

Football Notes and News.

By "Grasshopper."

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

LUTON OUTPLAYED AT LETYON.

On Saturday Luton Town journeyed to Leyton, and came home badly defeated. Last season the Town shared the points with the Essex team—losing away 1-0, and winning at home 5-3; but on Saturday the Leyton team practically annihilated the visitors, who, outplayed at all points of the game, left the field beaten by five goals to love! This was indeed a disaster, and one that will take some retrieving.

While most people agree that the directors must be at their wits' end to constitute a forward line that will at least make some sort of a show, it was hard to understand the inclusion of Eling on Saturday. On a dry ground the local amateur may be able to do something, but what earthly chance has he got on a heavy turf against a first team? We know that at centre the club has not improved on Brown; but what people are asking is why Pearson was not sent away instead of Eling.

However, it is little use grumbling now; but it is rather humiliating to be beaten by Leyton by such a big score. Of course, at the time of writing, the Blues are at the bottom of the League, though this Christmas time they ought to bag a few badly needed points, seeing that they have three matches at home. A correspondent writes asking, "Why are Luton the strongest team in the Southern League?" He also supplies the answer: "Because they hold all the others up." Go on! That's an old chestnut.

But to revert to the Leyton match. Brown kicked off, and Bob Hawkes soon put Walders going, but it was impossible for Moody to take the pass. The first bit of exciting work was served up by Silor, who made a clever overhead kick into the mouth of goal, where Platt had to clear. The home side were showing better football than Luton, and Platt had some anxious moments. The visitors were going in for spasmodic rushes, and gave Meredith and Ramsay some exercise in long kicking. A good pass by Silor to Wood brought Platt out of goal, and in his struggle with the Leyton forward the ball went to Kingaby, who pumped it in, but, luckily for Luton, it cannoned off White. The home side maintained the pressure, but their shooting when near goal was bad, and McCurdy was in good form. At last the long expected point came. A high kick by Walker was curled into goal mouth by the wind, and Wood netted it.

The game had only been restarted a couple of minutes before Kingaby gave Wood a long forward pass, which he took on, beating Dimmock neatly, and then flashed the ball past Platt, putting on No. 2 for Leyton. Luton seemed to improve after this, and the extreme wing men were once or twice rather close in to Skiller. Luton were vastly improved now, and Skiller's goal was in danger two or three times from Brown and Moody, the first-named having terribly hard luck. Half-time came with Leyton leading by 2 goals to 0.

Resuming Luton opened the attack, but the locals eventually broke away, and without giving Platt a chance Busby put his side further ahead. Play ruled more even now. Eling came to grief and had to leave the field temporarily. Then Rigate dropped a long shot into Skiller's arms, and a moment later Walker, at the other end, bored his way through and struck the side of the net with a grand effort. Silor got the ball in his own half, and, putting on the pace, got well down before giving to Wood, who put on an easy goal.

Luton displayed great lack of finish. Offside against Wood twice in quick time spoilt promising moves, and then Skiller had to handle from Eling. Wood put in quite the best shot of the match, which Platt saved beautifully. Wood again got away and passed to Busby, who had no difficulty in adding a fifth goal. Luton kept on plugging away, and Skiller only just managed to steer a shot from Rigate out of goal. Hands by Moles put a stop to a combined rush by Brown and Moody, but the visitors profited nothing by this, and Walker ran the ball past at the other end. A halt was called just here for injuries to Eling, who had to be carried off. Nothing further, however, happened. Result:—

Leyton, 5 goals; Luton, nil.