FOOTBALL.

BIG CROWD SEE LUTON'S REVENGE.

SWINDON FAIL TO STAND THE PACE.

LUTON TOWN ..... 2 Goals. **SWINDON TOWN** ..... Nil.

Luton Town.—Bailey; Lennon, Tirrell; Molyneaux, Parker, Cockerill; Hoar, Higginbotham, Simms, Mathieson, Bookman.

Swindon Town.—Nash; Kay, Maconnachie; Langford, Hawley, Wareing; Jefferson, Stokoe, Rogers, Denyer, Davies.

Referee: D. W. F. Cooper, London.

The thought struck me as I came from the Town ground on Saturday that if the Town forwards had the same understanding and appreciation of combination as the Swindon forwards, and could blend it with the determination and stamina they show, their play would be good enough to get them somewhere in the neighbourhood of promotion. I doubt if there are three inside men in first-class football who can stand so much heavy work or are capable of challenging opposing half-backs and full backs as are Higginbotham, Simms, and Mathieson. If their play was marked with a deftness that equalled in value their wholeheartedness, they would be capable of

BREAKING GOAL RECORDS

of all kinds. That may savour of exaggeration, but I believe it is true, for no trio could put more zeal into their work. It is the ideal blend of beef and brain that makes the invincible forward line. We have a considerable amount of beef and some brain, but there is need of an intelligent guide to make the necessary blend of the two, and we ought to have it even if it means a player-manager to get it. (I am not poaching on the preserves of the Supporters' Club, but I have something to say about their bit of trouble later). The team has the will to win, but we want the strength applied so that we may get the best out of it.

The Town won on Saturday because they proved so many degrees stronger. They were often beaten by craft and experience, but they did not know it, and there came a time when youth's enthusiasm crushed down all the wit and wisdom of these older opponents, and so gained the day. It was not a drawing room exhibition of football. We are hardly likely to see anything of that kind any more, for I think the bonus is going to make players not only keener, but less scrupulous. There are players of the same opinion, too. We have had two games in Luton so far, and both have been rougher than any of last year, but I admit that both Portsmouth and Swindon are not famous for gentle gymnastics. Possibly we shall see an improvement later, and if it begins next Saturday so much the better. Of course, referees are very much to blame, but sooner or later some of the unscrupulous will run up against the unexpected, and instead of getting a bonus they will lose a few weeks' wages. I care not who are the offenders, they should be severely dealt with, and one or two of Luton's men will be well advised to check their exuberance somewhat. So devising swift and cunning raids on Luton's goal.

WHEN THE FIRST GOAL

did come, less than ten minutes after the interval, I must confess that I was rather surprised. It came from a penalty kick, and I was not sure that an offence was committed, but, like most referees, Mr. Cooper is very severe on handling, and when Hawley missed the ball with his foot and stopped it with his arm, a penalty kick was awarded, and Sid Hoar made no mistake about it, for Nash had no chance with a properly directed shot. It was a penalty taken as penalties should be taken, and that is a distinctive merit, even among first-class footballers. The Town had much the better of the game, so far as attack was concerned, after this, although Swindon made several dangerous raids, Jefferson being the chief engineer, but there was no diminution of vigour, and Cockerill was badly laid out on one occasion by Jefferson, although I do not think the Swindon veteran meant anything dangerous. Simms did exceptionally fine work at this stage, and one glorious effort from a matter of thirty yards' range crashed against the jointure of the upright and crossbar and rebounded, Nash being well beaten. It was the best shot of the season so far. Other efforts went near, and Nash got rid of several awkward ones. With forty minutes gone, Hoar got over Wareing and lobbed the ball gently across. Hawley appeared to have it in safe keeping, but Mathieson suddenly lurched forward, and, fairly flinging himself at the ball, touched it with his head and beat Nash. The referee gave a goal without hesitation, but the Swindon players made such vehement representations that Mathieson had punched the ball through that he consulted the linesman, and that worthy agreed with the Swindon players. Then Mr. Cooper pointed to the penalty area to give a free kick against Luton, but Higginbotham drew him into

