

The Southern League.

LUTON v. WEST HAM.

Played at Luton on Saturday. Result:—

Luton	4 goals.
West Ham	2 goals.

Teams:—

Luton—Jarvis; Hedley and McCurdy; F. Hawkes, Jones, and Trueman; Brown, Quinn, Johnson, Moody, and Stansfield.

West Ham—Kitchen; Lavery and Fairman; Whiteman, Wagstaffe, and Randall; Ashton, Shea, G. Webb, Blackburn, and Caldwell.

Referee, Mr. R. Horrocks (Farnworth).

The weather on Saturday was of that dull, dismal type which is usually associated with November and consequently the gate suffered, the spectators numbering not more than four thousand. The result does Luton credit in view of the fact that on Saturday West Ham were third from the top of the table, but to some extent the Hammers were unfortunate.

In the opening stages they were clearly the better team, and the home defence had to bear the brunt. As the game wore on, however, the home forwards showed better form, and their efforts were crowned with success.

Both teams were handicapped. Jarvis was able to appear in goal, but Bob Hawkes was playing in an Amateur International at Chelsea, and Trueman deputised for him. Smith was still an absentee, and his place at centre-forward was taken by Johnson. Piercy was unable to turn out for West Ham, and this let in Wagstaffe, formerly of Norwich, whilst Shreeve's place at back was taken by Fairman.

Luton won the toss, but West Ham were first to get away, and Shea just missed with a header. After Luton had made a brief incursion Webb dashed through and seemed certain to score. Jarvis went down to the ball, however, and was throwing it away from a crowd of players when the referee signalled for a foul. Then Brown got away on the right, and his centre was headed behind by Fairman. The attack consequent upon the corner kick was soon ended, and once more West Ham acted on the aggressive.

A little brown dog interfered with play at this juncture, and was lifted over the fence by Hedley. Ashton got away on the right, and his centre was intercepted by McCurdy. In the next attack the ball was put back to Wagstaffe, who was standing quite unmarked some yards from goal. He shot wide when he should have scored.

A good shot by Brown went straight for goal, and Kitchen, with admirable confidence, kicked out. Once more the West Ham vanguard made the running, and Webb should have improved upon a centre by Caldwell. The centre-forward had a splendid chance, but shot over. After this the Luton forwards put in two or three long shots, but their methods were, as a rule, not sufficiently go-ahead to enable them to become really dangerous.

A centre from the West Ham right was kicked out by Hedley, and a shot from Caldwell was saved by Jarvis. Then Wagstaffe had a try. From twenty yards' range he tried a very hard shot which was only a trifle too high. Two corners for West Ham produced warm attacks, and the second was only stopped when the referee blew his whistle, Blackburn having handled.

Then Luton scored. Stansfield worked his way in from the wing, and after eluding two or three opponents, beat Kitchen with a grand shot. This happened after twenty-five minutes' play. Immediately afterwards Quinn was robbed through keeping the ball too long, and several of the spectators shouted to him not to forget that Brown was on the field. Following a free kick, Moody gave Johnson a chance,

and he appeared likely to make good use of it, but was brought down and rolled over in the mud. There were loud cries for a penalty, but they were unheeded by the referee.

A minute later Johnson worked out to the wing and was fouled. Stansfield took the free kick, which was cleared. Caldwell then got away, but Jarvis rushed out and kicked out of play. West Ham were quickly attacking, and McCurdy, who was standing in goal, managed to kick over the bar. At the other end Johnson headed, and Lavery prevented Moody from getting at the ball, but was forced to give a corner.

This was followed by another, from which Johnson headed on to the bar. A foul on Fred Hawkes just outside the penalty area led to the second goal being scored for Luton about ten minutes before the interval. Jones took the kick and sent out to Stansfield, who placed into the mouth of goal, and Quinn was quick enough to put on the finishing touch.

The West Ham goal had a very narrow escape when Luton came again. Stansfield took a corner, and the ball went off Johnson's head over the bar—a near thing. A free kick for West Ham just outside the penalty area was cleared, and then Johnson, who was really offside, was allowed to get practically clear. Lavery rushed across and dispossessed him, but had to kick behind. The flag kick was cleared, and play was quickly transferred to the other end, where Jarvis saved very smartly from Wagstaffe.

The first incident in the second half was another let-off for Luton. For the second time during the afternoon McCurdy, who was standing in goal, kicked out with Jarvis well beaten. A shot from Ashton was fisted away by Jarvis just before one of the West Ham forwards rushed into him. Jarvis was hurt by the collision, but was soon able to resume. Five minutes after the interval Quinn received from Jones, and notched a magnificent goal from twenty yards out.

An even better shot by Shea deserved to score, but it rebounded off the post. Webb obtained possession right in front of goal, but instead of shooting he passed to Blackburn, who fell over with Hedley. Then there was a general scramble, and it appeared that the referee thought of awarding a penalty. He consulted one of the linesmen, and when it was seen that Jarvis was about to take a goal kick, there was much cheering.

