

SPORTS AND PASTIMES.

[BY "SPECTATOR".]

FOOTBALL.

LUTON THE HONEYSUCKLE.

BRENTFORD THE BEES.

TWO MORE LEAGUE POINTS FOR LUTON.

Having disposed of Watford in the English Cup the Luton team returned to the fray in the Southern League tourney. On Saturday they were at home to Brentford—the B's. of the competition—and there was a good crowd assembled in anticipation of a good game. Thanks to the weather towards the end of the week the turf was in a better condition than for the Watford match, and all appearances pointed to a fast game.

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There was a sense of satisfaction expressed when it was known that Quarter-Master Sergeant Barrow (of Chatham) held the whistle, for in him, I fancy, the Luton crowd have confidence. He has been to Luton twice, at least, before this season, and both times he gave satisfaction. He whistled the following teams into position :—

LUTON.

	Bennett	Thompson		McEwen
	F. Hawkes	Holdstock		R. Hawkes
Durrant	Eaton	McKee	Turner	Allsepp

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Underwood	Buchanan	Bell	Leigh	Atherton
Caie	Parsonage		Bellingham	
Davidson			Watson	
		Frail		

BRENTFORD.

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Luton lost the toss and kicked off against a strong wind which blew from the farm goal. The visitors forced a couple of corners in the first minute. The second was relieved by Holdstock who passed to Durrant, but the latter was intercepted. Luton had a splendid chance at the other end as Frail missed a shot from McKee and Eaton should then have scored. Frail next fell down, but stuck to the ball, and the referee awarded a foul. Thompson gave a corner after McEwen had been charged over. This was cleared. A foul against McKee for charging Frail was the next incident. Durrant made a good run, but was beaten by Caie.

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Then Thompson was fouled. Luton got away on the right, and Frail saved well from Turner at close range, but the ball went behind. From Durrant's corner-kick Holdstock placed just by the post. Caie fouled Durrant, and Bennett took the kick, and a corner followed. Frail had to kick away, though he was charged by Eaton and McKee.

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Durrant forced a corner off Davidson, and taking the kick Holdstock headed just by the post. Luton were playing a good game against the wind, but it seemed as if they could not get away. Buchanan appealed to the referee because of a grievance against McEwen, but the referee took no notice. Durrant got away but was stopped by Frail, who punched behind. The corner was useless.

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Directly afterwards another corner followed, but this was useless also. Offside put an end to Brentford's hopes. Frail cleared splendidly, after Eaton had put in a good shot. Mac was beaten by the ball and the wind combined. The forwards brought the ball down in champion form, and after some grand passing—the best of the day—Eaton had hard luck with a fine shot which grazed the post.

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Brentford pressed, but the sphere, after a number of throws-in, was sent behind. Bellingham tried Thompson with a good shot, and a little later the Luton goalkeeper cleared again. Holdstock was to the front with a good piece of work, and a corner resulted.

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Durrant took the kick, but nothing resulted from this as Frail cleared. Durrant was penalised for fouling Caie by jumping at him. The referee awarded a free-kick against Holdstock, but the ball was placed very wide by Davidson, who took the kick.

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Turner handled the ball, and a free-kick was given. F. Hawkes placed just by the Brentford post a very hard shot from a centre by Allsopp. Davidson and Durrant were both spoken to by the referee. Underwood got off-side, the infringement being noticed by the linesman. A foul on Eaton set the Luton forwards on the go, and the ball was taken up and sent behind. The wind assisted the visitors to get to the other end, but they were met by a stubborn defence. Bell shot by the post. Allsopp had a chance of making the pace, but he played poorly and the ball went out. Frail saved from F. Hawkes. The Luton attack was very persistent, but just before the interval two corners fell to Brentford. The ball bobbed about, but refused to go in, and McEwen eventually cleared, but the whistle went for the rest period with Brentford pressing. Half-time Score:—

LUTON 0. BRENTFORD 0

Now that Luton had the advantage of the wind it was expected that they would do better. "Joe" Frail played a good game for the visitors during the first half, and it was expected that he would be fully extended in the second moiety. Play at once raged in midfield, with a slight advantage for the visitors. Joe displayed one of his eccentricities, throwing the ball out after running to the line for it.

Durrant placed across a centre which went sailing behind. McEwen returned, when the visitors had a chance. Eaton placed in Frail's hands, the goalkeeper having run out. Luton continued to apply the pressure, but Frail was safe in goal. The wind spoiled the play a good deal, and the ball was continually being thrown in. Holdstock was playing a champion game at centre-half. The Luton forwards made a grand attack, and it is a question whether the ball did not go over the line. At least it hit the post. The spectators appealed for a goal but it was not allowed.

For a change Brentford got away, but their possession was of very short duration. Frail again saved from Durrant. Brentford kept kicking out. Luton forced the ball through but the referee failed to see the legality of it and disallowed the point. An accident happened to one of the visitors and play had to be suspended for his recovery.

Watson and Turner had a race for the ball with the former leading and kicking out eventually. Luton forced the play and a corner rewarded their efforts. Allsopp took the kick and F. Hawkes securing on the far side of the field, and passing across McKee placed in the net and gave Luton the lead.

