

FOOTBALL.

LUTON v. BRENTFORD.

A DRAWN GAME.

The Luton footballers entertained the Brentfordians on Saturday in dull weather and before a moderate crowd, when the outcome was a draw of one goal all. Considering that the meeting between the sides at Brentford at the end of September produced a victory for Luton by 1—0, it is difficult to account for Saturday's result, unless on the score that the Brentford team has improved since. That certainly appears to be the case, for the team has been performing extremely well during the last few weeks. On the home side there were some important alterations, Holdstock taking the right half position and R. Hawkes going to inside left. Andrews was an absentee from the visitors' ranks.

The teams were made up thus:—

Luton: Ord; Lindsay and Sharp; Holdstock, White and Williams; Durrant, Blessington, Brown, R. Hawkes and Colvin.

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The locals were not long in retaliating and when they were in a good situation Lindsay tripped up one of the forwards and was duly punished. R. Hawkes gave a corner, which was not turned to account. The game had been in progress for some considerable time when the first goal came. Ord had left his goal and failed to get back in time to negotiate a well-directed shot. Sharp fisted the ball away; but as he was not entitled to act as Ord's deputy in that manner the referee awarded a penalty. Regan was deputed to take the kick and he sent the ball straight at Ord, who had little difficulty in saving. In the next minute, however, the Brentford centre half again secured possession and atoned for his former failure by sending into the home net. The locals deserved to lose the point. A nasty foul on R. Hawkes was duly punished, and the ball travelled wide from the free-kick. Later on Williams narrowly missed with a good attempt. A corner to Brentford proved unproductive, and then first-rate shots by R. Hawkes and Durrant in rapid succession were neatly disposed of. A grand long attempt from the foot of Blessington produced a corner, and a similar advantage accrued from a capital effort by Durrant. Two more flag-kicks fell to Luton before the change of ends, when the positions were:

BRENTFORD, 1; LUTON, 0.

After the interval Holdstock, who had not been displaying very good style, was transferred to centre half, and in that position he showed improved methods. Blessington and Hawkes changed places; but later on they resumed their original positions. Early in the second half Colvin forced a corner, which was unfruitful. A magnificent shot from Brown went very close to scoring, and then one from Durrant only just missed. These were very narrow escapes for the Brentfordians. The "blues" kept up the pressure and their play improved. A particularly strong attack led to the concession of a corner, this being shortly afterwards balanced by one to Brentford. Spicer had been displaying excellent style in goal, and hereabouts he effected a marvellous save, the resultant corner proving unproductive. An especially hot shot by Sharp brought about another flag-kick. Subsequently a free-kick was so well taken by Lindsay that the ball found its way into the Brentford goal, one of the visiting defenders assisting it in its progress into the net. From this time onward the contestants struggled gamely to secure the advantage, and the play was interesting. There was no more scoring, however, and the final positions were:

LUTON, 1; BRENTFORD, 1.

There was some excellent shooting at times by the home forwards; but for the most part the efforts at goal-getting were devoid of directness.

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At one stage Brown and Durrant were responsible for a couple of attempts that fully deserved success, and Spicer was lucky to dispose of the danger as he did.

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Lindsay was once more the best back on the field, his defence being splendid all round. Sharp, too, was in good form, though the way in which he conceded a penalty was scarcely admirable.

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The weakness in the home side was manifestly at half-back. As I have said, there was an improvement after the interval, but the halves were never very great.

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Amongst the forwards there was nothing to choose. Blessington and Hawkes changed places for a time, only to resume their original positions. The shooting was not at all good.

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The Brentford players were quicker on the ball than were the locals and they were clever with it when they had secured it. It was hard luck for them that one of their number sent through his own goal.

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There was a good muster of supporters of the "B's" on the grand stand, and they were necessarily delighted with the comparative success of their men. They were fully entitled to be under the circumstances.

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The atmospheric conditions were not of the best, and there was only a moderate muster of spectators. There was plenty of shouting after the interval, however.

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I notice that a writer in one of the London papers, in commenting on the outcome, observes that it was a feather in the cap of the Brentford men. That I freely grant and add my word of appreciation of the plucky way in which the visitors played.

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