

FOOTBALL NOTES.

[BY "SPECTATOR".]

A POINT AT LAST.

DRAW WITH BRISTOL ROVERS.

A WELCOME CHANGE.

A good game with the Bristol Rovers was expected on Saturday, and the 2,000 spectators who assembled on the Dunstable-road enclosure had their "tanners' " worth. There were two changes from the usual team. Eling, a clever but very light player, was given a chance in place of Gall, but was hardly a success. He is, however, a young player, and there is plenty of hope yet. In the defence Hood re-appeared. Williams has been unwell and was not able to play, and thus the new back was given an opportunity of playing, and he came up to expectations. Once in particular he made a bad manoeuvre, but generally he cleared well and at times very finely. The following were the teams:—*Bristol Rovers*: Cartledge: Dunn and Griffiths; Davies, McLean and Lyon; Muir, Howie, Corbett, Wilcox and Marriott. *Luton*: Frail; Hood and Lindsay; F. Hawkes, White and R. Hawkes; Durrant, Blessington, Moody, Eling and Allsopp. Referee: Mr. C. C. Fallowfield (London).

Lindsay won the toss, and took advantage of an awkward wind which was blowing into the Bury Farm goal. The Rovers' made a short rush towards the Luton goal, but the half-backs relieved and transferred to Luton's right, when Blessington and Durrant put in a passing run, which have been all too frequent lately. The sphere, however, went over the touch-line. Then from the throw-in the Rovers' left made a run down, and Hood dashed in between Marriott and Wilcox, and cleared finely. He was deservedly applauded for this as his effort was well-timed, and cleared the Luton lines of a dangerous run. There were hopes that he would maintain this form, and soon afterwards when the Rovers' left made a run he again nipped in and returned well.

Then the play veered round to the right wing of the Rovers and Lindsay, who was figuring at left-back, showed what he could do with the ball. The right was not dispirited and came again, but found the Luton captain in fine fettle with the result that another effort on their part was spoiled. Up to this point neither side had got in a shot at goal but Durrant tried his luck and Cartledge had to clear. The Rovers' left, particularly Wilson, was putting plenty of spirit into the game but found Hood a stumbling-block. Up to this point it really seemed that the right-back was altogether different to the one playing previously of that name, so well did he perform. From his last kick the Luton forwards had a chance of opening the score but they failed to profit by it and so the game went on with a blank sheet.

The referee awarded Luton a corner and though well placed Dunn managed to put the ball away. The home side was determined not to be put down and came again as finely as possible. The pressure ended when Eling close in shot the ball over the goal. Previously Cartledge had saved two or three shots. Bob Hawkes was putting in a large amount of useful work, now attacking and now defending alternately as the game moved backwards and forwards. Another corner resulted to Luton, who were having all the better of the game at this point. This was fruitless but the spectators were cruelly deceived a little later. From a corner taken by Allsopp, Blessington got his head to the ball and put just by the foot of the post. There was a shout of "goal" but this proved premature. This was very hard luck on the Luton side.

Hood again got into prominence owing to the repeated attempts made by Marriott and Wilcox to force an opening on the left. On the other side of the field Allsopp was given off-side when in a good position. Luton came again, and Eling from close in put along a stinging shot which Cartledge failed to hold properly, but managed to scramble out of goal. Unfortunately there was no player near enough to get at the ball before the goalkeeper cleared. A corner for Luton followed shortly afterwards. Eling nearly gave the Rovers an opening, but Lindsay averted the danger. Wilcox, who was certainly the most prominent of the Rovers' forwards, put in a fine individual effort, and though beaten this time the Rovers pressed again, and a shot by Howie at the Luton goal was splendidly cleared by Frail with a huge punch.

Blessington and Durrant initiated a fine run on the right, and exhibited a return to form which reminded one of the earlier matches of the season, but just as the effort appeared promising, Blessington put just too far forward for Durrant to reach, with the result that the ball again went out. From the throw-in the play was rapidly transferred to the opposite side of the field and as quickly again to the centre, where Moody pounced on the ball and got in a tremendous drive, which completely beat Cartledge. The sphere hit the bar and, falling on the goalkeeper, rolled into the goal. There was a tremendous shout of approval at this gratifying success—such a shout as must have done the players a large amount of good by the encouragement poured upon them.

