

Football Notes and News.

By "Grasshopper."

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

LUTON v. BRENTFORD.

Luton met with another defeat on Saturday, the seventh since the new year began. It is worthy of note that this was the first time Luton had been defeated at Brentford, but the river-side men have been improving their position of late, and I am afraid that with Luton it has been very much the other way.

There was a further alteration in the Luton team. Moody took his place at centre, and Bob Hawkes was tried in the front line, playing inside right to Eaton. The other wing was composed of Allsopp and Turner. Harry Williams filled the vacancy in the halves, and Bennett was again absent, his place at back being taken by Dow.

Brentford won the spin, and took advantage of the slight breeze, but that did not prevent Luton from making a determined attack. Both sides were fighting strenuously, but the visitors were more than holding their own. Luton were pressing with energy, and Spicer had soon to clear a magnificent shot from Eaton. Bell and Brett managed to get away, but were soon pulled up by McEwen. Attack after attack followed, and the game was full of exciting incidents. The Strawplaiters were playing with that dash and energy that characterised their efforts during the first half of the season.

Eventually, however, the locals succeeded in beating back their opponents. Brentford were given a free, and Watson landed the ball just over the bar. The homesters continued to drive home their attack, and when surrounded by a number of the opposing side Thompson saved in magnificent style. Luton's defence did its utmost to drive Brentford back, but failed to do so before their rivals had obtained a point. Buchanan sent across, Bell doing the needful, and obtaining a rather simple goal.

Still Luton lost none of their dash, and so exultant were Brentford at their early success that they were caught napping. Less than five minutes after Thompson was beaten, Bob Hawkes had cleverly hooked into the net from a pass by Eaton.

This was very jolly, and the Town bucked up afterwards, but nothing tangible happened, and the teams crossed over with honours equally divided—one goal each.

On resuming, Brentford went away with a rush, and I am afraid that for a good while they proved themselves the superior team, but Luton's defence was strong. Then came the visitors' change; they got a good look in, but weak shooting on the part of Bob Hawkes and Turner spoiled the effort. Just now the visiting team was showing a decided improvement, but the forwards could not get the leather past Spicer, and in the end were driven back to their own territory.

For some time Luton were subjected to a terrific attack, and unfortunately in saving a shot from Bell, Thompson fisted through his own goal. This was a pity, because as a matter of fact it was the last real chance the visitors had. Though Brentford continued to attack, they were not able to do very much, although I must confess the Strawplaiters had to resort to defensive tactics on several occasions.

It was a well-contested game, and I think a draw would have been about right. Certainly Brentford tried hard to take two points out of us. I don't think that we have yet begun to go to the dogs, though one must admit things look rather discouraging. Still, the absence of Bennett and Durrant on Saturday means something.