

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

LUTON'S REVENGE.

NEWPORT COUNTY WELL BEATEN.

LOCAL AMATEUR'S BRILLIANT DEBUT.

Swansea's sensational defeat at Mardy last week has raised the hopes of Luton footballers that the Blues may, after all, have a chance of promotion, but Southend's victory at Pontypridd on Saturday gives them a big pull, and unless they lose at Swansea and also drop two other points in Wales, they seem practically certain to go up. On Saturday, Luton received a visit from Newport County, who administered such a sound thrashing by 5-1 earlier in the season. Luton satisfactorily avenged this on Saturday, however, by piling on five goals against the County without reply. Only about four thousand spectators witnessed the game, which was not remarkably exciting. Newport did not strike one as a good team at all, but the occasional glimpses of dashing football to which their forwards occasionally treated the crowd showed that if they are caught on top of their form, they would prove a very tough proposition.

One of the most notable features of the game was the brilliant debut of J. Chipperfield, the local amateur, who crowned an afternoon's clever display by performing the "hat-trick." His success was very popular for a football crowd dearly loves to see a local choice "come off." Another Luton amateur appeared in the person of J. Elvey, and he also did well, his kicking being especially clean considering the tricky, blustering wind. Although Wileman did not shine so much as on former occasions, his partner, Stephenson, was always a thorn in the side of the County defence. Jarvie and Bob Hawkes should also be picked out for special mention, while Bateman, who had comparatively little to do, made one or two clever saves, specially in the opening half, when Newport were responsible for some dangerous raids.

Only one goal was scored in the first half. Newport began by showing promise of giving Luton a good game, but as time wore on, Luton showed their superiority more and more. Two clearances by Bateman when he was surrounded by the visiting forwards brought relief from awkward situations. Smith seemed a certain scorer, when he dashed through after receiving an ideal pass from Bob Hawkes, but his final shot was luckily deflected by one of the backs. Chipperfield was cheered for two smart pieces of work, both of which resulted in the ball being placed in front of goal. The goal, when it did come, was rather lucky. Smith took the ball to within a few yards of Husbands, the visiting goalie, when he was robbed. Wilson was following up, and receiving the ball about twenty yards out, he sent in a hard shot which was slightly deflected by an opponent's head out of Husbands' reach. Newport had a piece of bad luck soon after this, Husbands dislocating a finger in clearing a ground shot. Perry took his place, and had a very hot time of it, but in spite of good attempts by Stephenson and Wileman, he retained a clean sheet until Husbands returned.

The second half opened very tamely. Wileman missed by inches with a great cross-shot, and this was followed by a regular bombardment. Shot after shot was rained in, and Chipperfield put in the culminating contribution with a shot which passed through a crowd of players into the net. About five minutes later Worth received a splendid pass from Smith, and racing goalwards he brought off a centre which enabled Chipperfield to score with a first-time effort. A rally by Newport was ably frustrated by Bateman, and then Wileman scored the fourth goal. He had previously shot hard, but Husbands saved. The ball returned to Wileman, who made no mistake this time. A likely looking shot by Wileman struck the corner of the woodwork, and then Chipperfield achieved the distinction of completing the hat-trick. This goal was somewhat similar to his first, for all the forwards had had a shot before the ball found its way to the amateur. He shot along the ground for the corner of the goal, and Husbands went full length at it, but he allowed the ball to slip under him into the net. Result:—

LUTON 5, NEWPORT COUNTY 0.