

# The Southern League.

## LUTON v. BRENTFORD.

Played at Luton on Saturday. Result:—

|           |         |
|-----------|---------|
| Luton     | 1 goal. |
| Brentford | nil.    |

The teams were as follow:—

Luton—Lindsay; Turner and McEwen; F. Hawkes, White, and Pritchard; Eaton, Ross, Lamberton, Moody, and Barnes.

Brentford—Whittaker; Watson and Howarth; Jay, Parsonage, and Tomlinson; Warrington, Fletcher, Moulder, Hobson, and C. Duffy.

Referee, Mr. J. T. Ibbotson (Derby).

Although a League match at Luton was something of a novelty, there having been no similar engagement on the ground for a period of six weeks, the visit of Brentford did not attract a large attendance. The weather was dull and threatening, and towards the end of the season very little is needed to damp the enthusiasm of people who, at the beginning, would scarcely think it possible that they could ever miss a game. The gate receipts amounted to only £56, a sum which, of course, is not nearly enough to pay expenses.

Nevertheless, a good deal depended on Saturday's game, for had Luton made a mistake it would almost inevitably have meant their relegation to that dreaded position at the bottom of the League table. As it is, they still have a keen struggle before them, owing to the rather startling victories obtained by Swindon and Millwall.

For the match at Luton both teams were practically at full strength, the only absentees being Bob Hawkes from Luton and Shanks from Brentford. The ground, however, had been reduced to a very bad condition by the rain in the morning, and this greatly interfered with the play, accurate passing being a matter of extreme difficulty, whilst the heavy going had a noticeable effect on many of the players long before the finish.

Luton won the toss and kicked towards the railway, their favourite end. The game opened in a very lively fashion, for after Lamberton had had a shot at the Brentford goal, the visitors became distinctly dangerous, a free kick helping them on the way, and the Luton defenders had all their work cut out to keep them in check. A capital pass from Ross then placed Eaton in an excellent position, but Sammy held the ball too long and failed to get in his centre. Turner having cleared from a smart middle by Warrington, Ross and Moody transferred the play, but again Eaton nullified their efforts, this time by placing the ball right behind the inside men.

The visitors responded, but McEwen headed away from Warrington's centre, and Luton then forced a corner. Barnes placed, and after a hit Eaton dropped the ball beautifully into goal, Whittaker saving by fisting behind. Eaton placed and Ross sent in a hot shot, which Whittaker cleverly negotiated. Brentford now got away again, and after one of the linesmen had vainly signalled for offside, a corner was given them. Pritchard cleared, and Luton replied with another corner, but were not so dangerous as Brentford were a minute later, when they worked the ball right into the mouth of the home goal and kept it there much too long a time to be pleasant for the spectators.

This spirited attack seemed to thoroughly arouse Ross, and taking the ball up the field in his own irresistible style, passing one opponent after another, he finally let fly at goal with all the powder he could put in. The shot was straight and true, and though Whittaker saved, he could not get the ball away, whilst he himself came a cropper, the result being that Lamberton succeeded in scoring. The goal was a very welcome one, as the cheers of the spectators testified, but Luton came near losing their lead the very next minute.

Warrington first got in evidence, and after Turner had cleared, the left wing joined in the attack, and a shot from Duffy at close quarters beat Lindsay but struck the opposite post. The ball rebounded into play, and it seemed even then that Brentford must score, but eventually a clearance was effected, and the on-lookers once again breathed freely. After this Luton had much the better of the play, and besides scoring an offside goal, placed three corners to their credit, whilst splendid shots were put in by Barnes, Eaton, and Lamberton.

Whittaker was severely tested, but his best save was from a free kick by Lamberton. He threw himself full length at the ball and just managed to turn it round the post. Two or three times the visitors got away, and once Howarth sent in a lovely shot which Lindsay just tipped over the bar. When the interval arrived, Luton were still leading by a goal to nil. In the second half play was not quite so good as it had been. At one time Luton had the better of the exchanges, at another both teams seemed fairly to have had enough of it, but towards the finish the visitors did more of the aggressive work.

Early on Lindsay was called upon to save from Duffy, but for a long time after that he was entirely unmolested, whereas Whittaker had a good deal of work to do, though for the most part the shots were not exceptionally difficult. Fred Hawkes, Barnes, Moody, and Ross were all responsible for good shots, but they were taken from long range and were easily negotiated by Whittaker.

It was the Luton goal, however, which had the narrowest escape, Fletcher getting away and sending in a ripping shot. Lindsay fortunately was able to tip it over the bar, but from the corner kick, judged to a nicety by Duffy, a fast grounder was put in, but it was stopped before it got to goal. Lindsay had to save again from another fine effort by Fletcher, and after that the visitors were kept in check until the whistle sounded for time, Luton thus winning by the narrow margin of a single goal.

The game was a fairly good one, taken all through, but the Luton forwards were not as well together as might have been wished. Not one of them can be said to have played badly, but at the same time they never shaped like goal-getters, there being very little dash about their efforts. The bad state of the ground probably had something to do with this, and Lamberton especially was handicapped by the greasy heavy pitch on which he had to operate. No doubt it was for the same reason that neither Moody nor Ross was seen at his best.

