

EXTREMES MEET.

Second Division Leaders and the Wooden Spoonists.

Six goals against Treharris.

Turning out in their bright new shirts, in which they scored two victories in a week on their first Welsh visit of the season, Luton Town on Saturday afternoon found their scoring boots. With Treharris as visitors to the town ground, they registered the record in goal scoring for this season's campaign in the Second Division of the Southern League. For the greater part of the second half it looked as if it was going to be another case of history repeating itself, as in the Mardy match at Luton. Notebooks had been closed and most of the Pressmen had got ready for dispatch their final wires with the score 4—0 for Luton—last season's result—when in the last two or three minutes Wileman brought off two brilliant movements, which resulted in two more goals, and gave Luton a better score than they achieved in any of their Second Division matches last season. Even then many of the crowd were far from satisfied. During the second half they were frequently reminding the home players that they had only got four, and one impatient individual went so far as to suggest that if they got a dozen they would want them. The whole fact of the matter was that Treharris provided a painfully feeble opposition. They were expected to be easy prey, and they were, but the straw-hatted crowd, who enjoyed that sweltering sunshine and loudly called for more goals, rather left out of their reckoning what their demands meant to the perspiring players, whose spotted shirts were telling the tale before the game was many minutes' old.

There was not quite as large an attendance as at the Mardy match, but it reached somewhere near five thousand. At any rate, it is safe to say that it would have been much less had it not been that the weather conditions were so delightful as to be far more in keeping with cricket than football, for Treharris were last but one on the Second Division table last season, and they do not look like doing much better in this season's campaign as, although they have twice had the advantage of playing at home they have yet to register their first point this season. It must be said in extenuation of their poor displays that they have early been overtaken by misfortune in the matter of injuries, and though they have slightly recovered from these misfortunes, their team has still been weakened. Luton, on the contrary, had their full playing list to select from, and it was no little surprise to many to find the team which proved so successful in Wales the previous week departed from. The general disposition of the supporters was in favour of adhering to a winning side, especially as Brewis has yet to appear in the Blues' side on the town ground, but I am told the management were pretty evenly divided as to the respective merits of the two centre-forwards and outside-rights, with the result that the constitution of the forward line was not finally settled until the eleventh hour. In the end Simms and Donaghy were preferred to Brewis and Stevens, so that the players who lined out under Mr. T. W. Annal, of

Harrington—a referee new to Luton—were as under:—

Luton—Mitchell; Elvey, Jarvie; Fred Hawkes, Frith, Bob Hawkes; Donaghy, Wileman, Simms, Rollinson, Wilkie.

Treharris—Demmery; Timmins, T. Williams; Jarvis, Jones, Pike; Hughes, Downes, Summers, H. Davies, Whitcombe.

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Treharris set Luton to start against a fairly blustery wind, but the advantage this was to the visitors was fairly counteracted by a bothering sun, and the Blues from the start revelled in the ideal playing conditions. The ball was very lively, but so were the Luton forwards and halves, and right from the kick-off the visitors were in trouble. Simms twice called on Demmery in the first minute or so, and the second shot was diverted in such a troublesome way by one of the halves that the goalkeeper fumbled it near the line and had a narrow escape from being rushed through. For all this the crowd very early had a bit of a shock. Jarvie, taking things much too lightly, made a muddle of a clearance, and in the scramble the visitors were afforded the easiest of opportunities, but Whitcombe shot nowhere near the goal. After this escape, however, the crowd soon recovered their equanimity, for Simms and Wileman broke clean through in dashing style, and Wileman got quite clear of the backs, but hampered from behind as he shot a fine left-footer, was just wide of the mark. Then a smart bout of passing between the right wing pair resulted in Donaghy carefully centring clear of the backs, and faced only by the goalkeeper, Rollinson took his time, and in the coolest manner imaginable slipped the ball in at the end of the goal, which Demmery had left open.

Five minutes' play had produced the opening goal, and Rollinson followed it up with some brilliant work, which gave Demmery no end of trouble. The goalkeeper cleverly saved from a corner he forced, and from another of his efforts a lightning shot, which left his foot as he dashed through would unquestionably have been unstoppable if it had been a shade lower. It was, however, Simms who increased Luton's lead after the lapse of ten minutes. Williams was at fault in dealing with a centre from Wilkie, which threatened no trouble, and seizing his opportunity Simms rushed the ball, and though the goalkeeper left him little space to shoot in, he succeeded in steering the ball under Demmery's outstretched hands. The centre only just missed another from a corner, but he failed to take a glorious chance when Wileman broke through and squared the ball beautifully across the goal. Demmery was the only opponent that barred the way, but Simms did not gather the ball first time, and the goalkeeper managed to hustle him and cause him to send over.