A CONFLAB

with the other linesman, and that gentleman agreed with the referee's first decision, and Mr. Cooper thereupon pointed to the centre, and a great shout went up. In the Press-box opinion was divided. I thought Mathieson headed the ball, although he had his hands up, but a colleague was of the other opinion. The best goal of the match, however, was disallowed, and if Mr. Cooper made a mistake about Mathieson's goal it was counterbalanced by the error he made regarding of what one follower suggested the other day—that it takes big men longer to get into shape. Hoar again played a spanking game, and Bookman was clever and fast when he got the opportunities. Given the right passes this pair can beat almost any defence, and if they are made best use of we really ought to see a lot of goals scored this season. Time after time they galloped through on Saturday, and tapped the ball into the middle, but they had often out-paced the field. The sort of thing we want is a pass of the fashion Simms gave Hoar when the latter burst through and netted. It was declared to be an offside goal, but all referees will not always make such mistakes.

The visitors may have missed Fleming and Batty, but I doubt if they did so to the extent claimed, for Davies and Denyer played wonderfully well, and on their showing are good enough for any first-class club. The former was particularly clever, and he was also a very fair shot, while Denyer was even more forceful than Rogers, of whom not a great deal was seen at any time. Jefferson was the

MAIN SOURCE OF DANGER

in the attack, and the veteran went through in quite his old style, and those gentle centres which he has turned across for years were just as true and easy as ever. Davies did one or two good things, but he was considerably upset by the mobility to get goals, and he often showed temper. Once he got hold of Bailey's leg as the goalkeeper was endeavouring to clear, and nearly pulled him down. The halves played well, but were not nearly fast enough for the home forwards, and were pretty well pumped out at the finish. Hawley was most conspicuous because of his frequent duels with Simms. The backs were a level pair, and although Maconnachie is slow, his judgment was very useful, and his kicking clean. Kay was more picturesque, but not a great deal more effective. Nash is a good goalkeeper, and he saved some good stuff, while as to the shots that counted he was in no way blame-worthy.

The attendance totalled 11,000, and the receipts £608. In this connection my attention was drawn to the fact that stand accommodation was full long before an announcement was made to that effect, and hundreds of people were paying 2/- for admission to a seat that was not there, and they had to stand in places much less favourable for obtaining a view of the game than those who had paid for admission to less costly parts. Many of these undoubtedly had a grievance, but it is difficult to know what to do other than for the directors to post an announcement at the stand entrance when that accommodation has been absorbed. If we get gates like those of Saturday there will certainly have to be considerable addition to the grand stand, and it is quite possible to nearly double it. I feel that the complaint was justified, but I am quite sure that the attendance well exceeded the expectations of the club, although they were by no means sorry for that.

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THE SUPPORTERS' CLUB.

Several people have asked me what I think of the meeting of the Supporters' Club, and I must confess that I am not impressed with the manner in which the proceedings were conducted. I have no feeling in the matter at all, and I hold no brief for Mr. A. E. White, or anyone else, but it seems to me to be a novel method to quote a minute of a meeting as abrogating a rule. I refer to the Chairman's quotation of the minute of last year's meeting to justify the committee's right to appoint officials irrespective of the wishes of the annual general meeting. I have a distinct recollection that the appointment of officials was relegated to the committee by the meeting last year, but on this occasion the Chairman vetoed the right of the meeting, and both from the view of good government and common sense Mr. Percy Hinton took a course that was ultra vires. I am quite sure, however, that he made a genuine mistake, and would not have done so had he not thought he was so entitled. The minutes of a meeting are merely an official record, nothing more, and when they have been read and approved they are done with save to justify or guide the members and allow them to enforce their opinion. The minute referred to was merely a record to show that the committee had appointed the officials last year at the express wish of that meeting. It had no binding effect on the members at a subsequent meeting.

That there is plenty of opportunity for a sound Supporters' Club to assist the Town Club I quite agree, but, as I pointed out on Thursday, and as Mr. Sam Toyer, the Chairman, pointed out in his letter, the directors of the Town Club are intent upon conducting their own business, and the only course for the Supporters' Club is to become shareholders, and in that way earn places on the directorate. In no other way, it appears to me, will the Supporters' Club be able to carry its desires into effect. The annual meeting of the Town Football Club, Ltd., is the place for the enforcement of the views of the shareholders, and at the annual meeting just before the opening of this season the representative of the Supporters' Club raised

NO OBJECTION OR CRITICISM,

but acquiesced in everything that was done. Mr. Hinton denied that there was friction between the Town Club and the Supporters' Club, and while I am not he who heard the "little bird's whisper" about this friction, the gentlemen who wrote that paragraph for the "Tuesday Telegraph" last week was quite correct. There has been, and still is friction, and the proof of that is found in Mr. Toyer's letter. If further proof were needed it might be found in the letter of the Town Club to the Supporters' Club, only one portion of which was read.