Bob Hawkes, who had not the least share in Luton's success put his foot down on an attempt by Bristol and play getting round to the left Griffiths got in a tremendous shot at the Luton goal, but Frail was on the alert and cleared. The forwards all made an ugly rush but from the coolness of the Luton goalie triumphed. From a fine piece of play by Hood Luton got away, but Durrant was ruled off-side. Griffiths was playing a great game and cleared from three Luton men who were in a bunch. Soon afterwards hands was given against Griffiths, but Bristol raced away and Frail in clearing hurt his leg. Just before half-time Allsopp missed a good chance. At the interval the score stood:

LUTON 1; BRISTOL ROVERS 0.

The Red Cross Band played a selection at this point. When play re-commenced rain fell. The match had not been in progress very long before Wilcox saw an opening and took it and brought the scores level. A couple of fouls against Luton men brought the Rovers down again to their opponents' half, and Lyon got in a smashing shot which struck the cross-bar and came into play again. Howie relieved all anxiety by placing wide. Luton had a very narrow escape, through Hood attempting to pass back to Frail. How the Luton goal escaped was a mystery, and a few inches the other way would have put the Rovers a goal ahead. Such things always happen at football, and Luton have been the victims often enough that it was quite refreshing to have a change. Obviously Hood should have kicked into touch.

Durrant was not playing so fine a game as usual, but all players have their off-days. Lyon was frequently appealed against by the crowd for handling the ball, but either he did not touch it or the referee did not see it, but at last he was observed to stop the ball unlawfully and a free-kick followed. Dunn defended finely toward the end of the game, but once he was very lucky in getting in front of a shot by Allsopp. Durrant received a grand pass from F. Hawkes and shot hard, but the ball refused to go into the net. Then Allsopp had a clear opening, but put all his power into the kick and, of course, landed the ball very nearly on the railway. It has always puzzled spectators why players will shoot as hard as they can at an open goal instead of just getting the ball into the net, but that is one of these mysteries which nobody can explain. Allsopp is not the only sinner in this respect.

Luton still kept up the pressure, but could not get through. A corner was awarded but proved fruitless owing to an infringement by one of the Luton forwards. Then Griffiths cleared from a rush by Moody. Luton forced the game towards the end but could make no impression on a sound defence, though once in particular the goal-keeper was very lucky in saving a hard shot. The Rovers at last got away and Lindsay found it necessary to bring one of the visitors down unlawfully close to the area. A free-kick followed and of course owing to the Luton goal being well packed the ball failed to find away through and the game therefore ended in a draw :

LUTON 1 ; BRISTOL ROVERS 1.

On the visitors' side Wilcox was the best, and worked hardest of any of the forwards. The goal he got was a beauty. The rest of the forwards were not brilliant though they put in a good amount of work. The half-backs were a fair trio, Griffiths and Dunn both defended grandly, and Cartlidge could not be blamed for the shot which scored. The weakness in the Luton forwards was Eling. The other players were useful. It is a pity that Allsopp cannot be provided with a partner such as Blessington is to Durrant. We might then see some form. F. Hawkes showed an improvement on this occasion over some recent performances. Lindsay saved his side by his clever kicking. Hood would do well—and Williams, too—to kick out when pressed instead of passing back to Frail. Hood nearly cost a goal on Saturday—and Williams the other Saturday did quite—through this fault. But Hood deserves another trial. Frail was as usual safe in goal.

Lutonians will appreciate the following written by "The Docker" and appearing in the *Athletic News* regarding the Millwall v. Preston North End cup-tie on Saturday:—"Luton a fortnight ago were beaten by three clear goals, but they are a much better team than Preston North End. Millwall were a trifle fortunate to beat them by so large a margin, seeing what a share of the game Luton had, but the same cannot be said of Saturday's match."

From the *Daily Express* on Tuesday:—"Davidson the ex-Reading-West Ham United centre forward

signed on for Luton yesterday, and his place in the West Ham ranks will be taken next Saturday by the old Claptonian, W. L. Miecznikowski, who will probably fill the position until the end of the season. Davidson's association with the 'Hammers' has hardly been a satisfactory one, but he leaves Canning Town with all good wishes for his future welfare. "What a pity he was not secured before the cup-tie! The match arranged with Ilford to-morrow is "off." Luton play Shepherd's Bush away from home.