

TWO VALUABLE POINTS.

BRENTFORD BEATEN BY A GOAL.

LAMBERTON'S HARD LUCK

THE SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

The matches on Saturday in the Southern League ended as follows:—

(b) Luton	1	Brentford	0
(b) Millwall	3	Brighton and Hove	0
(b) Swindon	3	Portsmouth	1
(h) Tottenham H'spur	5	Queen's Park R.	1
Bristol Rovers	4	(h) Wellingborough	2
(h) New Brompton	1	Northampton	1

(h) Home team.

The League table now stands:—

	Pld.	Wen.	Drn.	Lost.	For.	Agst.	Pts.
Bristol Rovers	24	15	5	4	50	25	35
Southampton	23	14	5	4	41	22	33
Reading	23	15	3	5	46	26	33
Tottenham Hotspur	24	10	7	7	40	24	27
New Brompton	26	9	9	8	35	30	27
Portsmouth	22	12	1	9	44	38	25
Brighton and Hove	25	10	5	10	33	28	25
Northampton	22	11	3	8	36	34	25
Plymouth Argyle	23	10	4	9	38	31	24
Fulham	22	8	6	8	31	27	22
West Ham	25	8	6	11	31	31	22
Queen's Park R.	24	8	6	10	34	39	22
Millwall	25	7	6	12	24	37	20
Swindon	26	9	2	15	33	51	20
Watford	21	8	3	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

Saturday's game with Brentford was a most important one in more ways than one. Both teams are lowly in the League, but Brentford now with a match in hand are on an equality of points. It is this year a desperate struggle for the last place but one, and there are at least four clubs, and possibly five, who are candidates for the position. True, Luton won by a solitary goal, but Lambertson's point may prove invaluable yet. Whilst Lambertson scored the goal, credit must also be given to Eaton and Ross, for they contributed to the immediate play which ended in Luton's success.

Bob Hawkes was an absentee from the ranks of the Luton team, and his place was taken by Pritchard. Shanks was a notable absentee from the Brentford side, and his help was sadly missed by the forwards. C. Duffy, an amateur, was given a chance at outside left, but the play of Turner prevented the little man doing anything great.

It was most unfortunate from a playing point of view to find the ground in such a muddy condition, but this was due chiefly to the fact that two teams of schoolboys had been romping there a few hours before, and they had cut up the turf to an astonishing extent. It is a great mistake for any ground to have two matches played on it on the same day at this time of the year.

The following were the teams on Saturday:—

LUTON

Lindsay

Turner

McEwen

F. Hawkes

White

Pritchard

Eaton

Ross

Lamberton

Moody

Barnes

O

Duffy

Hobson

Moulder

Fletcher

Warrington

Tomlinson

Parsonage

Jay

Howarth

Watson

Whittaker

BRENTFORD

Referee: J. T. Ibbotson.

Mac guessed "head," and after three attempts the coin lay flat, and the picture of his Majesty was uppermost. Mac formally inquired which end the others would have, and Luton having practised at the farm end, they decided to stay there and play towards the railway end goal.

Lamberton had the first opportunity of shooting, and he gave Whittaker a grounder to stop in the first minute.

Play settled on the grand-stand side of the field, but hands against Pritchard gave the visitors an advantage. Mac made a curious miscalculation in trying to head the ball too close to the ground, but the Luton captain was up in double quick time, and his trusty left foot sent the ball down the field.

Mac got his knee hurt, but he soon resumed, though he limped about a good deal. The ground was in a very slippery condition, and the players slipped about a good deal.

A very dangerous centre was put in by Warrington and Turner cleared very coolly when hustled by a couple of the forwards.

Eaton put in a beautiful shot off the line and Whittaker had to fist away very smartly. Lamberton followed with a second shot, which was successfully cleared. Two corners for Luton were unproductive, and a similar fate awaited the B.'s at the other end, whilst Fletcher, from a good position, shot over the bar.

The ball cannoned off a Brentford player from White's shot, and, though a corner resulted, this was poorly placed by Eaton.

The right wing with the centre were responsible for a grand goal. Ross ran down the field, and receiving the ball from Lamberton by an overhead kick, beat several opponents and shot. The goalkeeper saved by falling down but Eaton caught the ball close to the line and instead of shooting, very unselfishly, passed to Lamberton, who had a better chance, and he did the needful.

The Luton goal had a very narrow escape in the next minute for Hobson shot and Lindsay endeavoured to turn the ball round the post, but it struck the upright. Lindsay made a desperate attempt to recover himself and the ball very luckily came back to him and he managed to get the ball off Fletcher's toe. As someone remarked: It was the luckiest let off we have had all the season.

Luton got the ball in the net again through Moody and Barnes, but both were rank off-side and the referee saw it at once.

