

SOUTHERN ALLIANCE.

VISIT OF PORTSMOUTH.

TWO POINTS FOR LUTON.

From a Luton point of view, the only interest remaining in this competition is the question of whether Luton can finish as runners-up, and on Tuesday they defeated their most dangerous rivals for this subsidiary honour, by 2-1. The game was fairly interesting at times, but both teams showed evidence of hard holiday programmes, and the exchanges could never be called fast or even exciting, except for one or two isolated exceptions. There were three changes from the Luton team on Monday. A. Webdale, of the Luton Amateurs, partnered Jarvie at back, and came out with flying colours. Abbott appeared instead of Bateman, and M. Price figured as pivot of the forward line. He is a hard worker, and has a good knowledge of the art of feeding his wings.

Before the game had been in progress many minutes, it was plain that the match was not going to be exactly a thriller. About a quarter of an hour had passed before anything had happened worthy of recording. The Portsmouth goalkeeper had a hard shot to save from Price. The ball found its way to Stephenson, who sent in a beautiful high shot, which Sanderson touched over. Worth raised the hopes of the crowd by one of his lightning cross-shots, but it passed safely past the farther post. The next opening was made by Fred Hawkes, who brought the goalkeeper to his knees with a hard shot. He dropped the ball, and Holland dashed in, but the custodian had time to clear. About two minutes from half-time Fred Hawkes gave Wileman a nice forward pass. Wileman was awkwardly placed, so he crossed the ball to Price, whose shot evaded the oncoming goalkeeper and found the net.

Price had a splendid opening immediately after the re-start. He manœuvred the ball past the two backs, but his shot lacked both pace and direction. An unusual incident occurred next. Sanderson made a brilliant save from Worth, and in clearing he was penalised six yards from the goal line for carrying the ball. The whole of the Portsmouth team lined up in the goal, and the Luton players crowded round. The ball was quickly touched to a Luton player, and an exciting scrimmage ensued, during the course of which the ball was sent wide. Luton soon added to their score, however. Stephenson took the ball down the wing, and centred to Wileman, who had a back in close attendance. His first shot struck the goalkeeper, but he recovered the ball and cleverly shot past the back and goalkeeper into the net. Portsmouth's goal had more than an element of luck about it. Dowling took a wild shot at goal, and the ball swerved round to Rollinson, who was standing clear and who netted with ease. Result:

LUTON 2, PORTSMOUTH 1.