

LUTON DRAW.

SWINDON TOWN'S STUBBORN DEFENCE.

By Crusader.

IT is to be hoped that we shall not get many more experiences this season such as that of Saturday. The ground was almost water-logged, the cold wind carried with it an icy rain, and what with the difficulty of maintaining a foothold, and striving to control a ball that was about six times as heavy as the regulations specify, the lot of the players was most unenviable. It was a wonder that both LUTON TOWN and SWINDON TOWN had the full complement of players at the finish. It was a severe ordeal, and to a man the players deserved more praise than they received.

Swindon were rather fortunate to get a point—the first they have taken from Luton for some years. Perhaps they deserved it, but they could thank their clever goalkeeper, Nash, for saving the game. He did not have a great deal to do in the first half, though, for that matter, neither had Harford. The defenders were too masterful, except just those two occasions when goals came—one to each side. Swindon's opening success came after they had shown the better style. Harford had held two or three hot drives, and had been glad to see a mighty drive from Morris strike the bar and rebound. Then Morris bored through, and passed to EDELSTON to score at will.

The game had then been in progress about 15 minutes, but in the next minute the Town had succeeded, and it appeared as if Nash should have saved the shot. There had been a sweeping attack on the Swindon goal, and the crowd had shouted their joy twice in as many seconds, before Daly lifted the ball across, and BEDFORD shot in; Nash tried to gather the ball, but it slipped off his hand. That completed the scoring. Both teams put in all they knew to get a lead before the interval, but the forwards were given little rope by the backs and halves; and though shots went very close, particularly at the Swindon end, and each goalkeeper brought off good saves, equality was a fair reflex of the first half exchanges.

LUTON TOWN 1
SWINDON TOWN 1

The visitors began the second half as though it was only a matter of time ere they took the lead. It was a considerable time before the home team took the bigger share in the game. When they did set about their task in real earnest they played well enough to have won, and would have done so but for the magnificent goalkeeping of Nash. On two or three occasions Harford had his work cut out to frustrate the visiting forwards. McCartney was unfortunate with a shot that struck the goal-keeper in the face and went for a corner-kick; Morris all but rushed the ball through twice; and Humphreys put in a fine shot that Harford turned round the post at the second attempt.

But there were more thrills at the other end. Both Bedford and Daly outpaced the opposition and centred well, and there were times when the Swindon halves and backs were almost jammed together in their goal-area in order to keep the attackers at bay. Nash did wonderful work, and several times saved his goal by splendid anticipation and remarkable agility in going down full

length to tip aside fast moving balls. He had a good deal of luck, but deserved it perhaps, for his fine display. He was beaten once and Yardley netted, but the whistle had gone for an infringement.

The thought struck me that Swindon have collected a team that may do well in the Cup fights, but I think they would have been beaten under different conditions. It is easy to say that now, perhaps, but while they were the stronger side physically, and there was much skill among their men, I think the Town were rather more clever in the front rank, and with a full team I should not have much doubt about the result of another clash at Luton. But Swindon will make more notable teams sit up in a Cup-tie.

Nash was a great goalkeeper, as good as ever he was, but he owed something to the men in front of him. Penn is undoubtedly a fine acquisition, and gave a capital show, while Girvan was not much inferior. Humphreys put up a clever pivotal display, breaking up and feeding well, while his colleagues were useful, if not showy. Morris was dashing as ever, and both Denyer and McCartney played finely on the wings.

Harford had less work than Nash, but did it well. He could not complain of his luck, either. Richards was in grand form again, and showed that he can take either position without weakening the defence. Smith was a craftsman, and gave a sturdy exhibition. The halves all played well, with Fraser most conspicuous, while in the attack Drinnan was again a delightful performer. Yardley led the line splendidly, and deserved better fortune with his shots. Birch was plucky and showed promise, but was too slow in making the best use of his skill. Both Daly and Bedford were clever wingers, and the team as a whole were to be complimented on lasting so well.

LUTON TOWN 1
SWINDON TOWN 1

LUTON. — Harford; Richards, Smith; Clark, Fulton, Fraser; Daly, Birch, Yardley, Drinnan, Bedford.

SWINDON. — Nash; Penn, Girvan; Low, Humphreys, Braithwaite; Denyer, Eddestone, Morris, Dent, McCartney.

Referee.—Capt. A. J. Prince-Cox, Barnes.

THE LEAGUE: DIVISION III (SOUTH).

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Plymouth A	15	10	0	5	38	14	25
Brentford	15	9	3	3	50	16	21
Bournemouth U. 15	8	2	5	3	33	18	21
Northampton T. 15	9	4	2	26	16	20	
Brighton & H.A. 15	8	3	4	30	21	20	
Southend Utd. ... 15	7	2	6	27	20	20	
Fulham	15	7	4	4	24	21	18
Walsall	16	7	6	3	35	27	17
Q.P. Rangers	15	5	3	7	19	19	17
Coventry City ... 15	7	6	2	31	26	16	
Swindon Town ... 16	6	6	4	32	30	16	
LUTON TOWN ... 15	5	5	5	29	28	15	
Norwich City ... 15	6	6	3	25	30	15	
Crystal Palace*... 16	6	7	3	27	34	15	
Exeter City	15	5	6	4	27	25	14
Torquay Utd. 15	3	7	5	23	32	11	
Watford	15	4	8	3	16	23	11
Clapton Orient ... 15	2	7	6	13	24	10	
Gillingham	15	3	9	3	13	25	9
Bristol Rovers ... 15	2	9	4	24	34	8	
Newport County 15	2	10	3	18	31	7	
Merthyr Town ... 14	1	9	4	12	28	6	