

SIX GOALS SHARED AT MILLWALL

Roe, having wrenched his knee at Watford, had to stand down against Millwall on Saturday, Wilman coming back to the side. Otherwise it was the same team which played the previous day. Millwall had several changes, mainly through injuries, and their side was only made up just before the game started, being as follows:—F. Wood; Fort and Woodley; Butterworth, Wilson, and Liddell; Whittaker, Williams, Davis, Moody, and Lamb. Referee, Mr. J. Lilley, Rushden.

The rain, which had been falling all day, kept the attendance down to very modest figures, and 7,000 would be a liberal estimate of the number present. There was quite a sprinkling of Lutonians gathered on the stand, and they certainly made themselves heard at times. Luton hold a very good record on the present Millwall ground, as they have yet to be beaten there in the Southern League. It seemed quite strange to see such old chummates as Bob Hawkes and Bert Moody team up for their respective clubs, but there was not a great deal of advantage to be gained on the present occasion, and although Bert was the lucky individual, it did not help his side a deal.

Millwall started as if they intended to run Luton off their legs right away, and their forwards, particularly the inside trio, were very nippy in their efforts to force the play. Davis and Moody were continually having a sharp burst through, and Bert Moody sent in several really good attempts. These as a rule just missed the far upright in his endeavours to place the ball away from Mitchell, but a quick shot from close range on the part of Moody was just saved by Mitchell actually between the sticks. The ball came off Bert's toe as he swung himself round only a few yards out, but the Luton goalie caught the ball and prevented it taking effect. It was evident, however, that unless the Luton forwards could raise the siege pretty quickly, the home side must soon score, for it could not be expected that the defence could hold out for ever against such prolonged pressure, therefore it was not surprising that Davis found a way past Mitchell when he settled on a back pass from Williams. The success was quite deserved on the play up to that point, but the Luton players had a distinct grievance over the second goal which went to the credit of Millwall. There was a throw-in for Millwall, and as soon as this was taken the linesman on that side of the field signalled for some infringement. The Luton players naturally took it that it was a foul throw, and they were to have a free-kick, but evidently it was only on account of the Millwall player standing on the wrong square of turf to throw the ball in from. When he picked up the ball again and threw it in from the correct spot the Luton players were taken completely by surprise, and Moody, getting

his head to the ball, netted the simplest of goals. The Luton players at once surrounded Mr. Lilley, but although he submitted it was a very unsatisfactory point he would not strike it off, and Luton were two goals down.

It took Luton some few minutes to get over the misfortune, but as half-time approached they did better and were having an equal share of the attack. Fort and Woodley were kept well on the alert, and during one special bombardment, Fort broke down with an old injury to his thigh, and was led off the field to take no further part in the game. Immediately the game underwent a complete change, and it was all Luton on the offensive right up to the interval. Hoar got across a nasty angle shot, and Wood could not prevent it entering the net. Although he got to it, he only turned the ball through. Having reduced the lead to the smallest dimensions Luton were all out for an equaliser before the interval, and were extremely unlucky not to score this when Simms turned the ball towards the net. Wood could do nothing but blindly punch at it, and he knocked it sharply on the upright. Even now the danger was far from over, and a regular scrimmage within a couple of yards of the goal ensued. Three times the ball was sent towards the goal, but each time a Millwall player got in the way, and finally the danger was averted, and Luton retired temporarily with the score standing

Millwall, 2; Luton, 1.

When the teams returned to the field it was noticed that Moody had rearranged his team by falling half-back himself, thus releasing Liddell for full back. The loss of Moody from the attack had a great influence on the game, and the Luton forwards were able to hold the ball oftener. Still Moody could not content himself altogether with defensive work, and getting an opportunity he combined with Lamb on a forceful run through, which led up to Moody getting another goal with his head, and once more placing his side two goals up. Luton, however, were not dismayed. Wood was more than lucky to get back in time after temporarily leaving his charge to meet a threatening movement on the part of Luton's right wing, and a quarter of an hour's play gave Robinson an opening, and he at once sent the ball flying into the net clean away from Wood. Having once again brought the lead to the smallest limit, Luton worried the rearranged defence no end. Roberts almost did the trick himself with a terrific drive which appeared a scorer all the way, but the ball struck the post and rebounded to Simms. The centre naturally was not letting such a nice chance go begging, and although the ball appeared to bounce on to his knee he sent it into the net.

With the scores level both teams went hard at it for the winning point. Moody at once rearranged his men, and from now to the close played one back only, Woodley having to cover this department off his own, but so to speak. Luton were upset a bit, and were not nearly so dangerous in consequence. Offside was being claimed continually, and as a rule given, and this quite spoiled the game particularly as Dunn went in for similar tactics. The nearest Millwall came to scoring in the closing stages arose through a shot from long range on the part of Lamb which hit the cross-bar with Mitchell beaten, but on the whole Luton were the more likely looking scorers. Towards the end Bob Hawkes went dead lame so that practically both sides finished with ten men, and it was quite a fair result when the referee called time with the scores:—

Luton, 5; Millwall, 3.

It would have been distinctly rough luck if Luton had lost their wonderful away record by such an unsatisfactory goal as the second one netted by Millwall, yet, on the other hand, they were a trifle fortunate in getting over the handicap this caused. Possibly if Port had been able to stop on the field they would never have scored three goals, so that the final reckoning was a proper result. Still the three goals netted by Luton were better got than those which went to the credit of Millwall, so far as mid-field play was concerned.

The point gained placed the question of Luton's relegation beyond all reasonable doubt, for unless Croydon net an abnormal number of goals, and win every match they cannot pass Luton, for their total possible points cannot exceed 32, which is the figure Luton stand at after the Millwall game. It is quite remarkable to find a team scoring ten goals in away matches within a week, but Luton have accomplished this, and their forwards can take credit for a wonderful performance. Simms having netted six of these is now well in the running for the honour of being the highest goal-getter in the Southern League, and it is understood that he is ambitious in this direction. Whatever happens now Luton must get credit for a larger number of points away from home than it is possible for them to net at home. Truly a remarkable record indeed, and one that will take a lot of beating.