

* * *

In the Southern Alliance Luton again failed at Southend on Wednesday, but once more there was only one goal in it. The United had only four of the team that inflicted upon Swindon their first Southern League defeat of the season on Saturday, and according to all accounts they were extremely lucky to be returned as the winners. There was not a lot in the run of the game at any rate, but on the whole Luton did most of the pressing, and Southend had more demands made on their defence. There was no scoring in the first half, and the only goal of the second half was strongly protested against by Luton, while they were denied an equaliser by a palpable piece of handling on the part of Robson, one of the backs, in the goal mouth. Robson did exactly the same thing against Swindon on Saturday, and on both occasions was lucky enough not to be observed by the referee. Luton rested Jarvie, Bob Hawkes, Donaghy, Simms and Wilkie, and it is hinted as probable that Bob Hawkes will not be such a regular figure in the team for the next few weeks, as he is feeling the strain of two matches a week. The absentees were replaced on Wednesday by Robinson, Wilson, Stevens, Brewis and S. Hoar, and the Clarence amateur again created a favourable impression, his centring being one of the features of the game.

* * *

The Blues have now fallen well below Croydon, as the latter last week equalled Luton's performance of taking four points from Brentford. The latter were lacking four of their first team at Griffin Park, and Croydon were full value for a victory of three goals to nil. Southampton, who come to Luton on Wednesday, have gained only two Southern League points since the beginning of October, and continuing their policy of ringing the changes on the team they were lucky to share four goals at home against Brighton and Hove in the Alliance game on Wednesday. Cardiff visited Portsmouth and were beaten 2-0. Positions and records to date:—

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Croydon (1)	10	7	1	2	18	4	16
Luton (3)	10	5	4	1	15	15	11
Cardiff City (9)	8	3	3	2	13	11	8
Brighton (2)	6	3	2	1	8	8	7
Brentford (8)	11	3	7	1	14	24	7
Newport	5	3	2	0	5	5	6
Southampton (7)	7	2	4	1	10	10	5
Southend (6)	4	2	2	0	3	6	4
Portsmouth (5)	7	2	5	0	12	15	4

* * *

Hearty congratulations to the Luton Clarence on having set up a fresh record on Saturday by qualifying as the representatives of their division for the fourth round of the qualifying competition of the F.A. Cup tournament. Even had they not accomplished this feat it would have been a record F.A. Cup season for them, as they have never before even been divisional finalists, and the strides they have made in the competition are the more creditable in the light of the losses they have suffered through injuries. The draw is being made at Manchester this afternoon, and the result will be scrutinised with the more interest by Lutonians, because the Town, as well as the Clarence, are concerned in the round to be decided on Saturday week.

* * *

Barnet and Alston, who were cup opponents of the Clarence on Saturday, were due to have been their visitors in the Athenian League, and another alteration has been made in the locals' Athenian League programme by the Metros team being engaged next Saturday in the Amateur Cup. The Clarence have accordingly fixed up a friendly with old rivals in St. Albans City, at Clarence Park, and, as they have already played the League match with Chesham, originally fixed for December 20, the December programme is at present blank except for a Beds. Cup match. Efforts are, in consequence, being made to fix up friendlies, but if the Clarence can manage to survive another round of the F.A. Cup this will give them a far more profitable fixture.

* * *

Many Lutonians will be interested to learn of the return to Brighton and Hove Albion of "Bullet" T

Jones, brother of Abe Jones, one of Luton's most popular centre-halves of a few seasons back. "Bullet" was a great favourite at Luton, as he was with Brighton during the time Abe was with Luton, and the brothers met on the field more than once.

* * *

"More than twenty years ago," says a London contemporary, "St. Albans—then a power in the football world—had a half-back named Paul, whom the small boys knew only as 'Oddy.' Later, Paul was signed on by Luton as a professional. Now a son of 'Oddy' is playing in the St. Albans City team, and as an inside left is proving himself a real chip of the old block."

* * *

The Luton Supporters' Club are having a benefit at the Picturedrome in Park-street next week, and to-morrow night there is to be a meeting in the Corn Exchange with reference to the trips to away matches which it is proposed to organise this season.