I am able to tell the members of the Supporters' Club the exact position, and, however much I may disagree from the views of the Town Club directorate, I am bound to admit that they are responsible for the conduct of the club, and have a perfect right to ignore or follow the advice of the Supporters' Club. That fact cannot be controverted. They have been chosen by the shareholders at the annual meeting, and that being so they remain in office for a year, and only when the Supporters' Club have sufficient voting power can the personnel of the directorate be altered.

What is the attitude of the Board of directors to the Supporters' Club? It simply amounts to this: "We do not think that the assistance you are able to give warrants your interference in the affairs of the club, and, so far as advisory capacity is concerned, we cannot agree that you can improve upon the advice we already have at our disposal."

That puts the matter bluntly, and as far as I can see there is only one matter upon which the Supporters' Club and the directors are greatly at variance, namely, the appointment of a player-manager.

In this matter I am with the Supporters' Club, but by player-manager I mean a manager whose functions will be those of coach; one who will have full charge of the players, and be able to advise the directors on the respective merits. That is all. We cannot improve upon Mr. C. Green as a secretary, nor upon Billy Lawson as a trainer, and a player-manager's duties should fall in between those of the secretary and the trainer, and not clash with them. On football law and the general duties of a secretary, Mr. Green is something of an authority, and judging by his work already this season, he has plenty to do in that capacity. So has Billy Lawson. In fact, I think Billy has a surplus of work. There are few clubs nowadays which do not employ a manager, and I certainly think it would be beneficial to the players and would help to win matches. It would pay if a man of high character and real ability were secured, one in whom the directors and the players would have confidence and who would have the will to discipline as well as the skill to advise both.

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Generally speaking, the criticism of my own work is very friendly. I am a great believer in the efficacy of encouragement, for I thrive on it myself, but that does not mean that the almost anonymous letters I receive occasionally cause me to lose any rest. There is some sense in a letter like the following, and I am always glad to read frank and unbiassed comments like those sent in by "Looker-on." I was asked on Sunday if I wrote the latter, and it was pointed out that the Press-box was "on the stand." I do not write them. They come from one who is a clean sportsman and is not there solely for the purpose of seeing the home team win. I give "Supporter's" letter in full.

Dear Crusader.—May I beg the privilege of writing to you in a friendly strain, and make one or two comments re yesterday's match with Swindon.

Being an ardent supporter, as, no doubt, are the countless thousands who visit the Town ground, I was very pleased to see our own side win a clear goal victory.

Nevertheless, Saturday's game gave one the idea that our team ought to have done better and incidentally saved themselves a lot of running about.

I daresay I voice the thoughts of most of the spectators in saying that the two inside men were sadly lacking in ideas by the way they hung back among the halves, when a little hustling would have spelt disaster to Swindon's harassed defence, for such it was.

With all due respect to the men mentioned and also the whole team, we all realise that it takes time to settle down, but it was plainly evident on Saturday that had the inside men kept up the least bit with the wing men, I am inclined to think the reverse of that 9—1 at Swindon would have had to be recorded.

Of course, Swindon would be inclined to say they were handicapped by the absence of two notable men, but really they do not appear to be such a fine side as their first match suggested.

However, adieu for the present. I hope you will be able to write some cheerier notes than was your lot last season. As for the Town team, well, I have hopes.

5/9/30. SUPPORTER.

SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

Portsmouth Reserves 5, Luton Reserves 0.
Boscombe 1, Thorneycrofts 0.
Charlton Athletic 3, Brighton and Hove 1.
Gillingham 1, Reading 1.

ATHENIAN LEAGUE.

Bromley 1, Hampstead Town 1.
West London Old Boys 2, Kingstonians 2.
Wimbledon 2, Southall 0.
Metrogas 3, Summerstown 1.

FRIENDLIES.

Leyton 4, Luton Amateurs 1.
St. Albans City 2, Fricker's Athletic 2.

