

BREWIS'S RECORD.

Five goals against Aberdare.

What with a dull day, the invariable tendency to poor gates immediately before Christmas, the reaction that always follows on a cup-tie, and the doubts which prevailed as to Aberdare's visit to Luton, the Town Club management were agreeably satisfied with an attendance of slightly over 3,000 at the Second Division match on the Town ground on Saturday afternoon. It was Aberdare's first Southern League match for three weeks, and it was not exactly an encouraging start for the "Soccer" enthusiasts who have undertaken the reconstruction of the club with a view to pulling it through the crisis it has experienced. The new committee have progressed so far with their arrangements that they were able to bring seven of the professionals who formed the old team, but the locals who were prevailed upon to act as "make weights" were far short of Second Division standard, and the team generally made a poor show, although Luton made no fewer than five changes from the cup-tie eleven. The injuries sustained by Mitchell and Durrant at Shields made two of the changes inevitable, and it was thought advisable to rest Bob Hawkes and Elvey, both of whom had a pretty severe gruelling up north. Simms was expected to play, but he did not come back from South Shields with the rest of the team, and on Saturday morning a wire was received stating that he was ill and unable to take his place. This meant the introduction of Brewis, with surprising results, and so the teams lined out thus:—

Luton:—Abbott; Robinson and Jarvie; Fred Hawkes, Frith and Wilson; Donaghy, Wileman, Brewis, Rollinson, and Wilkie.

Aberdare:—B. Lewis; F. Lewis and Tinsley; Goulden, Hatton and Rose; Woodward, Williams, Smith, Holden and Brayshaw.

Referee, Mr. C. H. Norton, Birmingham.

In the early stages Aberdare promised to put up a good fight, so much so that Luton were just as lucky to have Jarvie nipping in and robbing Brayshaw close into goal, as the visitors were to have the goal missed by Brewis when, unexpectedly receiving a rebound from the backs, he essayed a first-timer that just missed the far corner. The Welshmen were speedy in front, but woefully lacking in precision and resource, and the play, though even, was dreadfully scrappy for a quarter of an hour. Then, all of a sudden, the Blues' forwards got going, and as a result of a series of really fine movements put on three goals in five minutes. Brewis led the way with a clever goal, in the scoring of which he snapped up a centre from Donaghy, steered clear of the backs and shot out of the goalkeeper's reach with the coolness of the proverbial cucumber. Three minutes later Wilkie made rings round the opposing back, and his centre had the defence completely beaten. Wileman headed on to the cross bar, but Rollinson was up for the rebound, and although the goalkeeper made a lunge at the ball he could only hit it into the net for number two. Wilkie also made the running for the third, and Brewis, well on the spot, took ample time to make sure of the opportunity before he shot high up into the net.

The visitors took it all very coolly, but they never looked like stemming the tide. Within five minutes Brewis seized on a really glorious "side-stepper" from Rollinson to complete his hat trick with a beautiful drive from the penalty area line, and a minute afterwards Wileman came along with one of his characteristic opportunist efforts which, although essayed quite twenty-five yards out, was a winner all the way. Rollinson later grazed the bar with a header from a perfect centre by Donaghy, and was robbed of another chance—which really was well offside—by a bad foul which, like the offside, passed unnoticed, but Brewis once more did the trick, shooting through a crowd of legs. It was not until then that Aberdare woke up at all, and gave Abbott his first testing—the crowd encouraging them with a cheer when they took their first corner—but they improved in the later stages and Dick saved very smartly from Smith before the interval arrived with the score: Luton 6, Aberdare 0.

Luton were attacking their favourite scoring end in the second half, and there was a general shifting of the crowd during the interval in anticipation apparently, of some fun, but they were doomed to disappointment. The Aberdare goalkeeper has been shaping so crudely that his style was not inaptly described as agricultural, and the lucky and unconvincing way in which he got away shown by Wilkie and Wileman should have been every inducement to the homesters to pot at every opportunity. Wileman and Fred Hawkes set their colleagues an excellent example in this respect, although they did not succeed in quite getting on target, but generally there was a disposition among the team to avail themselves of their big lead by over-indulgence in individuality and that clever close passing which exasperates an opposition without bringing any tangible results. In vain did t

crowd urge the Blues to "shake themselves to pieces" and open up the play, and so restless did they become that at last one individual shouted, "Blow for time, ref.; we have had enough." The ease with which the Lutonians took matters enabled the Welshmen to have quite an equal share of the exchanges, and though it was an equality on sufferance the best shot of the half came from Holden, their centre-half, Abbott magnificently getting it outside for a corner by going full length. In the last ten minutes, however, Brewis broke the ice with another lovely goal, headed in from a corner by Wilkie. The centre just missed with another fine header, and Wileman went close with a brilliant first-timer, and the end came with the visitors losing Smith, their centre, with an injury to the stomach in the last minute, and a final score of: Luton 7, Aberdare 0.