Play brightened wonderfully at this success. Luton went away very finely after this, and Brentford were forced to kick out. From Allsopp's centre F. Hawkes shot high over the bar. "Mac" placed right across the field to Durrant, but a Brentford player intercepted. Allsopp had hard luck with a centre from Durrant. Allsopp placed just over the bar after robbing several of the forwards. Off-side pulled up the visitors' forwards when they had a chance of doing something. Durrant ran the ball too far down the wing with the result that he was covered by Davidson.

From a pass by Turner Durrant and Eaton got the ball into a good position, but the referee gave them off-side. Durrant forced a corner, and another followed, but nothing resulted from either, except to terminate a hot attack by Luton. "Bob" Hawkes took a free-kick, but only had to aim at a row of the opposing players, and this was cleared, though just afterwards he had a shot and placed just by the goals. Frail fell in clearing a shot, and held the ball, which could not be taken from him.

A corner resulted, but was got away. Leigh looked dangerous following a miss by Mac. Then Brentford forced the play and Thompson saved well, though the referee came to his relief by whistling, for the off-side against the visitors. The play waged in mid-field. The Brentford pressed again. Result:—

LUTON 1. BRENTFORD 0.

The weather was all against good football, for rain threatened, and a hurricane of wind was blowing. McEwen lost the toss, and this was all against Luton, but they bucked up like Britons and played superb football. In fact, if it had not been for about half-a-dozen marvellous saves by Frail, Luton would have been goals and goals up! "Joe" was simply marvellous.

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A great reception was awarded both teams as they stepped on the field, and the spectators were not long in recognising our old friend, Joe Frail, and, from the terrace, the words, "Good old Joe!" were shouted. He smiled as only Joe can smile in acknowledgment. I like Joe, for he was always a decent sort of chap, and it did one's heart good to see the honest smile that he took with him wherever he went.

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Brentford are reckoned to be the biggest team in the Southern League in physique, and when they stepped on the field a man with only one eye could see the contrast with the Luton lot, who looked decidedly on the small side in comparison with their opponents. But we all know what a clever little lot "Mac" has under his care!

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The Brentford's team has changed considerably since last season, and so has their position in the League, too, for now they hold a respectable position, whereas 12 months ago they held the unenviable "honour" of not having scored a single victory! Luton's position to-day is indeed honourable and enviable, for are they not the only undefeated team in the Southern League? So, considering that we have no more League matches to play this month, we have passed through the first three months without having our colours lowered. Good!

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The pace of the first half was a "cracker," and it seemed "hard lines" to see such splendid efforts on the part of Luton frustrated by the wind, for they played brilliant football, worthy of an International eleven. Even, in spite of the wind, Brentford were outclassed and outpaced, and it gave great hopes for Luton in the second half.

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Although, Luton pressed, and pressed, and pressed, they did not look so dangerous as in the first half, and were not playing so smartly. They kept the ball too much on the left-wing, whilst Durrant on his favourite wing was shivering. At last a goal came, and wasn't there some cheering and hand-shaking! It came from one of Allsopp's corners, who placed right across to Fred Hawker, who dropped the ball in front, and McKee put it at one of those angles that Joe knew nothing about.

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With "Jock" and "Mac" well set at back
And Thompson keeping guard,
It takes a team with far more tact
Than Brentford, who tried hard
To take away that great record
"For three months undefeated."

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The forwards did too much pressing really. They pressed so much that Brentford could do no more than pack their goal. Turner was never idle, and Eaton worked like a Trojan. McKee was good, and Durrant was brilliant in the first half. He didn't get enough to do in the second. Allsopp was hardly as good as last week, but he was severely hampered by his opponents.

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Brentford are not nearly such a good team as Luton. Frail alone saved them. Their backs are robust. The halves were energetic, but the forwards did not impress one at all, being erratic and completely outdone by the Luton defence.

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In reply to "Lover of the Game" the following particulars may prove useful:—"The nearest way to get to the Fulham ground is to go from King's Cross to Putney Bridge via Hammersmith and then walk straight through Bishops Park, which will lead you direct to the ground. This will take a football enthusiast about eight minutes to walk from Putney Bridge. A lady, of course, would take longer, on the point of etiquette. Another way to go is to take a 'bus from Hammersmith to Fulham and then walk, but the former is considered the better and more direct route." The above appeared in the FOOTBALL REPORTER on Saturday evening. Evidently this football lover is not a reader of our Saturday's paper, and the obvious moral, if you desire all the information about local football, is to take the FOOTBALL REPORTER as well as the LUTON REPORTER.

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The Arsenal on Monday could only draw with Brentford and comparisons are being made between the strength of the Southern League and the Second Division of the League. This result, taken in conjunction with the draw of Hotspur and Luton, confirms the theory of the weakness of the Second League compared with the Southern.

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The Society of Association Referees will meet at the Green Dragon, Fleet-street, London, to-night (Friday), at 7.30, when Mr. G. W. Walker, the Bedfordshire representative on the F.A. Council, will discourse on "The Influence of Football on Character." Those who know Mr. Walker personally and his admirable work in the county, says the *Star*, anticipate a very pleasant evening. All grades of footballers, non-members as well as members, will be heartily welcomed.