

THREE FINE GOALS IN AN OTHERWISE DULL GAME.

[By CRUSADER].

Southern League match, played on the Luton Town ground on Saturday. Result:—

Luton 3 goals.

Pontypridd nil.

Teams:—

Luton—Mitchell ; Robinson and Jarvie ; F. Hawkes, Frith, and R. M. Hawkes ; Durrant, Brewis, Simms, Rollinson, and S. Hoar.

Pontypridd — Williams ; Dalton and Murray ; Purdie, Clark, and Fell ; Pickett, Hodges, O'Hara, Ferguson, and McArdle.

Referee, Mr. L. Bullimer, Northampton.

Gate receipts, £118; attendance about 4,500.

The three goals were splendid ones. It is not often that every goal in a fairly big score is so nicely obtained, but these were of the real good style. And they all came in the last fifteen minutes of the first half. Number one was obtained by Simms, who received a nice centre from Hoar. Simms dragged the ball out of the way of the back with his left foot and drove the ball in with his right. It was a long hard shot, and passed between the right of the goalkeeper and the post. Very shortly after this, Bob Hawkes scored from over 30 yards range with a terrific left-footer. There was so much power behind it that though Williams got his hand to the ball, it knocked his fingers aside and went into the corner of the net. Then came the third. Bob Hawkes swung the ball across to Durrant, who rushed in and scored with a fine kick, which showed that he had not dropped his old style.

All this scoring completely changed the character of the game, and for the few minutes to half-time and for the remainder of the game Pontypridd realised that they were labouring under a hopeless handicap. Earlier, they had put up a good fight. It enabled one to understand how they managed to beat Luton by 3 goals to 2 down there. At the beginning, little Pickett was so energetic on the right that Jarvie had to be quite on the alert. His big kicking was unusually good. But on the whole the Luton backs did not play such a good game as one would like to see them give. There was some unfair play, too. Pontypridd may have begun it, but if that is an excuse for an isolated act, it cannot be for several acts. It would not have been surprising had the referee taken the strongest action to suppress it.

O'Hara, the Pontypridd centre-forward, who has done the hat trick three times this season, was an enterprising player, and gave the Luton defence considerable anxiety by his plan of lying up as far as possible. The halves placed the ball forward to him well several times, and he got away smartly. Pickett occasionally put in some good shots, and once Mitchell had his work cut out to hold the ball when it came from the outside right's foot. The other extreme winger, McArdle, worked down nicely in the second half, but Frith stopped him in the nick of Tr

time. Frith played a good game, in spite of the fact that he was not quite fit. There was some doubt about his turning out. The previous day he had been in bed, and was seen by his doctor. Frith was suffering from something akin to tonsilitis, and that accounted for the wrap around his throat. Bob Hawkes gave us a sample of his best shooting. He drove with power and direction on more occasions than the one when he netted. Once Williams saved what looked a sure goal from Bob. Just before that, Fred had caused the spectators to yell "goal" when he shot through a bunch of players. But the ball crossed the goal-mouth and went just outside.

The one change in the match-card teams was Brewis for Wileman. The sharp-shooting inside right had strained the muscles of his leg. Brewis again did some capital passing work, and more than once set Durrant going. Brewis nearly headed a goal at the outset, and he did actually score in the second half, but it was an "off-sider." He also put the ball in so well later that Williams could not get rid of it at the first punch. Simms is making his hold on the centre-forward position more secure at each match. His improvement was marked on Saturday. He places the ball to the other forwards better than he did. Rollinson and he have got to understand one another well now, and their combined movements are generally worth watching. There is no doubt that Luton have a good man in Rollinson.

Hoar was playing his first Southern League game. There had been a good many rumours about Fulham and Southampton inquiring about him, and there was no doubt something behind the fact that he did not play in Luton's Alliance match at Southampton. But it was obvious from the match-card that it was an incorrect rumour that he had signed professional forms for Luton. He was still permitted the honour of owning an initial. Hoar took part with Rollinson and Simms in some nice runs, and occasionally centred with that judgment which has been his chief characteristic, but at other times he placed the ball too far back. Further practice will, no doubt, help him to improve. At present he cannot keep Wilkie out.

"Jamie" Durrant was, of course, welcomed back, and on his form of Saturday it will be necessary to rest Donaghy and Stevens from the outside right position. Durrant has the stamp of the real footballer, and his swift runs in from the right were among the best incidents of the game. Once when Durrant received from Brewis, Williams made a lucky save from "the man who has come back," and on another occasion Murray was fortunate to deflect a shot with his head.

