

THE SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

NEW BROMPTON v. LUTON TOWN.

Played at New Brompton on Saturday.

Result:—

New Brompton	3 goals.
Luton Town	1 goal.

The teams were as follow:—

New Brompton: Crane; Robertson and Humphrey; Innes, Atherton, and Graham; Lissenden, Haywood, Frettingham, Neyland, and Seeley.

Luton: Ord; White and Lindsay; Clifford, Holdstock, and Williams; Durrant, Blessington, Barker, Tierney, and Brown.

Referee, Mr. Beardsley.

On Saturday, Luton were once again pursued by the ill-luck which has so persistently dogged the team. The players were very keen on getting a couple of points at the expense of their Bromptonian friends, but a damper was put on their prospects right at the very outset, Holdstock, who reappeared after a prolonged absence, having to leave the field before the game was five minutes old, in consequence of his knee going wrong again. Notwithstanding this disaster, Luton played up very pluckily, and not only succeeded in keeping their opponents out, but had the satisfaction of being the first to score.

The goal was obtained about ten minutes before the interval, and was the result of a good all-round effort. Lindsay returned the ball to the mouth of goal, Blessington headed against the crossbar, and Durrant put on the finishing touch. It was the only goal of the first half, and it was certainly a feather in Luton's cap, that with only ten men they should cross over with a lead of one goal. And this they very possibly might have maintained had they not continued to play with only two half-backs. Had one of the forwards been withdrawn for the purpose of strengthening the defence, the probability is that Frettingham would not have found the opportunities to work such mischief.

As it was, the second half had been in progress twenty minutes before the equalising goal came, and then it was a rank offside. This much is cheerfully admitted by the New Brompton correspondent of the "Athletic News." Haywood put a centre across to Frettingham, who was so palpably offside that no attempt to interfere with him was made by the Luton players, and he netted the ball without let or hindrance. To the surprise of all concerned, however, the referee consulted the line-men, and as the result of the consultation gave a goal. After this, New Brompton had more of the game, and Frettingham scored a couple more goals, the last being added just before time.

Under the circumstances, the Luton team played a very good game, the forwards at times showing up very smartly. The half-backs were much over-worked. Lindsay and White both performed well at back, and Ord made two or three marvellous saves in goal.

The New Brompton correspondent of the "Morning Leader" says:—"Although New Brompton on their own ground beat Luton by 3 goals to 1, the visitors must be commiserated with in their misfortune. In the first five minutes of the game they had the bad luck to lose such a valuable half as Holdstock, who injured his knee, and had to be carried off the field. Notwithstanding this, Luton were the first to score, but subsequently the locals were allowed to count two goals which many referees would have struck off. Brompton's success notwithstanding, the honours should be accorded to the losers. The stand they made with ten men was worthy of all praise, and they never gave up trying."

There were a couple of surprises in the Cup-ties on Saturday, one being the sensational victory of the Spurs over the Cup-holders, and the other being the equally startling performance of Reading at Bolton, where the Trotters were beaten by a goal to nil. A good many Lutonians went up to Tottenham, chiefly for the purpose of seeing McEwen again, and though they had the satisfaction of seeing Mac as lively as ever they were not a little astonished to see his side handsomely beaten by 2 goals to 1. Poor old Arsenal entirely failed to rise to the occasion and were vanquished by the Throstles in a somewhat poor game by a goal to nil.