

LUTON V. BARRY.

Southern League, Division II. On the Luton Town Ground on Saturday. Result:—

Luton Town	3 goals.
Barry	1 goal.

Teams:—

Luton: Mitchell; Elvey and Robinson; Fred Hawkes, Frith and Bob Hawkes; Durrant, Williams, Simms, Hollinson and Hoar.

Barry: Sedgley; White and Wightman; Webb, Walton and Mullineux; Bates, Sheldon, Millard, Pyle and Isherwood.

Referee: Mr. C. H. Moody (Bilton).

Gate receipts, £118. Attendance about 4,000.

A most miserable day for playing football could scarcely be imagined. The ground was in a terrible state, with so much water upon it and soaking through it; and there was a cold rain which presently turned to snow and sleet. Yet, in spite of these unhappy conditions, both teams played good football. The Barry side deserve to rank amongst the best of the Welsh clubs in the Division. They never admitted defeat. With Luton all around their goal they defended as stubbornly as possible, and every inch of head-way made by Luton had to be fought for. The best man on Barry's side was Wightman, the brother of Sam Wightman, who in his prime came to so tragic an end through being kicked while playing for Luton against Brighton a few seasons ago. The present Wightman is Barry's captain. He is a fairly big and well-built fellow like his brother, from whom he differs in that instead of being fair headed he is quite dark.

With White, his partner, Wightman kept out the Luton shots time after time. Both backs were very skilful in heading, and in that way they intercepted the ball on a great number of occasions when Luton were pressing in around. In spite of their work, however, Sedgley had a heap of shots to deal with. Luton's score ought to have been much higher than three and would have been but for the most atrocious luck. Sedgley certainly saved some shots well, but in the majority of cases he seemed exceedingly fortunate. He had a passion for defending with his feet. He apparently had much more confidence in this method than getting down to the ball. Many times, with a stiff shot come straight into goal, he trusted to his boot. However, he let in nothing through miskicking.

As Croydon had beaten them by 7-0, Stoke by 7-1, Brentford by 6-0 and 4-0, and Swansea by 5-0, it was anticipated that Luton would also do pretty well out of the new South Wales team, but Barry have been improving lately. It was not their good play alone that kept the margin so low. When Simms opened the score in the first four minutes with a superb cross shot which gave Sedgley absolutely no chance, it looked as though Luton were going to realize their expectations, but the hard lines which Simms had a minute or two later in hitting the upright was typical of that which shadowed Luton throughout the rest of the game. Both lines, the forwards and halves, played in splendid style. Frith is becoming the idol of many of the spectators. His tackling was "great," and when necessary he would wheel round and help the backs. Occasionally on Saturday he was so superior to the men against him that he had time to put some extra special polish on his movements which lifted them out of the ordinary class of football. Bob Hawkes was very good, too, and with the ever-industrious Fred on the other side, they kept the front line going nicely.

It was simply misfortune for Luton again that

It was simply misfortune for Luton again that Barry scored. One of the Barry men tried a shot from long range. Elvey was practically in line with the shot. He shaped to stop it. At the last moment, however, he changed his mind, no doubt thinking that Mitchell would be able to tackle it better. Mitchell, however, had noticed the first movement of Elvey. He noticed the change of movement, too, but it was then practically too late. He made a dash to get the ball. He just touched it, but couldn't get any control over it, and it passed in close to the upright. Mitchell was greatly upset at the occurrence, and there is not the slightest doubt that Elvey, sensitive as he is, felt it even more.

As Luton had been doing so much pressing previously this equaliser was all the harder to bear. At one time a 2 to nil lead seemed absolutely certain, but the Barry men once more managed to keep the ball out. Once it was kept out—or driven out—so decidedly that it smashed a spectator's umbrella—an incident which was exceedingly appreciated by the other spectators. Wilman tried one of his sparkling dashes, but was tackled and turned a somersault. His catherine wheel movement caused considerable amusement, but when it was seen that he was injured the hilarity ceased. He was carried off on Billy Lawson's back and was away some time. Soon after he returned his partner, Durrant, was injured, but was able to stay on. It was subsequent to this that the Barry goal came, and after the reverse Wilman made a brilliant individual run through the Barry defence and scored a delightful goal, by which Luton held the lead at half-time.

Wilman was about the best of the forward line. Rollinson was also good, but had poor luck. Hoar did well considering the heavy nature of the ground. Durrant also had bad luck, and towards the end the effect of his injury and the heavy ground tired him out. Like most of the other players, he must have been glad when the match was over. However, he had helped largely in Luton's third goal. Having forced a corner he took the kick and Simms headed a goal. Simms played a capital dashing game. He was always on the go. He surprised the Barry defence on more than one occasion. At one incident, Wightman, even though it was against himself, had to laugh. Wightman had the ball and was looking to see how best to dispose of it, when Simms nipped in from nowhere, which in this case was an undefined region to Wightman's rear, and flew off with the ball. Towards the end every one of the Luton forwards had a try to increase the lead, but "the stars in their courses" fought against them. The Barry right wing were quite a smart pair. Bates has capital pace and gave Robinson many a gallop. The nearest of their attempts to succeed in the second half was when Sheldon put in a capital shot which Mitchell just managed to steer round the post. It was at the other goal, however, that practically all the "near things" occurred.

FOOTBALL NOTES.

[By CRUSADER.]

