

By "Goalie."

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

A Set-Back for Luton.

ABERDARE SECURE BOTH SOUTHERN LEAGUE POINTS.

FORWARDS AT FAULT AGAIN.

The results of Luton's visit to Aberdare on Saturday came as a great shock to Lutonians, for although the team has not given unlimited satisfaction, to put it mildly, yet a three goal defeat requires some explanation. Luton's prospects of promotion were none too rosy before this reverse, in view of the extraordinary success of Cardiff City, and the good form of Swansea Town, Pontypridd, Croydon Common, and Southend, but now, it must be confessed, the outlook is rather black. Cardiff were again on the winning side on Saturday, defeating Treharris by 2-0, Pontypridd secured two points from Mardy by 2-1, and Croydon Common and Southend United shared two goals and two points between them.

Saturday's match was set aside for the benefit of Alfred Goodwin, the popular Aberdare back and ex-captain. Goodwin joined the 'Darians four years ago, being transferred from Burton United, upon the exit of that club from the Second Division of the Southern League. He has been the mainstay of the team during the past few years, and is, undoubtedly, one of the most popular footballers in South Wales, his play never being marred by foul tactics. This being so, it was pleasing, but not surprising, to see a large crowd assemble for the game.

Strange to say, both clubs have had trouble with the composition of their team this season. Luton took down what, I suppose, is officially considered the strongest eleven, as follows:—Abbott; Henderson and Potts; F. Hawkes, Wilson, and Bob Hawkes; Stephenson, Wileman, Smith, Murphy and Worth. The inclusion of Abbott in place of Day was only to be expected after his fine display against Brentford on the previous Saturday, but many of the supporters were disappointed that Davidson was not persevered with at centre, and their opinion is supported by the result of the match.

Aberdare made several changes in their team, which has not given thorough satisfaction this season, matters not being improved by the departure of Hamilton and Riddell, two of the 'Darians' star artistes. It was intended to introduce three new players in the team, Harry Williams, formerly of Treharris, Bennett (right wing forward), for whose transfer the Heart of Midlothian have fixed a big fee, and Royles, the centre-half from Gillingham. At the last moment, however, it was found necessary to make a change in the team, the transfer of Royles not having been received and the players turned out as follows:—Roderick; Goodwin and Bilson; Parkes, Rose, and H. Williams; Bennett, Nash, Phillips, Griffiths and Thornton.

The match was easily the best witnessed at Aberdare this season, and it must be admitted that the score about represented the superiority of the 'Darians. Abbott played a smart game in goal, and the only other department in which Luton excelled was the half-back line, all three men playing a sound game. The backs were also good, but capable as the Luton defence was, it was not strong enough to cope with the pretty combined movements of the Aberdare forwards, of whom Nash, with his trio of goals, was the star artiste. Smith was again unconvincing at centre-forward, and the best men in the front line were Wileman and Worth, although Stephenson did some good things at times.

Luton had much the better of the opening play, the right wing being often prominent. Following a corner which proved futile Roderick was tested by Wileman, but the goalie cleared finely. The visitors were much speedier than the 'Darians, but the wingers spoiled many promising movements through their inclination to play off-side. Nash put in some good work for the homesters, and almost enabled Phillips to score, and at the other end Worth tested Roderick, while Bob Hawkes missed a fine chance by shooting too high.

Bennett put in splendid centres, but they were not accepted by the home forwards. Even play followed for a time, but Luton combined together more effectively, and it was only the excellence of the Darians' defence that prevented a score. After a time Aberdare retaliated, and attacked for some minutes with the result that from a fine movement by the home forwards Nash scored a capital goal. Phillips nearly added another a little later, and the home forwards were playing excellently. Just before the interval Thornton had hard luck in just heading over the bar, but the whistle went with no addition to the score.

Aberdare had matters all their own way upon the resumption, and in the first few minutes Griffiths almost added to the home team's lead Abbott clearing at full length. Phillips, Nash, and Thornton tested the Luton goalie, who defended brilliantly, and good work by Bob Hawkes put Luton on the aggressive, Harry Williams being forced to concede a futile corner.

Roderick cleared, and after Parkes had checked another dangerous movement by the Luton forwards, Griffiths ran through the Luton defence, and his final shot grazed the cross-bar. At this juncture Luton had the ill-luck to have Stephenson injured, and he was a "passenger" for practically the rest of the game. Nash then scored the 'Darians' second goal after a fine burst, and he was nearly through a minute later. The Aberdare forwards brought off another combined movement, and Potts stumbling gave Phillips and Nash a clear field, the latter having little difficulty in scoring the third goal. Time came soon afterwards with the score:—

ABERDARE 3, LUTON 0.