Llanelly, 0; Brentford, 3.

Newport, 3; Stoke, 2.

Barry, 4; Treharris, 1.

Swansea, 2; Mardy, 0.

FOOTBALL.

SOUTH SHIELDS TO VISIT LUTON.

As the South Shields Directors did not feel themselves equal to giving Luton a guarantee of £500 and half the gate to play at South Shields, next Saturday's cup match will take place at Luton, and locally practically everyone is looking forward to it with great interest. Apparently the South Shields people spent some time even before they decided they could not accede to Luton's big terms, for 24 hours elapsed before the telegraphic reply was received stating that South Shields could not accept them. While the Luton Directors' final meeting was being held on the subject a letter was on its way offering Luton £250 and the payment of hotel and railway expenses of Directors, officials and players, which would have meant a total of about £300 out of the Shields' coffers, but, of course, that had already been decided too small by the resolution arrived at by the Luton Directors. The South Shields trainer was a spectator at the Luton v. Pontypridd match on Saturday. It is said that he happened—a mere coincidence, of course!—to be visiting some friends at St. Albans, so he came over to have a look at the match.

The Luton Directors have not yet definitely decided on the exact composition of Saturday's team, for the all-sufficient reason that some of the players were not exactly fit in the early part of the week. It was hoped that by Saturday they would be fully recovered. Wileman's injury, for instance, was not of the kind that could be hurriedly healed. The strain of muscles of the thigh would only be further damaged by too early a testing, so he was given a good rest. Probably he will make a trial of the limb to-day. Frith's throat, too, was not quite well, but it is to be hoped that he will be fit for Saturday.

Spectators of the Cup match are asked to note that the direct entrance to the lane stand at the top of Beech-road will be open. This is a convenient way of getting into the new stand and will prevent the bother of transfer and of the difficulty of getting through from the ground. The inclusive charge is 9d.

Reviewing the chances of the visitors, a South Shields correspondent writes:—

In view of the Cup-tie engagement, the Directors of the South Shields Club wisely decided to rest their men last Saturday, and consequently they should enter the field fit and well. Though at the moment of writing the team to do duty has not been officially picked, I am in a position to state that, barring accidents, the following team will take the field:—Naisby; Wood and Johnson; Ben Hall, Ellis Hall, and Brookes; Keenleyside, Thornley, A. Bridgett, Anderson, and Arthur.

If this eleven be played it will be the same as did duty a fortnight ago at Hartlepool. The doubtful men are Wood, A. Bridgett and Arthur. In the case of Wood, who played excellently at Hartlepool, the Directors may decide to sub-

stitute Smith, but this is unlikely. A. Bridgett and Arthur are physically fit, but in the event of the Directors deciding to put Thornley in his accustomed position at centre-forward, Bridgett will resume at outside-left to the exclusion of Arthur.

The club and its supporters are most optimistic, and do not for a moment entertain the idea of defeat. At the worst they hope to force a draw. Though naturally disappointed at not bringing Luton to South Shields, they expect to progress a step further at their opponents' expense on Saturday.

As an instance of the reserve strength of the South Shields team, it may be mentioned that Aston Villa have signed on Laidlaw, a South Shields inside-right, at a transfer fee of £500. Laidlaw, who was discovered only a few months ago playing in Scottish junior football, was, after an outing or two with the first team, relegated to the reserves to gain confidence and experience!

Apparently he has enough "confidence and experience" for the famous "Villans."

Smith, last season's centre-forward for Luton, scored three out of Mid Rhondda's four goals against Ton Pentre on the latter's ground on Saturday in a friendly match. Ton Pentre replied with only one, but the score is said to flatter the Mid Rhondda men. A local junior kept goal for Ton Pentre, as their regular man dislocated three fingers in punching the ball away in the match at Treharris.

The most notable thing in Saturday's Second Division fixtures was the win of 3-0 at Llanelly by Brentford. Brentford's position in the table has been regarded as not so secure as it looked because they had not played many away matches, but if this is how they are going to behave when away, Luton, Croydon, and Stoke will have to look lively or Brentford will be a certainty for returning to the First Division at the end of the season. Llanelly had been doing well lately. They had beaten Aberdare 3-0 at Aberdare, and Mardy 4-0 at Llanelly. Croydon, however, won there by 1-0, but two Saturdays before, Llanelly at home beat Luton 3-0. Brentford's position is promising not only because they have won all their eight matches, but because only two goals have been scored against them, whereas they have netted 31.

