

## LUTON AT NEW BROMPTON.

### WHEN EXTREMES MEET.

Although Luton are so far up in the Southern league, and New Brompton are so lowly there were fears that the match might not work out as Lutonians hoped it would. The home team included our old friend McCurdy, who is proving a tower of strength to the Bromptonians. The New Brompton men are a better side than their position in the League table would indicate. Just recently the home side are doing better than earlier in the season, but their record was far—very far—below Luton's. It is noticeable that the match was the 13th. in which Luton have played in the league, and this fact gave rise in the minds of the more superstitious of local supporters that at last the splendid record of the Luton men would receive a shock. There is nothing more certain than the fact that it will have to go sooner or later, but everyone here hopes that it may be later. If Luton can keep their record intact for the first half of the season—as they have done in the three months—then we shall have cause for gratification.

On Saturday the following were the teams:—

#### NEW BROMPTON.

Wetherell,  
McCurdy, White,  
Lloyd, Galdie, Elliott,  
Bradbury, Robertson, Stevenson, Lissenden,  
Singleton.



Allsopp, Turner, McKee, Storey, Eaton,  
R. Hawkes, White, F. Hawkes,  
McEwen, Bennett,  
Thompson,

#### LUTON.

Referee, Mr. F. S. Walford.



Durrant could not play for Luton, and New Brompton were without Clutterbuck, Raisbeck, and Boucher.



Choice of ends fell to Luton, and Stevenson kicked off for New Brompton.



Against a moderate breeze, the ball was started before three thousand spectators. The first movement was made on the home right by Bradbury, but his centre was easily cleared by R. Hawkes.



Luton very soon made a dash up together, and from a fine pass by McKee, R. Hawkes, who had followed up well, scored for Luton.



New Brompton replied with an attack on the left, which was ended by a clearance by McEwen, and a run on the Luton left was spoilt by Eaton getting off-side.



Then McKee was afterwards penalised for a foul on Goldie. The play went on well in favour of Luton, who were showing far better combination than their opponents.

Bennett afterwards had to kick out to stop Singleton, and the crowd howled accordingly. Goldie tried a long shot from half-back for New Brompton, and the ball just passed the upright.

Luton threatened on the right, and from a well-placed corner by Eaton, F. Hawkes shot over the cross-bar.

Then the Luton goal was seriously jeopardised from a warm attack by the home forwards, and an appeal for a penalty-kick was ignored by the referee.

Storey was again brought up for off-side on the Luton right wing.

Luton continued to have far more of the play than their opponents, and a beautiful bit of work done by Allsopp and Turner, ended in a well-directed shot, which was saved by Wetherell.

Then the home forwards got down on the right, and Thompson was nearly beaten by Robertson.

The home forwards, we must say, played a poor game, compared to Luton. Half-time:—

|              |     |   |
|--------------|-----|---|
| LUTON        | ... | 1 |
| NEW BROMPTON | ... | 0 |

Soon after the second half was started, New Brompton pressed and had a free kick, from which White shot outside.

Eaton effected a pretty run on the Luton left, but was overtaken by McCurdy, and dispossessed. Luton followed with an attack on the right, and White cleared from Allsopp.

The visitors continued to show smarter form than their opponents, although the home backs displayed good defence, and kept the custodian free from work.

The play went in favour of New Brompton for a time, and the Luton goal had two narrow escapes from corners by Bradley, and then Luton replied.

Eaton scored a second goal, while New Brompton were appealing that the ball had gone outside.

Then New Brompton got going, and Stevenson and White equalised. The play became very exciting from this point to the finish.

#### FINAL RESULT:

|              |     |   |
|--------------|-----|---|
| NEW BROMPTON | ... | 2 |
| LUTON        | ... | 2 |

The Christmas matches present local footballers with a chance of watching some good games. The first match is away from home, and is a friendly, so that I do not anticipate many people will go with the team. Clapton Orient oppose Luton on Christmas Day, and a good game should result. On Boxing Day we have Northampton as our guests, and on present form we should beat them. On Monday the side is again at home in a fixture with Kettering. The Ketts. on Saturday drew with the 'Spurs from Tottenham, but as they had a rather large slice of luck in taking a penalty kick twice, the first time there being a failure owing to the men not having lined up, and we have beaten the men from Tottenham, we look like bagging another brace.

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Of course, it is never safe to count your chickens before they are hatched. I shall be disappointed if there are not four points as the outcome of the matches. Now that Preston North End have bitten the dust, it behoves Luton to put forth more strenuous efforts than ever to keep the flag flying. To go through three months of the season unbeaten in a league match is very creditable, but to extend it to half the season is distinctly a feather in the cap of the Luton boys.

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The Reserves have some interesting matches, and I should like to see the juniors supported better than they have been in the past. It would serve a two-fold purpose—help the juniors and assist the funds of the club.

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I should like to call attention to the collection which is to be made at the match against Northampton on Boxing Day for the benefit of Bert Moody. We have all admired our local lad's play in the past, particularly his neat accurate passing.

and here is an opportunity of showing appreciation of the services of a past member of the team, and I hope everybody will contribute. It is particularly hard luck on Moody to meet with an accident at cricket when his prospects as a footballer were so bright.

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Mr. D. Dockrill—the youngest referee in the Southern League—officiated at Kettering on Saturday in the match against the 'Spurs. On all sides his refereeing was commended, and this should be encouraging to our local referee. Mr. Dockrill, once upon a time, was a dashing back, as I can speak from personal experience having been on the same side many times. In my opinion a referee cannot be at the top of his class unless he has had experience as a player on the field. For the same reason those critics who have never donned football rig are poor and unreliable.