

# The Southern League.

## LUTON v NORTHAMPTON.

Played at Luton on Saturday. Result:—

Northampton . . . . . 3 goals.  
Luton . . . . . nil.

Teams:—

Luton—Jarvis; Chapman and Potts; F. Hawkes, Jones, and R. M. Hawkes; Brown, Quinn, Smith, Moody, and Stansfield.

Northampton—Thorpe; Bonthron and Brittan; Manning, McCartney, and McDiarmid; Whittaker, Walker, Lessons, Lewis, and Freeman.

Referee, Mr C. C. Fallowfield (Streatham).

The weather on Saturday was about as bad as we have had it this season, and the ground was in an awful condition. Puddles were to be seen all over the centre of the pitch, and before the players had been long at their work, the water and mud were churned up terribly. The conditions for the spectators were enough to scare away the more timid, and consequently there was not half so good a gate as would have assembled had the day been like Friday for instance.

Bob Hawkes lost the toss, and a wind, which blew diagonally across the ground, had to be faced by the Luton men at the start. Northampton brought a fair, and noisy, following with them, and they broke into cheers and indulged in bell-ringing when the visiting players were having the better of the game.

Hardly had the game been commenced when the smoke from a chimney on fire blew across the ground and obscured play, and for a short period one could hardly see across the pitch. Potts robbed Lessons very early, and when the Northampton forwards again appeared at the Luton end he smartly relieved the pressure. Luton then had the better of the game, and Bonthron only just avoided conceding a corner by placing the ball near the flag into touch.

Lessons and Walker led an attack, and passing to Freeman, that player should have scored, but failed to kick the ball straight. At the other end Quinn looked to have a chance, but he kicked too far forward, and Thorpe got there first. Smith drove in hard, but just missed the goal. Jones next knocked Walker over, and Walker bowled over Jones, to the merriment of the spectators, who felt a little amused at the muddy plight each man found himself in.

Both sides played very lively football, and Northampton making an assault, Chapman smartly robbed the left wing and sent along to Smith, but Thorpe rushed out and cleared. Brittan again failed to hold Smith, and Bonthron coming opportunely to the rescue, could only place behind for a corner, which proved useless. Lessons gave Jarvis a teaser right in the corner of the goal, whilst Lewis looked to have Jarvis at his mercy, but considerably placed outside the net.

Long kicking was then the order, and once Smith received the ball in a good position, but before he could turn round the defence was on him and smothered the shot. Moody crossed the goal with a hot centre, which passed over too quickly to be secured. Brittan set his forwards on the move, and Freeman and Lewis were going merrily for goal when Chapman dived for the ball and safely secured.

Jarvis next made a sensational save from Freeman, whilst he cleared again just later. Northampton were having the better of the game, but Whittaker ended a combined attack by kicking weakly wide. Stansfield showed fine judgment in taking a shot at goal, but there was not enough powder behind the ball to get past Thorpe, who held it firmly. Jarvis had been playing a splendid game all the way through, but next was guilty of a bad error. Lewis shook off Chapman and shot. Jarvis got to the ball, but failed to hold it, and as it fell at the feet of Lewis, the latter very easily netted a soft goal.

There was very little of interest in the remainder of the first half. Northampton were brought up for a foul, but in the ensuing play Smith headed over the bar. The whistle sounded almost immediately for half-time, when the score stood:—Northampton, 1 goal; Luton, nil.

The first incident after the resumption was a little interchange of "courtesies" between Potts and Whittaker. The latter was kept off the ball by the back whilst it rolled over the goal-line, and then Whittaker hacked Potts, and Potts hacked him back. From the goal-kick Northampton again took up the running, and Manning put in a long shot which Jarvis helped over the bar. Luton broke away from the corner kick, but Stansfield sent the ball behind the goal.

Play about this time became rather ragged until F. Hawkes and Quinn were menacing Thorpe, but both were prevented from shooting until Quinn saw just a small opening and drove straight for it. Thorpe made a dash and just prevented the ball going in at the corner. Bonthron quite needlessly fouled Bob Hawkes, and the free kick led to an attack on the goal, but Thorpe proved very safe, and cleared shots by Smith and Stansfield.

