

TURNING THE TABLES.

SURPRISING CHANGE OF FORM.

The uncertainties of the game were illustrated in a surprising manner on Wednesday, when, in the return game at Root's Hall, Southend, Luton were well beaten by 5-1. They seemed quite unable to get into their stride, and Southend were always on top, pressing their advantage home. The result, it must be confessed comes as a bit of a shock after Monday's game, but the season is early yet, and there is plenty of time for improvement before the Southern League match at Mardy on Saturday week. The forwards are not yet fully conversant with each other's methods, and suffer as all new teams are bound to suffer early in the season.

It is often the case that an early goal has a direct bearing on the result. It was so in this match. From the very first run down Wileman scored for Southend, and afterwards the home side were always playing a winning game. Their superiority became the more pronounced when seven minutes later Frost drew Day out and the ball cannoned off the goalkeeper to Wilson, who had an open goal to shoot into. Rarely did Luton get out of their own half, and it was not long ere Wileman again drove the ball at lightning speed past Day. Just before the interval the Luton defence got in a terrible tangle. Day was out of his goal, and in sheer desperation Henderson had to fist the ball away as it was sailing into the net. Wileman took the penalty and scored.

After the interval Luton had more of the play, and for a time pressed. Clarke, the home goalkeeper, made a poor clearance, only fisting the ball a few yards away, and this gave Stephenson the opportunity to score Luton's only point. This set the United going again, and when Frost was dashing through he was unfairly brought down. A penalty was given for this, and Wileman again taking the shot scored his fourth goal of the match. This, however, did not end the tale of penalties, for one of the home backs was guilty of an offence just before the finish. Stephenson was entrusted with the kick, but Clarke made a brilliant save. It was a hard, keen game, brightened by the clever work of the Southend forwards and the capital goalkeeping by Day for Luton. Result:—

SOUTHEND 5, LUTON 1.