Barnes made a very good run down the wing and centred right into the hands of the goalkeeper, who, of course, kicked away easily. The outside left was in evidence on the wing, and then the ball was placed on the grand stand by Howarth.

The Luton side had the better of the play for a few minutes, during which Eaton got in an electric shot which Whittaker clawed very well and cleared.

A corner was forced by the B's, and was placed by Warrington to McEwen, who headed away.

Whittaker made a marvellous save from a free kick taken by Lamberton. It was a very narrow escape for the B's, but a really magnificent bit of play by Whittaker. Half-time:—

LUTON	...	...	...	...	1
BRENTFORD	...	...	...	...	0

The crowd very generously gave Whittaker quite an ovation when he left at half-time, in recognition of the grand save he had made a minute earlier.

Duffy compelled Lindsay to handle in the first minute, and the B's next forced a corner on the other side of the field, which proved resultless.

Barnes and Moody showed improved form on the grand-stand side of the field, and the former shot into Whittaker's hand.

The goalkeeper had again to clear from a centre by Barnes, and he gave a corner, which Eaton placed well, and Whittaker again fisted away. Pritchard got hurt in the ensuing play, and the game was stopped to given him a chance to recover.

There was some applause when he got up, but it was only to find that the left half had to be escorted him off the field, where he received the attentions from the trainer, under whose care he quickly recovered.

The referee failed to please a section of the spectators, who considered that Luton were entitled to a penalty for a foul on Lamberton and Barner. "He don't believe in penalties" observed someone and everybody agreed—he being the referee.

Some more complimentary remarks were made by spectators about the official in charge calculated to prove the superiority of the northern referee.

Ross had a beautiful chance of scoring from a fine centre by Barnes but he shot wide to the disappointment of the spectators. Luton managed to hold their own to the end when the score still remained :—

LUTON	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
BRENTFORD	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0

NOTES ON THE GAME.

The following notes on the game are from the pen of "Strawopolis":—

After an absence of six weeks it seems quite a treat for the Luton team to have a Southern League match at home. Such a long break was unavoidable, so the directors had to make the best of it. The early morning opened out brightly, but, unfortunately King Sol was unable to get the upper hand of Jupiter Pluvius, and the result was that heavy rain was followed by a dull, drizzling rainy afternoon.

The elements were all against a good gate, and this was most disappointing to the directors, for there is no denying the fact that they require good gates to keep the ball rolling.

Like Luton, Brentford is a team that has not realised expectations in the Southern League, for at the commencement of the season both teams expected to make a good show in the League. Brentford have certainly done better than Luton, but their record is not one to be very proud of.

There was a marked difference in the height and weight of the two teams; Luton are somewhat on the small side, whilst Brentford are recognised as the heaviest team in the Southern League. Luton are smart and nimble, but in heavy work the visitors have a decided advantage, and on a heavy ground this often proves very useful.

A grand individual run by Ross—nearly half the length of the field—led to Luton getting the first goal of the match. First Whittaker saved at full length on the ground, then a judicious pass by Eaton to Lamberton saw the latter net the ball amidst tremendous cheering. It was a finely got goal, and Ross deserved all the cheering he received.

A minute later Brentford nearly equalised, Lindsay saving twice whilst lying on the ground, and once the ball rebounded from the post. The visitors played a good combined game, but they were somewhat erratic.

Whenever Luton got going they played very pretty football, but spoilt so many efforts when they got close to Whittaker's citadel. Another corner fell to Luton, but without result, and still another followed with the same.

Luton were now having decidedly the better of the game. Barnes and Eaton both dropped across nice centres, and all three inside men were doing well, whilst they were backed up by a capital defence. The result was that Whittaker had a very busy time and was continually saving shots.

One beautiful run and shot by Eaton was well saved by Whittaker, and then off a foul for pushing against Turner, Pritchard saved and set Barnes on the run until he was stopped by Watson. A corner to Brentford was not taken advantage of, and then midfield work followed.

Off a foul close in Lamberton put in a terrific shot, and Whittaker brought off another brilliant save by throwing himself full length across the goal and giving a corner.

Half-time soon arrived, and Whittaker received a warm ovation from the the stand supporters, as he came across the field to the other end.

On resuming Lindsay saved in the first minute from Duffy, and then the visitors' forwards forced a corner. At the other end Whittaker saved a hot shot from Lamberton, and next Barnes gave him a very hot shot to save at close quarters.

Another fine shot by Barnes yielded a corner which was fruitless, and then a few moments stoppage was caused through Pritchard getting his knee hurt, and had to retire temporarily.

For a time play became somewhat ragged, and was not as interesting as before, and no doubt the players were feeling the effects of the heavy going.