

Southern League.

LUTON v. SWINDON.

Played at Luton on Saturday. Result :—

Swindon 3 goals.

Luton nil.

The teams were as follow :—

Luton — Naisby; S. Brown and Potts; F. Hawkes, Bushell, and R. Hawkes; Brown, Walker, Moody, Lashbrooke, and Stephenson.

Swindon—Skiller; Kay and Walker; Lockhead, Silto, and Chambers; Jefferson, Burkinshaw, Wheatcroft, Bown, and Lamb.

Referee, Mr. C. R. Hall (Birmingham).

Luton were placed in a very awkward position for Saturday's match, the untimely death of Wightman having robbed them of a dashing and fearless full back, whilst in the forward line they were deprived through injuries of the services of Waiden and Streeton. The sad circumstances of Wightman's death, however, had brought Millwall to the rescue, S. Brown being transferred to Luton for the remainder of the season, and Walker and Lashbrooke were included in the front string, Moody going centre.

On paper, the team looked very well, but the seven thousand spectators saw very little during the game to arouse their enthusiasm or to lead them to think that the home team would rise to the occasion and win two much-needed points. S. Brown's appearance on the field was hailed with shouts of "Good old Millwall," and the way in which he shaped very early on evoked many approving cheers.

The members of both teams wore crape armlets, and feeling all round seemed to be very subdued throughout the first half. It was during that time that Luton had the better of the play and of the opportunities of scoring, but for the most part the efforts of the forwards were as feeble as ever. The inability of the Luton forwards to score goals this season will ever remain one of the most astonishing things seen in football. There have been very few games in which they have not done the greater part of the attacking, and yet when it has come to getting goals they have seemed absolutely incapable.

In a way, it was a bit of good fortune for Swindon to take the lead just before the interval, and I certainly thought Naisby was a little at fault in that matter, but in the second half the visitors were a long way the better team, their combination being much superior to that of Luton, whilst in speed they were also a long way ahead.

Luton, in winning the toss, gained the advantage of a slight wind. For some minutes neither side could get going, but eventually some pretty work by Lashbrooke and Bob Hawkes set Stephenson careering down the wing. He sent in a very fine centre, but Skiller, leaving his charge, cleared in excellent style. Shortly afterwards, Walker made a good effort on the right wing, and he sent across a beautiful centre, the ball passing right by the goal-mouth, and although Lashbrooke and Stephenson were well up, neither turned the opening to account.

Then Swindon rallied a little, and a nice combined effort on the right wing resulted in Jefferson sending in a good shot, which was somewhat luckily diverted by Brown. The visitors failed to maintain their advantage to any great extent, and some clever work on the Luton left wing resulted. Stephenson and Lashbrooke took the ball down the field, and Moody receiving, passed to Brown, who was standing in an excellent position. The last-named, seeing his opportunity, sent in a terrific shot, but Skiller, throwing himself the length of the goal, just managed to turn the ball round the post for a corner. From the flag kick, Bob Hawkes put in one of his famous drives, but with Skiller well beaten, the ball struck the bar and bounced over.

Next came a very spirited run down the right wing by Jefferson, but Potts was equal to the occasion and cleared cleverly. Stephenson receiving, made a neat run down the line, but as he was about to centre, he was tackled. He, however, succeeded in forcing a corner, from which Kay cleared easily. At the other end Naisby only just saved a capital shot from Wheatcroft. The visitors very rarely pressed for any length of time, and the Luton forwards once more forcing the pace, Walker just missed with a fine shot. A few minutes later, Skiller only partially saved a header from Moody, and being hard pressed, the goal-keeper conceded a corner. Luton pressed for some minutes, but the situation was eventually settled by Bob shooting just over.

Towards the close of the half, Swindon played up with increased energy, and Burkinshaw, breaking away on the right wing, sent across a beautiful centre. Naisby attempted to clear by running out of goal, but Lamb reached the ball first, and had no difficulty in shooting into the empty goal. Luton made one or two unsuccessful attempts to equalise before the interval, and the teams there-

fore changed ends with Swindon one goal to the good.

It was quite apparent that Swindon were out for more goals upon resuming, and they attacked with determination. Their efforts were soon rewarded. There was a mix-up in front of the Luton goal, and Bown eventually boring his way through, beat Naisby with a comparatively easy shot. But a very few minutes had elapsed before Swindon were leading by three clear goals. Lamb was standing well on the line when he received the ball from a neat overhead pass from Bown. Lamb went away right merrily, and to the surprise of everyone, he shot from a distance of fully thirty yards. The ball travelled at terrific rate and entered the far corner of the net, well out of Naisby's reach. It was the best goal of the match, and, indeed, the best goal that has been seen on the Luton ground for some time.

After this third reverse, Luton seemed to give way altogether; their attack lacked the sting of the previous half, and Swindon were content to take matters easy too, with the result that the game became somewhat tame. On one occasion Stephenson got away on the left wing, but instead of centring, he attempted to shoot from an almost impossible angle, with the result that the ball went wide. At the other end, Lamb and Bown gave Naisby considerable trouble with their shooting, but the Luton custodian proved himself equal to the occasion, bringing off some very clever saves. In the closing stages of the game Luton somewhat improved, and Skiller had several opportunities of displaying his ability. Following a fine run down the wing by Stephenson, Chambers, whilst hard pressed, conceded a corner. From the kick, Luton attacked with increased energy, and Chambers had the misfortune to handle in the area. The referee immediately gave a penalty, which was taken by Bushell, who shot yards over the bar. It was Luton's last chance, and when the whistle finally sounded, Swindon were still leading by 3 goals to nil.

As already stated, the Luton forwards did not make a great show. Moody was not much of a success at centre, whilst Lashbrooke did not play nearly so good a game as when he was included in the team at the end of last season. Walker also showed only very moderate form. For once in a way, Stephenson found his speed unavailing, and was seldom able to shake off Kay.

Bob Hawkes was again the best of the half-backs, and indeed was quite the best man on the Luton side. S. Brown gave a very good account of himself at back, and though not speedy, he is very reliable. He has the advantage of being a heavy-weight, always a good point with a full-back, and his kicking was very good. Potts certainly did not spare himself, and though a bit erratic at times, he seldom allowed himself to be beaten. Naisby did some excellent work at times and made some capital saves, but he occasionally shows a want of judgment in choosing the moment to run out, whilst somehow or other a long shot too often finds him at the wrong side of the goal.

Of the visitors, Lamb and Bown played a fine game on the left wing, the shooting of the former being brilliant, and Jefferson made some very smart runs on the right wing. Silto was the shining light in the half-back line, and he quite overshadowed Moody. The backs were both remarkably good, and Skilier was wonderfully safe in goal.

At the conclusion of the match, the spectators remained whilst the Red Cross Band played Chopin's "Funeral March," as a tribute to Wightman.