

On the Town Ground. Southern League.

SATURDAY, FEB. 5th.

at 3.0 p.m.

LUTON RESERVES v. READING RESERVES.

WATCH LUTON.

CUP HISTORY MADE AT SOUTH SHIELDS.

CHIEF CONSTABLE'S PROPHETIC DREAM.

After a lapse of fourteen years, Luton Town have made fresh Cup history. Season 1904-1905 was the first in which the club had ever survived the first round of the English Cup competition proper, and today they go into the hat as one of the last sixteen clubs for the first time. This is of itself enough to arouse the keenest enthusiasm among local football supporters, but it is made doubly exhilarating that the Town team on Saturday won their way into the third round by what is conceded on all hands to be the finest performance of the day. Only one other team claimed a clear goal victory, only one other Third Division club defeated opponents of a higher division of the League, and both these performances were accomplished at home, whereas Luton's was on foreign soil.

To the football writers who have described Luton's success as the chief surprise of the day, it may be news that a well known football manager in the north who saw the Town win at Rotherham is reported to have said that the Stranwhaters would be in the Cup fight when a lot of the clubs were out. This prophecy was published in several provincial sporting papers as "A long shot" before the competition proper was entered upon, and that that manager was not a bad judge is proved by the fact that Luton have since vanquished two teams in the top five of the Second Division.

An even more remarkable prophecy in the way was made locally in regard to the South Shields match itself. Chief Constable Scott dreamed on Friday night that the half-time score was 2-0, and he was so confident about it that he heartened up all the pessimists. No one was more anxious than he to see whether the dream would be fulfilled, and when the interval score came through, he was overwhelmed with congratulations on the Town ground. Of course everybody expected him after this to give the final result, but his dream broke at half time.

It was just as well for the comfort of the Town players that the train service would not admit of their getting home from Shields until late on Sunday night, and even then necessitated the last stage of the journey from Hitchin being covered by road, for the scene on the Town ground when the result became known was one of indescribable jubilation. There must have been nearly 5,000 waiting for the news, and they swarmed over the pitch to the front of the grand stand as soon as the game was over, and the cheers raised on the figures being announced might have led anyone to think Luton had won the Cup.

Rice and Semple were taken to Whitley Bay with the chosen team as reserves, but in spite of the wild rumours circulated about Hoor's undoing, the Town were able to put into the field the same eleven that carried them through the two previous Cup ties, with the solitary exception of Butcher taking the place of Matheson. South Shields did not decide upon their team until shortly before the game, the forward line having given no little dissatisfaction since the defeat of Portsmouth, but in the end only two changes were made, the absentees being Lilliecrop, the centre who overshadowed Simms while he was with Barnsley, and Woods, who was secured from Norwich City this season. This was Woods's first game out of the team, and the appearance of Walker, the old Leeds City goalkeeper, who played at Luton for the naval team from the Crystal Palace, was uncertain until the last moment. Teams—

Luton: Bailey; Lennon, Tirrell; Moynaux, Parker, Lamb; Hoor, Higginbotham, Simms. Butcher, Bookman.

South Shields: Walker; Crosswell, Maitland; Metcalfe, Hopkins, Hampson; Keenlyside, Smith, Parker, Hawes, Donald.

Referee: Mr. J. Cahill, Liverpool.

South Shields ground at Horsley Hill is appreciably larger than Luton's, and with the weather beautifully clear and fine it appeared to be crowded, the official returns showing an attendance of 21,000 and a gate of £1,776. Messrs. Stan Godfrey, Oscar Hart, E. Mouse and Harry Smart journeyed up on Friday to join their co-directors, Messrs. P. J. Allen and Ernest Gibbs, who were with the team for the week at Whitley Bay, but apart from these the support the

players had to rely upon was a telegram received on the ground by Capt. Tirrell, "from the Luton unfortunates who ain't there."

The message of encouragement received from Luton, together with the suggestive exhortations which it contained, seemed to be not lost on the players, for there was scarcely a moment in the game when the Town's small following had any cause for disquietude. The ground is next door to the sea, so to speak, and in rough weather gets the full effect of gusty winds. One of these was in evidence on Saturday, and Tirrell had the good fortune to be able to give his side the first advantage of it. From the first they showed their appreciation of it, and Shields had not a real look in when when the Town took the lead inside ten minutes. It fell to Higginbotham to drive the first nail into coffin of his old side, Hoor with a pass back from the touch line enabling him to score from close range. Previous to this, both Hoor and Bookman had been very dangerous, and Simms and the halves kept them so well plied with passes that Crosswell and Maitland were nearly always having an anxious time. A corner was about the only dangerous thing Shields could claim, and after twenty minutes a fast run by Hoor enabled Butcher to put Luton further ahead with a hard low drive which gave the goalkeeper no chance. This was all scoring prior to the interval, and Luton's lead was no more than they deserved, for although Shields put on a lot of pressure in the last fifteen minutes there was only one instance in which Bailey's charge was imperilled, and at the other end Walker was brilliant in saving from Bookman at the expense of a corner.

