

FOOTBALL NOTES.

[BY "SPECTATOR".]

LUTON V. NEW BROMPTON.

The first Southern League match of the season at Luton took place on Saturday. There was a very good crowd, and a game, exciting from beginning to end, was witnessed. The play was fast throughout, without a single dull moment in all the 90 minutes. The day was a glorious one, though the performers must have found it rather hot work. The following were the teams:—*Luton*: Frail; (goal), Lindsay and Sharp (backs), F. Hawkes, White, and R. Hawkes (half-backs), Durrant, Blessington, Moody, Gall and Allsopp (forwards). *New Brompton*: Daw (goal); McCurdy and Archer (backs); Raisbeck, Goldie, and Elliot (half-backs); Milward, Smith, Leigh, Satterthwaite, and Dunkley (forwards). Referee: Mr. J. H. Jamieson (Plumstead).

It will be seen that Daw and McCurdy, who formerly kept goal and played left back for Luton, respectively, were included in the New Brompton ranks. Luton was playing R. Hawkes in place of Williams in the half-back line, but otherwise the team was as usual.

Luton started the ball towards the Bury Park goal, but New Brompton first got down though the ball went behind off Dunkley. The visitors kept up the pressure and gave the Luton defenders a good deal of trouble, Satterthwaite putting over the bar. New Brompton still held the advantage, Luton apparently being unable to get into stride. Sharp was cheered for a good kick but for some reason the referee gave a free-kick. Luton got down by a series of long kicks and it looked as if they would get through, but they didn't.

Blessington took a pot shot at goal, but the ball went close by. Sharp rushed in at the other end and cleared. A long shot was put by the post by one of the New Brompton forwards. Luton had to play mostly on the defensive. White fouled an opponent and the position of things appeared none too bright. From the kick the ball was placed across the goal and Milward missed a good chance of scoring. Both sides made good attempts to get on and consequently play ruled a good deal in the vicinity of the half-way line. Luton gained a corner from a well placed kick by Sharp. The ball, however, was put behind by Allsopp. Durrant put in a long curling shot just by the post.

F. Hawkes robbed the opposition well and was applauded. Moody put in some rather weak work, getting the ball towards his own goal-line rather than forward. New Brompton nearly scored from a splendid curling shot from Satterthwaite. The ball suddenly took a turn from the left of the goal to the right but Frail just saved and then cleared with a good kick. Leigh put in some splendid play and at last had a shot at goal, with which Frail had no chance. Allsopp was badly brought down when he had put in a dashing run and the referee came in for a good deal of adverse criticism for not awarding a foul. Elliot put over the Luton goal when things appeared promising for his side. He had tricked several of the Luton men.

Dunkley stopped Durrant in anything but the correct manner, but the referee failed to notice it. Moody was told by the spectators to "play up," but from some cause he could not recover his true form. Dunkley was caught fouling Fred Hawkes, but from the kick the Luton goal was threatened. Gall got in a run but took the shot at too long a range. Luton pressed for a space, but McCurdy was strong and stopped the rush. A foul was given against the visitors and from the kick taken by Lindsay, White placed by the post. The New Brompton players put the ball by the Luton goal twice, the second one coming from Milward, who was putting in plenty of useful work on the right.

From some good work on the Luton left the home-sters approached the visitors' goal, though the ball went behind. Milward fouled Sharp, but the only result was that the New Brompton got down and made a strong appeal for a corner, which was not listened to by the referee. Moody had a bit of a chance but he hesitated to tackle a player who kicked out. Still another foul was given against New Brompton, but Moody headed behind from the kick.

One of the linesmen made a painfully simple mistake in his duties and awarded the visitors a throw-in instead of Luton. "Get your glasses next time," observed a spectator. R. Hawkes placed a fine shot in the goal but Durrant steered over the bar. Gall and Allsopp put in some good work on the left and twice narrowly missed scoring. The second attempt was particularly praiseworthy, the sphere going just by the corner. Frail had to save at the other end from Satterthwaite. New Brompton pressed but Luton was soon at the other end, where Moody forced a corner. The ball was kept at the end of the field patrolled by New Brompton, but White relieved the pressure by putting over the bar.

Fred Hawkes was fouled just afterwards but directly Lindsay had taken the kick the referee blew the whistle for half-time when the score stood

NEW BROMPTON 1; LUTON 0.

