

Football Notes and News.

By "Grasshopper."

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

LUTON v. BRENTFORD.

The Blues secured another victory on Saturday afternoon, when, on the Ivy-road ground, they defeated Brentford by the only goal scored. Seeing that the locals only led by one goal to nil in the first half, when they had the advantage of a strong wind, it would have been no great surprise if they had only succeeded in dividing the points, or if they had even been beaten. On the play, Luton ought to have been at least three goals up in the first moiety—an odd goal was certainly not what they deserved. It may at the same time be conceded that Brentford had 'hard luck,' as they say, once. Though they attacked repeatedly in the first 45 minutes the locals could not beat Williams a second time.

At Brentford this season Luton lost 3-1, so Saturday's win equalises the points. For Luton Pearson played a rather better game, but Jones was the man of the afternoon. Dimmock was also plucky at back. The other men were about at their usual form. Owing to the heavy shower just before starting play, there was not a very large attendance, scarcely 4,000 being present when Brentford kicked off against the wind.

The visitors quickly got away, and at once forced a corner. This was well placed, but McCurdy saved Platt's charge for him out of a ruck of players. Brentford gained a second corner, which Corbett should have converted, but Dimmock was too good for him. Brown was a rare thorn in the home side's defence, his pace being too much for Dimmock and McCurdy. Just here he slipped a fine square centre across, but Hawkes promptly headed it away. Then Luton secured a corner, and from Rigate's centre, Moody headed into the net.

Soon after resuming, Moody came near scoring again, but Williams, diving at full length, brought off a grand save. Brentford were now kept in their own quarters, and but for the grand display in goal by Williams would have been further goals down. Half-time came with Luton leading by the only goal scored.

The second half opened by Luton putting in some hot midfield work. Rankin skimmed the face of the bar with a grand cross-shot. Pearson followed up by almost a similar shot, and a moment later the same player sent inches wide of the post. A combined run by the Brentford forwards took the game to the other end where Platt saved a grand shot from Underwood. The rain upset the play a good deal, but Luton seemed to put up with the bad conditions better than Brentford. Moody just here gave Williams the hottest shot of the match to save, but the custodian was up to it and cleared coolly.

Once more the visitors were forced into a spell of defensive work, in which Watson distinguished himself by his solid display at back. The game had now taken a much better aspect. Both sides were showing clever, fast work, and the ball was taken up and down the field in quick time. Underwood was continually feeding his inside men, but the Luton defence was very strong and spoilt Brentford's chances every time.

Result: Luton, 1 goal; Brentford 0.