

Football Notes and News.

By "Grasshopper."

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

BRENTFORD v. LUTON.

THE BLUES LOSE BADLY.

Luton lost badly at Brentford on Saturday. This was the general verdict. They had got an old score to wipe off, for when the Brentford Club visited Luton this season they carried two points home with them. The Blues were expected to turn the tables on their opponents on Saturday; and when the half-time wire came through showing that Luton were leading by one goal, everyone had confidence. But, oh, what a disappointment! The crowd that witnessed the match between the Reserves and Northampton Reserves waited behind, in a state of animated suspense, and when the final came, showing Brentford had again done the trick, and won 2-1, the spectators were literally bewildered. And while they walked from the field into the town profound gloom reigned, and the silence could be felt. It was comical to a degree. But once more we had evidence that, in sporting language, Luton are practically "a five-furlong team."

The teams were:—

Brentford: Whittaker; Watson, Riley; Robotham, Jay, Parsonage; Shanks, Hartley, Corbett, Hobson, Underwood.

Luton: Platt; Blackett McCurdy; Gallacher, White, F. Hawkes; Warner, McDonald, Brown, Pickering, Barnes.

The climatic conditions were very favourable at the start, and a good crowd lined up. Brentford won the toss, and the opening exchanges were very even, and of an uninteresting character. Luton were the first to get near goal, owing to a free kick against Parsonage. Riley sent them back with a fine kick, and Shanks, cleverly eluding Gallacher, placed the ball well in goal mouth. McCurdy cleared, however, and Pickering, taking up his kick, went away, but ran the ball into touch. Then Brentford went down, and Parsonage sent high over the bar. A moment later, Hobson, with a terrific volley, just grazed the bar. Blackett twice kicked away finely, when Underwood and Hobson were pressing him, and then Brown got a nice pass out to Barnes, but Watson worried him into touch.

After executing a nice run, Huntley gave to Shanks, who tested Platt with an awkward cross-shot, which the goalkeeper got away. A regular bombardment of Platt's goal now followed, and from one of his punches the ball went straight up in the air. A great tussle ensued under the goal-posts, which Blackett ended by kicking out to Warner. At length, the monotony was relieved by Luton's front string going right down with splendid combination. Pickering sent in a nice, low shot to cap this move, and Whittaker struck at the ball, but it went over his arm, and Luton were one up at the end of twenty minutes' play.

On re-starting Luton again went down, and Riley had to run across to stop Pickering, after Watson had been beaten. A corner proved abortive. Some clever footwork by Shanks and Hartley took the play down to Platt, but the former sent out to Jay when in a fine position for shooting. The half, however, drove in a hard, high shot, which gave Platt a lot of trouble. A halt was then called, through a nasty accident to Riley, who was headed in the face by Warner. On resuming, the Brentford men showed more action, and Platt was called upon thrice in quick succession to deal with shots, any of which were worth a goal. Then Blackett mistimed a dropping ball, and let in Underwood, who covered a lot of ground before sending across. Corbett was on the spot, but, unfortunately for him, McCurdy was there, too, and bundled him off the ball in the nick of time. Pickering was responsible for a dodging run, which carried the play Whittaker's way. Riley got hold of his "middle," however, and Shanks received. The International made a brilliant run, and, although hampered by Gallacher and McCurdy, sent in a beautiful shot, which struck the bar. Underwood got the ball on the rebound, but shot feebly and wide. The next item of note was an individual tussle between Corbett and Blackett, out of which the lengthy back of Luton came victorious.

A smart run by Warner, who had been starved a good deal this half, caused Whittaker to fist away. White returned the ball, but Watson charged the ball down, and then kicked into touch. Nothing further of note occurred in this half, with Luton leading by the only goal.

The second half opened with much more invigorating play than had been served up previously, and Shanks roused the hopes of Brentford with a splendid run. He was obliged to send out to Hartley, instead of

shooting, and the winger sent in a slow centre, which McCurdy kicked away. Brown had a clear course before him, but Luton's centre was far too slow for Watson, who caught him quickly and kicked into touch. It was evident that Brentford were out for goals. Barnes got away and sending across at the right time, provided Brown with a splendid chance of adding to Luton's score. Again the centre man was too slow, and Parsonage got the ball. He sent on to Hobson, who gave out to Underwood, who sent in a shot which Platt could not hold, and Corbett, rushing up, ran the ball through, thus making the scores level.

Brentford were now having the best of the game, and Shanks sent in a shot which missed by inches. Then Parsonage repeated the performance. A breakaway by Luton's inside trio looked dangerous, but Watson saved his side with a nice overhead kick. A spell of midfield play then followed, but at length Shanks went right away. He was bored out to the wing by White and McCurdy, but managed to get a nice pass across to Corbett. The Luton men pulled up and appealed for offside, but Corbett kept going, and landed the second goal for Brentford, amidst great enthusiasm.

Luton have themselves to blame for losing this goal, for they are surely past learning that it is bad policy to stand still until the whistle has gone. On re-starting Luton set up a sharp attack, but Watson and Riley were very safe, although the latter's clearances were weaker than usual. Brentford again spent a time in their opponents' quarters, and McCurdy and Blackett did some splendid work in keeping out Shanks and Co. Corbett had very hard luck with a tremendous drive, which shook the bar; but Pickering relieved the pressure. Shanks was badly fouled. Riley took the free kick, and lifted the ball in front of goal, where a rare struggle took place. The ball bobbed about, and was sent in time after time; but the Luton men so successfully packed their goal that nothing resulted, the ball eventually being sent behind by Underwood. Nothing further of note occurred, the play being confined to midfield for the remainder of the game. Just on time, however, Brown broke away, but very tamely surrendered to Riley, who kicked into touch.

Result: Brentford 2 goals, Luton 1.