

LUTON'S WELCOME TO ABERDARE.

Brewis Scores Five Goals out of Seven.

Southern League (Second Division) match, played at Luton on Saturday. Result:—

Luton 7 goals.
Aberdare nil.

Luton: Abbott; Robinson and Jarvie; F. Hawkes, Frith, and Wilson; Donaghy, Wileman, Brewis, Rollinson, and Wikkie.

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

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

Gate receipts, £77. Attendance, about 3,000.

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The pronounced difference between the class of teams at the top of the table and those in the lower half is every now and then forcibly brought out by such scores as Luton's 6—0 against Abertillery, 8—1 against Mid-Rhondda, and, last Saturday, 7—0 against Aberdare. This was Aberdare's second match away from home, so it was not a very cheering result from their point of view. They had been resting for three weeks, during which the crisis in the club's affairs had reached its highest. The threatened extinction was averted, and a new committee and secretary appointed to carry the club on. When it was definitely known that Aberdare would play at Luton, the thought occurred to some that there was a possibility that the team might come with renewed energy and spring a little surprise. But nothing like that happened.

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There were four amateurs among the visitors, viz., the goalkeeper, the right back, the inside right, and the outside left. Of the remainder of the players, three are well-known professionals. Tinsley used to play for Tottenham. Hatton was obtained from Crystal Palace, and Holden is the man who made a name for himself with Plymouth and afterwards went to Southend. But this combination of professionals and amateurs was no match for Luton. They would not have gone down so much, though, but for their great weakness in goal. Lewis (B.) is, I understand, a champion cyclist, but he is not a champion goalkeeper, and is never likely to be. He was much too slow in getting a start. Nearly always he reached the right spot a long while after the ball had got there. One can appreciate his endeavours to do what he could for the struggling club, but however one may applaud that, it does not alter the fact that the opposing team cannot let that stop them from beating him when the opportunity comes.

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There were six goals to the credit of Luton by the time that the interval had arrived. Aberdare's half-time determination to keep them out in the second half succeeded up to the point that Luton scored only once more. But the fact remains that the Luton team did not greatly exert themselves. In spite of the calls for the crowd for more goals, the home men did the wise thing. With a lead of 6—0, it would have been foolish to have kept forcing themselves to pile on the score. It was wiser to conserve their energy for the Christmas programme. The consequence was that the second half was very tame, and the Aberdare team had more chance to get together. It was then that perhaps their most dangerous shot was fired. Smith, the centre-forward, made a capital individual effort, and finished it off with a long shot. Abbott had to throw himself at full length at the ball. He just succeeded in sending it for a corner. For the most part Abbott had a quiet time. It was his second match of the season, the first one being the friendly at Ilford. In the opening stages, Brayshaw once got down on the left, and was coming in quite close, but the backs came across and warded off Brayshaw, while Abbott cleared. The other instances when Mitchell's deputy was called upon was just before the interval, when he dealt smartly with good shots from Woodward and Caulden.

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Simms had not got back from South Shields, so Brewis was at centre-forward, and good use he made of his afternoon, too. No fewer than five of the goals were scored by him. He enjoyed himself very much. As usual, he never seemed in a hurry, and that coolness, which is a feature of his always brainy play, more than once helped him to score. He did not get on the target with his opening shot, but it enabled him to find the range. Donaghy gave him a fine chance, and Brewis sent the ball over. Then Fred Hawkes tried to convert a centre by Wilkie, but the captain did not get the ball properly, and it went wide. Luton were pressing, and with the sterling help of Frith, it was obvious that they would soon get a goal. A quarter of an hour from the start, Brewis had the ball close up to goal. As a player tackled him, he coolly pushed the ball with his left foot past the goalkeeper. That started it. In another minute Luton were two up. Wilkie beat his man very smartly on the left wing, and centred. Wileman headed the ball against the cross-bar. The ball re-bounded, and Rollinson, who was also close up, headed the ball in. The goalkeeper hit it with his hand as it passed him, but could not keep it out.

Another brilliant run by Wilkie ended in his centring almost perfectly. Brewis was right up, and getting the ball, he took plenty of time, and again—very coolly—scored. Three minutes or so later came the fourth.—Brewis again. Rollinson tapped the ball to him, Brewis dragged it into position with his left, and scored with a right-foot shot, at considerable range. Wileman had been nipping about a lot, and presently he dribbled in and out amongst the players. He did not work forward, but parallel with the goal-line. This apparently did not arouse much suspicion in Lewis's mind, for when Wileman turned and shot from thirty yards range, Lewis was not quick enough to stop it, and the ball passed in just under the cross-bar. A little while after that, Rollinson had very hard lines. Donaghy placed the ball across, and Rollinson turned it with his head, but the ball just skidded along the top of the bar and went over. Aberdare were still kept huddled up about their goal, and when one of their men kicked rather weakly, Brewis made use of the opportunity, and drove the ball between the legs of two or three of the players into the goal. In that instance, the goalkeeper had no chance to save, as he was unsighted.

The second half, as has been said, was tame. Luton obtained several corners. Many times the backs and halves, having little to do in the way of defence, extended their practice in the matter of attack. Wilson put in quite a fine shot once. Wileman later tried some individual work, and his long-range kicks looked like succeeding again, but it was not until after Smith had made his noteworthy run for Aberdare that Luton scored their seventh. Wilkie took a corner kick, and Brewis got the ball into the net, apparently with his head, though one Welsh supporter was convinced that he fisted it in. Brewis nearly headed another a little while afterwards, but the limit had been reached.

There was no comparison between the two teams. Except in one or two instances, Luton had complete control over the visitors, who, however, never gave up trying. Holden showed flashes of good football, Smith occasionally did interesting individual work. He had the misfortune, towards the close, of getting a blow in the stomach, which necessitated his being helped off. The outside right, Woodward, is a promising player. He comes from Trodyrhiw (I think I have spelt it correctly), a team which is going strong in that quarter of the world. There is practically nothing to be said about Luton's goalkeeper and backs, because they were rarely tested. Frith played another capital game. Brewis's success has already been narrated. His wings were about on a par. Wilkie put in some fine centres.

Barry, 0; Brentford, 4.
Swansea, 1; Croydon, 1.
Ton Pentre, 2; Abertillery, 1.
Caerphilly, 0; Pontypridd, 3.
Newport, 4; Mardy, 0.