

FOOTBALL.

Southern League.

ROUSING GAME WITH SWINDON.

CREDITABLE DRAW FOR LUTON.

Nearly nine thousand spectators, of whom about three thousand were in khaki, watched a spirited encounter on the Luton ground on Saturday, when Swindon were the visitors. Although Swindon have not started off in particularly brilliant fashion, they have just lately found their form and the football forecasts in the London papers were almost unanimous in prophesying a victory for the railwaymen. Luton, however, rose to the occasion splendidly, and having quite as much of the play as their formidable opponents, managed to halve the points, and with a little bit of luck would have won. The game was easily the best that has been seen here this season, and the changing fortunes and rapid incidents caused considerable excitement and enthusiasm among the spectators.

The only department in which Swindon really excelled was at half-back. Tout, the left-half, is still a tower of strength, and he was perhaps the best man on the field. Both R. Hawkes and Frith had had periods which caused the Luton backs many anxious moments, but on the whole Elvey and Dunn emerged from the ordeal with credit. Elvey was not quite so sound as usual, but Dunn frequently put the clever Swindon forwards off-side. Jefferson, who is as dangerous as ever, suffered particularly in this respect, but at the same time he and Batty were the pick of the visiting forwards. Fleming was unfortunately unable to turn out for Swindon, and there is no doubt that he was missed, for the Luton men seemed the more dangerous quintette, especially in front of goal. Symms had quite a field day, for in addition to scoring both goals, he made two other attempts that fully deserved the same success. There was nothing to choose between the Luton wings, although Rollinson was not so effective as usual owing to an injury he received early in the game.

Twice during the game Luton were behind, and many teams would have been sadly discouraged by the goal that Swindon scored in the first minute. The credit of it is due to the speedy Jefferson, who got away on the right and put in such a perfect centre that Denyer had an easy task to head the ball into the net. For a few minutes Swindon looked like repenting the dose, but then Luton got going and for twenty minutes exerted a pressure that tried the visitors' defence to the utmost. Simms got his foot with a first time effort to a forward pass, but the shot lacked power and Skiller saved. A minute later Rollinson stopped the ball almost dead, and Simms, who was running up behind, sent in a magnificent shot which went like a flash of lightning straight to Skiller, who managed to hold it. It was a superb attempt, and it was only poetic justice that eventually the centre forward should be the scorer of the equalising goal. The Luton men had made one or two rather poor attempts to get the ball in front of goal, but at last Roberts managed to turn it to Simms, who, standing between the backs, placed it into the corner of the net. This point appeared in danger of being negatived a few moments later, for Swindon set up a hot attack. Denyer got right through, but Mitchell ran out and blocked his shot. The ball went over on to the right and Jefferson centred to Bown, who shot hard before Mitchell could get into position. Dunn was standing between the posts and he did the only thing possible by handling the ball. Of course a penalty kick was awarded, but to Dunn's evident delight Tout placed the ball on the wrong side of the post.

Resuming the second half on level terms both teams set up strenuous attacks, but unlike what had happened in the first half, those of Swindon seemed to preponderate. Luton, however, were the more dangerous in front of goal, and it was only by a lucky swing of the arm that Skiller managed to keep out a hot shot by Bob Hawkes. During the subsequent play Silto nearly turned the ball into his own goal, Skiller saving at full length. Swindon then had some consolation for their missed penalty in the shape of a goal that had more than an element of luck in it. Bolland sent the ball goalward from the goal-line with an attempt that was undoubtedly meant for a centre, and Frith, in trying to clear, seemed to turn the leather into the net before Mitchell could stop it. Luton tried hard for an equaliser, and at last a centre from Roberts enabled Wileman to try a shot. Skiller stopped the ball but failed to clear, and Simms dashed up like a flash and found the net. In the closing moments Simms shot just over from close range, and at the other end Mitchell made a fine save from Bown. The game thus ended in a draw of two goals each.