

SOUTHERN ALLIANCE.

WEAKENED TEAM DEFEATED BY PORTSMOUTH.

Luton's run of success received a check on Wednesday, when they were defeated in the Southern Alliance at Portsmouth. The latter have done very well in the Southern League, but up to Wednesday had not registered a single victory in the Alliance. The result, 3-0 for Portsmouth, does not put Luton out of the running for the championship, for although Croydon Common lead by a point, Luton have a game in hand. The defeat may be explained by the fact that Luton were without Bob Hawkes, Stephenson, and Streeton, and with three of the first team forwards away, no one could expect the players to do themselves justice. "Anyhow, they can't always win," seemed to be the philosophical feeling in the town after the result was known.

There was a capital attendance, notwithstanding the counter attraction on the neighbouring ground, where the South Africans were playing, and the football was keen Luton going all out to gain points. Their rivals, however, proved much the smarter combination, their attacking being quicker and more incisive and their defence altogether superior, although Abbott, Henderson and Potts were an effective rearguard, and Wilson was particularly prominent at centre-half. Wieman, Smith, and Murphy, who filled the inside forward positions, were much too slow, and lost several openings through weak marksmanship and lack of dash.

Portsmouth, who had Martin and Dexter playing for Dowling and Knight, were always on the target, and Jones came prominently into the limelight, scoring all three goals, two in the first half and the other just before the end, all of them coming from smart work by Wright. Taylor was clever as the leader of the Pompey vanguard, distributing his passes well, and of an excellent defence Reid, Hamilton, and Dexter were to the forefront.

HOW THE CLUBS STAND.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Croydon Common ...	8	3	1	4	9	7	10
LUTON	7	4	2	1	16	10	9
Southampton	6	2	2	2	8	7	6
Southend United ...	6	2	2	2	9	8	6
Brighton and Hove	4	1	2	1	5	10	3
Brentford	2	1	1	0	4	2	2
Cardiff City	2	1	1	0	4	6	2
Portsmouth	4	1	2	1	3	5	3
Millwall	3	0	2	1	5	8	1