

# Football Notes and News.

By "Grasshopper."

## SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

### QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS v. LUTON.

Luton achieved a brilliant performance at Park Royal on Saturday when they beat the Rangers by 3 goals to 2. It is worthy of note that the only success which Luton attained on foreign soil last season was when they played Queen's Park, winning by two goals to one.

The visitors dropped Gallacher, and included McDonald in the front line. Otherwise the team was the same as that which has done duty for the Town up to the present.

It is said that there was a great deal of luck about Saturday's result. In one respect I am obliged to acknowledge that we had a bit of luck—the winning of the toss. There was such a strong wind, added to which the sun was powerful, and it was apparent whichever side was fortunate enough to win the spin would stand the best chance of winning.

But there are those who are always telling us about our luck, as well as some who frequently complain about our misfortune. Both exist in football, and we have to take each in turn.

The Rangers played a good game, and had quite as much of the first half as had the Lutonians. We had, however, a lesson in tactics. While the Rangers were going in for short passing, which was very pretty to watch, on the other hand the Luton forwards went in for long passing, and the centres from the wings were always dangerous. As one critic put it, these tactics unquestionably paved the way for Luton's victory.

Warner at outside right played a capital game, and while he actually scored one of the goals, he helped to obtain the other two. His first really dangerous centre gave Barnes an excellent chance with an open goal, and Billy made no mistake.

An unusual thing happened after the kick-off. Sugden had a capital chance of equalising, but he over-ran the ball, and before one could realise it, Warner had taken a pot-shot at goal. Kingsley, the home custodian, misjudged, and to the surprise of everyone the ball went into the net.

Two goals up! This was delightful—for the men from the straw hat town. Still the second goal was a very fortunate one. Warner himself could see that in its course the leather must go well over the bar, but a fitful breeze changed the course of the sphere.

Luton again commenced to attack, and from a pass by Warner, Barnes took a flying kick, and safely landed the ball in the net.

At half-time the score was 3-0 in favour of the visitors. Though the Rangers had a good deal of the play, the shooting of the forwards, particularly when in front of goal, was poor. Strange to say, too, practically the only occasion upon which Kingsley was tested was when Luton scored; otherwise he had very little to do.

The second half opened at a terrific pace, and the ball had not been in motion a couple of minutes before Sugden scored for the homesters. Was it to be a match of prolific scoring, and had Luton a sufficient lead to make their position secure? These were questions which the Luton supporters asked themselves.

It was a gigantic struggle, and Platt had an anxious time of it, but eventually the pressure was relieved for a time and the visitors took up the offensive.

Just on the close of time, Ryder scored for the Rangers, who had the dissatisfaction of seeing two points taken away from them.

Commenting on the visiting team a writer in the "Daily Chronicle" says:—"Luton have a decidedly improved team, and will be a hard nut to crack for many clubs. Their forwards without being showy keep the ball well on the move, and in Warner and Barnes they have two speedy and clever wingers, who never hesitate to drop the ball in front of goal. Sandy Brown was a bit disappointing, and does not seem to have improved by his sojourn up North. Bob Hawkes is still as ubiquitous as ever, and did well against the Rangers' right wing. The man to fill the eye most, however, was Blackett, the old Wolverhampton and Middlesbrough back. His kicking was a marvel of accuracy, and his tackling never at fault. Platt in goal did not engender a great amount of confidence, and his push stroke when hard pressed is a very risky move."

Our visitors on Saturday are Bristol Rovers, who I am inclined to believe will run well for the championship this season. We ought to have a bumper gate. Kick-off 3.30.