

Football Notes and News.

By "Grasshopper."

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LUTON GIVE A POOR EXHIBITION AT BRENTFORD.

FORWARDS LOSE THE GAME.

It is no disgrace to lose away from home; but to lose when you ought to have won is disappointing indeed. That was the case with Luton at Brentford on Saturday, when they lost 3-1. It was not that the Middlesex men put up much of a game against the visitors—as a matter of fact Luton had a fair share of the play. But the truth is, the forwards lost Luton the game. The defence was good, Hogg and McCurdy scarcely ever making a mistake; the half-line was also satisfactory, despite the fact that H. Parsons deputised "Bob" (who was engaged playing in the Amateur International match at Tottenham); but the entire fault rested with the front string. There was no alteration in the forward line, Rigate and F. Hawkes being on the right wing, Pearson at centre, Rankin and Moody being on the left wing.

At two stages in the game at least, Luton held the result in their hands, but the forwards failed lamentably. Their combination was all right, but their shooting, or rather want of shooting, was wretched. Fred Hawkes, Pearson, and Moody in turn had an open goal on two or three occasions, but all failed to find the net—either they hung on to the ball too long, or shot in erratic fashion.

Brown, of Brentford, stood down, being on the injured list; otherwise the home side were at full strength. The weather was dull, and the turf slippery. Brentford opened the attack, Underwood making a couple of bursts on the left, which came to nought, and then Pearson initiated an attack by a long pass to the right, which Rigate accepted, and then forced Montgomery to concede a corner, which Montgomery cleared with some difficulty. Hagan and Corbett speedily retaliated, and a fast centre from the former led to McAllister forcing a corner, from which Corbett missed a glorious chance at close quarters. Hawkes shot wide after a shot dribble, and then Parsonage only just missed with a fast shot. Luton next put in a spell of pressure, and forced Montgomery to handle on several occasions, but failed to beat him, and the homesters gained ground by means of a couple of free kicks. They were speedily repulsed, however, and then Moody had the chance of a lifetime at the other end, being absolutely unmarked in front of Montgomery from a pass by Rankin, but shot over. Luton were having rather the better of the exchanges at this period, but their shooting was very weak, and caused the Brentford goalkeeper little anxiety. One of the best shots of the match so far came from Fred Hawkes, the ex-right half, but this Montgomery turned round the post in masterly style. Luton returned once more on the left. Watson cleared, and a quarter of an hour before the interval Bowman set Underwood going, and the little winger, tricking Hogg, scored Brentford's first goal with a magnificent cross grounder, which beat Platt all ends up.

Brentford kept up the pressure, but failed to beat Platt again. Then Luton dashed away to the other end, where Pearson was presented with a glorious chance, which he failed to utilise, shooting point blank at Montgomery when a yard from goal. Half-time was whistled with the homesters leading by one goal to love.

Crossing over, Rankin and Moody were the first to show up prominently, but Watson kicked out from the latter, and then Bowman had a clear run from a miskick by McCurdy, but Platt cleared, as he did again from Underwood. Play was faster and better now than it had been at any time during the game, but it could not be called particularly exciting, for both sides passed and shot erratically. The rather heavy state of the ground was to a certain extent responsible for this, but neither side seemed to exert itself much to overcome this handicap. Rigate sent across a fast centre, but both Pearson and Hawkes failed to turn to account. McAllister next got the better of Hogg, and, although hampered by Parsons, ran down well and passed in beautifully to Bowman, who could not help putting the ball past Platt for the homesters' second point.

Corbett shot over from a good position, and afterwards Watson made a smart dribble, during the course of which he beat three Lutonians, but was at last pulled up by Jones as he was about to shoot. After a short spell of desultory play, Pearson secured, and, wheeling round Watson, cleverly reduced the deficit with a fast grounder well out of the reach of Montgomery. Brentford came down well on the re-start, and remained in their opponents' quarters for a time, Bowman eventually putting the issue beyond all doubt with a good shot at close range. Both sides attacked in the closing minutes, but nothing further accrued.

Result: Brentford, 3 goals; Luton, one goal.