

FOOTBALL NOTES AND NEWS

By "Goalie."

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

PRIMITIVE FOOTBALL.

MARDY BEATEN IN A POOR GAME.

LUTON PUT OFF THEIR FORM.

As far as bare results are concerned, Luton have so far done very well in their programme in the Second Division of the Southern League. They have gained four points in two games—both at the expense of Mardy—and hold a respectable position on the League table. Cardiff hold the premier place, and as they have secured seven points out of a possible eight, they must be regarded, with Southend, Swansea, and Croydon, and perhaps Pontypridd, as dangerous rivals to Luton for promotion. The following table shows the state of affairs:—

	P.	A.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Cardiff City	4	3	0	1	5	1	7
Swansea	3	2	0	1	4	2	5
Croydon Common ...	2	2	0	0	4	1	4
LUTON	2	2	0	0	4	2	4
Pontypridd	2	1	0	1	4	2	3
Southend United ...	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
Aberdare	2	1	1	0	3	3	2
Treharris	2	1	1	0	4	6	2
Newport	3	1	2	0	3	3	2
Mardy	4	1	3	0	8	8	2
Llanelly	3	0	2	1	3	6	1
Mid-Rhondda	5	0	4	1	2	9	1
Ton Pentre	2	0	2	0	1	3	0

Luton's victory was gained by a solitary goal, and strange to state, every home team on Saturday won by the same narrow margin. It is difficult at present to say what the future holds in store for Luton, but after the match with Mardy, a very pessimistic tone prevailed amongst the supporters. The game was a very poor one indeed, and not only did Mardy serve up football of a very low grade, but they prevented Luton from showing them how to do better. It was a game in which brains were at a discount, and "beef" a useful asset. From this remark some might gather that it partook of some of the spice of the cup tie, but this was not the case, for vigour does not always mean dash and enterprise. It is only to be hoped that Mardy is not a fair sample of the Welsh clubs, for the supporters naturally wish to see football matches, not farces.

Luton were handicapped at the start by the absence of Worth and Bob Hawkes. The former sustained a slight injury during the Southampton match, and to take his place Stephenson crossed over to the left wing position, while Jimmy's place was taken by E. Rogers, the Clarence winger. The latter did one or two good things at times, but lack of weight and experience prevented him distinguishing himself to any great extent. Fred Hawkes figured in Bob's position, and gave a very good exhibition. As a matter of fact, Luton were best served by their half-backs, Wilson in particular being a shining light. The work of the backs, too, left little to cavil at, while Day did his little well, although he made one slip which might have proved costly. He is very safe at ground shots, but would be well advised not to fist the ball when it is possible to catch it.

Perhaps the least said about some of the forwards the better. Smith, at centre forward, was particularly inept, and not only missed open goals by his slowness, but failed to show any enterprise in midfield work. Murphy was also a weak spot, his artistry being quite out of place in such a match. It is to be hoped that the form of these players was too bad to be true, and that it was merely due to a temporary lapse. Wileman worked hard and well, and Stephenson, though not quite his old self, was also responsible for some good work. The best part of the Mardy team is the defence. Jones, the right back, is a defender that no team need be ashamed of, while Jenkins, the right back, and Thomas, the goalkeeper, are also good men. The rest of the team are only so-so, with the exception of Dinney and Hopgood, who performed well on the right wing.

The game itself needs little description. Even the one goal that the Lutonians managed to score had an element of luck about it. Rogers sent the ball in from the right, and Smith had the easiest of chances. He sent the ball straight at the goalkeeper, however, but as luck would have it, that worthy fisted it out in the direction of Stephenson, who dashed up and headed it into the net before Thomas could recover. After the change of ends, the Welshmen at times gave the Luton defence some anxious moments, and it was a lucky escape for Luton when Day, who had plenty of chance to catch the ball as it came across, punched it hard on to the full back to find it rebound just wide of the upright over the goal-line. At no other period of the game did a score by either side seem likely, and everyone was glad when the whistle went, with the score:

LUTON 1, MARDY 0.