The half-backs played a very good game. Pritchard once again proving himself to be a man of sterling ability. Both backs performed well, Turner especially showing capital form, and Lindsay, though not often called upon, was sound and reliable in goal.

The visitors at times played very bright and attractive football, and with a little luck might have divided the points. Warrington, at outside-right, was a constant source of trouble to the Luton defence, and Fletcher, Moulder, and Duffy also rendered a good account of themselves. Moulder is, perhaps, better known as a cricketer than a footballer, being one of the most promising of the Surrey colts.

The refereeing was not all that could be desired, nor was the behaviour of the crowd. Some of the spectators, I am sure, would have been satisfied with nothing less than every decision in favour of the home team, and the shouting they indulged in was anything but creditable to themselves or pleasant to their neighbours.

As already stated, while Luton were adding a couple of points to their total, Swindon and Millwall were doing the same at the expense of Portsmouth and Queen's Park Rangers respectively, and it is still a very open question, therefore, as to which club will have the "honour" of making one of the bottom two with Wellingborough. Brentford's defeat places them in the running, and Watford also have the same number of points, but have several matches in hand.

Leighton Cee Spring appear to be having rather a bad time just now. On Saturday they went to Northampton to play the Reserves and were beaten by 8 goals to nil. Lowe, the Northampton centre-forward, scored six of the goals.

The meeting to be held on Monday evening at the Plait Hall to consider the question of

the Luton Club's ways and means for next season, is to be presided over by the Mayor.

On Saturday next Luton have to pay a visit to Queen's Park Rangers, and should have a very good chance of improving their position at the Rangers' expense. The team will be as usual, with either Bob Hawkes or Pritchard at left-half. The Reserves will be at home to the Queen's Park Rangers' Reserves in a S.E.L. match, and one or two changes are likely to be made in the forward line.

The following is the League table up to date:

|                         | Plyd. | Wn. | Dn. | Lt. | Goals. |       | P. |
|-------------------------|-------|-----|-----|-----|--------|-------|----|
|                         |       |     |     |     | For.   | Agst. |    |
| Bristol Rovers .....    | 24    | 15  | 5   | 4   | 50     | 25    | 85 |
| Southampton .....       | 23    | 14  | 5   | 4   | 41     | 22    | 39 |
| Reading .....           | 23    | 15  | 3   | 5   | 46     | 26    | 88 |
| Tottenham Hotspur.....  | 24    | 10  | 7   | 7   | 40     | 24    | 27 |
| New Brompton.....       | 24    | 9   | 9   | 8   | 35     | 29    | 27 |
| Portsmouth .....        | 22    | 12  | 1   | 9   | 44     | 38    | 25 |
| Northampton.....        | 22    | 11  | 3   | 8   | 36     | 34    | 25 |
| Brighton and Hove.....  | 25    | 10  | 5   | 10  | 33     | 28    | 25 |
| Plymouth Arville.....   | 23    | 10  | 4   | 9   | 38     | 31    | 24 |
| Fulham .....            | 22    | 8   | 6   | 8   | 31     | 27    | 22 |
| Queen's Park Rangers... | 24    | 8   | 6   | 10  | 34     | 39    | 22 |
| West Ham United .....   | 25    | 8   | 6   | 11  | 31     | 31    | 22 |
| Millwall .....          | 25    | 7   | 6   | 12  | 24     | 37    | 20 |
| Swindon .....           | 26    | 9   | 2   | 15  | 33     | 51    | 20 |
| Watford .....           | 21    | 8   | 8   | 10  | 21     | 23    | 19 |
| Brentford .....         | 24    | 6   | 7   | 11  | 22     | 29    | 19 |
| Luton .....             | 25    | 8   | 3   | 14  | 32     | 43    | 19 |
| Wellingborough .....    | 24    | 5   | 1   | 18  | 22     | 76    | 11 |

I am requested to say that any gentlemen wishing to be placed on the list of umpires for the Luton and District Cricket League should send in their names to the Hon. Sec., Mr. D. T. Dockrill, 6, Silver-street, Luton.

A Wednesday Football League.—Any Clubs desirous of joining the Wednesday Football League proposed to be formed for next season, please write to R. E. Green, 90, Church-street, Luton.—[ADVT.]

As a result of the charity match—Blundell Bros. v. Luton Banks—played on the 22nd ult., the committee have been able to hand over to the Bute Hospital the sum of £5 15s. 6d., this being the proceeds after deducting expenses.

"A S" sends me a letter in praise of a footballer who has come to reside in Luton, but he omits to give his own name and address, which are necessary to secure insertion, and he encloses sixpence, which I need hardly say is unnecessary. If the sixpence was intended as a bribe, I must state most emphatically that I am not open to that kind of influence, but, like Pooch-bah in "The Mikado," let me add that if I am to be insulted, for goodness sake make the insult a big one. I shall be pleased to refund the sixpence on application.