

SOUTHERN ALLIANCE.

LUTON DEFEAT SOUTHAMPTON.

NEW CENTRE'S SUCCESSFUL DEBUT.

A new centre-forward named Davidson, a brother of Alec Davidson who played for Luton about ten years ago, figured in the team which defeated Southampton in the Southern Alliance on Wednesday by 2-0. He hails from Ardrossan Celtic, and gave a good account of himself. His presence seemed to snarlen up the whole line, and he scored a clever goal in the second half which many men would not have tried for. Joe Conquest appeared at outside left and also played a clever game, while another change in the team was seen in the half-back line, Wilson and Thompson changing places, — an arrangement which worked very well. Luton well deserved their victory, being smarter all round than the visitors, who owe much to the splendid goal-keeping of Knight.

Luton kicked off against the sun, and at once forced a couple of corners, Stephenson sending a scorcher just over the corner. Thompson was responsible for a swift and sudden attempt which found Knight quite prepared. Thus early in the game, the new man had put in one or two clever passes, especially to Stephenson, who was getting in some beautiful centres. Davidson made a frantic attempt to convert a centre from Fred Hawkes, but his header lacked force, and Knight was not severely tried. A minute later Thompson kicked the ball over from two or three yards' range, and subsequently, well fed by Davidson, Murphy sent in a capital shot, which the Saints' goalie saved in splendid fashion. Southampton's best chance came after ten minutes' play, but Andrews preferred hitting the side of the net to centring. At the other end, Stephenson tried a long shot which went just wide.

Andrews, the speedy left winger of the Southampton team, beat Henderson easily for pace, but his centre was wasted. A fine run by Conquest followed, but he muddled too hard, and only a corner resulted. Luton still continued to press heavily, however, and a score seemed imminent at any moment. Knight had to be at his best to deal with a high centre from Stephenson, but the next moment he was beaten by Conquest, who, receiving the ball from the right wing, drove it in at such a pace that although the goalkeeper got his hand to it, he could not stay its course. A backkick by Henderson let in Andrews, but the latter over-ran the ball, and gave the back time to recover. The visitors seemed certain to score, however, when the three inside forwards out-maneuvred the backs, but Day darted out and pluckily pushed the ball away, being slightly injured in the attempt. From now to the interval, Luton kept up a heavy attack, but lemon-time still found them leading by 1-0.

Immediately after the re-start, Knight, in running out to save, broke the new rule by handling the ball outside the penalty area, but the referee allowed the infringement to pass. A brilliant run by Wileman set Stephenson in possession, and beating the back, he put the ball nicely in front of goal, but Conquest was too well covered to convert. A fine tackle by Fred Hawkes saved a dangerous situation, and some sparkling play by Stephenson resulted in an exciting melee in front of the visitors' goal. Prince might have equalised had he controlled the ball better, but his shot was well wide of Dey's charge. In heading the ball, Wileman collided with one of the Southampton half-backs and had to retire with a cut head. Quiet mid-field play was now the order, but Prince raised

the hopes of the visitors with a shot that missed the goalpost by inches only.

Davidson had a beautiful chance from a centre by Stephenson, who had worked the ball in admirably, but he missed the ball, and only a corner resulted. From this the centre made a good but futile attempt to head a goal, and later Stephenson sent a real pile-driver just over the bar. A prolonged attack by Southampton followed, but the return of Wiseman put fresh life into the home team. It was a clever pass from his foot that set Conquest going, and although the back secured the winger's centre, Davidson dashed up and netted. Southampton went great guns after this, and Prince missed an open goal, while Henderson dashed into goal and saved a certain score when Day had left his charge. Luton made one or two raids, in which they were extremely dangerous, but, generally speaking, the Saints were mostly attacking in the closing stages. Their only likely efforts, however, came from the half-backs, who put in some good long shots. Stephenson had a glorious opportunity of adding to the score when Knight dropped the ball from Conquest's centre, but he was too hasty and sent over the bar. Result:—

LUTON 2, SOUTHAMPTON C.