Treharris were hopelessly outclassed, and it was only due to Demmery's goalkeeping and the tendency of the home forwards to keep the ball close, that prevented goals coming along very rapidly. Treharris, in the main, relied for relief upon big kicking, and although Mitchell had to handle now and again, the attempts were generally made from hopeless range. Once, however, the goal was in danger as a result of good work on the right, but though the inside men were well up for a promising centre, they were wanting in the necessary finish. Luton also threw away more than one chance, but Donaghy, receiving from a clever piece of work by Rollinson and running round the back, had bad luck to have his final effort "spoiled" by a foul. The referee declined to allow the appeal for a penalty, though it was not an accident, which was proved in the very next minute, when Donaghy was similarly treated by the same player. This time, however, it was outside the penalty area, and although the free-kick was well put in, Demmery was equal to it. He also saved magnificently from a corner kick by Wilkie, but a quarter of an hour before the change of ends Simms again beat him. Frith had distinguished himself by coming to the aid of the backs and breaking up one of the few dangerous movements of the visitors, and carrying the ball up he placed it over to Rollinson. The inside left transferred to Simms, and with the back failing to stop him, the centre went right on, drew the goalkeeper out, and shot into an undefended net.

Within a couple of minutes later Wileman had the hardest possible luck. Wilkie brought off a magnificent shot, which Demmery fisted out, and Wileman taking the rebound, steered the ball clear of the players in the goalmouth, and found the corner with a really brilliant shot. The referee, however, disallowed it. Simms had, with his usual enterprise, followed up Wilkie's effort, and although at the time Wileman shot he was merely walking away from the goal, the referee ruled him offside. The remainder of the half was almost devoid of incident, for the home side eased up in a fashion which exasperated the crowd considerably, and did not make anything like the best use of their opportunities. Whitcombe, in fact, once more had a good chance of beating Mitchell, but sent high over. Rollinson experienced bad luck with one of the few noteworthy efforts credited to the home attack, and Simms lost control after Wilkie had placed him clear and had his shot beaten down. So at half-time the score stood—

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LUTON 3, TREHARRIS 0.

Luton stated the second half in very lifeless fashion, but only two minutes had gone by when Wileman aroused enthusiasm by scoring a well-deserved success. Receiving from Fred Hawkes he worked through in that resourceful style peculiarly his own, and from a range of quite twenty yards beat Demmery with a brilliant shot. After this, however, the play fell off considerably, Treharris doing little by way of organised attack, while the homesters were disappointingly ineffective near goal. Still it was not wholly their fault that more goals did not come along, because at rare intervals their efforts were quite brilliant, only Demmery was even more so. He effected a splendid save low down from Fred Hawkes—whose sequence of ground shots seemed to indicate that he has been devoting himself to a study of the art of shooting low—and he did equally well in keeping out a really blinding shot from Wileman.

These efforts were sandwiched between a good deal of very tame play, but Luton were not over-blessed with luck in their shooting. Both Rollinson and Wileman struck the goalposts with efforts which had Demmery completely beaten, and Rollinson once got the ball into the net, only to have the point disallowed for using his hands to get the ball in position. Just at the end, however, the game was enlivened by two rousing goals in quick succession, Wileman figuring in both. Getting the ball at fairly close quarters from Simms, he dribbled by the backs, drew the goalkeeper out and easily put in. Immediately afterwards, in a fast movement, he took the ball in his stride and blazed away first time. The shot struck the under part of the cross-bar, and the ball looked to have gone into goal, but it came out, and with the goalkeeper hopelessly out of position Rollinson made a "cert" of it. Thus the final score was brought up to—

LUTON 6, TREHARRIS 0.

This was Treharris's fourth Second Division defeat this season, and they will have to improve considerably if they are to equal last season's achievement of a dozen points, even with more matches to play. On their form at Luton they are essentially a one-man team, for with a less competent custodian than Demmery the score against them must have run into double figures. His work earned the admiration of everyone, and one could not help feeling sorry for the ex-Bristol City man as time after time the defence was so completely overwhelmed that his position was rendered well nigh hopeless. The backs played pluckily against odds, but the halves were quite outclassed, and the forwards showed little promise of goal-getting. Their combination was by no means bad in midfield, but it went all to pieces as soon as they got anywhere near goal, the confidence and resolution requisite for goal scoring being altogether wanting.

The visitors were so hopelessly outplayed that Mitchell, as in the Mardy match, had practically an afternoon off, very little work coming his way even when in the second half Luton were playing practically eight forwards and leaving the opposition line ample opportunity for effective attack. Elvey played as resolutely as ever, and was a host in himself, but Jarvie was calculated to give one the shivers because of the liberties he took and his disposition to forget that his allotted position on the field is full back. It was in covering Jarvie that Frith did his best work, and altogether he played his best game at Luton, but he still seems to be essentially a player of defensive qualities. The only complaint to be made against the two Hawkes, especially Bob, was that they tried to do rather too much in attack. Still, as a whole, the halves had the opposition completely in hand, and their energies needed some outlet.

