

The Luton News

FOOTBALL PROMOTION SOUVENIR. 1913-14

PRICE ONE PENNY.]

LUTON TOWN F.C.



Left to Right—Back Row: A. F. DURRANT, M. DONAGHY, H. BRWIS, T. J. MITCHELL, S. HOAR, F. ROLLENSON.
 Second Row: J. R. EBYKY, F. HAWKES, R. W. FEITH, R. ABBOTT, E. J. DODD, J. ROBINSON, Mr. H. SMART (Director),
 W. LAWSON (Trainer), and Mr. C. GREEN (Secretary).
 Third Row: J. JANVIS, Mr. W. SOFER (Director), E. STEVENS, Mr. W. J. ALLEN (Director), R. M. HAWKES,
 Mr. F. J. CRICK (Director & Treasurer of the Supporters' Club), J. WILKIE and Mr. E. GIBBS (Director).
 Front Row: A. WILKMAN, E. SIMMS and T. T. WILSON.

Photo by W. H. Cox, Galashburgh Studio, Luton.

WEBB BROS., The Luton Tailors,
FOR
YOU * YOUR Suit to Measure.

IN DIVISION I.

FACTS ABOUT LUTON'S
PROMOTION PERFORMANCES.

PROMOTION is won; Luton have regained their proper place in Southern League football. The position they have won has been well won—achieved not by reason of the shortcomings of rivals, but by virtue of their own excellence. "They have won it (promotion) by sheer merit," a sentence from a graceful tribute from Reading F.C., set out in another column, is a most fitting text for a review of the season just closing. An examination of Luton's results reveals four facts standing out as indisputable evidence of the Club's right to "go higher," because of what they have actually accomplished themselves rather than because of what their rivals have failed to do. Fact No. 1 is that Luton got the better of their four most dangerous rivals to the tune of 14 points to two. Swansea and Stoke each surrendered four points, and Brentford and Croydon three each. Fact No. 2 is that Luton have beaten every other club in the League; No. 3, that every possible point has been secured at home, and No. 4, that Luton have scored more goals than any other team.

With the exception of a bad patch in November, when matches were lost at Pontypridd and Llanelly, and a disaster at Newport on Christmas-day, the season has been one long story of success. Since the Newport mishap, only three clubs have been dropped—one each at Croydon, Mid-Rhondda, and Brentford—and no opposing club has scored more than one goal. The latter fact strikingly illustrates the vastly improved defence put up by Luton in the second portion of the season. It was this stiffening of the second line of the defence that carried the Club triumphant through the heavy Easter programme.

The net result of the Southern League matches is that Luton and Croydon tie with 51 points out of a possible 60 for top position. The Robins have the advantage of goal average, and accordingly go to the top, but in every other respect Luton's may fairly be claimed as the better record.

For the playing staff, officials, and supporters, it has been a glorious season. The players have given of their best match after match; their personal relationships have been of the happiest, and all have worked in perfect unison to achieve promotion. They deserve, and have, the thanks of everyone interested in Luton football. The Directors are to be congratulated on the reward that has attended their genuine attempt to build up a promotion-winning team; and a good word must also be accorded the Supporters' Club Committee. Excellent work as this organisation has accomplished already, it is going to be an even more valuable link between the Directors and the public in the future.

The Southern Alliance has proved a useful mid-week attraction. Here again the Club has figured successfully. The championship is not yet settled, but whatever may happen, Luton are assured of at least second position.

For the purpose of a complete record, we append a number of tables of statistics.

THE GOAL-SCORERS.

	S.L.	S.A.	E.C.	S.C.C.F.	F.Td
Simms	28	8	—	—	37
Wileman	27	5	1	—	33
Rollinson	17	9	2	2	32
Brewis	7	6	—	1	17
Bob Hawkes	4	3	—	—	7
Stevens	1	2	—	4	7
Durrant	3	1	—	—	4
Ezra Hawkes	3	1	—	—	4
Elvey	2	1	—	—	3
Donaghy	—	—	—	1	1
Wilson	—	—	—	1	1
E. J. Dodd	—	—	—	1	1
92	36	3	4	12	147

MATCH RECORDS.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	Goals.
Southern League	30	24	3	3	92	22	51
Southern Alliance	16	11	4	1	36	30	23
F.A. Cup	3	1	1	1	3	2	—
Southern Charity Cup	2	1	0	4	6	—	—
Friendlies	3	2	1	0	12	7	—
All matches	54	39	10	5	147	57	—

PLAYERS' APPEARANCES.

