

LUTON TOWN'S GREAT WIN.

A lot of things have been unsaid during the last few weeks. October has been a very happy month so far for the Town, and if we can finish as we began we shall be somewhere near the head of the League table. We are much higher in the League to-day than at any time during last season or the 1914-15 season. Seventh from the top after the opening catastrophe is a record of which the players may well be proud, and the directors are now smiling broadly. They have certainly made sure of one thing in their team building—that they have provided a team that will avoid the danger of the bottom pair at the end of the season. True, I do not regard it as a championship side by any means, for the win at Grimsby does not mean that there will be no more matches lost away from home. It does mean, however, that the team have a sporting chance that will come off sometimes, and it is certain that the defence as a whole is much stronger than last season.

The record last season at this time read:—

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
	10	3	5	2	12	19	8
Now:	10	5	3	2	16	21	12

That difference of four points makes a difference between seventh position from the bottom of the League and seventh from the top, and it is only the heavy deficit on the first game that makes the goal average so poor. That, however, we hope to see rectified before very long.

The match at Grimsby ended in a well-deserved win, for although the "Mariners" had quite a good share of the ball during the whole of the ninety minutes, they did not show the same compactness and understanding as the Luton players, in spite of the fact that the Town team was weakened by the absence of Parker. To Simms fell the credit of scoring the only goal of the match, and it was on a par with the fine goals he has obtained during the two previous games. It was just a case of doggedness and grit, a cool head and a sure foot, and it must have been a tonic to the Luton defenders, whose task previously had been no easy one. They had kept at bay a fierce and strong lot of forwards who lacked nothing in energy and dash, although they had plenty of fire. To them, not less than to Simms, belonged the honour of winning. It was the first game won away from home this season, and against a team notoriously strong at home, for it was the first home defeat of the "Mariners," and few clubs will do it again.

The play was fast and clean, very much on the lines of the game at Luton the previous week, but while Grimsby had the ball in the Luton half most of the time, Luton were infinitely more dangerous when they got to close quarters. The play of Walsh, who substituted Parker owing to the latter's illness, was quite up to first-class standard, and we shall be interested in his debut at home on Saturday, for he will find in David Williams and Miller players of very much the same type as Clark and Collier. Bradley, who took Percy Hill's place, was cleverer than Hill in midfield, but he was not so dangerous a man in front of goal. Mathieson played better even than the previous Saturday, and he and Bookman were a worrying wing, the little man on the extreme being in his best form. Properly utilised, I hold that he is good enough for any team, but we have yet to see him put to best use. If Mathieson is going to do it then things are bright. Sid Hoar was again in fine form, but was very closely attended by Storer, who gave him little rope. Simms was the best forward on the field in spite of the harassing attentions of Carmichael, who almost walked about with him.

Both Lamb and Molyneux played strongly, and the former had a difficult task, for Spink was the home team's best forward, and played exceptionally well. Lennon and Tirrell were masterful, sure and clean, and their work evoked great admiration, while Bailey's periodical difficulties were surmounted with confidence and skill. It was a splendid victory, and fully deserved.

GRIMSBY TOWN. — Whalley; Dawson, Atteck; Gillow, Carmichael, Storer; Spink, Collier, Clark, Morrall, Blake.

LUTON TOWN. — Bailey; Lennon, Tirrell; Molyneux, Walsh, Lamb; Hoar, Bradley, Simms, Mathieson, Bookman.

Referee: H. J. Prescott, Lincoln.

The Reserves did very well indeed to defeat Chatham's strong combination. The visitors are a hefty lot, and showed a tendency to "rough it" when they were a goal down, but the Town Reserves kept their heads