

## FIRST SOUTHERN LEAGUE POINT

### Gained in Opening Match at Southampton

Bob Hawkes was, as expected, unable to turn out with his nine colleagues, who assisted last season to bring about Luton Town's return to the First Division of the Southern League on their first appearance as a team in the premier division. The Blues accordingly had two new players in Needham and Roberts assisting in the opening match at Southampton on Wednesday, the constitution of the team being:—Mitchell; Elvey and Robinson; Fred Hawkes (capt.), Frith, Needham, Roberts, Rollinson, Hoar. Southampton also relied in the main on last season's players, there being only one or two who did not turn out against Luton in the Southern Alliance last season. The homesters had the advantage of the sun in the opening half, and had materially the larger share of the exchanges, and the Blues owed it to Mitchell in no small measure that they were on even terms at half-time. Doming, the inside right, surprised Mitchell with a long range shot in the first five minutes, and Simms equalised with another long ranger midway through the half, but just before the interval Frith saved Luton by fisting away from a corner right under the bar, with Mitchell well beaten, and the goalkeeper made a magnificent save from the corner kick. Luton found themselves ahead within ten minutes of the change of ends, as Rollinson made good with a simple chance, as the result of Steventon's inability to clear a hot shot from Simms. An equaliser from Hollins, the centre, went through off Needham, but Simms regained the lead again from Roberts' centring, only for Jones, Southampton's new inside left from Notts County, to be allowed an equalising point which Mitchell hotly disputed, it being claimed that the ball had gone behind. In spite of this disappointment Luton continued to show the greatest scoring initiative, but their goal was also more than once in danger, and although the Blues probably had the better of the second half, a draw was on the whole a fair result. Mitchell did the best work on the Luton side, especially in the first half, and Roberts and Simms were the most prominent in attack.