	S.L.	S.A.	Cup.	Cap.	F.	Td.
Fritch	30	14	3	2	2	53
F. Hawkes	39	11	3	2	2	63
Mitchell	25	15	3	1	2	46
Rollinson	24	14	3	1	2	43
Elvey	27	7	2	2	3	41
Simms	24	11	3	2	2	41
Wileman	24	11	3	1	1	40
R. Hawkes	26	8	2	1	2	39
Jarvis	17	11	3	1	3	35
Wilkie	17	8	3	2	3	33
Robinson	17	14	1	1	0	33
Stevens	11	15	0	2	2	30
Brewis	13	10	0	1	3	27
Wilson	5	13	1	1	2	22
Hear	12	7	0	0	0	19
Durrant	2	2	1	0	0	17
Donaghy	9	1	1	0	3	14
Abbott	5	1	0	1	1	7
E. J. Dodd	1	1	0	0	1	3
P. Lovell	0	1	0	0	0	1
J. Clarke	0	1	0	0	0	1
J. Brandham	0	1	0	0	0	1

LIST OF RESULTS.

DATE.	OPONENTS.	F.	A.	DATE.	OPONENTS.	F.	A.
Sep. 1 M.	Brentford SA	H	1 0	Jesus Day	Newport SL	A	0 2
" 6 S.	Brentford SA	A	3 2	Byg. Day	Newport SL	A	1 0
" 10 W.	Croydon SA	H	0 2	Dec. 27 S.	Croydon SL	A	1 1
" 13 S.	Mardy SL	H	1 0	Jan. 3 S.			
" 17 W.	Aberillyry SL	A	2 1	" 10 S.	Coventry City sec	A	1 6
" 20 S.	Mardy SL	A	2 1	" 17 S.	Caerphilly SL	A	4 0
" 24 W.	Croydon SA	A	1 1	" 24 S.	Caerphilly SL	A	9 0
" 27 S.	Treharris SL	H	6 0	" 31 S.	Southend U.F.	A	3 2
Oct. 1 W.	Wattford sec	H	3 0	Feb. 4 W.	Newport SA	A	3 1
" 4 S.	Berry SL	A	3 1	" 7 S.	Brentford SL	H	3 1
" 8 W.	Brighton SA	H	2 0	" 14 S.	Aberdare SL	A	5 1
" 11 S.	Ilford Y	A	6 4	" 21 S.	Berry SL	H	3 1
" 15 W.	Portsmouth SA	H	4 3	" 26 Th.	Newport SA	A	3 1
" 18 S.	Treharris SL	A	2 1	" 28 S.	Llanelly SL	H	5 1
" 22 W.	Brighton SA	A	2 3	Mar. 7 S.	Ton Pentre SL	H	2 0
" 25 S.	Aberillyry SL	H	6 0	" 14 S.	Swansea SL	A	1 0
" 29 W.	Portsmouth SA	A	2 1	" 18 W.	Southend SA	H	7 0
Nov. 1 S.	Llanelly SL	A	0 3	" 21 S.	St. Albans City F	A	6 1
" 5 W.	Cardiff City SA	A	1 3	" 28 S.	Mid Rhondda SL	A	1 1
" 8 S.	Pontypridd SL	A	2 3	April 4 S.	Swansea SL	H	5 0
" 12 W.	Southend SA	A	0 1	" 11 S.	Stoke SL	H	2 1
" 15 S.	Ton Pentre SL	A	4 0	Apr. 11 S.	Brentford SL	A	0 0
" 19 W.	Southampton SA	H	3 1	" 18 S.	Stoke SL	A	2 1
" 22 S.	Mid Rhondda SL	H	8 1	Apr. 18 S.	Cardiff City SA	H	1 0
" 29 S.	Croydon F.A.C.	H	3 0	" 18 S.	Cardiff City SA	H	2 1
Dec. 3 W.	Southampton SA	A	2 2				
" 6 S.	Pontypridd SL	H	3 0				
" 13 S.	South Shields F.A.C.	H	0 0				
" 17 W.	" Re-play	A	0 2				
" 20 S.	Aberdare SL	H	7 0				

SL Southern League. SA Southern Alliance.
S.C.C.F. Southern Charity Cup. F Friendly.

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The Largest Selection of New Suitings in the County to s

SOUTHERN PIONEERS.

LUTON'S HONOURABLE HISTORY.

By C. GREEN (Secretary Luton F.C.).

