

YESTERDAY'S FOOTBALL.

Luton Probable Runners-Up for the Alliance.

Played at Luton yesterday, in the Southern Alliance competition. Result:—

Luton	7 goals.
Southend	nil.

Teams:—

Luton: Mitchell; Jarvie and Robinson, F. Hawkes, Frith and Wilson; Stevens, Brewis, Simms, Rollinson and Hoar.

Southend: A. Brown; Thomson and Marshall; Buchanan, Moon and Axcell; Batchelor, Wileman, Stott, Bradshaw and Barnes.

Referee: Mr. H. Thompson (West Norwood).

Gate receipts, £32. Attendance, about 1,400.

It is very probable that Luton will be runners-up in the Southern Alliance competition. Allowing first place to Brighton, who have most games in hand, Luton should take the second position, for they now have 21 points and have a home game to play. As that match will be of such importance the Luton players will be extra keen to win it and may be relied upon to do their utmost to manage it, even though their opponents will be Cardiff City, and the match takes place the day after the visit to Stoke. If Luton win that they will have 23 points, as compared with the 22 of Croydon, who have already finished their Alliance programme. The Town team considerably strengthened their position yesterday by such a big win over Southend. Although the United had not a single man playing who turned out for them last Saturday, still their team contained many familiar names—men who have done very good service in the past.

The visiting player most interesting to the Luton crowd was, of course, Billy Barnes, but though he tried hard against his old club, he could not manage to get a goal. Barnes did some good work right at the start. He twice went up the left wing and put in good centres, and later on, when the adverse score was beginning to pile up, he went to inside-left to see if he could do anything in the scornig line, but his efforts were fruitless as far as goals were concerned. Wileman, brother of the Luton Wileman, was at inside-right for the visitors, but although he showed some of Arthur's "nippi-ness," it was clear on Heneage's form yesterday that Luton had the better player in Arthur. Thomson and Marshall did all they could to keep the Luton men from scoring, and for a time the home forwards were crowded out whenever they worked close in.

The better team eventually prevailed. Their success was such that the list of goal scorers given on another page will need considerable revising, Simms and Rollinson each putting three more goals to their credit and Fred Hawkes one. Wileman, who will thus be left behind in totals, though not in Southern League goals, was being given a rest, and his place was taken by Brewis, who again gave a display of that fine, classy football of his which is bound to be admired. Partnering him was Stevens, who played with great dash and was very often quite a handful for his opponents, but he was unable to centre while on the run and his corner kicks were poor. On the other wing Hoar's centres were pretty near perfection and his corner kicks were finely taken. It was from one of these that Rollinson headed the first goal, with a movement which was as splendid as the initial kick by Hoar.

Rollinson is an exceedingly useful player, and he and Simms, although occasionally getting in one another's way, did capitally. The second goal came through Rollinson working into the penalty area, where he was tackled, and as the man who had tackled him lay on the ground, Simms strode over him and scored with a fine rising shot. The third was largely the work of Brewis, who having got for the moment into the inside-left position, gave the ball to Simms to score. In the second half Southend did practically nothing but defend. It looked as though the ball was going behind when Rollinson scored the fourth, following Hoar's brilliant dash on the wing.

Following this, Batchelor sent in quite a difficult shot, which Mitchell cleared very nicely. Stevens then gave Brewis a capital chance and he seemed certain to score, but a Southend player fell right in his way and stopped Brewis from getting his kick. Another of the home men, however, got the ball a minute later, and Brown had quite a job to keep the shot out. In fact, most of the shots that Brown had to deal with in the second half were so hard that he had quite a worrying time and he was made to look very flurried. He was on the ground when Rollinson scored the fifth, for he had run out to clear the ball after Hoar had brought it up from the left.

Again it was Hoar who did the preliminary work for the sixth. He made a capital dash up the wing, and Simms meeting the centre nicely, netted once more. Fred Hawkes was captain for the afternoon, and he appropriately scored the final goal with a shot so strong that although Brown touched the ball he could not stop it. Of the Luton defence, Robinson was the best.

To Query.—Luton were the first professional team in the South of England, in spite of the fact that there is a widely-held opinion that Woolwich Arsenal were first. Luton and Woolwich started together with professional teams on the 1st of September, 1891, but the season before that, Luton had signed three or four professionals, and Luton were the first Southern professional team registered with the Football Association.

To Enquirer.—Barnes and Moody did play together in the season 1904-5. They formed the left wing at Wellingborough in the Southern League match on Christmas Day, 1904, when Luton were beaten by 2-0. On the Boxing Day at home against Northampton Luton, with the same left wing, won by 4-2. In the next match, against Watford, the Luton forward line—right to left—was composed of Hudson, R. Hawkes, Moody, Ross and Barnes.