

# FRED HAWKES TO THE RESCUE.

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A poor game at Treharris leaves  
Luton still leaders.

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Luton paid their second visit to what is undoubtedly the most primitive ground in the Southern League on Saturday, and to the surprise of the crowd (!) were hard put to it at the finish to get off with the two points. To the majority of the party it was their first visit to this remarkable enclosure, and it was really amusing to see

their countenances when they set eyes upon what is called the "Sports Ground, Treharris." The referee was one who was making the acquaintance of the ground for the first time, and he was quite as emphatic as any English director under similar circumstances in voting it a scandal that decent clubs should be compelled to turn out on such pitches.

When the Luton party arrived there was no one to welcome them except a few boys, who were kicking a ball about on the ground, and, really, it was almost impossible to believe one had arrived at a Southern League ground, for it is more like a back yard of a public-house! As a matter of fact, that is actually what it is, for to reach it you have to dive into the lower regions of an hotel. The dressing room is one of the hotel outbuildings, and even that was locked up until ten minutes before the time of kick-off, and the only place open was a stable. For an hour and a half the players were seated on the earth terrace which overlooks the ground with bags and coats lying about until such time as a lad arrived to open the dressing-room. The only other alternative was to sit in a crowded taproom of the public-house, and it was just as well it was fine or it would have been a most unpleasant experience.

The Senghenydd Colliery is almost within sight of the ground; indeed the smoke issuing from the shaft of the boiler houses was pointed out over the adjacent hill. Many of the entombed miners have connections with Treharris, and naturally the disaster affected the "gate." Ten minutes before the kick-off there would not be twenty spectators on the ground, and the total number at the finish could easily have been counted, 150 being a fair estimate of the full attendance.

It was difficult to get even the names of the Treharris team, and it was only as the players filed down the slope that these were available, as the team had apparently only just been made up. As a matter of fact, although it was five minutes later than the advertised time only ten Treharris players were on the field for quite ten minutes, the eleventh player coming on after the game had been in progress. There were several changes from the team which came to Luton, and it was stated that the centre-forward was a new capture from Chatham. How far this was correct it is difficult to say, but in the second half he was shifted to outside right, and might almost as well have been "right outside," for he was a complete passenger. The names of the two teams were as under:—

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

Treharris—Demmery; Timmins and G. Williams; Downes, Owen and Pike; Tippet, Morgan, Willis, H. Williams, and Witcombe.

Referee, Lieut. W. C. Clover, Leicester.

Treharris won the toss, but gained no material advantage, Luton attacking from the start. Wileman missed the first chance by shooting wide. Still it seemed only a question of how soon the opening goal would come along. As a matter of fact it was twelve minutes before Stevens got clear of the opposition and running right through took the ball well into the penalty area before shooting. Demmery could do no more than look on as the ball was sent into the net. This success was quite expected, and the spectators settled down for further goals, which however did not come, the ground beating the man time after time, while the home side laid themselves out to defend. Once or twice decent attempts were made to increase the lead, one shot from Wileman completely beating Demmery, but the ball went just the wrong side of the post.

One factor against further scoring was the one-back game adopted by the home players, and the whistle was continually going to pull the Luton forwards up. If the referee had paid absolute attention to one of the linesmen he would have stopped the game more often still, for almost every time a Luton forward got the ball up went his flag. As a rule Lieut. Clover, however, was correct in his decisions, and only gave offside when he was convinced himself on the point.

About ten minutes before the interval Rollinson got the ball into the net again from a pass from Wilkie, and the referee gave the goal, but as the players were making their way to the centre of the field the linesman made signals to the referee, and consulted with him, with the result the goal was knocked off the score, and a free kick for hands against Luton was given several yards down the field. In fairness to the flag-waver, it should be stated that he signalled for hands at the time he saw the incident, but apparently the referee did not see his flag go up. Anyway, Luton were still only a single goal ahead, and the interval arrived with the score unaltered:—

Luton 1, Treharris 0.

The teams crossed over without leaving the field.

Luton 1, Treharris 0.

The teams crossed over without leaving the field, and Treharris at once started to put up a better show. For a time, indeed, they were attacking, and it gave the Luton defence a bit of trouble to keep them out. Still this was not long sustained, and Demmery had great difficulty in getting rid of the ball on one occasion, Wilkie getting into the black books of the crowd for attempting to kick it out of the goalkeeper's hands. A free kick was given apparently for dangerous play, as Demmery was in possession of the ball when Wilkie went for him. An equalising goal came rather as a surprise when it did arrive, and was the direct result of the long grass in the corner of the field. The right wing had managed to get the ball almost to the corner flag, and it would have gone out of play under ordinary circumstances, but the grass held it about a foot inside the line, and Tippet who had gone inside right, was able to get in a fine centre, which passed right across the mouth of goal, for Witcombe to run in and head the ball through without giving Mitchell the slightest chance.

There was still half an hour to play, and Luton were now faced with an unexpected task. More effort was put into their play for a time, and following an attack on Demmery, Fred Hawkes had the satisfaction of sending in a **GROUND SHOT** (Capitals, please, Mister Printer). Anyway, it was a fine goal and a welcome one, for it would have been a "turn up" for the first defeat to have come from the bottom club.

Having once more taken the lead Luton were expected to add to their score, but somehow nothing would go right for a time. Treharris were all out to keep the score to the smallest limits, and nothing more was done in the scoring line, leaving the final result:—

Luton 2, Treharris 1.