It was refreshing to find the forwards in such a goal-scoring mood, and though they did not satisfy the insatiable desire of some, it was nevertheless quite the best display they have given at home. The honours, as well as the goals, rested with the inside men, and it could hardly have been otherwise, because the whole disposition and the method of attack favoured the

inside game. Simms was, as usual, an individualist of fearless dash in the centre, and was nearly always on the spot, while he did not do at all badly in the cultivation of the inside game, but he is not the sort of leader to keep his outside wingers plied with opening out movements. The left wing pair again worked in well together, but Wilkie was not so prominent as usual, and Rolimson was easily the more brilliant of the two. The "star," however, was Wileman, who seems to have thoroughly found his old form at last. His shooting was quite in keeping with the reputation he made last season, and with any luck he would have "bagged" a big lot of goals. Donaghy was the more effective of the two wingers in making good use of his chances, but he spent far too much time during the game protesting and appealing to and arguing with the referee. This sort of thing does not the slightest good, and it will be of advantage to Donaghy and the whole team if he makes up his mind to take things as they come and devote his whole attention to the game.

FOOTBALL NOTES AND NEWS.

By "Vigilant."

LUTON STILL AT THE TOP OF THE TREE.

Luton are still at the top of the Second Division tree, and from a glance at their match programme it occurs to one that they ought to stay there up to Christmas. They certainly ought to if they are to be in the running for promotion, because previous to Christmas Day their stiffest hurdles are Llanelli away and Pontypridd at home. Their next two matches are at Barry next Saturday, and at Treharris a fortnight later, and now that the Blues' forwards have got into the goal-scoring habit both these matches ought to bring the full number of points. As Treharris are comfortably settled at the bottom end of the table they were expected to be easy prey on Saturday, but still the addition to the goal average is welcome.

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Stoke and Ton Pentre were the only other teams engaged in the Second Division campaign on Saturday, and by the odd goal in three the Potters captured their second brace of points in Wales. To-day Treharris are at home to Caerphilly and Llanelli visit Abertillery. The present positions of the clubs are given below:—

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Luton (5)	4	4	0	0	11	2	8
Swansea (3)	3	2	0	1	7	0	5
Croydon Common (4)	3	2	0	1	4	1	5
Stoke	4	2	1	1	5	4	5
Brentford	2	2	0	0	8	1	4
Llanelli (6)	2	2	0	0	5	1	4
Pontypridd (7)	3	1	1	1	3	2	3
Newport (10)	3	1	1	1	2	2	3
Aberdare (9)	2	1	1	0	4	5	2
Mardy (11)	3	1	2	0	5	3	2
Barry	3	1	2	0	4	10	2
Caerphilly	3	1	2	0	2	8	2
Ton Pentre (13)	3	0	2	1	2	4	1
Mid Rhondda (8)	2	0	2	0	2	4	0
Abertillery	2	0	2	0	1	4	0
Treharris (12)	4	0	4	0	2	15	0

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Several of the Welsh Second Division clubs were engaged in the preliminary round of the Football Association Cup Competition, on Saturday, the most interesting games being those in which Aberdare beat Mardy 3—1 and Mid Rhondda beat Pontypridd 1—0. Llanelli by 6—0 and Swansea by 4—0 disposed of teams unknown to this district, but Caerphilly went down by 3—1 to the Cardiff Corinthians.

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Croydon Common were devoting their attention to the Southern Alliance last week. With only four members of their regular first team, they dropped a point at home to Luton, but on Saturday they beat Brentford 2—0. The Robins have signed on R. Jones, the Ton Pentre outside-left but at present he is only playing in the South Eastern League team. The only other Alliance game of the week was at Southampton, where with a full side, the homesters defeated Portsmouth on Wednesday by the only goal scored. Appended is the table:—

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Croydon (1)	5	3	1	1	8	2	7
Luton (3)	4	2	1	1	5	5	5
Brentford (8)	5	1	3	1	6	8	3
Newport	1	1	0	0	1	0	2
Southampton (7)	2	1	1	0	2	3	2
Portsmouth (5)	3	1	2	0	4	5	2
Southend (6)	2	1	1	0	1	3	2
Cardiff City (9)	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Brighton (2)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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Luton will be at home on Wednesday to their old Watford rivals in the Southern Charity Cup. Watford made a draw at Millwall's Den on Saturday, and are well up in the Southern League table but their position flatters them, as they have won only two out of eight games. Luton's record for all matches is: Won 6, lost 1, drawn 1, goals for 16 against 7. The goal scorers have been: Wileman 5, Rollinson 4, Simms 3, Bob Hawkes and Brewin 2 each.

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We have received a letter from a correspondent who signs himself "A Fair Sport," relative to a local match between the Stanley and Celtic teams played on the Commercial Cars' ground at Lea-grave, but as our correspondent does not disclose his identity we cannot publish it. It deals with the old, old subject of refereeing, and I would suggest to "A Fair Sport" that in sport it is much the better to let bygones be bygones.