THE Luton Town Football Club was formed by the amalgamation of the Wanderers and Excelsior in May, 1885, the proposer and seconder of the resolution which brought this union about being G. H. Small (Excelsior) and E. H. Lomax (Wanderers). It is interesting to recall the names of the officers. The first committee were Messrs. G. Farlow, J. Long, G. H. Small, S. Pakes, T. Brookes, C. Abbott, T. C. Brown, H. G. Spratley, and G. Deacon, with F. Pitkin and E. A. Findlay as secretary and assistant respectively. The colours first adopted were navy blue and pink halves for shirts and caps, and the resolution which bears the name reads rather curiously at the present time. It was laid down—"Both cap (1) and shirt must be worn by each player on the field." The first ground used by the Town Club was the old Excelsior pitch, where Messrs. Brown's timber yard now is, and they remained there for twelve years.

Among the clubs challenged the first year were Old Ettonians, Old Foresters, Old Wykehamists, Grove House, Wellesborough Grammar School, Frome Rangers, and Hotspur, all well-known clubs at that period.

At the general meeting the year after formation, Mr. F. Pitkin retired from the office of secretary, and Messrs. J. Smith and W. G. Wheeler were elected as secretary and assistant. They continued to work together in those offices until 1888, thus completing ten years' service. Afterwards Mr. Smith became a director, and for a time took over the secretarial duties again. He is now one of the most regular attendants at the matches.

During the second season of the club it was decided to give three players the proceeds of a match, and it can be claimed that the Luton men were the first Southern players who, openly at least, received money payment for playing, although they were not registered as professionals at the time. During season 1889-90, the colours were changed to cochineal, and the Lutonians were known throughout the Southern football world as the Reds for several years.

An interesting minute appears on the books, dated Dec. 13th, 1890, for it was decided to offer 5s. per week to F. and H. Whitty and T. Read, and at least one of these three (H. Whitty) received that sum for playing for the remainder of the season. He was the first professional who signed a professional form in the South. Two months later an application was made by a player who was working out of the town at the time for a further amount to meet his travelling expenses and lost time, but the committee evidently thought they had launched out far enough, and the following resolution was passed: "The Club cannot see its way to spend any more on professionalism. As finances stand at present it would undoubtedly prove disastrous to the club."

It is evident that Luton were actually the first club to go over to the professional ranks in the South, although the Arsenal have usually been

given the credit or discredit, according to the point of view. Luton's income that season was £303 9s. 5d., and the expenses £164 10s. 0d. So it will be seen that the players did not exactly get a living wage. At the general meeting during the ensuing close season, however, it was decided to pay the whole of the team, and it was left with the committee to settle terms. At a conference, held on August 10th, 1891, it was agreed, on the proposition of a committee man, and seconded by one of the players, that each player should receive the sum of 2s. 6d. per week, with an extra 6d. for away matches, and paid for last time before twelve o'clock. It was also decided that if a player were five minutes late he should lose one-fifth of his wages. As this was the first professional team in the South, it is interesting to recall the names—Barley, Sanders, Hoy, Taylor, Paul, Wright, F. and H. Whitty, Oelen, Deacon, and Chesser. All of these, except Taylor, Paul, and Oelen, resided at Luton. The captaincy was given to Taylor, who travelled each match day from Bedford. The following season the local players' wages were doubled, and a new captain was engaged in Johnson, of Woolwich Arsenal, who played no fewer than half-a-dozen internationals.

It was in May, 1893, that Mr. H. Arnold, the present Chairman of Directors, became officially connected with the Club, and it will therefore be seen that he has now completed twenty-one years' active service in its interest. During his first year of office, Luton rose to fame by a remarkable victory at Wembley Park in the F.A. Cup against Old Westminsters, who played no fewer than half-a-dozen internationals.

The Southern League was formed in 1894, and Luton were by common consent one of its foremost clubs. For the first two seasons the Bedfordshire Club was second to Millwall on the table. Then it was decided to make application to the English League, as at that time the Southern League provided only about two paying gates. At the first time of asking Luton were refused, but in the season 1897-7 they completed only in a new combination practically formed for their benefit, styled the United League, which, however, only numbered nine clubs. Part of the present liability of the Club was contracted during that season, for, with only eight League matches at home it was an impossible task to make ends meet financially. By that time a full team of professionals had been imported, and the wage bill was a considerable one, among the players being McEwen, Stewart, Docherty, Galscher, Comper, Galbraith, and Ekins. To make matters worse, a compulsory change of ground was made, and a new pitch was prepared on the Dunstable-road, which was formally opened by the Duke of Bedford on the April 3rd, 1897, although there were several matches played on it previous to that date.