LIMBURY UNITED V. FRICKER'S RES

Limbury United were disappointed on Saturday by Flitwick, but Fricker's met them in a friendly encounter and the game ended in a win for Fricker's Reserves by 2 goals to 1. The successful marksmen for Fricker's were W. D. Allen and R. Cornish.

Fricker's Res.:—Hare; Freeman, Bowles; Newman, Prime, Scott; Symonds, R. Cornish, Tearle, W. D. Allen, Toyer.

STOP PRESS.

A NOTICE MARRIED MAN.

At the Old Bailey today, William Alfred Kent (56), labourer, who pleaded guilty to two bigamous marriages, but was stated to have had four wives, three of them living at the result of his bigamous marriages, was sentenced to five years' penal servitude. He had had six children.

"HE SHALL NOT DIE IN VAIN."

Mr De Valera has sent a cablegram from America declaring that the Lord Mayor of Cork's comrades pledge their word that he shall not die in vain.

far, they have been more sinned against than sinning, but usually

THE MAN WHO SUFFERS

is he who retaliates, for referees, much more so than policemen, are apt to look the right way at the wrong moment.

Swindon must have wondered if they were really facing Luton, or if some other team usurped Luton's name and colours last season, for the "Whites" had only five members of the team which played at Swindon on duty on Saturday. The injury Watson sustained against Portsmouth on Monday evening brought Bailey into goal; Tirrell superseded Semple at left back; Molyneaux and Cockerill figured at half-back in place of Roe and Lamb; Hoar and Higginbotham were out instead of Pett and Bradley. Swindon had two changes, Fleming and Batty having been injured at Southampton, their places were taken by Stokoe and Denyer, and it may be said at once that while the whole of the Luton changes were justified, those of Swindon did not make much difference so far as I could see, for Stokoe and Denyer played fine football and fitted into the line splendidly.

The conditions were favourable for spectators, but rather too warm for the players, yet there was a cooling breeze, and in the second half it freshened considerably. Parker captained the Luton side, and very spick and span both teams looked, and I am sure everybody now agrees that the change of costume has made a difference in the appearance of Luton. For twenty minutes, however, there appeared to be a good deal more ginger inside the red jerseys of Swindon than inside the white jerseys of Luton, and spectators began to visualise repetition of the previous Saturday or, at any rate, of one of those accidents that happened so often last year—an early goal against us. There was much cry and little wool, however, and when the Luton forwards began to find their feet there were thrills and incidents at each end, and the "no quarter" methods resulted in little reprisals, and players being mended. But not one shot was good enough to score, although Sid Hoar and Stokoe made fine efforts at their respective objectives, while Simms was ever in the thick of the fray at one end, and Jefferson was Hoar's effort. Simms got the ball in midfield, and passed beautifully for Hoar to dash past Maconnachie, beat Kay, and finally send the ball past Nash with a lovely daisy-cutter, but Mr. Cooper had given him offside. It was a great pity, for it was a champion goal.

Swindon were clearly a beaten side, for the home defence frustrated every effort, and the end came with the Town meritorious winners—their strength and stamina having carried them through at a pace which was too much for Swindon.

I think the two men on the Luton side who most deserve praise are Simms and Tirrell. I confess that I was not impressed with Tirrell's form in the practice spins, but in his two League games with the first eleven he has done sterling work, and on Saturday he scarcely made a mistake. His timing was greatly improved, and he played with a coolness and judgment that got him out of many tight corners. He balanced very nicely with Lennon. The Scot was also in happier mood, and while his kicking is rather more picturesque than useful, he did a lot of excellent work. Both protected Bailey well, and the ex-Millwall goalkeeper did all that was required of him in clean, neat style, and he made several rattling saves.

THE CHANGES

in the half-back line were an improvement, and although Parker was not quite at home in the centre position, the fact that so little was seen of Rogers is a tribute to his skill. Molyneaux again acquitted himself nobly, and played himself to a standstill, while Cockerill was not dissimilar. His speed was a great asset against Jefferson, and he also will want a lot of moving now he has got a place. Simms was the best forward on the field. He looked after his wings quite well, and his shooting was superfine. All round, his display leads me to wonder if he will manage to break his own goal-scoring record. Higginbotham again did a tremendous lot of work, although not quite so thrustful as on Monday night, and he had not his shooting boots so ready as usual. Mathieson has not yet reached the standard of "Newman," and he appears to be a long time settling down. That he has it in him we know, and it seems to be a case