The slippery turf served Lessons a trick when he looked almost through the Luton defence. Jones twice handled the ball deliberately, but the goal was well packed and the attacks were cleared. A centre by Freeman was luckily saved by Potts, though at the danger of some facial disfigurement, and at the second attempt Freeman sent behind the goal.

Luton then had the luxury of a corner, this little advantage being forced by Brown, who took the kick. The ball fell on to Brittan's head and bounced across to Jones, who lifted the ball over the bar just an inch or so too high. One of the most striking shots of the season was sent in by Bob Hawkes. Some thirty yards from goal he kicked the ball and got a delightful skid on it. It seemed fairly to fly just above the ground for the corner of the net, only for Thorpe to fall down and punch it round the corner of the post.

Misfortune was soon to follow for Luton. Northampton broke away, and wisely adopting the wing-to-wing game, the ball was crossed from one

side of the field to the other very neatly, with the result that Freeman was left in possession. He drew into goal, and at a nice angle sent in a left-foot pile-driver, and before Jarvis could fall on it the ball was in the net, making a couple of goals to the visitors' credit.

Northampton were not doing all the attacking, and one very fine shot by F. Hawkes deserves mention. Thorpe, as usual, saved. Jarvis was also displaying his prowess between the sticks, and he gathered a hot drive by Walker and disposed of it in first-class style. Lessons kept the pot a-boiling with another, but this, too, was saved by Jarvis, who was rewarded with a good deal of applause.

Luton seemed to enjoy a little of fortune's rare smiles when the referee awarded the home side a penalty. Quinn was moving onwards to get close to Thorpe, when McDiarmid fouled Quinn. The referee pointed to the spot, and Jones prepared to take the kick. One of the Northampton players had a few words in Abe's ear, and Jones was evidently surprised by what he heard, for his aim was not quite so true as usual. He placed direct to Thorpe, who caught the ball, and the next second discovered that Jones was there too. The whistle went, and a free kick was awarded Northampton.

Luton were not discouraged by this little mishap, and at once got down. Brown kept the ball from going out and put to Quinn, but Bonthron was there also and there was a chase across the ground. Suddenly Smith back-heeled the ball, only to find that no one was behind to take it except Thorpe, and he quickly disposed of it to the satisfaction of Northampton.

Quite the last incident of the game was a goal by Northampton. An attack was set up on the right and Walker shot. Jarvis stopped the ball, but could not prevent it going to Lewis, who had the easiest chance in the world, and gently tapped it into the net, registering Northampton's third goal. The return to the centre of the field was in the nature of a formality, for directly after the re-start the whistle sounded for time, leaving Northampton victors by three clear goals.

Two of the goals were "gifts," and had the visitors won by a single goal margin it would not have misrepresented the actual attacks made. Jarvis saved brilliantly at times, and so did Thorpe, but the Luton man marred his display by the two unlucky slips with the ball which let the home side down. Luton's weakness was in defence, though for the most part the backs gave a very creditable display. The forwards deserved to score at least twice. Smith made an excellent pivot, and the other players showed their usual ability. They would be more effective, however, if they played the open game, especially against such a resolute defence as that of Northampton. Thorpe, though lame, played well, and Northampton were admirably served at back and half. Lessons is a dangerous forward, and Lewis proved an opportunist, whilst the other men were good. Saturday was the first home match in which Luton have failed to score.

Considering the state of the pitch, the game was a remarkably good one, few better having been seen on the Town Ground whilst the refereeing was perhaps the best seen this season, scarcely a murmur of disagreement with official decisions being heard during the proceedings.

By victories over Bristol Rovers and Reading, Leyton and Brentford at last go above Luton in the League table. The Rovers' forwards, by the way, had not scored a single goal in their last nine matches, but they broke this undesirable record on Monday, when they beat Queen's Park Rangers by 2 goals to nil. Crystal Palace beat Millwall 4-1, and the other results were:—West Ham 1, Southampton 1; Exeter City 0, Queen's Park Rangers 0; Brighton 1, Croydon Common 0; Swindon 4, New Brompton 1; Portsmouth 4, Plymouth 0; Norwich City, 3; Southend 0; Coventry City 5, Watford 0.