A two-goal lead was considered none too safe against such a strong wind, and on resuming Shields showed that they were intent on reducing it, but it was a bad blow to them when, within three minutes, Butcher once more got through the defence from a forward pass, and made no mistake with his shot. The homesters tried hard to retrieve the situation, and certainly had a greater share of the play, but they were never allowed to settle down, and Simms made the result safe by pouncing upon a centre from Bookman and with a clear field dribbling close in before he effectively parted with the ball. In the last half hour the homesters made many raids, and once or twice got to close quarters, but they never seemed to get on top of the Luton defence, and with every man playing for safety they were able to keep the final score at

South Shields 0, Luton 4.

Shields were fairly and squarely routed by a team superior in practically every department. Luton played a Cup-winning game from the start, and kept it up. They were faster and smarter in every way, and the understanding they displayed left little to be desired.

Bailey inspired confidence by the readiness with which he met what calls were made upon him, but he had a comparatively easy afternoon. Lennon and Tirrell were scarcely ever beaten, and with the half-backs playing a superb game, the home forwards were completely unsettled and upset. Parker played like a giant refreshed, and his brilliant form would have confounded his critics if they had seen the game. Lamb also played one of his greatest games, and Moynaux was as good as ever. In fact, the whole half line was brilliant, and they not only made the Shields' attack look feeble, but were a magnificent support to the forwards.

The front line did not take all their chances, but nevertheless, they played finely. Simms opened up the game in fine style, and was always on the hunt. Both Hoor and Bookman dazzled the opposition with their speed, and the inside forwards were always helping. Butcher, in particular, making the left wing a constant source of danger. The Shields' defence will not soon forget the dashing Luton forward line.

TOWN DIRECTOR'S NARROW ESCAPE.

Mr. Harry Smart had been appointed by the Town Directors to accompany Mr. Ernest Gibbs in charge of the players on their trip to Whitley Bay on Tuesday, but was prevented from joining the party from the consequences of a rather sensational adventure. It appears that on Wednesday week Mr. Smart was on his way home in the company of friends and neighbours, and on alighting from a tramcar from the direction of the town at the top of Beech Hill, passed behind the car to cross to the railway. Another car from the laundry was standing in the loop, but the driver signalled Mr. Smart's party to proceed, and just as the Town Club director stepped off the tram track he was amazed to find a motor landaulette cutting through from the direction of the laundry. The motor was within such a short distance of him that he could see he must inevitably be run down unless he did something desperate. There was no time to retract his steps, and so he made a dive for the pavement just as though he were taking a plunge into the sea. Unhappily the car caught his legs as they were in the air, and the impact drove him with terrific force into the wall of Dr. Verdon's residence. One of the two ladies following Mr. Smart was also caught by the car as it swerved in an effort by the driver to avoid him, and she was spun round before she fell in a heap. The lady escaped with a shaking, but Mr. Smart sustained considerable bruising, and, through falling with his arm under the weight of his body, also fractured his left wrist. The injury gave him such pain that for three or four nights he was unable to get any sleep, but we are glad to hear that it has now become easier and is well on the way to mending, although it is likely to be a month or six weeks before the damage is properly repaired.

ERNEST SIMMS' BENEFIT.

Appreciable progress was made with the arrangements for the Simms' Benefit Fund at a meeting of the committee, presided over by Mr. S. C. Aylott, on Tuesday night, and incidentally steps were taken to still further enlarge and make more representative the small committee who have borne the brunt of looking into about the preliminaries for giving effect to the desire of all classes of the Town Club's supporters that the centre forward's benefit shall be a "bumper." The supporters' club committee have quietly been

getting to work on their own with this object in view, and Messrs. T. Toyer and Wilson Addy, whom they deputed to respond to the invitation of the Benefit Fund Committee for the nomination of two representatives, intimated the desire of their committee to throw in their lot with the Benefit Fund Committee, and work together as one body for the common object. The Supporters' Committee already have arrangements in hand for about a hundred collecting boxes to be placed in hairdressers' and tobacconists' establishments, and are devoting a dance and waiting competition in the Assembly Hall next month to Simms' benefit, and are quite willing that the proceeds of these efforts shall all go to swell the one fund. It was therefore agreed to accede to their suggestion and add the whole of the members of the supporters' committee interesting themselves in this work to the Benefit Fund Committee.

