

OLD PLAYER'S RETURN.

Durrant's successful reappearance in Luton Town.

Jamie Durrant, who played for Luton Town in their Second League days, and in the first four seasons after their return to the Southern League, reappeared in the Blues' colours on Wednesday for the first time for ten seasons, and played a considerable part in the defeat of Portsmouth in a Southern Alliance game. Wileman was his partner, and Stevens crossed over to the left to try his hand in partnership with Rollinson, Brewis being in the centre. The defence relied upon was the regular one, with the exception that Fred Hawkes was rested and Wilson substituted at right-half, Elvey being denied his rest in consequence of Robinson not being thoroughly sound. Portsmouth have lately been going very strong, their last five games before they came to Luton giving them nine points, but they did not bring anything like their full strength on Wednesday. They had a new goalkeeper in Heath, from the Sunderland district, and an enterprising new centre in Quinn, who has played as an amateur for Blackpool, and altogether there were playing only five of the side that did duty at Southend on Saturday. Even then the Blues had all their work cut out, and they were lucky to win by the odd goal in seven.

The game, which was witnessed by about a thousand spectators in delightful weather, was marred by the exhibition of a good deal of bad feeling, one of the Portsmouth half-backs being thrice spoken to by the referee, while stoppages for slight injuries were numerous. What the crowd enjoyed most about the homesters' display was Durrant's clever work and Mitchell's brilliant goal-keeping. Except for the right wing the forward work was feeble, the halves were below par except for Frith, and the backs were uneven.