

FOOTBALL.

LUTON AT BRENTFORD.

(By "STRAWOPOLIS.")

Luton's away matches have come with a monotonous regularity of late, and one and all are getting tired of them, for unfortunately they seem to court defeat match after match. On Saturday we had to make another outward journey, this time to the uninviting suburbs of London at Brentford.

Brentford are certainly not one of the leading lights of Southern League football, but yet they have a happy knack of their own of getting the better of their opponents on their own ground, for their followers are staunch supporters of the club, and if a rousing hearty cheer will do their team good, they will soon get it, and they don't cheer in a half-hearted sort of manner either.

When Brentford visited Luton in November they gave one the impression of being one of the weakest teams in the League, for they were simply outclassed as far as play went, and if it had not been for the brilliant display given by our old friend Joe Frail, they would have received a very severe beating, but in the end we only won by our usual one goal. They have improved very much, though, since Christmas, and last Saturday they did a particularly smart performance by going to Tottenham and making a "one all" draw with the well-known 'Spurs. It always seems to be Luton's misfortune to catch a team at the top of their form. As everyone knows, Joe Frail is no longer at Brentford, but he is followed by a very smart man between the sticks in Spicer, who at one time was with the Arsenal, whilst they have another ex-Arsenalite in Caie.

On Saturday Brentford occupied the tenth position on the League table, having gained 24 points out of the 26 matches, with a goal average on the debit side to the extent of 40 against and 32 goals for.

Luton have only won one League match since Southampton were at Luton on January 2nd, and it is a fact that they have only won one League match away from home all the season.

Under the care of Referee Walford the players lined up as follows:—

BRENTFORD.

Spicer,

Watson, Davidson,

Caie, Parsonage, Bellingham,

Bell, Brett, Barron, Buchanan, Underwood



Allsopp, Turner, Moody, Bob Hawkes, Eaton

Williams, White, F. Hawkes,

McEwen, Dow,

Thompson,

LUTON.

The ground was in fairly good condition, and the Brentford Town Band played to wile away the minutes. Before the commencement fully seven thousand spectators were present, although rain sprinkled slightly, and rousing cheers greeted the appearance of both teams. McEwen lost the toss, and Spicer was early called upon to save off a foul upon Peter Turner. One against Luton was cleared by Thompson.

Play was fast, and the ball travelled up and down the field rapidly. A spell of mid-field play was followed by a corner to Brentford, which Thompson saved brilliantly amidst tremendous cheering. It was a very near thing for being through. A smart pass by Bob Hawkes to Allsopp took the ball to the other end, and Fred Hawkes shot by. Both sides were showing very good form.

A clever bit of play by Watson stopped a dangerous run by Luton, and then off a foul for hands Brentford spoilt a chance by kicking behind at the other end. Bob Hawkes had a shot that just missed the post. Brentford were now having slightly the best of the play, Luton not appearing well together as usual. The forwards did not combine smartly at all. An appeal for a penalty against Harry Williams for hands went in Luton's favour. Directly afterwards Luton got away, and Eaton put in a long shot that Spicer easily cleared. Underwood looked dangerous, and Johnny Dow tackled smartly.

Later off the same player's centre McEwen saved grandly, following which Thompson gave a fruitless corner. The wind was helping Brentford very much, and they were playing well too, giving the Luton defence more than their fair share of work.

Off a long shot by Bellingham Fred Thompson slipped, and Brentford nearly scored, but luckily Fred Hawkes rushed up and kicked well away, Brentford were very dashing and continually dangerous. Once from a centre by Bell, Buchanan netted, but it was palpably off-side and disallowed.

A corner to Brentford came to nought. The Luton forwards could not get away and even when they got a chance they kicked too far and spoilt their chance. Off hands Brentford put in a hot shot just by the post at the other end. Bob Hawkes once shot feebly, by after some clever individual work. A chance to Allsopp was spoilt by the latter mis-kicking. Some midfield work was followed by McEwen clearing from Bell. Luton were now showing better form and play was more even, but it was not by any means a scientific game.

A couple of miskicks by Luton near their own goal almost cost a goal but luckily both were cleared. A centre by Allsopp was met by Moody but Spicer saved well. A sprint to the other end saw McEwen do a brilliant bit of work saving Luton's downfall finely. A grand bit of work by "Bob" was spoilt by Allsopp being given offside wrongly. Bell scored, "Bob" equalised.

This goal was most unexpected. Bob Hawkes got away cleverly, but was smartly robbed. Luton tried hard to equalise and Bob had a chance, but shot high over. A smart run by Underwood ended in him shooting hard past the post. The players kept up the pace, but Brentford were always holding their own, although Luton for a time kept in the home quarters. The Lutonians were not working well together.

INTERVAL:

LUTON	---	---	---	---	1
BRENTFORD	---	---	---	---	1

The pace was great on resuming, and each side were dangerous in the first couple of minutes. Off a foul Luton attacked, but were repulsed, and then the Luton goal had a narrow escape, Brett shooting hard and missing by inches. Even play followed, each side attacking in turn, but finishing up tamely. A foul by Peter Turner brought no benefit to Brentford, and then another spell of midfield work followed.

Luton were holding their own, and Moody was given off-side wrongly. A bad foul on Allsopp was not beneficial owing to Williams eventually shooting high over. A chance to Brentford was not taken advantage of, whilst another was marvellously saved by Luton.

Rain was now falling fast, but play continued exciting if not very scientific. Bell next gained a second goal for Brentford, Thompson misjudging a simple, high, dropping shot badly.

RESULT:

BRENTFORD	---	---	---	2
LUTON	---	---	---	1