Millwall outside right, sending in a great shot, from which the ball curled into the net.

Play had not been many moments resumed, when somewhat unexpectedly the Blues equalised. The point came from a run by "Brown." The outside right man succeeded in beating both Blythe and Stevenson. Brown careered along the wing at a great pace and eventually centred. The leather could not have been better placed for Smith, and the Luton centre-forward had no difficulty in safely placing in the centre of the net, giving Joyce no possible chance.

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This state of affairs soon made Millwall look to their laurels, and their forwards attacked vigorously. Occasionally they swarmed round the Luton goal, Jarvis being exceedingly lucky on several occasions. In saving from Semple, Millwall's clever outside left, the visiting custodian got hurt, and play had to be temporarily stopped. On resuming Millwall were still after goals, and it was noticed that Jarvis was somewhat shaky. Soon after this Brearley found the net, but the referee disallowed the point for offside. There was naturally considerable dissatisfaction at his decision on the part of the home crowd, but honestly speaking the referee was quite right, as the Millwall inside-left man stood yards off-side before the ball came his way. Luton broke away now and then, chiefly through the individual efforts of "Brown," who was always a source of anxiety to Stevenson. Full advantage, however, was not taken of the Luton man's centres. It is true that on one occasion Quinn only missed by an ace. At the other end the "Dockers" experienced some rough luck in not obtaining the lead. However, Jarvis was now absolutely at his best, and was giving a really brilliant performance, stopping shot after shot with rare judgment. Unfortunately for Luton, Jones handled in the penalty area. Stevenson took the shot, and naturally had little difficulty in giving his side once more the lead. Thus at the interval Millwall led by the odd goal in three.

Immediately upon resuming Luton forced the game. "Brown" was again in evidence on the wing. From the other side of the field, Stansfield sent in a great shot, the ball striking the upright, and bounding out again. It was an exceedingly hard piece of luck—for Luton. Eventually Millwall were on the aggressive, and Twigg scored, but this point was also disallowed for an infringement of the off-side rule. After this matters ruled more even, and play on both sides showed an improvement. There was plenty of excitement. Once Stirling came near to scoring, a fine shot of his striking the corner of the net, just by the post. At the other end Quinn looked like a certain scorer, Jeffrey being lucky in getting in in the nick of time.

The next point of interest was when a corner fell to Millwall. The flag kick was well-placed, the ball dropping between the players and the bar. A rare tussle followed, in which every moment it looked as if the visitors' citadel must collapse. However, Jones cleared, and Luton's forwards were soon placed in possession. Smith succeeded in beating Stevenson, and got well in before taking his shot. As a result the Luton man had no difficulty in beating Joyce, and making matters once more even.

During the last few minutes of an exciting game, Millwall made great efforts to recover the lead. But Luton "played the game"; the side kept on the defensive, and succeeded in holding Millwall in check. The game was too long gone, also, for the "Dockers" to obtain the coveted point, and so the match ended in a draw of two goals each.

On the play, Luton quite deserved the point, for they had as much "hard luck" as had Millwall. Smith has now scored seven goals—one more would have sent him well up in the table. Quinn's record this season is four goals.