

FOOTBALL.

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

NEW BROMPTON v. LUTON.

OUT OF THE "BOTTOM TWO" AT LAST.

Played at New Brompton, on Saturday. Result:—

LUTON	ONE GOAL
NEW BROMPTON	NIL

The teams were as under:—

LUTON—Platt; Hogg and McCurdy; F. Hawkes White and A. Jones; Rigate, Rankin, A. E. Jones Moody, and Latheron.

NEW BROMPTON—Martin; Harvey and Floyd; Lloyd, Mavin, and Rowbotham; Barker, Hartley, McGibbon, Pickering, and Smith.

Referee, Mr. A. Shalleross (Leek).

Luton had hoped to play the same team that drew with the Rangers with the exception of Rigate vice Walders, but were disappointed through W. Porter and R. Hawkes being unable to make the journey.

Latheron was given the outside left position, Walders being on the sick list, while White resumed his usual post, thus allowing Jones to take the left half position.

New Brompton had their usual defence, but they also were compelled to make changes, and Barker and Hartley formed a new combination on the right wing.

Barker has been with them all the season, but has had very few opportunities of showing his abilities. He comes from Wolverhampton, and was described by one of the officials as the "gentleman" of the club, seeing they do not run a reserve team, and therefore had done practically nothing for his money.

The day was far from pleasant, but fortunately it kept fine during the match, still there was a pronounced breeze about, and McCurdy winning the toss naturally took advantage of this. It took some time for either side to settle down, and play was not very exciting at the start. Almost the first item which interested the crowd was a very "new thing" for a goal against the home club caused through Arthur Jones following up a rather tame attempt, which Martin was leisurely allowing to pass over the line for a goal kick, when Luton's centre cheekily tried to turn to account, and almost surprised Martin with a "sneak" goal.

Rigate several times broke away in dangerous fashion, and on one occasion Jones pounced on the ball as it came across, and put in a good attempt, which luckily cannoned off Martin, and was eventually cleared.

The first real effort from New Brompton came from a run down by Barker, who finished up with a shot from long range. This Platt caught but McGibbon was on the spot, and it took all Peter's time to dodge the home centre and clear the ball.

Smith now took up the running, and twice got the ball nicely down the field, and gave Platt some anxiety with his centres, but Luton's goalie was equal to the occasion, conceding a corner in one instance.

At the opposite end of the field Jones pounced on a return from Martin, and sent it back at a terrific pace, but unfortunately his aim was a trifle out, and his shot just missed the post—a very near thing for a goal.

Neither side could be said to hold the advantage for any length of time, and twice Platt was compelled to run out to prevent danger from breakaways, while a bit later Pickering tried his hand at an endeavour to open the score, but again Platt picked up in grand style.

From a centre from Rigate, the ball was travelling towards the home goal, and Jones dashing up all but did the trick, but Floyd just managed to turn it over the bar for a corner.

Luton pressed from this award, and F. Hawkes was the final Lutonian to make an attempt, but his shot was rather too high, and passed out for a goal kick.

It was just over half an hour from the start when the eventful incident of the match materialised, Rigate finishing up a good run with a square centre, which passed quite close to Jones, but the latter could not quite manage to gather the ball, and Moody standing a bit further wide cleverly hooked it by Martin, who did not appear to expect a shot from that angle, and was completely beaten.

Barker made a terrible miss from a centre from the opposite wing, when it appeared certain an equalising goal was coming about, while Rankin made almost as big a blunder by not turning to account a slip by Martin, who failed to clear a fine shot which Abe Jones put up from half back.

Almost immediately after the referee whistled for the interval, and Luton led in an away match for the first time this season at half time.

To show how big an influence the wind had on the game, we may mention that Luton were practically penned in their own half for nearly a quarter of an hour on the re-start, but most of the home forwards lacked sting in their final attempts.

But an exception must be made in one case, for McGibbon sent in a grand cross drive from a pass by Pickering, and although Platt threw himself full length he was not quick enough, and the ball just shaved the outside of the post.

Luton's first opportunity came 15 minutes after the interval, Arthur Jones giving Latheron a fine pass out, and "Bobby" ran down on his own, finishing with a shot which hit the side net.

The best shot of the match came from Pickering, who worked himself into position in quite his best style, and let drive with a shot which appeared a certain goal, for the ball was going away from Platt just inside the extreme post. But to the surprise of the spectators he just managed to catch the ball, thus bringing off one of the finest saves of the season.

Although the home players were certainly having a bigger share of the game, Luton had the easiest chances in the concluding stages. Rigate got clear away, and sent in a shot which Martin missed, but the ball struck the upright, and rebounded into play, while on another occasion Rankin appeared to have an absolute gift, for Martin coming out fell in his attempt to clear, and the ball only needed a touch, but in some way Martin, while lying on the ground, managed to touch the ball away from Rigate, who also appeared on the scene at the moment. It was a bad miss by Rankin in the first instance, for he had practically an open goal.

During the closing stages only once did it appear Luton would not come away with both points, this being when during a spell of pressure, McGibbon was observed to fall down after coming into contact with Hogg inside the penalty area. Loud appeals went up for the extreme penalty, and the referee consulted a linesman before he allowed the game to proceed. Greatly to the disgust of the spectators, he failed to view the incident from a New Brompton standpoint, and Luton escaped the chance of an equaliser, and fully held their own to the finish.

Undoubtedly Platt was the chief factor in bringing away both points, for his work could not have been improved upon, and he was in brilliant form. He was called upon two or three times as often as Martin, but never once did he give his comrades cause for fear.

McCurdy possibly was the better back, but Hogg met with a nasty cut on the knee in the second half; still he pluckily kept on the field, seeing such a fine chance for a win.

Naturally the alteration in the middle line did not tend to improve that department, and Jones ankle appeared to give him a considerable amount of pain, judging by the manner he limped about the field in the second half.

As with the Rangers the previous Wednesday, F. Hawkes was called upon to face the star wing pair, but he again rose to the occasion, and it was seldom either Pickering or Smith got clear away.

In the front rank Rigate was in much better form than in some recent matches, and must be considered the best forward. Arthur Jones forced the game, but did not get many opportunities to have a good shot at goal. Still, he was usually thereabouts when it needed a bit of bustling.

Moody played his usual quiet game, but did not get along with his partner as well as he appears to do with Porter.