

Sid Hoar's Benefit.

HERO OF A FINE VICTORY.

BY "OLD CROCK."

So far from militating in any sense against the success of Sid Hoar's benefit match, the disciplinary action of the Luton Town directors in suspending Simms and Mathieson for a week had the gratifying result of producing an unqualified success, the completeness of which must have been gratifying to the heart of the popular winger and his host of admirers. I scarcely recall a decisive action taken by the directors which evoked such general commendation. The only feeling of regret expressed was that such a situation should have arisen at such a time, but the courage with which the directors faced it by handing over the centre forward position to Hoar made a strong appeal to the popular imagination, and the additional spice of interest it imparted to Saturday's game was reflected in an attendance which topped the 10,000 mark, and thus exceeded that at last season's benefit game in a more favourable weather month, and having an attractive competition attached to it. Success did not stop there. Sid Hoar came into the limelight in the very first few minutes of the game, and setting an example by the heart and soul with which he threw himself into it, he had the satisfaction of scoring two goals and having a very big share in the other. It is true a more experienced inside forward would have "bagged" the hat trick, but he was a hero all the same, and deserved to be.

Hoar's removal to centre brought in Bookman once more at outside left, and Foster's injury gave Molyneux another chance. Swansea's only change from the team which drew at Gillingham was Beynon for Edmondson at centre. Teams:—

Luton Town: Bailey; Lennan, Tirrell; Molyneux, Walker, Roe; Bassett, Butcher, Hoar, Higginbotham, Bookman.

Swansea: Crumley; Robson, Milne; Williams, Collins, McCullum; Hole, Jones, Beynon, Brown, Spettiswoode.

Referee, Mr. J. F. Pearson.

Sid Hoar was paid the customary compliment of captaining the side, and his first success was to win the toss. His sister, Mrs. S. Toyer, followed him out, and the teams lined up for her to show her brother how to kick the ball. She had a £5 note under it to help, and Sid wondered what to do with it when the referee picked it up and handed it over. So he handed it back to the referee to keep "for the time being."

That note looked like being an unlucky one for getting away for the first time after four minutes' play Hoar, getting the ball back from Milne, was by him like a flash, and from twenty-five yards range let fly as fine as a shot as any could wish to see. It was right away from Crumley, but it came back off the bar, and although Bassett returned it to the goalmouth, Butcher sent over the bar with the goal at his mercy. A minute later Bassett provided just a similar chance, Hoar missed the ball as it came across, and Higginbotham lunged in and hit the bar when he seemed a certain scorer. Two minutes after almost the same thing happened. Butcher this time squared the ball in front, Hoar again failed to gather, and from not more than four yards out Higginbotham got right under it and sent over.

These let offs threatened to be of serious consequence, for the Swans were playing an attractive game. They opened up the game to the advantage, and the wing work was very speedy, but they found the Laton halves and backs impenetrable, and the game had only been a quarter of an hour old when Robson icelishly handled from a free kick, which Mc-Lynoux dropped in the goalmouth and gave away a penalty. Hoar exercised his rights as captain, and had the delight of rewarding the crowd with the first goal. It was so obvious a case of handling that it was difficult to understand the protests of some of the visiting players, and when Brown persisted it was not surprising that the referee drew his attention to the location of the dressing room.

For another fifteen minutes the game saw-sawed a good deal. The Town halves were irresistible in their smothering tactics under considerable pressure, and Hoar, evidently realising that the front line was not moving together as smoothly as could be desired, beckoned Higginbotham to take his place. He had only been there four minutes when a chance came in midfield. With head down, Harry went off like a shot from a gun, galloped by the backs, and crossed for Hoar to meet nicely. There was not much room for him to shoot in, and Crumley got his hands to the ball, but there was too much pace on it to prevent it trickling to the back of the net.

The closing minutes of the half saw the Swans rather more prominent, and Bailey was tested for the first time, but goals always looked more likely at the other end. Hoar had a fine chance if he had taken a centre from Bassett in his stride, but had it spoilt by hesitancy, and when scrimmaging work in the goalmouth resulted in Bassett netting the referee penalised Laton for some offence.

Immediately on the resumption, Swansea had another escape, Crumley missing a middle from Bassett which was going in when Robson fell back and headed away. Five minutes later Hoar raced through finely and

squared the ball across. Bassett reached it close to the line, and sent it backwards towards goal for Butcher to follow up and score easily from close range. Five minutes later another goal was unsuccessfully claimed. Crumley failed to hold a hot shot from Butcher, but recovered on the line, and held on until the referee penalised Luton, and Mr. Pearson would not listen to the suggestion that the ball went over.

For the remainder of the game, the Swans were rather more in the picture, and Bailey had a fair number of chances to shine. Several times he ran out smartly to avert danger, but his best work was right at the end of the game, when in a very bad light he had one or two nasty propositions to deal with. Swansea were not convincing in front of goal, but Luton also let a good chance of increasing the lead go begging in the last ten minutes, Hoar sending wide with the goal at his mercy. Result:

Luton 3, Swansea 0.

With greater steadiness in front of goal, Luton's victory would have been much more substantial, but nevertheless it was a fine performance. Swansea have a really clever forward line, and working perfectly they had a large share of the exchanges, and it says volumes for the Town defence that they never looked like scoring until well on in the game. Bailey did finely when the work fell upon him, but for the bulk of the game Lennon and Turrell kept him magnificently covered. Lennon was again in sparkling form, and cannot have any superiors in the south. Molyneux made a splendid substitute for Foster, making up for his lack of inches by smashing footwork. Roe was all that could be wished for against the Swans' best and fastest wing, and Walker played astoundingly well, considering that he was in bed with a chill on Wednesday and turned out against advice.

The forward line did better than was expected. Their work was not polished, but it abounded with life and resource. Bassett and Butcher were the outstanding pair. They were a bundle of tricks, made headway rapidly, and nearly always finished well. Bookman was little in the picture, for he had few opportunities. Hoar and Higginbottom were uneven, but the way they rose to the occasion counter balanced any flaws.

The gross gate was in the neighbourhood of £600, and the collection which the Red Cross Band made and are giving to Hoar's benefit amounted to £21 3s. 4d. The mooted ladies' match is off, but the Luton and District League are playing the Wednesday League on the Town ground next week.

SID HOAR'S BENEFIT

LUTON T. v. SWANSEA.

LUTON'S CLUB!

HELP!

SWANSEA

OUT FOR BLOOD.