Another stage in the history of the Club was reached on Jan. 13th, 1897, when the annual meeting decided to turn the Club into a limited liability company. This became an accomplished fact on October 31th of that year. The

following season, 1897-8, Luton competed for the first time in the English League, and gained quite a respectable position, their total of points being 30 out of a possible 60. They continued membership of the English League for two further seasons, but through inability to retain their players they gradually sank to the last position but one on the table in season 1899-1900. They did not seek re-election, as they were assured of a place in the Southern League, which by that time had become a stronger combination than when Luton resumed membership. There had been various alterations in the secretaryship during the period of those changes. Messrs. Jackson, Smith, Foxley, Bedford, and Smart each had a more or less lengthy spell of office, and of these Mr. Jackson was the only one without local connections. My own appointment dates from 1901.

Returning to the Southern League in May, 1900 (at which time light blue became the Luton colour), Luton have remained members ever since, although, as is well within the recollection of present-day supporters, their career has been a varying one. In season 1904-5 the Club figured as one of the "bottom two," but at that time there was no relegation to the Second Division. The clubs were eligible for re-election. There was a strong contest for the vacant places, but Luton easily beat Crystal Palace and Leyton, who were their strongest rivals, and for the two following seasons Luton finished as high as fourth in the table. But in 1911-12, through a series of accidents which must be a record, the Club once more found itself at the bottom but one of the table. This time it meant a term in the Second Division. That deplorable season will always be remembered for the terrible incident which occurred on Easter Monday at Brighton, when Sammy Wightman was fatally injured.

It was "touch and go" with the Club for a time, but eventually the Directors decided to make the task of getting back to their old position via the Second Division. Now that the experience has been undergone, and promotions gained at the second attempt, it can be recorded that the Club has come through the ordeal stronger than when they went down to the unknown, for it was quite a leap in the dark in tackling the South Wales problem.

At one stage of last season it almost appeared Luton would retire to the fold, the first time of asking, but a terrible experience at Newport, followed by the memorable Swansea match, kept them back for another spell. This year a determined effort was made to get a team to carry the club up, and it can be recorded that never have the Directors been backed up by such a whole-hearted lot of players. Every one, including those who at times stood down, was thoroughly keen on promotion. Of course, to undertake an arduous programme like the past season means that eleven players, however good they may be, cannot stand strain, and the splendid help of the extra players when called upon must be recognised by all.

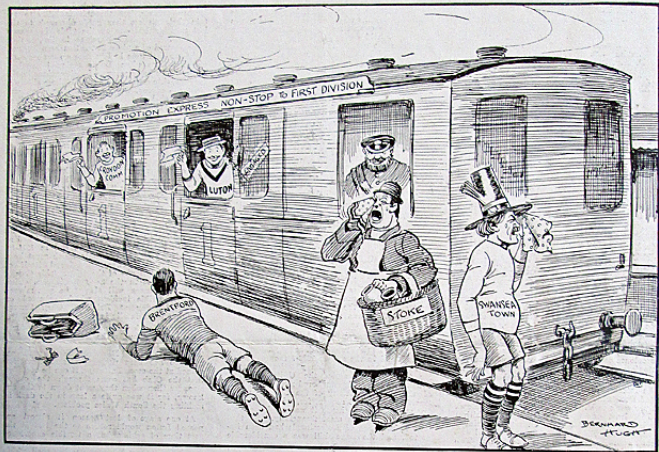
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THE EARLY BIRDS: LUTON'S RIVALS LEFT BEHIND.



Chorus of Luton and Croydon as Promotion Express leaves for the First Division:—"Ta ta, you chaps, so glad you've missed it; last season we were in the same plight, but we've learnt a thing or two since then, and now we always get there first."

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THE STRAWHATTER'S TRIUMPHAL RETURN to the FIRST DIVISION.



The Crowd:—"For he's a jolly good fellow, and so say all of us."

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THE PROMOTION PLAYERS. A HAPPY BAND OF ENTHUSIASTS.

