

Football Notes and News.

By "Grasshopper."

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

LUTON v. MILLWALL.

ANOTHER DRAW.

We want Eaton back. About that there can be no mistake. We missed him sadly against Fulham and we missed him more on Saturday, when Luton met Millwall. Storey is seldom an efficient substitute for Eaton, but it is a long time since I have seen him make such a poor show as he made on Saturday. Though Storey has never shone brilliantly, he has played some decent games, but his latest exhibition must have given considerable dissatisfaction. Turner, too, does not make up for Sammy's absence.

It may be interesting to note that last season Millwall triumphed over Luton on both occasions by one goal to nil. This season, however, Luton won at Millwall by the narrow margin of 3 goals to 2. Great interest was therefore taken in Saturday's fixture, and the "odds" appeared to be about even.

Eaton, who has not sufficiently recovered from the injuries which he received in the Southampton match, was the only absentee from the Luton team. Turner was removed from inside left to fill Eaton's place, Storey being accredited partner to Allsopp. In the visitors' team, Storrier was substituted for Easton; otherwise, there was no material difference. Astley and R. Jones changed places, the former going on the left wing, and the latter inside.

Mr. H. E. Walker (Reading), officiated as referee, and when he called the two captains together between six and seven thousand lined the ropes. McEwen, who had his head tightly bandaged, having been injured at Fulham last week, again won the spin. The afternoon was beautifully fine, the turf was fairly easy, there was plenty of sunshine, and a moderate W. N. W. breeze, of which Luton took advantage in the first half.

Luton were the first to get away, and pressed with some energy. Durrant was fouled, but the visitors maintained a strong defence. Nothing came of Luton's pressure, but a fruitless corner. Joyce had soon to negotiate one or two good shots. Then Storey missed a splendid chance. The defence of Luton was sound and the half-backs combined admirably. If any fault was to be found, it was with the combination of the forwards, which was at times rather faulty. Still, Luton were playing a grand game. Durrant made a splendid run on the wing, but his shot struck the post. On the ball rebounding, Turner very smartly did the needful, giving Joyce no earthly chance. This was most encouraging.

However, Millwall directly assumed the aggressive. Hulse only missed by a few inches. The wind played one or two tricks with Millwall, but they failed to draw level before the interval.

Upon resuming, Luton were going rather quietly, and there were frequent appeals from the crowd to "play up." The Dockers pressed home the attack and from a sort of melee in front of the railway goal, Maxwell put through for the visitors, thus drawing the scores level.

Bennett had now to retire, and was away for fully a quarter-of-an-hour, Luton had, of course, to play the one-back game, and play was uninteresting. A large share of the defence fell upon Thompson, until Bennett's return. The visitors, however, were not having all they own way, as Joyce knew well. After some midfield play, Luton scored, but were given offside. This was disappointing, and the decision of the referee was generally challenged. Millwall tried their utmost to obtain the lead, and when Bennett returned there was little "off-side," but still they could not get through Luton's defence, and the game ended—

Luton.....1 goal.
Millwall.....1,,

I really don't think Luton can be satisfied with the result of a draw. They had quite as much of the game as the Dockers, but what seemed like two goals were disallowed. It was questionable if in the first half, Joyce, in trying to get the leather away, was not pushed inside the goal, ball and a'l.

There was, moreover, greater disapproval of the referee's decision when Luton put through ten minutes before time. Where the offside came in, it was difficult for the spectators to see. Consequently, the referee was very unpopular, and was followed off the field by a large crowd, but nothing untoward occurred. Durrant was also fouled very badly once or twice, particularly in the second half, opposite the grand-stand.

All this made the crowd discontented. It is a long time since I have seen such a number in a bad mood on the stand. The greatest excitement also prevailed, and I was glad when it was all over.

Though not intentionally, referee Walker seemed to favour Millwall. Unconsciously, he gave them several little lifts, but although they drew, it was most decidedly not a level game.

I don't think much need be said about the fouling. Though Millwall were guilty of some nasty fouls, Luton also did a little, unfortunately, in this respect. What price Storey and Allsopp, especially?

Thompson did not make one single mistake, and little "Mac" was excellent. It was quite refreshing to see his splendid work and I laughed heartily when I saw him appeal for a foul against little Moran. As one might expect Bennett did not do a great deal in the second half, but I think he did well on the whole. There is nothing to be said about the halves, excepting that they were at their best. Turner did not seem fast enough for Durrant and Jack did not always succeed. Turner was ever willing and so was McKee, but he missed some splendid chances. He seems to watch his wings all right, but I think he often fails when he has the chance of easily putting through. I have said enough already about Storey. Allsopp at times played well, but occasionally lagged a little.

Millwall have two class men in Hulse and Moran. All their forwards are a very decent lot, and I noticed when they did get away they showed pretty combination. The halves were good, but not so good as ours. Storrier is a splendid back, and Stevenson watched Durrant like a hawk. We all know Joyce to be a fine custodian, and he was in his usual form on Saturday.

We shall all be pleased to know that R. Hawkes and Durrant have been selected to play in the South v North match. Coleman, of the Arsenal, will doubtless be Jack's partner.