

Football Notes and News.

By "Grasshopper."

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

LUTON v. QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS.

A VICTORY FOR LUTON.

The Rangers had done so well, or fairly well, of late that their visit to the Ivy-road enclosure on Saturday raised a little speculation as to the final result; but Luton have always been such a tough nut to crack for the London team, that there was not very much doubt as to the result. Everyone expected to witness a good game, and when the strong wind and the greasy nature of the turf are allowed for, all must have been well satisfied with the display given.

It is true Luton just got home by the odd goal (3-2); but at one time—that is to say, in the first moiety, when the Rangers had all the advantages—it looked as if the visitors were going to take at least one, if not two points away with them.

The chief feature of interest with regard to the match, however, centred in the constitution of the home side. Two changes were made in Luton's team. Brown, the centre-forward, who has been a little off colour of late, stood down for Dobson, of the Reserves; while Warner, our best right wing man, but who has certainly not played up to anything like his best form, was replaced by young Mayes, a local player who has done good service with the Town Reserves.

The critics were very captious, particularly with regard to the change in the centre; but now that the game is over, one can judge as to the wisdom or otherwise of the directors' decision.

Taken all through, Dobson was not an improvement on Brown. The fact that he scored Luton's first goal should not be taken into the calculation. Dobson was perhaps a little smarter on the ball, and worked harder than the man whom he replaced would have done; but the new player's light weight was very much against him, and he has naturally a great deal yet to learn of the "tricks" of the game, while he does not yet possess enough staying power. Of course this is all written without wishing to disparage Dobson's efforts; and what he was able to do on Saturday he did well. However, that is not the point; as a substitute for Brown he was no improvement in the all-round sense of the term.

It is not, however, to be expected that junior players can do so well as seniors; and this remark aptly applies to Mayes. He makes a splendid wing for the Reserves; but he is not yet the man to be pitted against a strong team. That there is a good deal of football in Mayes cannot be gainsaid, and when it is more developed he should become a talented player.

There was not a large gate on Saturday—only about 4,000; but there will not be many large crowds again until the Easter holidays are on us.

Winning the toss, the Rangers set Luton to play against a strong wind; but it was the homesters, through the combined play of Mayes and Dobson, that first opened the attack. This was eventually cleared, and then the visitors set up a desperate attack on Luton's stronghold. The backs, however, were pretty safe, and Platt was also shaping well, with the result that though play went on in the home quarter, the visiting forwards were never really dangerous. Judging from one or two chances which they had, they did not do so well as might have been expected. From a beautifully placed corner Hitch headed over the bar. The left wing returned to the attack, and Platt had to save by throwing himself down, but a moment later Ryder had opened the scoring.

The Blues made a determined attempt to equalise. They worked their way steadily towards the Rangers' goal, and to the delight of everyone Dobson scored a minute or so from half-time.

Resuming, Luton now played with the wind, and pressed strongly. Dobson on one occasion only missed by inches. Three corners to Luton in succession followed, Howes saving well each time. The Rangers rarely crossed the half-way line. Luton appeared a trifle unsteady in front of goal. Howes made a brilliant save from Bob Hawkes, and another from Barnes, but Blackett eventually beat him from 30 yards' range with a great shot.

Directly after McDonald netted an offside goal. He repeated the feat, but this time the goal was disallowed for impeding the goalkeeper. Good shots rained in from Pickering, Barnes, and McDonald, and then the first of these scored from a corner. The Rangers scored a goal, which went in off Blackett, so that the final result was:

Luton 3, Rangers 2.