A quarter of an hour after the resumption West Ham scored. Luton had been attacking when the ball was sent up the field, and as one of the West Ham men, who was limping, was plainly offside, the Luton defenders hesitated. The man who was injured did not interfere with the play, however, and Shea got clear. He transferred to Ashton, who had no difficulty in scoring.

Another point, but one which was not allowed to count, was registered shortly afterwards. A shot from the left was saved by Jarvis, and Webb hooked the ball to Blackburn, who put it into the net, but was given offside.

Twenty minutes after the interval Quinn scored Luton's fourth goal. A centre was put across by Stansfield. Someone got in the way of Moody's shot, and Kitchen repelled Johnson's attempt before Quinn fastened on to the ball and did the trick. Some time before this, Randall, the left-half, had gone off, having injured his ankle. He remained off the field, and was soon followed by Lavery, who was assisted off, having apparently injured his shoulder in a fall after tackling Stansfield.

Lavery was not off many minutes, but when he came on he did not remain long. Fairman, the other back, also went off before the finish, having injured his ankle, and West Ham finished with eight men, playing three forwards, three halves, a back, and the goalkeeper. These injuries were in no way attri-

butable to foul play. They were merely the result of accidents which will happen.

Before the two backs went off for good, West Ham obtained their second goal. The centre-forward and inside-left both tried shots, and Shea put on the finishing touch with his hand. Jarvis ran up the field and protested to the referee, but that official allowed the goal to count. As a matter of fact, the ball must have been in goal before Shea touched it, for the referee had already turned his back and was proceeding towards the middle of the field when the ball went into the net.

In the concluding stages Caldwell made a good attempt, his shot going across the mouth of goal. A real chance came the way of Stansfield, who steadied himself and tricked an opponent before shooting over when he looked almost certain to score. That was practically the last incident in the game, the result of which was fortunately in favour of Luton.

West Ham were unlucky in more respects than one. They were decidedly unfortunate in crossing over at the interval two goals to the bad, as during the greater part of the time they had unquestionably been the smarter team. Their forwards made some fine openings and then failed, occasionally through faulty shooting and several times through Jarvis' brilliant goalkeeping. The Luton man's custodianship from beginning to end was of the very best.

In the second half the play was not so good, and towards the finish the visitors were, of course, badly handicapped by the loss of first one player and then another. It was remarkable that there were so many injuries, seeing that very little roughness was shown, and what there was was almost entirely the monopoly of the visiting team.

The West Ham backs played vigorous football, but the forwards were the more attractive players. Caldwell, at outside-left, put in some very useful runs, and Webb made a good centre-forward. It was the right wing, however, which was most in evidence, both Shea and Ashton playing splendidly. No doubt a good deal of their success was due to the ineffectiveness of Trueman, who made a poor substitute for Bob Hawkes. He seemed to neglect his wing altogether, and the consequence was that the two most dangerous forwards were constantly getting clear runs.

McCurdy did well to save two otherwise certain goals, but the Luton backs were not at their best. Jones and Fred Hawkes rendered excellent service as usual, and among the forwards Stansfield, Brown, and Quinn were most conspicuous, though Moody and Johnson both gave a good account of themselves. The centre was not free enough with his passes, but was a thorough worker. Stansfield was in great form, and the fact that Quinn did the "hat trick" is sufficient testimony to his worth. Brown well sustained his reputation at outside-right.

The following is the League table:—

	Goals									
	Plyd.	Won.	Dwn.	Lost.	For.	Agst.	Ft.			
Crystal Palace	21	13	3	5	43	14	29			
Queen's Park R.	19	12	4	3	33	19	28			
Fwindon Town	19	10	5	4	41	18	25			
Southampton	19	9	7	3	32	23	25			
New Brompton	19	12	1	6	41	31	25			
West Ham United	20	9	6	5	38	24	24			
Portsmouth	22	9	6	7	32	35	24			
Brighton & Hove	18	9	5	4	30	13	23			
Leyton	18	9	8	6	36	19	21			
Northampton	18	9	2	7	45	20	20			
Luton	18	6	7	5	31	39	19			
Bristol Rovers	16	7	4	5	20	24	18			
Coventry City	17	7	4	6	22	27	18			
Norwich City	20	6	5	9	31	37	17			
Plymouth Argyle	18	5	6	7	21	25	16			
Brentford	18	4	5	9	16	27	13			
Millwall A.	19	4	5	10	16	29	13			
Southend United	16	4	4	8	18	36	12			
Exeter City	17	3	5	9	25	30	11			
Watford	17	1	7	9	19	34	9			
Croydon Common	16	3	1	12	14	48	7			
Reading	19	2	3	14	11	43	7			