N years to come the constitution of Luton's "Promotion" Team of 1913-14 will be an ever-recurring subject of discussion among local football followers. Apart from the topical interest, therefore, the following details will be valuable as a permanent reminder of the clever band of players who have regained Luton's lost laurels in Southern football:—

T. J. MITCHELL—An accomplished Goalkeeper

T. J. Mitchell takes rank among the best half-dozen goalkeepers who have ever played for Luton. Probably not since the days of Wm. Perkins have the Blues been so consistently served in goal. Essentially an orthodox custodian, and entirely free from "gallery" mannerisms, he can be relied upon to bring off almost everything that is humanly possible. Born about 25 years ago, he started playing football at the age of 17 for Darnall Bible Class, Sheffield, and progressed via Darnall Congregation to a professional club called Thorpe Helsby. His fine work between the posts attracted the attention of Sheffield United, and in due course he joined the Bramall Lane Brigade. Altogether he spent five seasons with the United before coming to Luton last June. Mitchell stands 5 ft. 11 ins., and weighs 12 stone.

R. ABBOTT—An Agile Custodian.

Luton have been lucky in possessing such a capable custodian as R. H. Abbott as deputy to Mitchell. Tall and lithe, he has a cast of mind which is exceedingly useful when diving for fast ground shots. He first attracted attention with Luton Albion, but put in a few months with Bedford Town before Luton engaged him in the middle of last season. He has several times spent five seasons for Bedfordshire.

J. R. ELVEY—One of the "fms" of 1913-14.

It is many a year since Luton possessed a young back of such promise as J. R. Elvey, of Leagrave. Turning professional at the beginning of the season, he quickly made his place secure in the team, and his steady improvement has been one of the features of the season. He shows marked skill when under great pressure, and in his early weeks of his career he had realised the wisdom of safety play in the matter of finding touch, when the chances are against a complete clearance. He uses his head far more than the average back. Born in October, 1892, he first played for Dunstable-road School, Luton. Leaving school, he represented Leagrave for two years, and then transferred his services to the Clarence, with which team he figured for three years, during two of which he was captain. He regularly represented Bedfordshire, and also had the honour of playing for the Southern Counties against London in 1912. He was chosen for the corresponding match in 1913, but was unable to play. He weighs 11 stone 3 lbs., and stands 5 ft. 9 ins.

J. JARVIE—A "Never-say-die" ex-"Spurs."

A stout Scotman of week J. Jarvie is a strenuous partner in the last minute of the game. He came to Luton from Tottenham in the middle of last season, and rendered capital service as partner to Potts. The "Spurs" secured him from Glasgow Marryhill, and during the two years he spent with that club he represented Glasgow against Aberdeenshire and against Edinburgh. It was while playing with Kirkinellon that Marryhill heard of him. He is 25 years of age, stands 5 ft. 8 ins., and weighs 11 st. 7 lbs.

J. ROBINSON—An Entering Back.

James Robinson is a back who has made the best of chances which circumstances have given him in the second half of the season. He did not touch his best form in the opening months of the campaign, but when the indisposition of Elvey in the Croydon Cup-tie gave him another opportunity he showed his true calibre. A few weeks later the temporary absence of Jarvis made room for him again, since when he has undoubtedly been Luton's best back. Volleying is a feature of his play. Before coming to Luton he spent two seasons with Sheffield United. He went to the "Blades" from Silverwood Colliery, a Sheffield Association League club, and previously appeared in his Sunday-school team. He is 24 years of age, stands 5 ft. 10 ins., and weighs 12 stone.

FRED HAWKES—Twelve years with Luton.

"A versatile half-back, who has never played a really bad game during twelve years' connection with the club," describes Fred Hawkes in a sentence. Originally a forward, he knows exactly how to place the ball so that the men in front can get away quickly. He can play a fine part in defence, too. Fred has known no other love but Luton, though once—when Luton were going through an acute shortage of funds—he nearly became a Chelsea player. He first played for Luton in 1901-2, and has deservedly taken two benefits. Unfortunately, his second benefit came in 1911-12, Luton's relegation year, and to make matters worse, pouring rain ruined the "roof." In height he stands 5 ft. 8½ ins., and he is over 11 stone in weight.

R. W. FRITH—A Scintillating Centre-Half.

At centre-half, R. W. Frith has proved a veritable treasure. Falling in the first month of the season to quite attain the high promise suggested by those who recommended him to Luton, many people feared that he would have to make way for Wilson, but during October he gradually asserted himself, and by the end of November he had become a dominating figure in the team. Since then he has not looked back, and he is still improving. In defensive work he is brilliant; his long, but never awkward, legs intercept many a ball that he feels certain to travel to their intended destination; he kicks surely from all positions, and his head work is invaluable. It is in attack that he has improved most in the last two months. He has whether consciously or unconsciously done not matter—modelled his style on the lines of R. A. Hawkes, and another season's association with Luton should make him look a perfect centre-half. Frith, who is 22 years of age, stands 5 ft. 11 in., and weighs 12 stone, was born at Hasleop, Derbyshire, and served Sheffield a United one season, and Derby County three seasons, before coming to Luton. He is a worthy addition to a fine succession of centre halves, including Stewart, Holdstock, and White, who have served Luton.