Luton now take second place, through Stoke being beaten 3-2 at Newport. It was an exciting game. The score was 2-2 at half-time, and Newport's play deserved the winning goal, though it was not until near the finish that it came. Meanwhile, Gadsden had been busy keeping out some stiff shots. Swansea, at home against Mardy, took the two goals of the match. One was netted in each half, the scorers being Swarbrick and Weir. Barry, who were third from the bottom, lifted themselves up to the 10th position through poor Treharris, who obtained one out of the five goals. Treharris are at the bottom, with only two points out of 12 matches, ten of which they have lost.

ABERDARE CLUB CEASES.

It is of particular interest to Luton that, according to "The Weekly Dispatch," the Aberdare Club has ceased to exist, for Aberdare were due to visit Luton on Saturday week. It is a pity that they could not have lasted another week or so in order to provide Luton with another home gate, but apparently this was impossible. At a public meeting at the beginning of last week, the Secretary of the Aberdare Club, Councillor Jones, said that unless a sum of £250 was available, the club could not do better than wind up its affairs. The Directors were in agreement with Mr. Jones, and subsequently arrived at that decision. Aberdare were about the first Welsh industrial centre to take up the game, and there is general regret in that district over the downfall of the old club. It is presumed that all the results of the Southern League games in which Aberdare have taken

Great praise is heard almost everywhere for Luton Clarence's display at Brentford. Some people had anticipated that it would be one of the big scoring matches of the round, and that the Clarence would be quite overplayed, but their exhibition has enhanced their already good name as a fine amateur team. But for injuries they might have made a draw. What a reception they would have been given on re-playing at Luton. Their game was of great credit to them, and may they have better luck next season. Their last Saturday's opponents have again the luck of the draw. But I rather fancy that Brentford will go out this time, for Southend are shaping well. Watford will not score ten goals at Gillingham, that is pretty certain. No doubt they wish they had drawn somewhere else. Swansea should go into the next round, particularly after their display on Saturday. What bad luck Cardiff seem to be getting. Swansea are real cup fighters, I read, and certainly it must have been a bustling game to result in no fewer than seven players being laid out. The gate receipts were £368, a record for Swansea.

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Luton's visitors next Saturday are Pontypridd—the club that beat Luton 3—2 in Wales on Nov. 8th. Pontypridd, it will be remembered, made a draw of the match here last season. On Saturday, they beat Barry 4—2, and they are the top of the Welsh clubs in the Second Division, so it may be a struggle again for Luton next Saturday.

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A South Shields correspondent writes:—

South Shields come to Luton with a great local reputation. It is generally recognised that the visitors boast one of the strongest combinations outside of the three great football leagues, though their repeated applications for admission to the Second League have been but scantily supported.

The club, which operates in the North-Eastern League, being the present leaders, have always secured a prominent position in the tournament, and last season they succeeded in entering the first round proper of the Cup competition.

That the Lutonians have a stiff task before them is apparent from the constitution of the visitors. The captain, who is responsible in a great measure for the club's success, is Arthur Bridgett, the famous International. Bridgett is now playing better than he did in his palmy days, his admirers declare. Though his fame was made at outside left, he is at present figuring at centre-forward, where he is revealing unexpected prowess as a goal-getter.

To begin with the goalkeeper, the club's regular custodian is Naisby, the ex-Luton man, and they have also on their books Cartledge, the ex-Aston Villa keeper. In the back division, they have "Charlie" Johnson, long associated with Sheffield; Wood, a promising youngster; and Smith, last year with Manchester.

The half-back line is the strongest department of the team. The regular trio is Ben Hall, Ellis Hall, and Brookes—all defenders who have seen good service.

Among the forwards they have names with which to conjure, in Bridgett and Thornley, while Anderson is an inside left secured from Scotland, who, barring accidents, will make a name for himself in the football world. Their outside right, Keenleyside, is recognised as one of the best men in that position in the League.

From this it will be seen that the homesters are faced with no light task; indeed, prominent officials of the visiting club declare that they will at least force a draw.

The feeling of optimism is very strong in the South Shields district.