

SOUTHEND SUCCEEDED.

LUTON FAIL IN EVEN STRUGGLE AT SEASIDE.

SOUND DEFENCES.

(By "CRUSADER.")

SOUTHEND UNITED 2
LUTON TOWN 0

SOUTHEND.—Moore; French, Bayles; Jewhurst, O'Hawe, Andrews; Morris, Bissett, Watkins, Shaw, Smith.

LUTON.—Purdy; Till, Graham; Richards, Jennings, Millar; Moffat, Shankly, Littlewood, Dennis, Thompson.

Referee.—Mr. S. A. Donaldson, London.

Some folks left the Kursaal ground quite satisfied that it had been a good game; others were not satisfied. The few from Luton thought it was about an average game from the point of view of quality and skill. Play was always interesting, but exciting only occasionally. There was little to choose between the teams on the run of the play. In the first half the home team had slightly the better of the exchanges, but in the second half the Town were just a little superior, and a division of the points would have been a fairer indication of the merits of the teams. The advantage of the home side lay in the skill of the attack, and the Town had the pull at half and full back.

Most of the teams Luton meet are quicker off the mark. This game was no exception, and for ten minutes or so the Town were

SLUGGISH BY COMPARISON

with the lively Southenders, hence the immediate testing of Purdy.

At the end of that time the Town had begun to extend the home halves and backs, and it was a question which side would first score. The chances were few and far between, however, for the backs on either side were kicking lustily, and the halves were contesting strenuously every yard of ground. There was no lack of vigour, and there was the customary Southend one-eyedness. When the home players were using their weight to its fullest advantage the sight of a little Luton man bowled over was very amusing, but when one of the huffy Luton defenders knocked over an opponent there was an immediate demand for his dismissal from the field.

There was more skill about the construction of the home attacks, and Bissett in particular played an important part. It was his talent that brought the first goal. By bright combination with Morris he made headway, and when he had drawn Till he slipped the ball forward to SHAW, who had a simple opening and might have run in to score, but he shot from a dozen yards' range, a powerful drive that left Purdy helpless.

There was an improvement in the Town's play after this. The left wing was the more aggressive, and Thompson made many fine efforts, the ball coming across the home goal-mouth several times, but always the

ROBUST DEFENDERS

were too strong for the Town right wingers. Littlewood was prominent for his persistence in keeping the home backs alert, and it was one of his disconcerting rushes that gave the Town their best chance. Littlewood went in at top speed and hustled Bayles off the ball, and then had a clear course. He went forward a few yards and then shot with terrific force. Everybody said or shouted "Goal!" The shot was worthy of a goal, and the goalkeeper was helpless but the ball struck the underside of the bar, and came out. It was very hard luck indeed, for it was a fine effort. The Town continued to attack hotly, but there was a lack of forcefulness in front of goal, and towards the interval the home side pressed again, and Purdy had to be very slick to keep his charge intact. Half-time:—

SOUTHEND UNITED 1
LUTON TOWN 0

The second half found Southend attacking warmly in the initial stages, and Purdy was frequently in action, but there was not a lot of difficult work for him. As the game wore on the Town took up the challenge, and the home goal had narrow escapes. The backs and halves kept dropping the ball well into the home penalty-area, or giving sweeping passes to Thompson or Moffat, and had there been

BETTER CONTROL

in front of goal the equaliser must have come. Dennis several times got into dangerous position, but the vigorous tackling of the home halves and backs prevented any easy shot at the target. During a revival by the home side Purdy ran out to punch away, and was hurt. It was found that he had dislocated a finger, but this was soon put right by Trainer Barr. The Town goal was the centre of attraction for some time, and good entries by Morris and Smith might have been turned to account but for the quickness of the Town backs and halves. A further rally by the Town saw the home goal escape in marvellous fashion during a hot scrimmage, and then as the end drew near the home side attacked again, and were unexpectedly successful. There was no apparent danger when a rather slow moving centre from the right came across, Purdy could have caught the ball, but he chose to punch, and did it half-heartedly, as if he were undecided what to do. The ball went straight to SHAW, who took

A POT SHOT

on the instant, and the ball was past Purdy before he could recover.

The end was sounded immediately.

If Southend deserved to win it was just because Shaw took advantage of two chances that came his way. There was little to complain about so far as the Town defenders were concerned, apart from the one error by Purdy. He kept goal well, however, and it is possible that he was a little afraid about his hand, and flinched from punching as hard as he usually does. He was very quick in positioning, and felled well. Till played finely and was fully extended by a clever wing pair. In a fair tussle, however, he was usually too clever for either of the pair. Graham was almost as good, and though his kicking was not quite so nicely directed as his partner's, his rushes were well-timed, and often surprised the tricky Bissett.

The halves were on their best behaviour, and

they had need to be. Richards had a rough time at the hands of the crowd, but that is no new experience for a Luton player at Southend. He played a very fine game, using his weight when necessary, only to find that the referee was one of those who cannot discriminate between a strong and a foul charge. Jennings played his customary game, and he had need of all his

WITS AND VIRILITY

against three clever and bustling forwards. Millar, too, was up against one of the best wings he has met this season, and he held his own pretty well. In the second half he helped his own left wing to do a lot of dangerous work.

