

FOOTBALL.

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

BRENTFORD v. LUTON TOWN.

BUSY "B'S" BEST BEHAVIOUR.

Yet another defeat to add to the long list to Luton's discredit, the team from which so much was expected—before the season opened—has, as yet, failed to secure an away from home victory in the Southern League and the extent of their drawing-power was shown last Saturday at Brentford when only 4,000 of London's teeming millions were present to see the home side win a very moderate game by 3—1. Undoubtedly the West Londoners feel the effect from the closeness of Chelsea, but this does not account for the lack of interest in the match so much as the very lowly position on the League table which it is Luton's unhappy fate to occupy.

The fact has to be faced that the weakness of the team lies in the forward line which is irritatingly weak in front of goal and the action of the directors in searching for new talent to put more life into the attack is one that everyone will commend. Last Saturday's match was only another proof of where the Straw-hatters are not sufficiently strong. At one time they were, by means of bustle, having the better of matters and promptness in turning advantages to account would have given them a lead which they could have held. But their opportunities was not turned to account and the determination of the "B's" turned the tables completely round so that after the interval their superiority was undeniable.

Brentford were only two steps higher in the League ladder than Luton but they held two more points for the same number of games and the handful of visitors from Luton was consequently the reverse of sanguine. This feeling afterwards proved to be justified, for Brentford, although playing Bowman in the centre when he should have been resting won on their merits by 3—1. The defeat reflects no blame upon the visiting defence which worked well. H. Parsons showed decided promise at right-half, where he deputised for Bob Hawkes, who was playing in the Amateur International. The forwards as a line were moderate. Pearson in the centre was more confident than he has been and Rankin at outside left showed occasionally what he is capable of.

The teams were in charge of Mr. T. J. Tappin and turned out as under:—

BRENTFORD,

Montgomery.

Watson Clark

Lay Parsonage Tomlinson

Hagan Corbett Bowman McAllister Underwood



Rankin Moody Pearson F. Hawkes Rigate

Jones White H. Parsons

McCurdy Hogg

Platt

LUTON.

Luton kicked off and Rigate speedily forced a corner which he took himself with such effect that Montgomery had to use his fists. Brentford returned vigorously and Platt handled from Hagan. The home side obtained a flag-kick which gave Corbett the easiest chance in the world but he missed the target with a shot skywards. Parsonage got in a splendid effort which struck the post supporting the net and Luton took the ball to the other end.

Here Moody attempted to convert a pass from Hawkes and Montgomery cleared two dangerous efforts in effective style. A free-kick taken by Parsonage resulted in Platt using his hands with Corbett in attendance. Luton was then given a clear opening through a centre by Hawkes. The leather travelled to Moody who was unmarked but unsteadily shot behind. A middle by Rigate looked promising when Montgomery punched it out to Hawkes but the goalie retrieved his mistake in a masterly manner by turning the ball round the post.

Up to this point Luton had been the smarter team in front of goal and had enjoyed more than an equal share of the pressing. Pearson, Moody, and Rankin now began to show a fine display of combination until offside broke up the movement. Then the home eleven took a turn and Platt was clever in keeping out a fast shot from Underwood aimed to go in just under the bar.

Half an hour had elapsed before either side drew blood and the first fell to Brentford who scored through McAllister as the result of Bowman's unselfishness. The Luton goal had a narrow escape just after when a smart centre by Underwood dropped in an ideal position where there was no one to receive it. Another centre by Hagan went abegging and McAllister then disposed of his chance by kicking over the bar. Platt saved a fast grounder from Underwood.

Brentford were in the picture more than Luton towards the close of this half but the homesters' goal was only saved from downfall by a marvellous save by Montgomery from Moody. Platt found an attempt by Hagan rather hot but averted danger before McAllister could reach him to put into effect his idea of bustling him into goal. At the interval Brentford led by 1-0.

Before the next half was very old, a miskick by McCurdy let in Bowman who looked a scorer until beaten by Platt. The Bedfordshire boys replied and a soft shot by Pearson did not accomplish its purpose. Very little of interest occurred during the first portion of the second period. Hogg was hooted by the crowd for a foul and Jones had already got into the spectators' bad graces.

The first promising piece of work on the part of Luton since the resumption came from Rankin whose centre was sent behind by Rigate after his wing-mate had passed the chance on to him. Montgomery was lucky rather than skilful in effecting a save from Moody who was standing close in.

Twenty minutes after the interval a break-away by Brentford and pass by McAllister resulted in Bowman scoring in neat style. The ball was no sooner restarted than the home side became aggressive again, and Bowman missed the goal furniture by a trifle. At the other end Fred Hawkes was given offside when he looked like putting the finishing touch to an effort by Rankin.

Brentford continued to put plenty of life into their movements and Parsonage and Corbett were not accurate enough in their aim in a moment of pressure. After Rigate had skied an opening, Luton obtained their only goal through Pearson ten minutes from the finish. Immediately afterwards, Bowman deceived the visiting backs and beat Platt. Each side attacked in turn after this but without result and the end came with the Londoners leading by 3-1.