Saturday was quite a pleasant day for Luton. That may seem a strange thing to write, after attending in snow and sleet to see Barry escape with a 3-1 defeat when it was only bad luck that prevented Luton piling on a bigger score. The pleasure came through the success of Newport in drawing at Croydon, of Pontypridd drawing with Brentford, and, most of all, of Abertillery beating Stoke. It helped Luton into a better comparison with the other English teams' figures. It was a fine tussle at Croydon. Newport sent their best side, and the game was very even. Towards the end of the first half, Hammett nearly knocked Williamson off his feet with a hard drive at close range. In the second half Enright missed an open goal, and later Allman did no better for Croydon. But although it was interesting to see a slight check given to Croydon, there was not so much importance in that as in the results of the Brentford and Stoke matches, for there is very little probability of Luton overhauling the Robins.

It was quite expected that Brentford would have a tough game at Pontypridd, where Luton in November, through bad luck, were defeated by 3 goals to 2. Unfortunately, for Pontypridd, O'Hara, their captain, was injured in the first minute in the match against Brentford, and although he continued playing, he was unable to render much assistance. This proved a big handicap. Brentford were lucky in sharing the points, for they were kept strictly on the defensive for the greater portion of the second half. Both sides missed through erratic shooting, though Williams, the home custodian, stopped two hard drives in a really brilliant way. On Monday, Brentford were much more effective in their forward play, and won at Mardy by 2 goals to nil. Price had to clear a couple of good shots early in the game from the Mardy forwards, but Brentford got ahead through a fine goal by Johnson, and Simons obtained the second.

What Luton now want is for Stoke to win next Saturday. It was quite all right from Luton's point of view for Stoke to lose to Abertillery, though it was a bit of a surprise, for although Luton won there only by 2-1, Abertillery were fourth from the bottom last week, and Stoke hardly looked like losing to such a club. But the Abertillery defence was brilliant, and when their forwards pressed and the Stoke goalkeeper fumbled, Ratchiffe scored the all-important goal. Try all they might, Stoke could not retrieve their position. Therefore, with Stoke less dangerous, and Brentford bringing back three points from a week-end in Wales, Luton have their eye on the Middlesex team. Brentford visit Stoke next Saturday, and should they win there, the risk of Luton being forced out of the second position will be very great. Of the two, Luton would prefer Stoke to win just now. But, after all, the danger may come from Swansea. They have won their last three matches with the following figures—8-0, 6-0, and 3-1. That looks like a good goal average as well as points, and bearing in mind the manner in which they fought in the English Cup, it is obvious that they have to be reckoned with seriously.

Llanelli visit Luton next Saturday. It is a re-arranged match, and they have played off their game with Barry in order to have the date clear to come to Luton. On Saturday they had a friendly with Crewe Alexandra, and won by four goals to nothing. Earlier in the same week, it will be remembered, they scored 17 goals to nil against Trebarria, and thus headed the Welsh League, in which Swansea are second. Hamer, Vaughan, and Bailiff, three Welsh Internationals, turned out in that match for Llanelli, and it is stated this week that they have signed on an amateur International back from a Welsh club. On Tuesday, at home, Llanelli beat Pontypridd in a Southern League match by 4-0.

Luton to-day (Thursday) play a Southern Alliance game at Newport—the return match for the one recently played at Luton, when there was so much unnecessary feeling, and Jarvie and Enright were ordered off. The Luton Club on Saturday morning received notification that Jarvie has been suspended for fourteen days from Feb. 23rd. The decision of the Welsh F.A. in reference to Enright has not yet been published. He was playing for his club against Croydon last Saturday. The wrench to his knee in the game against Barry kept Wileman out of Luton's team to-day, and he is doubtful for Saturday also. The eleven to do duty at Newport is to be selected from: Mitchell; Elvey and Robinson; Wilson, Fred Hawkes, Frith, and J. Clark (of the Clarence); Stevens, Brewin, Simms, Rollinson, and Wilkie.

Mr. Arthur Tearle, the well-known Luton referee, has been selected to be in charge of the Amateur Cup tie match next Saturday between Barnet and Alton and the R.A.M.C., Aldershot. A couple of seasons ago he was suspended for five months because when selected to referee an Amateur Cup match he preferred to take charge of a Southern League game which he had been requested to officiate at. When the period had expired he refereed in a number of Southern and South-Eastern League matches, but it is not until now, apparently, that the committee in charge of the Amateur Cup arrangements have thought fit to "honour" him.

The old Luton player James McEwan, secretary-manager of the Gloucestrop Club, terminated his connection with the club on Saturday evening. "Punch" McEwan, as he is familiarly known in the football world, intends, it is stated, to assist Woolwich in securing likely young players.

The Transvaal Football Association has cabled to Mr. Bridgett, of the South Shields Club (which knocked Luton out of the English Cup this season), asking him to bring out a team for the coming Transvaal season. As an alternative the F.A. have been asked to permit an amateur team to go.

EXCURSION DECIDED UPON.

Since my note and the advertisement last week, there have been an excellent number of applications sent in for places in the excursion trip to Swansea on March 14th. The response has been so good that the number is not a great deal short of the desired guarantee of 300. It is hoped that this week there will be more applications. The Supporters' Committee think the Swansea match of such importance that they have already decided, without waiting for the exact number of the guarantee, to run the excursion, so as to give the Luton team all possible support by the presence of Lutonians at the match. The train will leave Luton at about 6 a.m., and return from Swansea at about 8 p.m. Arrangements have been made for tickets to be extended to Monday or Tuesday for 18s. The remaining benefit nights at the Palace Theatre this week are to-night and Friday. Tickets should be obtained through the Supporters' Committee and friends.