

Football Notes and News.

By "Grasshopper."

SOUTHERN LEAGUE

DEFEATS AT PORTSMOUTH AND WELLINGBOROUGH.

Luton have had a most unfortunate week, and the local prophets who have up to the present been so busily engaged in predicting Luton's ultimate climb to the top of the Southern League table must be very much troubled at what is happening just now. The foolishness of it all is that irresponsible scribblers should so try to deceive the club's supporters. At the end of the season, if the Lutonians finish fifth down, no one should, under the circumstances, be much disappointed.

On Saturday the Town journeyed to Portsmouth to fulfil a League engagement. The visitors kicked off against the wind. Allsopp was the first to show up, and after a good run put in a splendid centre, which was spoiled by Eaton using his hands. Still Luton returned to the attack, Durrant sending across, and Turner testing Reilly, the home custodian, with a rare hot shot, which was neatly turned over the bar.

Portsmouth, however, soon took up the aggressive, and Thompson was called upon to save from Wheldon. Later on he very cleverly frustrated Murray from converting a capital centre by Smith. The fact that the game had been in operation half an hour before Portsmouth notched their first point speaks well for Luton's defence. Burnett put through, giving Thompson no chance.

It is to be feared that after this Luton began to play a rather rough game, with the result that the referee had to pull them up more than once, and from one free kick Young put the ball right through the visitors' goal. For some particular reason the referee ordered the shot to be taken again, and nothing this time resulted. Just before the interval a scramble took place in front of the Luton goal, and Wheldon put through, Thompson not being really able to see the ball.

With the wind behind them it was expected that Luton would go strong after crossing over. Allsopp and Turner were particularly prominent. The former put in a capital centre, and Reilly had his work cut out to avert his citadel from falling. When the homesters got away Murray ought to have found the net. Portsmouth's defence was kept busy for some time, Hogg being particularly pressed. Luton failed to reduce the local's lead, and before the finish, Portsmouth scored from a free kick, White mulling the ball, which went through off his body.

The visitors were accordingly defeated to the tune of 3 goals to love, precisely the same result as last season.

On Monday Luton were at Wellingborough, and once more met with defeat. The Northants lads are by no means a snip, and are not always consistent. Luton were minus Bob Hawkes and Durrant, and the locals were without Howard. The match was very tame, little interest being manifested in the encounter. Thompson was twice beaten in the first half, first by McDonald and then by Dartnell. The Luton forwards were at times very disappointing. Play did not improve in the second moiety, and Wellingboro' left the field victorious by 2 goals to nil.