

The Match at Luton.

SOUTH SHIELDS LUCKY TO DRAW.

F.A. Cup.—Final Qualifying Round. Luton Town v. South Shields, played at Luton on Saturday. Result:—

Luton	nil.
South Shields	nil.

Teams:—

Luton: Mitchell; Elvey and Jarvie; Fred Hawkes, Frith, and R. M. Hawkes; Durrant, Wileman, Simms, Rollinson, and Wilkie.

South Shields: Naisby; Wood and Johnson; Ben Hall, Ellis Hall, and Brooks; Keenlyside, Thornley, Bridgett, Anderson, and Arthur.

Referee: Mr. J. H. Lintwaite (Leicester).

Gate receipts, £269. Attendance, about 9,500.

At one time South Shields looked dangerously near winning, but for all that, they were lucky to draw. For a considerable portion of the first half, Luton were right upon the Durham team's goal, but Naisby—and luck—kept them out. Naisby, who two seasons ago was spending his second season with Luton, was stated on the match card to be playing at the present time as well as in any part of his career. His goal-keeping on Saturday amply bore that out. There were those who said on Saturday that he was playing in that match better than he had ever played at Luton. At any rate, time after time he alone saved South Shields from defeat. But in spite of all this, his play did not reach the brilliance that Mitchell's did. Mitchell had few

shots to save in comparison with Naisby's number, but they were of a far more difficult type, and required the Luton goalkeeper to rise to greater heights in that sphere of the game than was ever required of Naisby.

When Luton began their attacking, their shots were not of a difficult order, but later on Naisby was literally bombarded, and to his credit it must be said that he was equal to the demand on each occasion. In several instances, though, he had luck on his side, and on others he had straight shots to meet. With all the opportunities that they themselves made, the Luton team were unable to score, and in no small degree that was due to the undeceptive nature of their shooting. The ball generally went straight at Naisby. Of course, there were times when there was a swerve and a twist on it, but in the majority of cases, so eager were the Luton men to shoot, that Naisby's powers of anticipation were not over-taxed. After all, the Luton men were right to act on the principle of "shoot and keep on shooting." There was no time to waste. Yet a little more steadiness might have meant their winning.

It would be unjust, however, not to give them their due. They played to their utmost, and with just the smallest bit of luck, would have scored. For instance, that shot by Simms in the second half—the next best shot of the match—looked a certain scorer. He drove it in at a great pace from the right, and one could easily imagine that even if Naisby had reached it, he would not have stopped it, but the ball hit the crossbar and whizzed over. Just before that, too, Wilkie sent a swerver from the left, and it appeared that Naisby would not be able to move across quickly enough, but he just managed to keep it from the inside of the far post. That was one of Naisby's great saves.

The Shields' left wing did not keep up that promise of theirs at the opening. Right at the start, Arthur, Anderson and Brooks made a very pretty triangular movement and Luton were in difficulties. In fact, it appeared just then that South Shields were going to get that all-important first goal. It took Elvey some minutes to settle down. His nerves seemed to be strung up a good deal, but after some rather wild tackling, he lasted the "first 73 seconds," forgot his nerves and settled down to a good sound game. It was Jarvie's afternoon. He gave a really fine display. He tackled with absolute fearlessness, timing his rushes well and kicking with sureness. For all that, however, there were occasions when South Shields so pressed that it would have gone badly with Luton but for Frith's running back. His defensive work is of the utmost value to Luton. In fact, Frith surely is becoming about the best man in the team. The state of the ground just suited Bob Hawkes. Both he and Fred played very well.

The home supporters were glad to see that Durrant was included in the team. There is no doubt he made things very lively on his wing.

Johnson and he had a good many tussles. On some occasions there was something more than football going on on that particular side of the field, and in fact the only noticeable "incident" occurred there, when an attempt was made to strike Durrant. Wileman was hardly so prominent as usual. Probably his injured thigh still had some effect on him. Rollinson was also not so much in the limelight. Wilkie was very energetic and so was Simms. In fact, Simms was particularly susceptible to the feverish spirit of the Cup-tie game and did not always give himself time to shoot. Once he had a great chance with a centre from Durrant, but his first-timer went over the bar. Allowing for his tendency to over-eagerness, he played a very good game. Mitchell at every match strengthens the impression that Luton have got hold of a fine goalkeeper. His most severe tests came right at the beginning and right at the end.

Of course, the most interesting personality of the Shields team was their player-manager, the many-capped Arthur Bridgett. He was at centre-forward, and he and his other front line men were supported by good halves. His backs were good, but not such as to call for notice above any other line in the team. Bridgett's influence in the campaign was noticeable. Although playing at centre-forward, he often really put Thornley in that position. Bridgett would lie back a little, Thornley staying up the field. Bridgett would then give Thornley the ball and the inside-right would make a dash in centre-forward style. Once this very nearly succeeded. It was in the opening stage of the match. Thornley got by Jarvie and although there were shouts of "offside," the referee allowed the Shields man to proceed. His shot was a stiff one and Mitchell made a splendid save. There was another of the old International's wiles later, when he swung round in the Luton penalty area and tried a surprise shot, such as in some cases gets home. As it was, the ball went over the cross-bar.

Luton's pressure was very great up to half-time, and Durrant, Simms and Rollinson put in several fine shots, but still Naisby remained unbeaten. In the second half there was considerable midfield play, until South Shields seemed to be getting the better of Luton, and though the home men every now and then got free, the visitors certainly appeared to be on top. The Shields men were all out for a win, and in the last five minutes they came very near to getting it. Bridgett had resumed his International position of outside-left some time before and Thornley had gone to centre-forward. From the extreme position, Bridgett drove in a really brilliant shot. It came swift and low. It was worthy of an International. It looked certain to score, and the Luton supporters held their breath. But Mitchell, quick-minded and quick-moving, once more acted up to the occasion, and with a marvellous save, preserved Luton to fight again—this time at South Shields.