

Football Notes and News.

By "Grasshopper."

UNITED LEAGUE.

LEYTON v. LUTON TOWN.

Luton were without a Southern League engagement on Saturday, and they visited Leyton to play the team of that town in the United League. Unfortunately the visitors lost by 3-2, though at half-time they held the upper hand. No doubt this result was largely due to the enforced absence of R. Hawkes and Warner. The Luton captain got injured in the match with Northampton on Boxing Day, and it is feared will not be able to do duty again for his side for a week or so longer. Warner's ankle still gives him much trouble, but it is to be hoped that the few weeks' rest which he will be able to have will completely restore the sprained limb. Pickering once more found his place in the team, and "Smiler" Latheron filled the other vacancy, Gallacher being still kept in the half-back line. Leyton put their best eleven in the field, but there was not a very pronounced expectation of their winning.

The Essex team were the first to settle down, and Newton and Brand were responsible for a pretty combined attack, but Blackett had little difficulty in clearing. As if their only object was to obtain the "measure" of their opponents, Luton speedily assumed the aggressive, and Barnes appeared to have an easy thing on hand. The goal was practically at his mercy, but he hesitated, and that made all the difference, for Meredith was up in a moment, and had saved his side.

At the other end the home forwards were making a determined onslaught on Luton's goal, and Brand tested Platt with a very hot shot at close quarters, but the custodian smartly saved, sending the ball well to his own forwards. Brand and Newton were giving the Luton defence a lot of trouble, but both backs defended well, while McCurdy's cool-headedness and sound judgment won the appreciation of the spectators. It was Luton's left back who saved the situation when Hesham seemed a certain scorer. Shortly after this Pickering experienced hard luck in not hauling down Leyton's colours, a powerful drive by him only missing the upright by an inch or so.

Leyton were, however, the first to score, Newton eventually doing the trick. This reverse made Luton "buck up," and having lost a splendid chance by offside, they returned to the attack, and White equalised with a fast drive which beat Draper, the local goalkeeper. Luton still kept up the pressure, and after Newton had headed through from an offside position, the visitors gave their opponents no quarter, and as a result of a scramble in front of the Leyton goal, the ball was rushed into the net. The "Blues" were thus one goal to the good at half-time.

On changing ends, the pace seemed to become faster; both sides went very strong, and there was a good deal of kick and rush about the play. Nothing tangible, however, happened until after 20 minutes, when Leyton equalised through Brand. At the other end Meredith was kept busy, and he defended brilliantly, with the result that during the closing stages the homesters were once more able to attack. It was not long before Platt succumbed to a shot from Bush, which placed the home side ahead. Right up to the close the visiting custodian was warmly tested, and succeeded in keeping out quite a number of good shots. Leyton accordingly left the field victorious by the odd goal. Result—Leyton 3 goals, Luton 2.