The Town right wing were not so good as we expect. True they were given very little scope, and the way Shankly was rushed by three or four of the home defenders shortly before the end should have brought some reconstance from the referee. Neither he nor Moffat were too gently treated. Littlewood continues to show improvement, and he kept more to his position than usual. He can improve further in this respect, and with a shot such as he can produce he should try his luck more often. He distributed nicely, especially to the left wing, and Thompson responded splendidly. Dennis and Thompson were always working hard, and that in spite of a rather bad shoulder injury sustained by Thompson in the first half. They could hold their own in many rough tussles that were necessary with every attack, and it was just as well they could.

For the home side Moore was not tested as often as he might have been. French and Bayles were lusty backs, better kickers than tacklers. The middle men were triers, with little to choose among them, though O'Hawe was none too particular in his methods at times. The forward line was the best part of the team, showing speed, cleverness and good combination. Bissett was the brightest factor of the attack, but all played well, and on this form there are few better forward lines in the Division.

Mr. Donaldson is not the sort of referee that will be entrusted with the Cup Final if this exhibition was his best.

BEDS AND DISTRICT LEAGUE.

Leagrave & District v. Vauxhall Motors.

(By "LOOKER-ON").

Leagrave received a severe set-back in their League aspirations on Saturday afternoon, when their visitors from the Vauxhall Works came, saw, and conquered. Both teams were well represented, and the game deserved more than the few scores of spectators present. Mr. E. J. Howell (Hitchin) was the referee, and the teams were:—

LEAGRAVE AND DISTRICT.—S. Taylor; G. Taylor, A. Parsons; H. Toyer, L. Smith, A. Pease; H. Allen, E. J. Baines, V. Osborne, F. Watkins, G. Flester.

VAUXHALL MOTORS.—T. Brown; H. Morris, H. Archer; J. Lawson, J. Keesham, S. Smith; S. E. Cook, E. H. Moody, F. Evans, A. Whitworth, A. Goodyear.

Parsons made a belated appearance when the game had been in progress some minutes, and his advent was celebrated by a fine goal from the foot of EVANS, whose shot gave S. Taylor no chance. Encouraged by this, the "Motors" came again, and in spite of George Taylor's fine play at back, his namesake was fortunate when Moody tested him again, as he dropped the ball, but recovered it before the opposing forwards could get near. Thus early it was evident that Leagrave were to have a hard struggle. The visitors were quicker on the ball and much more accurate in passing. Baines attempted to rush through, but the Motors' defence crowded, and he lost the ball, which was quickly taken to the home goal, where S. Taylor made a marvellous save when Evans fired in a beauty from about six yards out. Vauxhall forced a corner. Good year placed the kick well, Whitworth shot in, but again the Leagrave goalkeeper was in the exact spot to receive the ball. The homeists now took up the running in earnest, but their finishing was not of the best, and the Motors defended well. Morris, Keesham and Lawson being especially prominent. Osborne forced Brown to go full length to a ground shot just inside the post, and the same forward was whistled up for offside. Allen was fouled while making a run on the home right, and the free kick was fluted over the bar by Brown, the ensuing corner being fruitless. After Baines had shot close, the Leagrave inside made a and mess of an excellent opening, engineered by Flester, and it was partly due to bad target-work that Leagrave crossed over in arrears. Half-time:—

LEAGRAVE 1 Goal

VAUXHALL Nil

S. Taylor was quickly in action with a fine clearance as soon as the game was re-commenced, and then Brown made three good saves in rapid succession. For some time after this the visiting forwards, aided by good half-back work, overran the home defence, and the only factor which kept the score down was the really splendid goal-keeping of S. Taylor. My notes record more than a dozen excellent saves from hard shots at different ranges, and he also ran out to get hold of balls that were not directly on his goal. After all this, perhaps it was not surprising to see Leagrave suddenly burst away at full speed, for ALLEN to equalise the scores with a shot that went through a crowd of players and beat Brown. Just after this the Leagrave right winger was laid out by a perfectly fair, but heavy, shoulder charge, for which the referee awarded a free kick. Brown saving his goal from the shot which followed. From the goal-kick the Motors broke away, their forwards combining cleverly to beat the home defence and leave EVANS to give the leather past S. Taylor at great speed. Goodyear afterwards missed a good opportunity, and then the homeists exerted strong pressure for a time. Brown being lucky on one occasion to escape being beaten. The homeists went all out for an equaliser, but failed owing to the speed and accuracy with which the visitors tackled, the man with the ball having no time to be deliberate. It became so dark that it was almost impossible to see the ball when play was on the other side of the field, but both goalkeepers came into action again, and Vauxhall certainly had "hard lines" when one of the visiting forwards hit the post with S. Taylor helpless at the other end of his goal. All efforts to score further goals failed, the result being:—

VAUXHALL MOTORS 1

LEAGRAVE AND DISTRICT Nil