Quite independent of scoring the winning goal, Fred Hawkes was the outstanding player on the field. He was certainly the safest player in defence, and time after time his work led to the most promising raids on Demmery. He seemed to kick the ball twice to anyone else's once, and Luton have him to thank for the two points. Mitchell had one difficult shot, other than the goal, to negotiate, and he rose to the occasion when it looked odds on a goal. Otherwise he was more of a spectator. Elvey and Jarvie were a safe pair of backs, with the old Clarence player the cleaner kick. It was forward where Luton failed to come up to expectations. It was not a particularly good afternoon for any member of the line. The outside men crowded into the middle far too much, and on such a small pitch this meant that the men were in each other's way most of the time.

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Treharris possess a good goalkeeper in Demmery, but he was not found nearly the work to do he should have been. He certainly kept out all shots that were saveable, and at times appears to take the club on his shoulders. The backs were serviceable without being brilliant, while Pike is quite a capable half back. Tippet and Witcombe were the most dangerous men forward. Even when the first-named, who is an outside right player, went inside, he managed to work through nicely, and this pair shared the honour of the Treharris goal. But the support received by Treharris makes the future outlook very black, and it will be a surprise if they finish the season.

# FOOTBALL NOTES AND NEWS.

By "Vigilant."

## LUTON DIRECTORS AND MATCH SPECTATORS.

Luton Town have played their last home mid-week fixture for five weeks, and after next Saturday they have not a single Southern League game at home for a month. The Blues' next matches on the Town ground after Saturday's game will be with Southampton on November 19, and Mid-Rhondda three days later, and, as they have in the meantime to visit Llanelly and Ton Pentre in the Second Division, and Brighton, Portsmouth, Cardiff and Southend in the Southern Alliance, it will be interesting to see how their record then compares with the record at present. Four more points were captured last week, and although neither performance was particularly convincing Luton's present record is a very good one—won 12, lost 1, drawn 1, goals for 36, goals against 16. The goal scorers are: Rollinson 11, Brewis 7, Wileman 6, Simms 5, Bob Hawkes 3, Stevens 2, Durrant 1, Fred Hawkes 1.

Abertillery, who will be Luton's visitors in the Second Division campaign next Saturday, registered their first victory on Saturday, when, playing at home, they put on 4—0 against Ton Pentre, who earlier in the week won a Welsh cup-tie at Treharris by 3—1, a better margin than Luton managed on Saturday. Although Luton did not shine at Treharris to anything like the same extent Stoke had done the previous week, victory, even by the odd goal, was better than Croydon Common fared on another of the tricky Welsh grounds, for the Robins could do no better than draw with Mid-Rhondda at Tonypandy. As a result of this Brentford now share with Luton the distinction of being the only teams in the League with full points, for at Griffin Park Swansea failed to score until after the homesters had put on three and made the issue safe. Stoke were also at home and on the winning side, but Llanelly ran them to the odd goal in three. Newport County once more failed to justify their reputation, being unable to do better than share four goals at home with Caerphilly, Pontypridd failed by the odd goal in three at Aberdare, and Mardy made a one-goal draw at Barry.

Croydon and Luton continue to lead the way in the Southern Alliance, as while the Blues were somewhat fortunate to register a check to Portsmouth's winning vein on Wednesday, the Robins at home simply ran round Cardiff, after being a goal down at the interval, and won 3—1. On the same day Newport gave up the points they recently won at Brighton, losing at home to the Albion by the odd goal in three, and during the week Southampton also yielded up a couple of points at Brentford, losing 2—0.

It was a distinct stroke of bad luck for both Jamie Durrant and the Luton Town Club that the outside right's return to his old team after the lapse of nine seasons should have been marred by an accident which, it is feared, may keep him out of the team for a month or more. His individual cleverness and the readiness with which he cultivated an effective understanding with Wileman were a complete answer to the critics who talked of the risk the Directors were taking in signing on after a season's rest a player who first played as a professional sixteen years ago. As a matter of fact, he was head and shoulders above any other of the Luton forwards, and the improvement he was the means of effecting in the work of the right wing was so marked that there seemed no doubt about his immediate inclusion in the team out for promotion. A few minutes before the finish, however, Durrant rushed into goal to try and wrest from the goalkeeper the ball when it only wanted a touch to do the trick, and the goalkeeper fell on him. Durrant's outstretched left leg had to take the full weight of the goalkeeper, and although he stayed on to the finish and had the satisfaction of scoring the winning goal, it was afterwards found that he had strained the ligaments at the back of his knee—an injury which is not soon effectively repaired.

Notices have been posted on the Luton Town ground warning spectators against the use of objectionable remarks to the match officials and players. This step is doubtless the outcome of the incidents which we reported as occurring at the Clarence—Tufnell Park cup-tie the previous week, and it is understood that the Directors intend to take firm steps to put down this sort of behaviour. It was obvious that some of the spectators felt it a bit of a strain to refrain from saying what they thought at certain periods of the game on Saturday.

At the Clarence match on the Town ground on Saturday a collection during the interval realised £3 13s. 1½d. for W. Barton, the inside right, who dislocated his collar bone the previous week, and is not expected to be fit for at least six weeks. S. Pestell, the centre-half, who was also injured in the cup-tie, is not likely to be playing again before Christmas, as he strained the ligaments at the back of the knee—a similar injury to that sustained by Durrant.

Wilcock, the young goalkeeper who made such a brilliant debut for Brighton and Hove at Luton the other week, has been signed on by the Albion. He was with Goole Town last season, and used to "keep" for Barnsley, for whom he played in a number of Second League matches.

## OLD PLAYER'S RETURN.

Durrant's successful re-appearance in