

Football Notes and News.

By "Grasshopper."

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

LUTON v. BRENTFORD.

ANOTHER WIN FOR THE STRAW MEN.

Good football was out of the question on Saturday, when Luton met Brentford, in the Southern League, on the Bury Park enclosure. A strong W.N.W. wind, almost amounting to a gale, blew the whole afternoon, consequently neither team was seen to advantage. Though the result was never doubtful, Luton were fortunate in winning, and yet, on the other hand, they were unfortunate in not winning by a greater margin—which seems a contradiction. In the first place, the home team missed one or two good openings when they ought to have got through, and then, again, it must be confessed, they were rather lucky in that Brentford, with everything in their favour, did not notch a point in the first half.

McEwen lost the spin, and Luton were set to defend the railway goal in the teeth of the gale. As was only to be expected, the visitors were soon attacking, and forced a corner off Holdstock, but this was easily negotiated, and Luton, through Eaton, transferred play to the other end. Down came the ball again, and then was seen a magnificent run up on the wing by Durrant, but unfortunately there was no one up to help him. In spite of the adverse circumstances, the fact that Luton were able to press energetically was distinctly encouraging to the spectators.

Brentford's right wing gradually worked down, and beating the Luton captain, almost drew blood, Thompson being just in time. At the other end the homesters forced a corner, which was only cleared with difficulty. Durrant shortly afterwards repeated the performance, but though his shot just went too wide, Brentford conceded a corner. Then followed a determined attack on the Luton citadel, until Bennett relieved the pressure. At the other end Eaton missed the post by inches. The visitors replied, and Leigh gave Thompson a real "stinger" to deal with. It was a splendid shot, and as splendidly saved. A foul against Holdstock proved abortive for the visitors, and nothing more of special interest happened until the whistle blew for half-time. Half-time:—

NO SCORE.

In the second half the leather was continually out of play. Luton pressed from the start, but Brentford set up a good defence, and even attacked now and then, but they had little chance of getting through. After another quarter-of-an-hour's play, the homesters were rewarded with the needful.

Allsopp sent in a beautiful centre, and Fred Hawkes getting possession passed to McKee, and the centre-forward put through amidst great applause. Turner and McKee worked hard in the succeeding stages, but Frail defended admirably. Luton were being pressed vigorously towards the close, but the score remained unaltered, and the game ended—

Luton 1 goal; Brentford, nil.

The teams were as follows:—

Luton: Thompson: Bennett and McEwen; F. Hawkes, Holdstock, and R. Hawkes; Durrant, Eaton, McKee, Turner, and Allsopp.

Brentford: Frail; Watson and Davidson; Bellingham, Parsonage, and Care; Atherton, Leigh, Bell, Buchanan, and Underwood.

In view of Saturday's result, it is interesting to recall the fact that last year when Luton entertained Brentford, the locals won by 2—0, whilst at Brentford Luton were winners by 3—1.

Thompson once more displayed his skill, but Frail had much more difficult work to do, and he did it admirably, too. His form this season is superb. Bennett was Luton's best back, but this was only to be expected, considering McEwen's condition. Bennett has played a fine game throughout the season. I was pleased to see Bob Hawkes in such a grand form on Saturday, but he has scarcely got back into his old style. Holdstock maintained his reputation, but of course he did not have the same chance of distinguishing himself as he did the previous week. Fred Hawkes was a worker,

I fancy Allsopp did not come off so well on Saturday. He seems to get away all right, but rather lost himself now and then. McKee only made one mistake, when he missed the pass from Bob Hawkes. I notice that McKee keeps more in line with his forwards recently, and consequently on the last two occasions was scarcely offside. Sammy Eaton is still going strong, not a lazy bone in his body, and Turner was a tower of strength. Durrant worked energetically, only his dashing runs were generally spoiled, owing to Brentford giving him special attention.

Davidson was the visitors' best back, and he was not to be easily got over. The halves were moderate, and Atherton and Leigh (until he was injured) put in some useful work. Underwood was also an excellent "winger." In the thick of the fight Frail found time to suck his customary "pound" of chocolate. He stood the "chaff" of his old Luton friends real good humour. Brentford have wonderfully improved on last year's team.