

# UNLUCKY DEFEAT AT BRENTFORD.

## SHANKS' SHOOTING SHANKS.

On Saturday afternoon the Luton team paid their annual visit to Brentford in search of Southern League points. The following were the teams:—

### LUTON.

Lindsay

Turner

McEwen

F. Hawkes

White

Pritchard

Lamberton

R. Hawkes

Hunt

Ross

Barnes



Underwood    Shanks    Hobson    Walker    Warrington

Tomlinson

Parsonage

Jay

Howarth

Watson

Whittaker

### BRENTFORD.

Referee, Q.-M.-S. Barrow.

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Brentford won the toss and Luton kicked off against the wind. The home team pressed at the start and forced a corner, after Walker had missed a grand chance. This was placed behind. A foul was given against McEwen and another against Fred Hawkes, and Luton's goal had a narrow escape, Turner saving in the nick of time. Luton raced away on the left, but Howarth returned.

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The ball was eventually kicked behind. Barnes forced a corner and Whittaker had to save. Hawkes put Lamberton on the run, but the effort only ended in Pritchard kicking by the goal. Turner then cleared at Luton's end, and play was confined to midfield. Twice Whittaker had to save, once from Barnes and again from Freddy White. Shanks then headed through from a centre by Warrington.



After this reverse, which the crowd received with yells of delight, Luton did not appear to lose heart. Ross shot, and the ball was returned, and then a foul was given against Luton, but proved resultless. Ross then shot wide, and Lamberton followed his example. Barnes and Ross were playing a good game, and Luton forced a corner, which came to nothing once more. Play was transferred to the Luton end, and McEwen saved a tremendous shot from Hobson. Warrington shot wide. McEwen very smartly pulled up Brentford, but at the expense of a fruitless corner.

Luton forced a corner on the left, and Barnes was entrusted with the kick. Still another followed, but was headed away by Hobson, who gave Warrington a pass which he could not catch. Once more Brentford pressed, only to find the ball forced behind.

Again Brentford pressed, and it was left to Mac to clear. The ball was then placed behind. Howarth returned the ball to the Brentford front string, but the Luton defence was very sound.

Turner then kicked out. The ball was kept very much in midfield, but eventually Barnes forced the play to the other end, but it only remained there for a few minutes.

The Luton side seemed to improve, but could do very little against Howarth and Watson, who were playing a grand game.

Barnes turned the ball behind. Luton forced the ball in the net, but Ross was offside. Shanks again scored with a grand shot. Half-time:—

|           |     |     |     |     |     |   |
|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| BRENTFORD | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| LUTON     | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 |

The Luton players had had quite as much of the play as the home side but they hesitated, and were rather unsteady. The front rank with the exception of Ross and Barnes could not get nicely together, and in a general all round understanding Brentford were a long way ahead of Luton.

The sun, which Luton had faced in the first half, had now disappeared behind the clouds, and Luton were therefore placed at a disadvantage on the re-start.

Shanks put in another beauty, but Lindsay stopped it. In this half Lamberton and Hunt changed places. Bob Hawkes twice had hard luck in not scoring, Whittaker having to give a corner from a beauty.

A foul against Luton brought the play back again. Brentford then pressed but without result.

Lamberton had hard luck with a shot that went right across the goal, and only just missed by inches.

A free-kick for Luton proved dangerous, but from White's kick Bob Hawkes placed over the bar. Play slackened a bit, Brentford falling off considerably.

A hot attack was made on Luton's goal, but this was ended by a free-kick, and Luton were then pulled up by Barnes being incorrectly given offside.

A shot from Bob Hawkes almost scored, Whittaker just turning the ball round the post. The corner was well taken by Hunt, but the goalkeeper got the ball away.

Then Lamberton nearly scored. Luton were having all the better of the game, and Whittaker had to save again. Shanks broke away, and scored a third goal for Brentford with a grand individual effort. Bob Hawkes struck the post, the ball going behind. White also just missed the goal. Barnes forced Watson to kick out. The ball was brought once more to the home team's end, but Luton could do nothing right, every shot being stopped by Whittaker, who happened to be directly in the way. Result:—

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|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| BRENTFORD | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| LUTON     | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 |



## NOTES ON THE GAME.

The three goals difference does not fairly represent the run of the play. Brentford certainly played the better football up to the time they scored the first goal, but after that Luton forced the game wonderfully and it would have been no surprise had they equalised. I thought the referee was rather hard on the Luton men at the beginning, but generally he was fair. Why he should have disallowed the goal that Luton got was not at all clear as there was a crowd of Brentford defenders and Luton forwards almost on the touch line, and if anyone was offside it was a very near thing indeed.

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The win by the home team was entirely due to Shanks. With the exception of Warrington, the other forwards were rarely dangerous, though Hobson had really hard luck with one shot which cannoned off McEwen. Shanks very nearly got a fourth goal, for some 20 yards out in the second half he caught the ball directly from Hobson's pass, and without waiting he let drive at a tremendous pace, and the ball just went on the wrong side of the post. Some of the Luton spectators considered that Lindsay ought to have saved the second goal, but I must confess I saw little chance of it. The Luton goalkeeper was completely deceived and well beaten. Had one or two other shots scored, as they might have done, I consider Lindsay might have been pardoned.

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With the exception of the left wing Luton never appeared to be able to settle down. Hunt failed to keep his wings together, and poor Lamberton on the extreme right, was left to commune with solitude for 10 minutes at a time. Bob Hawkes was always in the thick of it endeavouring to give his partner a chance, but it was very seldom George received a sight of the ball from anybody else. Whilst criticising the forwards it should be mentioned that they had three sterling half-backs always on their track, and Parsonage, particularly, was always intent on upsetting all calculations. Never did the Luton forwards have a good chance to score.

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Pritchard had a rare good man in Warrington to look after. Always resourceful and exceedingly fast the Brentford outside right was always a thorn in the side of the Luton defence. Warrington and Shanks were evidently the favourites with the spectators, and they received rounds of cheers as soon as the ball came their way. Walker also proved a good player, as did Underwood. The other members of the side were all good footballers.

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I do not think there was much to choose between the Luton backs. McEwen was repeatedly cheered for the way he rushed in and cleared. Once the whole of the forwards were coming down in a line and he went to attack them. A slight mistake gave Mac his chance. He got his head to the ball, headed it between Shanks and Hobson and dribbled it right away from both of them. The spectators were highly delighted with this performance.

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Turner's passing to the forwards was very accurate, but his one mistake was in getting too far up the field when Shanks scored his third goal. Shanks never troubled to fetch the ball, and when at last he had a chance he went by Turner like a flash, and with the ball at his toes gave Lindsay "no earthly." The only way to stop Shanks would have been old Billy Lindsay's method, but Turner is too a fair a player to take any such risk.

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I have seen the Luton halves play a much better game than they did on Saturday. The forwards whom they had to oppose were all well made men, and they wanted stopping.

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The result was a distinct surprise for Luton. Very few anticipated that the blues would sustain a clear three goals defeat. Brentford are not such a good team as the score indicates. Up to the point where they scored the first goal they were brilliant, but afterwards Luton had the major part of the play.