

Football Notes.

BY "THE GOALIE."

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

Turning the Tables.

PONTYPRIDD WELL BEATEN.

LUTON'S UNUSUAL FORWARD LINE.

The Luton team which turned out on Saturday to meet Pontypridd had had a rather unusual appearance, especially in the forward line, and although the Blues won by 3-0, it cannot be said that the eleven gave much satisfaction. Earlier in the season the Welsh team had inflicted a 3-2 defeat on Luton, and there was some trepidation felt when it was seen that Wileman, who has strained his thigh, was not playing. Brewis therefore appeared in his place, and had for a partner Durrant, who has quite recovered from the injury received on his first appearance. The other alteration was the playing of S. Hoar, the Clarence forward, at outside left, this being due to the fact that he has played so well in one or two Southern Alliance matches that it was thought only fair to give him chance in a more important game. The two teams therefore turned out as follows:—

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

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

Except for one period lasting a quarter of an hour in the first half, the game was very disappointing, especially in the second half. This may have been due to the fact that owing to the late start the teams crossed straight over without a rest. In addition to this the conditions were certainly not very favourable, for the ground was heavy through recent rain, and a fine rain and raw atmosphere must have made it rather unpleasant for the players. Luton were full value for their three goals, and one cannot help wondering why they went down before the same team in Wales. The outstanding figure in the forward line was Durrant, who played in a manner that promises that he and Wileman will make a very effective wing. Hoar was rather over-weighted, and did not do himself justice. Although not in the best of health, Frith again played an excellent game, and the backs had little difficulty in holding up the rather disjointed forward line opposed to them. Pickett, the outside right, was the only visiting forward to show any enterprise, and O'Hara did very little to justify his reputation as a sharp-shooter. The strongest division of the Welsh team was at back, neither Murray nor Dalton giving anything away.

Although Luton opened strongly, Pontypridd were the first to be dangerous, and Bob Hawkes relieved a particularly dangerous situation by giving away a corner. This was accurately placed by McArdle, and Mitchell saved a good header by Ferguson. A brilliant pass by Brewis then set Durrant going, and Williams had to run out to save the flying centre with which the winger wound up. Mitchell saved a hard shot by McArdle, and he also did well to dispose of an awkward dropping centre by Pickett. This put an end to Pontypridd's efforts for some time, and before anything more was seen of them they were three goals in arrears. Fred Hawkes nearly opened the scoring when he seized an opening provided by a partial clearance, and Williams must have been relieved to see the shot just miss its object. Two fine pieces of work by Durrant failed to produce any tangible result, but Pontypridd had an extremely narrow escape from a free kick taken by Bob Hawkes. The ball touched one of the backs and was within an ace of entering the net when it was turned behind for a corner.

Another fine centre by Durrant was luckily intercepted, and Williams also had to save another hard drive by Bob Hawkes, which he followed up with a similar attempt from a free kick. At last Simms broke the ice. Hoar put in a well-judged centre, and Simms, putting the ball past the back, scored with a splendid shot from just outside the penalty area. The next goal was scored by Bob Hawkes, whose frequent shooting certainly merited some tangible result. Williams got his hands to the ball on this occasion but the pace was too hot and the ball slipped out of his grasp into the net. Hardly had the applause died down when a centre by Bob Hawkes passed over the heads of the defenders and gave Durrant an opportunity to drive the leather home with a lovely first-timer. Rollinson had hard luck just before the interval, in receiving a dangerous centre pass by the goal mouth with nobody up to convert.

The standard of play in the second half fell away so much that incidents were few and far between. A centre by Durrant nearly produced another goal, but Williams saved Simms' header just in time, and when Rollinson passed back to Hoar, the amateur shot hurriedly and wide. Brewis succeeded in netting the ball, but was given offside. Luton's hopes were raised by two or three corners in succession, but as a rule the ball was in mid-field. In the last minute Ferguson put in a brilliant shot from a free-kick, but Mitchell dived at the ball and brought off a marvellous save. Result:—

LUTON 3, PONTYPRIDD 0.