"BOB" HAWKES—Our International Half.

"Bob" Hawkes is the great man of the team. Short of getting capped against Scotland, and winning an English Cup medal, he has gained every prize the game of football can give a player, and the latter honor would in all probability have come his way had he been a creature of ambition for the sake of its reward. During most of his career any of the English First League clubs would have given him maximum wages, and a clean-cut promise of a bonus to secure his services. But the gold of rich clubs did not tempt him. From 1901-2 to the summer did not tempt him. From 1901-2 to the summer of 1911 he played for Luton as an amateur, and then, when at last he saw that he ought in fairness to himself to reap some financial benefit from his talent, he signed for Luton as a professional. He was first choice in England's amateur elevens for many years, and in 1907 was capped for England against Ireland. Born at Breachwood Green, he possesses a qualification for Hertfordshire, and for several seasons captained the men of Herts in the Counties Amateur Championship. A first-class all-round player, Bob is clever in tackling, dainty in dribbling, an artist in placing the ball to the forwards, and a great shot. He is 5 ft. 8½ ins. high, and weighs 10 st. 8 lbs.

T. T. WILSON—A Worrying Half-Back.

The consistency of the Hawkes and Frith, and their immunity from serious injury, has given T. T. Wilson little chance of showing his worth. When he did have an opportunity, however—in the Croydon Cup-tie, for instance—his displays confirmed the good opinions formed of him in 1913-4, his first season in Bedfordshire. A hard worker, he entered into the job with great determination. As a spoiler he is very successful. He came to Luton from the Heart of Midlothian, and previously wore the Middlebrough colours for three seasons. He is 25; stands 5 ft. 8 in., and weighs about 11 stone.

A. F. DURRANT—A Diplomatic Dribbler.

A. F. Durrant is the connecting link between the Luton of to-day and the club of English League days. He came into the team as an emergency outside-left in 1897-8, when little more than a schoolboy. He next figured in the team three years later, and alongside James Blessington, a Scotch International whom Luton secured from Bristol City, played for four years, until Blessington's removal to Leicester. Fosse picked up the partnership. Then Durrant went to Leicester, and subsequently played for Leyton until that club became defunct. Last season he was out of the game; most people thought his career was over, and the news that he had signed for Luton came as a surprise. His successful reappearance has been proverbial. His scientific play at outside right has provided scores of opinions for the inside men, and for Wileman and Simms in particular.

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CONGRATULATIONS.

GREETINGS TO LUTON
FROM DIVISION I. CLUBS.

LUTON'S promotion to the First Division of the Southern League is regarded by the existing members of the Upper Circle as the return of an old friend who has emerged from a long struggle with adversity. There is a fine ring of friendship about the following messages which have come to hand from officials of other clubs:—

From Reading F.C. to Mr. C. Green.
I am requested by my Board to convey to you their very hearty congratulations upon your return to the First Division of the Southern League. They will be delighted to welcome you once again to Reading. Old friends are always best, and, therefore, don't do it again, especially as South Wales is not the most desirable football centre on earth. Kind regards, etc.

From Cardiff City F.C.
We have always been on the best of terms with our Luton friends, and are delighted that we shall have the opportunity of meeting next season in the First Division of the Southern League.

From Brighton & Hove Albion.
We heartily congratulate our old friends from Luton on gaining promotion to the First Division, Southern League. They have earned it by sheer merit and real hard work.

From Swindon Town F.C.
We shall be pleased to welcome Luton back into the First Division. We have recollections of many hard fought games since the League was formed in season 1894-5, and are pleased they have found their way back again at the second time of asking. Good luck to them.

From Crystal Palace F.C.
The Royal Palace Football Club heartily congratulate the Luton Town F.C. and Croydon Common F.C. on again obtaining places in the First Division of the Southern League, and trust they will both have as successful times in the First Division, as they have had in the Second.

From Bristol Rovers
I am sure all old members of the Southern League will welcome Luton back to the First Division. Luton are one of those clubs who suffer severely from the keen competition for players which now exists, and their average position of tenth during the eleven seasons they were in the First Division prior to their relegation was most creditable.

From Southampton F.C.
Southampton Football Club send heartfelt congratulations to the Luton F.C. on their being second in the table of the Southern League, Division II., and thus coming up into Division I. for next season.

