

Football Notes and News.

By "Grasshopper."

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

LUTON GOING STRONG.

SATURDAY'S WIN AT NEW BROMPTON.

It is not every local football spectator who realises how strong Luton Town are going just now; and the fact perhaps needs to be emphasised that the Blues have won seven points out of a possible eight during the last four weeks. The majority of the points, too, were won on foreign soil; we beat Tottenham and New Brompton away, while at home we gained two points out of Swindon, and divided the honours with Queen's Park.

Saturday's win over New Brompton on their own ground puts us up in the League table, while we have also have a game in hand of our neighbours at the bottom. Last season the Bromptonians had rather the better of the Town; at New Brompton the result was a pointless draw, but on the Ivy-road ground the Kentish men won 2-0. When New Brompton visited Luton last November, they took back with them the two points, winning by 2-1; but Saturday's result of 1-0 in favour of the Blues equalises this season's points.

It seems that New Brompton had rather a spell of ill luck—similar to that which Luton have suffered from for a time. They had a strong wind against them in the first half, and their defence really did well in keeping Luton out with only one goal. In the second moiety the locals did a great deal of pressing. However, Luton's defence stood up well. But it was Platt who really saved the game. Peter stood shoulders high as the one man who prevented Luton's defeat. Indeed, the visiting custodian was brilliant, and has seldom ever showed such form. A. E. Jones, who again played at centre-forward for Luton, gave a good exhibition; we could have really done with him a few months ago. The visitors were without R. M. Hawkes, and also W. Porter; but A. Jones ably filled the vacancy, while White, who was once more at centre-half, often bottled up McGibbon, New Brompton's fine centre-forward.

A few details of Saturday's game will suffice. Luton won the toss, and attacked shortly after the kick-off, but the slippery ground made accurate play impossible. New Brompton were the first to master the conditions, but could not get near enough Platt to shoot. Martin was first tested, and he cleared nicely, and then Platt negotiated a shot from Barker. A fine centre by Pickering was sent past, and the same player almost beat Platt a minute later with a hard drive. New Brompton had slightly the better of the exchanges for some time, but Luton were first to score. From a nice run and centre by Rigate, Moody with a fine shot gave Martin no chance. The home forwards played strongly for an equaliser, and Platt had his work cut out to deal with the many shots he received. Meanwhile the Luton forwards were not idle, and considering the conditions play was wonderfully fast and keen. Several excellent saves by Platt enabled Luton to retain their lead to the interval.

Crossing over, New Brompton pressed, and McGibbon just missed with a low drive. Hartley followed with a good attempt, which Platt caught and threw away. Play was confined to Luton's territory, but the visitors showed stout defence. Platt was again conspicuous when he punched away a shot from McGibbon, but the ball was returned by Mavin, whose shot missed by the narrowest margin. After Pickering had shot wide, Luton broke away, and Rigate struck the post. New Brompton followed up this escape by getting to the other end, where Mavin had a grand shot splendidly saved by Platt. The Luton goalkeeper also saved from Pickering, and in a moment Martin was tested by Latheron. This was followed by a vigorous New Brompton attack. Platt saved numerous shots in fine style. In fact, the Luton goalkeeper's display was quite the feature of the match. Play fell off towards the end, but Luton were holding their own comfortably. Just before the finish Mavin made a great effort to equalise, but his shot went wide.

Result: Luton 1, New Brompton 0.