

SWANSEA SUCCEED.

IN KEEN RETURN MATCH AGAINST LUTON TOWN.

In spite of the big score the Town put up against Swansea at Luton, they had not many "backers" for the return match in Wales, and when it was known that Sid Hoar was withdrawn from the team, there was even less optimism. Having seen all but one of the Town's games this season, however, I had hopes, for they have played quite as well, all things considered, away as at home. At Swansea, even while agreeing that the "Swans" had the better of the game, I think that Hoar's inclusion might have made all the difference between success and defeat. Our defence was heavily taxed, but only two goals were required to win, and we had the chances all right, but could not take advantage of them. The game was quite rough enough, although the offenders were not numerous, but it was evident before the game started that Swansea were all out to take as much revenge as possible for the defeat at Luton.

They won by the only goal of the game, but the Town have the consolation that they have broken a proud record of Swansea by scoring more goals against them than had ever been registered against them in one game in their history. Moreover, Luton share with Merthyr the distinction of having got the better of Swansea this season, although our record is not quite so good as Merthyr's. We have shared the points and scored 6 against 2; Merthyr scored 3 goals against 2, but got three points. No team could have played harder to get full revenge, but Luton's defence was as steady as ever we have seen it, and it was a fortuitous circumstance, that enabled HOLE to score the goal that gave his side the spoils. Still, they played well enough to earn them, and we cannot grudge what they got.

The goal was the turning point in the game. Up to then the Town had rather the better of the exchanges, and had they fallen into the way of defeating the one-back game with the same facility that it came off at Luton, we might well have been several goals up, for on many occasions our forwards were given offside. Even then they had golden opportunities before and after Swansea's goal, which has never had a more fortunate escape than early in the game when Reid fell at a moment when he had the ball and only Denoon to beat, and was but two or three yards from the goal. There was nearly as lucky an escape just before the end, when the Swansea goal was saved, no one quite knew how, with Butcher and Reid almost on top of the goalkeeper.

On the other hand, Gibbon's charge had some close shaves, and the best shot of the match was a drive by Thompson that banged against the upright with the Town goalkeeper beaten to the wide world. The pace was so great that the ball rebounded well out of danger. Yes, Swansea had more of the ball, and might have won much easier but for the great defence against them.

Gibbon was on his very best form, and made some smart saves, although he was not tested to anything like the extent he has been. Lennon gave an improved exhibition, and not once came under the official ban. His kicking was clean and strong, and his tackling reminiscent of his best displays of last season. Tirrell maintained his high standard, and his kicking from all sorts of situations was true, and his judgment as good as ever. The halves had a strenuous time, but gave an exhilarating display. Jennings was the big man in the centre of the field, and was always in the picture, and one minute some of the crowd would be cheering him, and the next they would howl at him, although he was not often pulled up for offending. His energy in breaking up was fine, and his service to the forwards invaluable. Molyneux was as bright as ever, and his resource and intelligence carried him through many an apparently insuperable difficulty. He also attended to the men in front of him faithfully. Roe, in spite of a painful toe that affected his speed, was as good as ever in tackling and feeding, and on two or three occasions he was the obstacle when a goal appeared certain. The line proved again that it is the best we have for all-round half-back play.

The forwards were disappointing up to a point. That they got six goals in the match before, perhaps, led us to expect too much, especially under the circumstances of reconstruction. Had they played throughout with the speed and smartness they showed in the first twenty minutes, we should have won well, but the first goal is always a big factor, and Swansea reaped much encouragement from their success; they gave the Town forwards very little

rope, and not always a fair deal. Higginbotham did a lot of good work on the extreme right, but is more useful inside. He got the attention from Butcher that the latter invariably gives his partner, and twice went very near scoring. Butcher was the liveliest of the line, and was always leading raids and scheming for the benefit of his colleagues. Reid lost much effectiveness by reason of eagerness, but he was unfortunate, and certainly deserves to be persevered with for the time being. Irvine justified the confidence placed in him, and when he has learned that he must deal with the ball more quickly when his adversary is in the way with him, he will be a fine acquisition. I liked his control and the way his wits worked from the first practice game, and the day is coming when he will be a regular unit in the attack. Clarkson was not worked as much as usual, but he did well when called upon, although he had to overcome a tousy opponent in Collins.

Swansea's best were Milne, Williams, Harwood, Hole and Spottiswoode.

SWANSEA TOWN	1 goal
LUTON TOWN	Nil

SWANSEA. — Denoon; Morley, Milne; Collins, Harwood, Williams; Hole, Deacon, Smith, Thompson, Spottiswoode.

LUTON. — Gibbon; Lennon, Tirrell; Molyneux, Jennings, Roe; Higginbotham, Butcher, Reid, Irvine, Clarkson.

Referee: Mr. F. Todman, Croydon.