

FOOTBALL NOTES AND NEWS.

By "Grasshopper."

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

LUTON DRAW AT NEW BROMPTON.

In drawing at New Brompton on Saturday it must be admitted that Luton were lucky. The Blues have generally held their own against the Southern League team. Last season we had three points out of them, drawing away (1 goal each), and winning at home (2-1). But last December, at Luton, New Brompton were easy winners by 2 goals to love; although in both games in the United League this season Luton were victorious on both occasions, winning 3-1 away and 3-2 at home.

However, taken all through, New Brompton are a much improved team, notwithstanding the fact that they stand almost at the bottom of the League, and if the state of the play is anything to go by, then on Saturday the locals were the superior team, and had hard luck in having to be content with sharing the points. It was Platt alone who practically saved Luton from defeat; Luton's custodian has given many fine exhibitions, but that at New Brompton on Saturday stands unsurpassed by anything he has done for a long time. Jackson, too, showed up better, but with Murphy at centre-forward in place of Brown, the visiting forwards were not particularly aggressive. Latheron, too, deputised Warner on the wing, and Jones was once more included in the team.

The visitors won the toss, and Hartley kicked off for New Brompton, who came down at the start, but Jackson cleared well from the centre. Luna and Smith next made a dashing run, but the latter was hustled by Jackson, and failed to get in his centre. Luton retaliated by means of a dashing run on the right, but Latheron's final shot passed over the cross-bar. Mavin next had a good chance, but he shot wildly outside. Good play by Cunliffe and Marriott ended in the former testing Platt with a stinging shot. The Luton keeper was in splendid form, though, and saved in grand style.

New Brompton were playing splendidly at this period, and were having most of the game. Their shooting was weak, though, and this fact accounted for several excellent opportunities being lost. They attacked in the closing minutes of the first half, but the Luton backs were in good form, and Platt was not seriously troubled. Half time was called with New Brompton attacking, and no score to either side.

Resuming, the locals went away with a great rush, and Platt had to make a couple of clearances from Lloyd and Marriott. Cunliffe also played well, and sent across a good centre, which went begging. The Luton right wing next broke away, but none of the forwards got to shooting distance, and presently the New Brompton advance guard were again busy, Smith making a beautiful centre. Marriott got to the ball, but shot straight at Platt, who caught and cleared smartly. Mavin tried a long shot for New Brompton, but was a lot too high.

Play was very level, each side attacking in turn, and Gittins made a capital effort for Luton, missing by a narrow margin. Cunliffe shot well for New Brompton, and Platt brought off a capable save, after which, in due course, Latheron sent past the posts with a well-meant effort for Luton. Neither side could score, though both frequently came near enough to the mark to keep up the excitement of the spectators, who enjoyed a rarely level and ding-dong struggle, honours being evenly divided. Martin saved from Murphy, and Luton gained a corner, without result.

New Brompton then set up a continuous bombardment of the Luton goal, but it survived all attacks. Smith sent in two grand shots, and at the other end Martin made good saves from Gittins and Murphy. Platt saved well from Cunliffe just before the close.

Result: No score.