

TWO MORE POINTS IN WALES.

Luton overplay Barry in second half.

Although scarcely a month of the season has gone by Luton have already made the acquaintance of the three new Welsh grounds, and the result on Saturday was even more satisfactory than that at Abertillery, for the margin was at least a goal better. The Barry Club have not gone in for an expensive team in their first season, but have expended the greater part of their energy in getting a ground in something like order, and this is no easy task in South Wales, as the majority of Lutonians are by this time aware, judging from the reports of the various pitches Luton have visited in that district. Jenner Park, as the Barry ground is named, is, however, much less like an ideal park than the one at Abertillery. It promises to make quite a decent football ground in time, but that will not be this season. The supporters have, however, put in a lot of voluntary labour, and if not exactly beautiful the result is a useful enclosure. The whole of the fencing has been put up by volunteers in their spare time, and is of quite a substantial character. The playing area has also entailed an immense amount of work, as it is practically carved out of a hillside, and it is stated that no fewer than 35,000 cart loads of earth and ashes have been shifted. On one side of the ground it has been made up twenty feet, and naturally in settling down the playing surface is very uneven and, as the grass is pretty thick and long, ground work is rather difficult for the professional who is used to level pitches. To make matters worse from this point of view, there had been quite a lot of rain during the morning, and the going was consequently rather soft.

The opening Southern League match, v. Mid Rhondda attracted something over 3,000 spectators at Barry, and a much larger gate was expected on Saturday, but as a hurried departure had to be made to catch the "Fishguard" at Cardiff the actual attendance cannot be given. Still 4,000 would be a liberal estimate of the attendance. The majority of the players are local in reputation, but the Chairman of the Club had been "scouting" in the Midlands last week, and two new men from that district were given a trial against Luton, these being Comely (right back) and Woolridge (inside left). The outside left, Isherwood, is the only player who has previously played against Luton, he having been with Brighton a season or two since. The left back, however, was not unknown to the older members of the Luton party, as he made a couple of journeys here when that unfortunate accident at Brighton robbed Luton of so promising a player as his brother, "Sammy" Wightman.

Luton made their usual Friday night stay at Cardiff, going over to Barry after lunch on Saturday morning. Although Stevens travelled down with the team, it was decided to adhere to the same formation as the previous Saturday, Donaghy and Simms thus making their first appearance in Wales. The teams were as under:—

Luton:—Mitchell; Elvey and Jarvie; F. Hawkes, Frith and R. Hawkes; Donaghy, Wileman, Simms, Rollinson and Wilkie.

Barry:—Varlow; Comely and Wightman; Prince, Cutlow and Greenaway; Bates, Price, Walton, Woolridge, and Isherwood.

Referee, Mr. F. Curtis, Bristol.

There was plenty of enthusiasm among the spectators at the start, and the home players went off with any amount of dash. The crowd cheered when almost in the first minute a free kick was given against Jarvie, but the ball was sent yards over the top of the goal. The ground was responsible for a faulty pass back by Frith, and from this the home forwards got clean away, and Mitchell's charge appeared in imminent danger, but, fortunately for Luton, one of the home forwards in his eagerness got in front of the ball, and offside effectually spoilt the chance of a goal. Donaghy was the first Lutonian to get away, and his final centre gave Varlow his first chance to show his abilities, and the local goalie was quite equal to the occasion. He was not hustled at all, and had ample time to clear, but as he was found more work he appeared to develop "nerve," and was rather excited. Fred Hawkes tried a long shot which almost did the trick, but it was a trifle wide, although right so far as elevation was concerned. But the opening goal soon came along, when Wileman dashing through in his best style drew Varlow right out of goal, and then gave a simple tap to Simms, who was keeping well up, and had only to touch the ball through an open goal.

