

LUTON'S BRILLIANT WIND-UP.

**Last home Second Division game
yields five goals.**

Hat trick by local amateur.

Luton Town have usually had the reputation for finishing up the season with a brilliant spurt, and they certainly lived up to that reputation on Saturday, when they brought their home matches in the Second Division of the Southern League to a close with a smashing victory over Newport County. At Newport Luton sustained their heaviest defeat of the season, 5—1, but the County found the Luton pitch in quite the reverse state to that upon which the match at Newport was decided, and the Blues had an ample revenge in a score of 5—0, the second largest Southern League victory of the season. The effect of the defeat at Swansea was very evident in a substantially diminished gate, in spite of the afternoon being quite a pleasant one from a spectator's point of view, but there were about four thousand supporters who had their interest accentuated somewhat by a popular, if rather, daring experiment on the part of the Directors in trying two local amateurs.

With Potts going lame at Swansea and the Clarence without a League match it was not sur-

Dprising to find the Directors again seeking the services of Dick Elvey, the black and white's captain, who figured so creditably in the Easter Monday game against Aberdare, but the more daring experiment was the displacement of Holland, the new forward secured from the 'Spurs, by J. Chipperfield, the former prolific schoolboy goal-getter whom the Clarence have this season attracted from local junior football. These were the only changes from the side which made such a good fight at Swansea, and although the visitors were minus three of the players Luton met at Newport, two of these have since migrated to Cardiff and Swansea respectively, so that, except for Thornton at half, they were at full strength. They included Hall, who was with Luton for part of season 1907-8, and was transferred to Chesterfield. The full teams were:—
 Luton—H. Bateman; J. R. Elvey and Jarvie; F. Hawkes, Wilson, and Bob Hawkes; Stephenson, Wileman, Smith, J. Chipperfield, and Worth.
 Newport:—Husbands; Perry and Taylor; E. Jones, Lean and McDougall; Westwood, Hall, E. Hammett, Fyfe, and Bowdler.
 Referee, Mr. F. Heath, Birmingham.
 The game was not a notable one for the quality of football exhibited. The players took some time to get used to a pitch which was in a much more lively condition than has been the case for some time past, and added to this they had to contend with a blustering cross wind, which made the ball very difficult to control. Accurate passing would have been an impossibility in any case, but to make matters worse neither side showed much capacity for keeping the ball low. The result was that the football was far from polished, and not over interesting. The pace was fast, but the errors were glaring.
 Newport at the start seemed to be much more at home than the homesters. A big side, they swung the ball about in such lively fashion, and followed up with such dash that although they were facing a keen breeze they threatened for quite ten minutes to run the Blues off their legs. Luton were rather lucky to survive even that time without a score, Bateman having to be at his best to fist away from Hammett and Bowdler. Finish was, however, not a strong point with the Newport attack, and this was found to apply also to the defence when pressure was put upon them. Once Luton got going play was nearly always in the visitors' half, and Husbands brought off a series of really clever saves, but even then the home forwards let him off lightly, considering the chances they had. Chipperfield was as prominent as any of them, and his pushful work excited general admiration. Twice he worked his way through most resourcefully and shot cleverly, but Husbands was equal to the occasion, and on two other occasions he saved what seemed likely to be certain goals from corners.
 There were frequent appeals for hands when Luton were putting on pressure at close quarters, and the homesters did not at all relish the refusal of a penalty when a promising header from Wileman was stopped. It took twenty-five minutes to bring a goal, and then it was the two centre-halves who figured in it, Wilson letting drive as the ball emerged from a mix-up round the goal, and Lean just deflecting it with his head out of the goalkeeper's reach. Directly afterwards the goalkeeper dislocated a finger in stopping a shot close to the ground but he was able to resume after having the injury attended to by Dr. Rose. In his absence Perry did well to save from Stephenson, but was lucky when he went out for a centre from Worth and Wileman headed wide of an open goal. Luton continued to pepper away at the goal, but Smith and Stephenson both missed chances right under the bar, and the interval came with only one goal scored.
 Play in the first few minutes of the second half was difficult to follow owing to a chimney fire in the district enveloping the ground in smoke, but when the pitch cleared the Luton forwards treated the crowd to some exhilarating football. They did much better against the wind than with it, and the issue was never in doubt. Wileman was unlucky to miss with a lightning effort across the goal, and then after Husbands had effected brilliant saves on the ground from Wileman and Chipperfield, the local secured again from a scrimmage, and very coolly steered the ball well out of reach. Three minutes later Chipperfield put on another, and this was a real beauty, not only the final touch, but also the dazzling run and finely-judged centre by Worth which the local so deftly converted. There were no more goals until the last quarter of an hour, when Wileman drove in a fine shot that was beaten down, and taking the rebound with the left he essayed another which glanced in off the post. Wileman hit the post again, but this time the ball came back into play and then Chipperfield brought off the hat trick the goalkeeper allowing a shot which followed from a scrimmage to slip under his arms. This was the end of the scoring and the final reading was:—Luton 5, Newport 0.
 The hero of the match was undoubtedly young Chipperfield, for, quite apart from his "hat trick" he was the outstanding forward on the field. I have often heard it said of him that he has the legs of a footballer, and he certainly knows how to use them—and his head as well. Quick, fearless and tricky, he has all the resource of Wileman. So far from being stage-struck, he shapes as though he had been playing in professional football for years, and it certainly seems a pity that he is too late for this season—Luton have found the forward they are wanting. Elvey also made another good impression. The prank the wind played with the ball made it a trying afternoon for a young back, but he kicked strongly, made only about two "bloomers" in judgment, and surprised most people by the ease with which he withstood the buffetings of weighty opponents. Jarvie was again in brilliant form and a tower of strength, and the halves were right above the opposing attack, but the regular forwards showed in and out form, even Wileman being less prominent than usual.