From Northampton Town F.C.
You can rest assured no club can offer heartier congratulations to Luton on their promotion than the "Cobblers." Now we shall resume our "Derby days."

Gillingham's President, the Mayor (Alderman W. H. Griffin, J.P.), Chairman, Directors, and Secretary congratulate the Luton Club on obtaining promotion to the First Division, Southern League, and heartily send their greetings. They also wish to couple the name of the Croydon Common Club, and will be delighted to extend to them both a cordial welcome when they visit the largest borough in Kent.

From Millwall F.C.
It gives us pleasure to welcome back Luton to the First Division again. As one of the original clubs of the Southern League, Millwall and Luton have met in many exciting contests since it was founded, and hope the friendly rivalry will continue. Wishing them every success.

From Queen's Park Rangers.
I think I should be voicing the feelings of my Directors in stating that they are very pleased to again have Luton back in the First Division of the League.

From Watford F.C.
All members and supporters of the Watford F.C. send heartfelt congratulations to the Luton Club on their splendid achievement in winning their way back to the First Division of the Southern League. As one of the pioneers of professional football in the South, and one of the oldest members of the Southern League, the Luton Club deserve all the success attained. We trust the future may be a very prosperous one for all who have so loyally served the Club.

From Plymouth Argyle.
Plymouth Argyle joins in the congratulations to Luton Club on its return to the Southern League premier division. On looking through the records, I see that your Club, with the exception of three of the seasons, always figured prominently on the League table during its twelve years' run in the First Division, and, for a club with a meritorious record such as that, two seasons has been quite long enough for sojourn in the lower division. Both your Directors, Mr. Green, your Secretary, and the players have earned all credit for the stern and successful fight they have made, for it is no easy performance when to be done, especially taking into consideration some of the playing grounds to be found in South Wales. Nothing troubles a good player so much as a rotten playing pitch. You can certainly depend upon it that your players will strive hard enough to keep from returning to such grounds, so a good season is in store for the Luton Club. The Club's supporters have a fine opportunity now of showing their appreciation of your happy return to first-class fixtures, both by helping towards the summer wages and by increased attendance at next season's matches.

From Norwich City F.C.
Congratulations to Luton Town F.C. upon their re-entry into First Division football. May success attend them in the same measure as in the season now closing.

From Exeter City F.C.
Allow me on behalf of our Club, to tender to your Directors and players our heartiest congratulations on your return to Division I. My Directors have watched your fine fight for promotion with much interest, and I shall now again have the pleasure of meeting you at Exeter next season.

From West Ham United F.C.
We extend a hearty welcome to the Luton F.C., one of the oldest clubs in the South, upon their return to the First Division of the Southern League.

THE PROMOTION PLAYERS—(continued).

A. WILEMAN—A Match-winning Shot.

A nimble mover, a clever manipulator of the ball, a great "dasher," and a powerful shot, Wileman has been a tremendous asset in the Luton forward line. Luton secured him in the summer of 1912, as part of the arrangement under which Luton transferred Moody to Millwall, and the "Lions" lost one of their likeliest players when they let him go. He and a brother stepped straight from Newhall Swifts—a South Derbyshire colliery village team—to the Barton United English League Second Division team, and within a few months the Brewers brought

off a profitable piece of business by transferring the two brothers to Chelsea. During the two years Arthur spent with the "Pensioners" he turned out several times for the first team. From Chelsea he proceeded to Millwall, and his brother went to Southend. That he was the only forward whom Luton re-engaged last April speaks well for the quality of his work during the season that then ended. He is 25 years of age, stands 5 ft. 7 ins., and weighs 11 stone.

E. SIMMS—A Successful Forager.

A dashing, fearless player, who goes straight for goal, E. Simms has proved one of the most

