

FOOTBALL.

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

LUTON v. BRENTFORD.

A VICTORY FOR THE "BEES."

Played on Saturday afternoon at Griffin Park, Brentford. Result:—

BRENTFORD 2 goals.
LUTON 1 ..

Teams:

BRENTFORD.

Whittaker

Watson

Riley

Jay

Parsonage

Robotham

Hartley Shanks Corbett Hobson Underwood

O

Barnes Pickering Brown Macdonald Warner

Gallacher

White

F. Hawkes

McCurdy

Blackett

Platt

LUTON.

Referee, Mr. J. B. Brodie.

"Bob" Hawkes being unable to get away from business his place was filled by Gallacher. Both teams had been doing well lately and, the weather being good, a crowd of about 7,000 people was attracted to the match which was generally expected to be a stiff one. The "Bees" put on a strong eleven. The ground was in good condition. Brentford won the toss but there was no sun and very little breeze so they gained no very great advantage by their good fortune.

The opening was even but dull. A free-kick against Parsonage gave Luton the first opportunity but they drove them back with a clean clearance. Shanks tricked Gallacher and sent into the goal-mouth where McCurdy averted the danger. Pickering dashed away but ran the ball out of touch. Brentford retaliated and Blackett had to head out a free-kick by Watson. Parsonage caught the leather on the rebound and at once skied it. One of Brown's excellent feeding movements set Barnes at liberty and his centre looked dangerous to the "Bees" until the defence divined Pickering's intentions and placed out of his reach.

Warner endeavoured to force the play into the other half of the field but Robotham robbed him and set his own forwards on an expedition into the other half of the field where Underwood swiftly carried the ball down to within easy distance of Platt and Hobson put his centre past the post. The teams waged the war in the centre of the ground for some minutes, and here play was decidedly dull. Relief came from the Luton forwards who showed one of the neatest pieces of combination in the match. Pickering received and put a suitable finish to a good effort by directing a low shot into goal. Whittaker shot out his arm to stop the ball but missed and Luton drew first blood in an unexpected manner.

Pretty play by Shanks and Hartley changed the appearance of matters, and the former passed to Jay who was in an ideal position. He set fly at goal and Platt had some difficulty in keeping a long dropping shot from going under the bar. In the midst of some hard work by the Luton front string Warner's knee came into collision with Riley's face with such force that a minute's halt had to be called. On restarting the homesters commenced some very decided efforts to obtain an equaliser and Platt had a narrow escape, slipping between two opponents with the ball in his hand just in time to elude being driven over the line. Three successive shots, each of which deserved to score he dealt with in clever fashion. The visiting team were by no means idle, but the forwards found themselves held too well in check to do much damage.

Pickering very cleverly dodged in and out between the ranks of his opponents but had the misfortune to see his centre nullified by Riley. Corbett, who received from the latter's clearance, was a little more successful, for in spite of being hampered by McCurdy he got in a shot which struck the bar. Underwood endeavoured to cap the movement but only sent behind in feeble fashion. Corbett and Blackett indulged in a battle royal but the back came out superior in the end. As the result of work by Warner, Whittaker had to punch away and Watson was lucky enough to beat down and clear White's return. When the whistle blew for the interval Luton were leading by 1-0 after a half in which they had mostly been on the defensive.

The opening of the second half was marked by much more spirited play than in the first, Shanks dashed off in hopeful style but he was too sternly watched and was forced to dispose of the ball to Hartley who was too lackadaisical in getting in his centre so that McCurdy cleared in time. In the next minute Brown found himself with the way to the goal open to him but his lack of speed gave him away and Watson put paid to his account by kicking out of play. The home eleven worked in a fashion which showed that they had determined to change the position of the teams on the scoring board, and, judging from the relative form, they certainly seemed sure of doing so.

Shanks put in a shot which Platt stopped but could not hold and Corbett dashed up just in time to bang the sphere through. On resuming, Hartley dashed away and McCurdy came to the decision to try and satisfy his demands with a corner, which was however, fruitless. Parsonage and Shanks both missed the target only by inches. McDonald Brown and Pickering managed to burst from their restraint and the manner in which they made rapid tracks for the opposite goal caused uneasiness among the crowd until Watson, by an overhead kick, saved the situation. Shanks relieved the monotony of a period of midfield play by spending off with the ball at his toes. White and McCurdy failed to prevent him placing the ball in front of Corbett. The visiting players at once stopped, confidently appealing for off-side. The centre-forward took no more heed than the referee himself, but continued his rapid progress until he had landed in the net and thus scored Brentford's second point.

Luton's defeat was thoroughly deserved. In Brentford they found their masters in everything save defence. The halves, weakened considerably by the absence of "Bob" Hawkes, failed to hold their opponents and the feeding of their own forward-line was occasionally very poor. In the first half Warner was an especial sufferer. The opening period was very largely a repetition of that at Millwall when the losers did all the work and the others reaped the benefit. The shot which scored was one of the very few which were aimed at the Brentford goal. With the game of the Luton players generally little fault can be found. The backs and goalie were the strongest, though they made serious slips, Platt when he fumbled the shot which equalised and the defence when they pulled up to ask for off-side and allowed an opponent free play.