Durrant went off with a rush but the ball went out. McCurdy was hustled by Allsopp. From the throw in the ball went to Blessington who passed to Moody, who crashed the ball into the net. There was loud cries of encouragement at this success. Dunkley and Lindsay came into collision with bad results to the former. After a short rest he was able to resume. Another free-kick was given against the visitors and from this Luton got down and a corner was forced. Durrant took the kick, and the goalkeeper was called upon, and he punched out from a crowd of players.

Dunkley attempted to beat Lindsay, but was himself defeated by the ball going out. A series of shots were rained in at the visitors' goal and Daw was kept very busy, but managed to keep his charge intact. White was penalised for a foul, and from the subsequent play Lindsay received a kick in the face, but he was able to play on. The game was fought inch by inch along the grandstand side of the ground, a series of throws-in here taking place. Neither side gained any advantage from these as the ball eventually went behind. Dunkley came in possession, and had a good chance, but did not take advantage of it, the shot going wide. McCurdy at the other end kicked out when pressed by Allsopp. Gall put in a magnificent shot which Daw curled round the post and conceded a corner. Allsopp placed behind. The visitors took a turn at pressing, and Sharp relieved by kicking out.

Durrant placed across a hot shot which hit the post and bounced back into play again. A fine piece of play was shown between the Luton forwards, but nothing came of the effort. New Brompton got away on the left, and Lindsay was called upon to clear. Durrant and Blessington made a splendid run down and threatened danger. Durrant got in a tremendously hard drive, but the ball missed the net by a few inches to the great disappointment of the spectators on the grandstand, to whom it appeared that the ball had found the net.

Dunkley and Lindsay had a tussle on the wing, and the New Brompton man got in his centre, but Sharp was waiting and relieved. R. Hawkes gave Allsopp a splendid opportunity to get away, and the speedy winger ran down the field with McCurdy close by his side. The old Luton player got to the ball first, but all he could do was to kick out. Several of the spectators jocularly remarked that "Mac" was not taught to kick out at Luton.

Daw gave the ball a tremendous punt when it came unpleasantly near his charge, and sent the leather as far as the half-way line. Luton, who had been playing a wonderfully good game in the second half, were not to be denied, and Sharp returned well. Play was confined to the visitors' half of the field, and a number of dangerous shots were put in. The Luton men were certainly having hard luck in not being able to force the ball into the net, as they were all over the New Brompton defenders. Daw took a goal kick, and there was a good deal of laughter when he kicked the ball out of the field of play.

Allsopp, who was performing well again, got going, and when close in put in a very hard shot which struck the bottom of the left hand goal-post and came into play again. Had the sphere been an inch nearer the centre of the goal a point must have resulted. This was very hard lines for Luton, for just previously Durrant had sent the ball at a tremendous pace against the post.

Several of the spectators did not behave as well as they might. The offensive words did not all come from those persons assembled round the rope, several utterly ridiculous expressions being uttered by persons on the grandstand. What one of the spectators behind the goal said I do not know, but the referee walked straight up to one man and gave him a timely caution. That the referee's action was appreciated cannot be doubted because the crowd applauded him for his words.

Dunkley made a dangerous run down the wing, but Lindsay and T. Hawkes cleared between them. This was the last interesting incident of the game, which eventually ended in a draw with the scores thus:—

LUTON, 1; NEW BROMPTON, 1.

There was plenty of incident in the match, which was contested with a vigour worthy of the Southern League. In the first half of the game New Brompton was the better team. The men put in a tremendous amount of work, the wing players especially giving trouble. Dunkley was particularly lively, and it really seemed as if he would run F. Hawkes off his legs. This did not happen, however, for the Luton player stuck the pace, and in the end Dunkley appeared fagged.

In Leigh the visitors have a good centre-forward with plenty of weight. The other forwards were all of a respectable size, and the three local half-backs had all they could do to keep them in check. The half-backs were all triers, but did not come up to the Luton lads. McCurdy was hardly as good as when he played for Luton, though he was fully equal to his companion Archer. Daw played in his old form, but distinctly had "heaps of luck."

There was great jubilation when Moody scored for Luton. The centre man had not been playing at all well in the first half of the game. He made the fatal mistake of playing the ball towards his own goal instead of keeping his face to the foe. Gettins, the old Millwall centre used to be an adept at the game, but he always managed to get in his shot which Moody does not. The other four forwards played a splendid game. Gall might look after his partner a little better though.

Blessington and Durrant played the old game to perfection, and seem to suit each other's style better than ever. The Luton half-backs played very good games better in the second half than the first. Lindsay and Sharp were safe at back, though the former found Dunkley very tricky. Frail as usual had little to do and consequently had few opportunities of shining.