

HOT WORK AT SWINDON.

(By LOOKER-ON.)

At Swindon.

SWINDON TOWN 1 goal
LUTON TOWN 1 goal

SWINDON.—Skiller; Weston, Macconnachie; Langford, Hawley, Wareing; Denyer, Batty, Rogers, Johnson, Turner.

LUTON.—Bailey; Lennon, Tirrell; Molyneux, Foster, Roe; Bassett, Higginbotham, Walsh, Butcher, Bookman.

There was considerable fog about on Monday morning. The atmosphere was foggy, the composition of the team was enveloped in fog, and the railway official who told us our train would not run was foggiest of all. It did run. Train and team came to hand, but the fog remained until we left London. Then we had a burst of sunshine, caused no doubt by Harry Higginbotham's jokes; but Swindon, when we reached it, looked a most depressing place to live in. The Swindon ground has a fine stand, but the cheaper parts of the ground are nothing to boast of, and the playing pitch was as soft as pease pudding. Before the game commenced a band marched up to the ground, blowing their instruments with vigour, but the Luton Red Cross Band are in no danger of losing their laurels. The stand speedily filled with broad-faced, broad-shouldered West-countrymen, and the air was full of accent, such as "Let oi sit in the carner," and "Give oi a bullseye." Then there arrived a party of Luton supporters who had come over on the "Dixie," and much chaff flew about. Finally to the roar of 11,000 spectators, not to speak of over a score of well-nourished policemen, the two teams took the field.

The fog aforesaid extended to the referee, for the appointed man could not appear, and one of the linesmen, Mr. Leatherby, officiated, and did very well.

Luton won the toss, and played with the wind in the first half. Rogers kicked off, and Luton at once took up the running, gaining a corner, which was cleared. Our forwards were forceful and dangerous, and "Higgie" got through on one occasion, but sent over the bar.

Denyer, on the Swindon right, was a source of danger, having speed and trickiness, but most of his early efforts ended in goal-kicks. The Luton outside wingers "put the wind up" the spectators whenever they got away, and at this time Luton were decidedly the better team. Butcher and Bassett secured a corner, but this was cleared, and Swindon got away to the other end, Bailey being called upon. Bookman and Higginbotham were both hurt while going hard for the Swindon goal. Then Luton obtained another corner, which Bassett put behind. Foster was very prominent and kept the forwards well supplied with passes. Bookman sent in a good shot which "Mac" cleared. Then Swindon got away to the other end and Bailey saved two shots in fine fashion. Walsh was laid out in a charge, and Denyer directly afterwards shot into the Luton goal, but found Bailey safe and handy. Molyneux made a mistake in holding the ball too long on one occasion, and TURNER shot it right across the Luton goal. The same player immediately afterwards ran in towards Bailey's goal and scored with a fine shot. Luton were not at all discouraged, and gathered round the home goal once more. Skiller having to save. Bookman, on one occasion, put behind when well placed, and the Swindon defenders were hard pressed. When half-time was whistled the score stood:—

SWINDON 1
LUTON 0

Luton at once attacked on resuming, and Bassett sent behind. Then Swindon had a turn, Bailey saving at the expense of a corner, which was cleared. Bookman and Butcher put in a fine run, and Weston had hard work to keep them in hand. Tirrell took two free kicks awarded against Swindon, the first he sent behind, the second was snapped up by WALSH before the backs could clear, and the Luton centre shot into goal without hesitation, thus equalising the scores. Then excitement reigned supreme.

Swindon put great pressure on the Luton goal, but try as they would they could not manage to score the winning point. Every home player was tackled as soon as he received the ball, and his way to goal effectually blocked. Bailey was tested, but dealt with all shots in cool and collected fashion. Rogers did succeed in breaking through at one time, but his shot went over the bar. During this strenuous time several Luton players were hurt. Foster on two occasions, while Lennon had to retire for repairs also. The crowd yelled themselves hoarse in encouraging the home side, but the Luton defenders remained cool, and no goal came. Then came a sudden change and Luton went to the

other end with a rush. Bookman, Butcher, and Bassett were very prominent, and the Swindon defenders now had an anxious time in their turn. Just before the end a winning goal for Luton almost came, but the ball eventually went behind.

The game was one of the most exciting I have seen. The finer points of football were impossible on such a soft ground, but for strenuous work and earnest endeavour the game would be hard to beat. Every one of our players showed marks of the fierce nature of the game, and they are to be commended for securing a point on the ground where Luton received their record beating last season. Where all the men were "triers" from start to finish I am not going to particularise between one player and another. They played together as a team, and to them, as a team, I say, "Well done."