The suggestions are in hand for the issue of subscription lists, which will be sent out by the Directors of the Town Club with donation of ten guineas, a matinee performance at High Town Electric Theatre, and concert being organised by Mr. Hugh Woods at Dunstable, but for the moment attention is principally concentrated on the completion of the details of an attractive prize scheme. All who desire to contribute to the recognition of Simms will be able by the purchase of shilling tickets to try their skill in estimating the number of people who pay for admission to his benefit match on March 19th. These tickets will not afford admission to the match, but they will entitle those purchasers whose estimates are nearest to the official turnstile returns to the acquisition of handsome prizes for a nominal monetary deposit. The first prize is a £50 suite of handsome tapestry furniture, which is being specially made locally, and will probably be on view this week, a 10-guinea suit or lady's costume has been generously given as second prize, and a third prize of five guineas guaranteed, and there are expected to be seven or more one-guinea consolation awards. This competition is certain to make a strong appeal to the sporting instincts, and it is hoped that it will meet with a success which will effectively ensure the Town centre forward against misfortune of a wet day for the benefit match. As the attendance forecasts will have to be made on the Wednesday before the match at the latest, the novices will stand an equal chance with the experts in their calculations.

WATSON'S RETURN TO THE RESERVES.

It was manifest that the prospect of getting an early indication of the half-time and final scores at South Shields had a good deal to do with attracting some 3,200 spectators in the rain to the Reserves' South Eastern League match with Reading Reserves, on the Town ground. All the same, their pleasure was well catered for, at any rate during the first half, by the sparkling display with which the homesters established a superiority that was not fully represented by the score of 3-0. Watson returned to the captaincy of the side after the two months' rest necessitated by his mishap at Charlton, and held the fort in his accustomed keen and steady way, but he had quite an easy afternoon, not having a single direct shot to deal with. Reynolds and Hall were none too happy at back, but Baylis, Walsh and Cockerill played a rousing game, the two latter rendering fine forceful service in attack. McKenna, Shankland, Hill, G. Barringer, and Sidney also made a capital forward line. Barringer is the St. Neots amateur who had his first trial at Charlton, and his display was quite in keeping with the first impression he made. Although on the light side he uses every ounce of his weight and is a team's dash, especially in getting his head to the ball, he has many clever passing touches and heads with splendid judgment, and only seems to require systematic training to develop into a clever, goal-getting forward. The amateur was the first to net after eight minutes after a capital burst through with Hill, but was ruled offside. Seven minutes later Hill threw himself at a centre from Sidney and headed a wonderful goal. Reading relied mostly on one back tactics to keep the score down, but ten minutes later Hill put Shankland through so completely from McKenna's centre that the inside-right making noise. Walsh and Cockerill joined the forwards in great shooting, and from one corner both Shankland and Hill hit the timber with successive efforts. Two minutes before the interval the former got one just under the bar which the goalkeeper could not keep out, and this proved the extent of the scoring. After the half-time news from Shields the game developed into rather a scrappy affair, and the only incident of note was an offside goal by Hill.

SATURDAY'S SPARKLETS.

James Bradley was given a trial with Clapton Orient in a friendly at Brentford on Saturday, and scored the only goal of the match. It is understood he was expected to be signed by Northampton when he obtained his release from Luton, but we hear that Bradley was afterwards informed that the Cobblers' directors have decided not to increase their wage bill.

The replayed Beds Senior Cup-tie between Luton Clarence and Bedford Town was billed for Frickers Athletic ground, on Saturday, but Bedford did not put in an appearance. They were playing in a Northants League match at Wellingborough.

"Taffy" Flinton, Beech Hill Schools record goal scorer, passed the half-century mark on Saturday by scoring five out of ten goals against Old Bedford-road. Cameled also did the hat-trick, and Scales and Tomkins also scored.

Tom Parker had the experience last night that Sid Hoor had on the last cup-tie journey to Rotherham of returning home to welcome a cup-tie baby. During the time he was at Whitley Bay Mrs. Parker presented him with a daughter.

The F.A. Emergency Committee have declined to reduce the period of Matheson's suspension, and the Irishman has therefore to reconcile himself to another six weeks out of harness.

STRAY SHOTS.

There is just a chance of Luton being represented in the international trial match for the second season, and the success of the team for the first trial—England against the

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