Following this the home players had a decent chance to equalise when Frith slipped right up and missed the ball. Price was left with an open goal except for Mitchell, but he shot wide when at least he should have given the Luton goalkeeper a chance to show what he was made of. The home goal had a fortunate escape just afterwards when Wileman was badly fouled just as he was practically through. Fred Hawkes took the kick and sent in a stinging attempt, but it was just a trifle too high. Just on the interval the home crowd had quite a glorious couple of minutes, when the ball eventually entered the Luton net. They cheered loud and long, but the referee was at last noticed to be consulting with his linesmen, and at last pointed for a goal kick. It was difficult from the stand to see exactly what the doubt was, but inquiry at half-time discovered that the ball had been out of play behind the goal line before

LUTON 1, BARRY 0

It was soon apparent after the restart what the result would be, for Barry went all to pieces so far as attacking was concerned, and devoted themselves to keeping down the score. Rollinson made a good attempt from a centre by Wileman, and eight minutes from half-time he had the satisfaction of getting the ball by Varlow from quite thirty yards' range. It appeared as if Varlow should have got to the ball, but he simply threw up his arms and the ball seemed to pass between them into the net. It was now practically all Luton, but once Isherwood got right away to the corner flag and sent the ball low across the goal mouth. At least three of the Barry forwards were

within a couple of yards of it, and a step might have done the trick in one case. It would have been rough on Luton if a score had resulted, for Isherwood was yards offside when he commenced his run, but the referee failed to notice the encroachment.

However, matters were made pretty safe twenty minutes from time, when Wileman netted goal number three with an unstoppable shot. Varlow however, made not the slightest movement, being taken apparently by surprise. To a slight extent Luton seemed to ease up for a few minutes, as although they still were doing most of the pressing they did not put that sting into their final effort which brings goals. Six minutes from the finish a sudden breakaway led up to Barry having the satisfaction of beating Mitchell. The ball was forced up by the left wing, and finally centred for Walker to put through. Undoubtedly the bumpy nature of the ground gave Barry their point, for Mitchell was shaping to receive the shot when the ball touched a rise in the thick turf and bounded up right away from the anticipated angle. The Luton players strongly protested against this goal, for both the left wing players must have been offside more than once during the tussle for possession near the corner flag, one of them actually coming into play from over the goal line to get the ball from his partner. However, a goal was awarded. Right away from the restart Luton went through, Rollinson netting again, and the referee at once gave the goal. The crowd shouted loudly against the point standing, and eventually Mr. Curtis had a word with one of the linesmen, and then gave a free kick to Barry. There is no doubt whatever that the linesman was correct, for Wileman, who forced the opening, got his chance by hooking the ball with his arm, but evidently the referee saw nothing of this, and was quite confident in allowing the goal. Luton twice afterwards appeared likely to increase their score, Donaghy and Rollinson both having hard luck with good attempts, but the final result was:—

LUTON 3, BARRY 1.

Luton were altogether the superior combination, and Mitchell had practically nothing difficult to save. Elvey and Jarvie were usually on top in dealing with the Barry attack. Although sudden breakaways on the part of the outside men at times threatened danger, they were able to smother the inside trio when the ball came across. The rough surface did not suit Bob Hawkes' style of play, and some of the occupants on the stand were rather disappointed in consequence, but the Luton captain put in a lot of useful work nevertheless. His two comrades did their share in clever style, and as a trio they were altogether too clever for the Barry forwards. Coming to the Luton forwards, probably Wileman and Rollinson were responsible for the neatest work, but as a line they all did very well, Simms' dash coming in useful on several occasions, while the two wingers could more than hold their own.

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On the Barry side the most prominent men were Bates and Isherwood, and of them Bates was the most troublesome. Jarvie once or twice had a stiff task to hustle him off the ball, and the crowd did not always appreciate the Luton back's attentions. Varlow, who for the most part seemed a trifle nervous, did much better towards the close, and thus prevented Luton making the improvement in their goal average the exchanges warranted. The home backs were quite moderate, and if they gave nothing away it could not be claimed that they dominated the situation. At half-back Barry were not up to Southern League strength, and this division will have to be strengthened before much advance can be made from a promotion point of view.