Brewis's cool cleverness in the centre was the outstanding feature of a game which the Blues' forwards might have made much more attractive if they had pressed home their advantages. Apart from his choice goals, the centre played delightful football, and Wileman and Rollinson were also in effective mood. Wilkie did brilliantly in the first half, but fell away sadly, and Donaghy did little that was noteworthy. Still the forwards were a long way too good for the opposition whenever they chose to exert themselves, and they were finely backed by Fred Hawkes and Frith. The defence were top dogs pretty well all through, and Abbott delighted everyone with the ability he displayed in the only opportunities that fell to his lot. Aberdare could not complain of the score against them, however large it had been, for their display was the poorest given by any Welsh side this season. Brayshaw and Holden were the pick of the forwards, and Hatton and Tinsley played pluckily in defence, but the team all through were simply overwhelmed.

FOOTBALL NOTES AND NEWS.

By "Vigilant."

DECKS CLEARED FOR PROMOTION FIGHT.

Important Christmas Programme

With three of the four English clubs in the Second Division of the Southern League freed from the anxieties of Cup-ties, the decks have been cleared for the stern struggle for promotion honours which is now reaching the critical stage at which comes the clash of arms between the most fancied rivals. The Christmas matches will, without a doubt, have an important bearing on the exciting campaign which lies ahead in the New Year, in that three of the clubs now at the head of affairs will at last come into opposition, and for Luton the time will be especially one of anxiety because of the fact that they are faced with the heaviest and most serious programme of any of the aspirants for promotion. On Christmas Day they journey to Newport, on Boxing Day they entertain Newport County, and on Saturday they visit Croydon Common. Last season Luton came down at Newport, but drew at Croydon, and the match at Selhurst is certain to be sternly fought out as a result of Luton's recent cup-tie victory over the Robins. The Supporters' Committee have arranged with the G.N.R. for an excursion direct to Selhurst, and it is thought this will be the means of giving the Blues a following of at least a thousand for a game which will be fraught with importance to both sides.

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Croydon have another important game on Christmas morning, when they meet Brentford at Griffin Park, but their Boxing Day game is a soft one, as Abertillery are to visit the Nest. Brentford have a sequence of home matches during the holidays, Croydon's Christmas Day visit being followed up by Treharris and Newport County, the latter of whom go on to Brentford from Luton. Stoke and Swansea both have comparatively easy programmes. The Potters play home and home games with Caerphilly, while Swansea entertain Pontypridd on Boxing Day, and visit Treharris on the following day.

The Luton players may very well hope for a spell of fine weather this week, for neither the Newport County nor Croydon Common grounds would be described as ideal venues for football after wet. The Newport pitch gained anything but a flattering reputation amongst English visiting teams this season, and the Nest at Selhurst is a notorious mud-heap. Just lately one of the Common's enthusiastic supporters has presented the club with a brand new set of flags to define the corner and half-way positions. The posts are painted white with gilded pinnacles, and altogether are said to be quite the most up-to-date thing in the matter of ground appointments. So it has occurred to someone that it would not be a bad idea if the pitch was somewhere in keeping with the ground appointments, and the suggestion has been made that some of the supporters should help towards providing a green carpet for the bare patches on the ground. Packets of grass seed have been sent to the Croydon Common secretary, and it has been suggested that when the suitable weather arrives there should be inaugurated a "grass seed sowing day," so that all the subscribers to the fund could meet together and scatter their seeds of kindness!

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After all, Aberdare fulfilled their Southern

After all, Aberdare fulfilled their Southern League fixture at Luton on Saturday. Although it was announced in these columns a week ago that a decision had been arrived at to reconstruct the club it was nevertheless doubtful at that time whether the match with Luton would come off, but the Management Committee of the League insisted on the fixture being carried out. It was Aberdare's first match for three weeks, and the new secretary and committee of twenty who have been appointed to carry on the club seem to have a thankless task before them. Prior to the crisis they had played five of their six Second Division games at home, and had been beaten three times on their own ground, and now they have three Christmas games, and three more in January all away from home. Unless they can appreciably strengthen the side which played at Luton they will be in a mighty poor position when next they play at home.