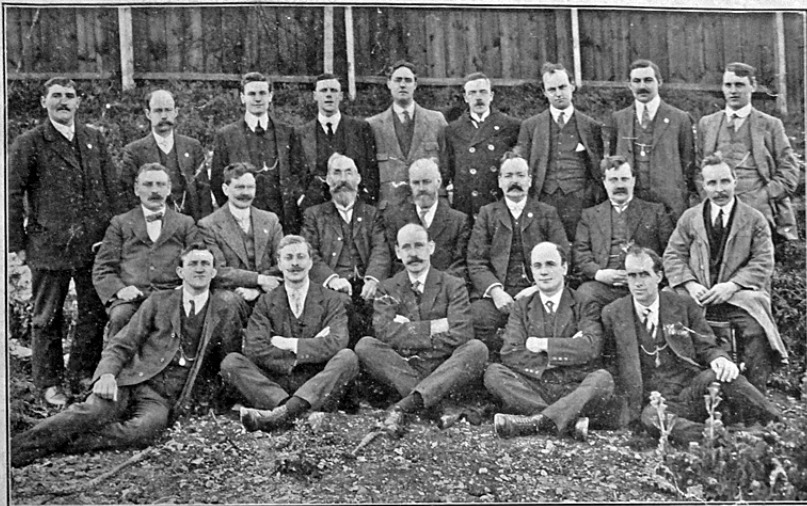
effective centre-forwards Luton have ever possessed. Quick in his movements, and not afraid of risking a heavy charge, he again and again brings off sprightly dashes which leave him a clear run for goal. He shoots with power and considerable accuracy, and knows how to divert the ball into goal with his head. Only 22 years of age, Simms is in the infancy of his career. With most experience he should make a great centre-forward. Simms first came into prominence with Merton Colliery, and from that club went to Barnsley, in the middle of last season. In height he is 5 ft. 9 ins., and in weight 11 st. 10 lbs.

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LUTON SUPPORTERS' CLUB COMMITTEE.



Left to right—Back Row: Messrs. W. J. BURGESS, S. VANSHAGHAN, F. J. HUNT (Hon. Secretary), J. WILDING, DEAN, G. E. M. WALKER, P. CRICK, ELYN and P. BREITMAN.

Middle Row: Messrs. G. F. FIKELINGTON, P. EDWARDS, J. A. ASHBY, P. CRICK (President), R. KUTLER (Chairman), JEVENS and F. MOUSE.

Photo by W. H. Cox, Ipswich, via A. Skidmore, Luton.

[The remaining member of the committee, Mr. T. DAY, was unfortunately unable to be present.]

THE PROMOTION PLAYERS—(continued).

F. ROLLINSON—Reliable and Resourceful.

Richly endowed with the gift of intuition, F. Rollinson has the knack of doing the right thing in an unassuming style. He is not "showy" because he does not take liberties. He never seems to risk being tackled if a colleague is better placed to deal with the ball; and the pass then given will be beautifully directed and of the right strength. In shooting he is a gem. A native of Sheffield, Rollinson, who is 26 years of age, stands 5 ft. 8½ ins. high, and weighs 111 stone, played for six seasons for the Wednesday and two seasons for Portsmouth before coming to Luton.

S. HOAR—The Infant of the Team.

Not yet 20 years of age, Sidney Hoar is the youngest member of the team. His fine work with the Clarence in the first half of the season stamped him as worthy of trial in good class football, and he has quite fulfilled expectations at outside left for the "Blues." He makes ground quickly and centres accurately. Nature

has not equipped him well in the matter of weight, and he invariably gets some hard knocks. His nippiness, however, often leaves a hefty back bewildered.

R. BREWIS—Twice with Promotion Teams.

R. Brewis came to Luton from Hartlepool United as a centre-forward. He controls the ball cleverly, and a bout of short passing finds him in his element. His first important club was Lincoln City, by whom he was transferred to Burnley at a big figure. After two seasons at Turf Moor, during which he found the net on 55 occasions, he proceeded to Merthyr Town, as events proved, to help them into the First Division. From South Wales he went to Hartlepool. He is 5 ft. 10 ins. high, and weighs well over 12 stone 7 lbs.

E. STEVENS—Straggle and Speedy.

Stevens began his football with Barrow St. Luke's, and upon leaving that club played for three years as a professional for Barrow, a

Lancashire Combination First Division team. Speedy and bustling, he has rendered Luton good service as a utility forward. He is 25 years of age, and weighs 111 stone.

J. WILKIE—A useful Left-Winger.

James Wilkie, who occupied the outside left berth with a good deal of success until Sidney Hoar came on the scene, spent his early football years in the Birmingham district. He has played for Birmingham, Dalwich Hamlet, and Chelsea. He is 25 years of age, 5 ft. 10 ins. high, and weighs 11 st. 6 lbs.

M. DONAGHY—A Speedy Outside Right.

For a good part of the season M. Donaghy played at outside right. He is a native of Grangetown, near Middlesbrough, and began serious football in 1908-9, with South Bank, in the Northern League. In 1911-12 and 1912-13, he played for West Stanley in the North-Eastern League. In June last he signed for Luton as a professional. He is very speedy. He is 21 years of age, 5 ft. 7 ins., and 10 stone 7 lbs.

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