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Luton have once more gone to the head of affairs as a result of Saturday's Second Division success, but the opposition of Croydon and Brentford grows more and more ominous. Brentford, brought off another fine victory in Wales, beating Barry 4-0, and Croydon accomplished an even more valuable performance in effecting a one-goal draw at Swansea, the team that took four points from Luton last season, so that the Christmas Day meeting of these teams should be very eventful. Pontypridd were successful by 3-0 at Caerphilly, and Newport at home beat Mardy 4-0, while with Abertillery as visitors Ton Pentre secured their first Second Division victory of the season by the odd goal in three. The present position of affairs is appended:—

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Luton Town (5)	13	11	2	0	46	11	22
Croydon Common (4) ...	12	9	0	3	32	5	21
Stoke	12	9	2	1	36	14	19
Brentford	9	9	0	0	35	2	18
Pontypridd (7)	13	7	3	3	21	12	17
Llanelli (6)	10	6	3	1	20	7	13
Swansea (3)	10	5	2	3	19	7	13
Newport County (10) ...	11	4	4	3	17	16	11
Caerphilly	13	3	6	4	8	24	10
Mid-Rhondda (8)	8	2	4	2	8	17	6
Mardy (11)	12	1	7	4	8	22	6
Barry	12	2	7	2	13	42	6
Abertillery	11	2	8	1	10	19	5
Ton Pentre (13)	12	1	8	3	5	29	5
Aberdare (9)	7	2	5	0	9	22	4
Garrick (12)	13	0	11	2	5	39	2

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Llanelli, who are Luton's first visitors in the New Year, will almost certainly have to do without the services of Bailiff, their International goalkeeper who assisted Wales in all three International games last season. While following his employment at the Llanelli Galvanising Works a week ago a large plate fell upon his right foot, crushing it so badly that amputation of some of the toes has been necessary.

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There has been some talk of the match which Brentford won by 3-0 at Llanelli, having to be replayed. It appears that Llanelli contemplated lodging a protest on the ground that they considered short time had been played, but the referee and linesmen were all in agreement as to full time having been played, and no mention was made of the matter at the last meeting of the Southern League Management Committee. The result will, therefore, doubtless stand.

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Activities in the Southern Alliance will not be resumed until towards the end of January, and the competition is left in a very interesting position so far as Luton is concerned by the defeat of 3-0 sustained by Croydon Common at Newport on Thursday. There is now only one point separating the two clubs, and the four fixtures which each club has outstanding are decidedly in Luton's favour. Croydon have home and away games with Portsmouth, and also have to visit Southampton, and meet Brighton and Hove Albion at Selhurst. With all these teams Luton have finished, and their only away game is at Newport, while their outstanding visitors are Newport County, Southend United, and Cardiff City. Present positions and records:—

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Croydon Common	12	7	3	2	18	12	16
Luton Town	12	7	4	1	22	18	15
Brighton and Hove A. ...	8	5	2	1	14	8	11
Cardiff City	9	3	3	3	14	12	9
Newport County	9	4	4	1	11	11	9
Brentford	12	3	7	2	14	24	8
Southampton	10	3	6	1	17	19	7
Portsmouth	9	3	6	0	14	17	6
Southend United	5	2	2	1	4	7	5

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Luton's scoring outbreak on Saturday brings their total number of goals for the season up to eighty, and it is due to those sometimes criticised forwards

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of ours to point out that they head the list in both the Second Division and the Southern Alliance. This was the second time this season they have exceeded the half-dozen, and Brewis's record of five out of seven will take some beating. He has now passed the other centre in the scoring list, claiming 14 against Simms's 13. Rollinson and Wileman still lead the way with 21 and 18 respectively, and the other scorers have been Bob Hawkes 6, Stevens 4, Durrant 2, Fred Hawkes, and Elvey one each. Luton's full playing record now is: Won 21, lost 7, drawn 2, goals for 80, against 35.

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“Snip” Parsons, the Luton Clarence captain, has been chosen as one of the reserve half-backs for the Southern Counties v. London trial match for “uncapped” amateurs, at Chelsea, on Jan. 1st.