

# The Southern League.

## BRENTFORD v. LUTON.

Played at Brentford on Saturday. Result:—

|                 |          |
|-----------------|----------|
| Luton .....     | 2 goals. |
| Brentford ..... | 2 goals. |

The teams were as under:—

Luton—Jarvis; McCurdy and Gregory; F. Hawkes, White, and Jones; Stansfield, Haycock, Menzies, Moody, and Johnson.

Brentford—McIvor; Rhodes and Ewing; Badger, Jay, and Richards; Ryalls, Sugden, Reid, Connelly, and Buxton.

Referee, Mr. G. H. Muir (Southampton).

Unfortunately, Brown was unable to play against his old club, and this caused a re-arrangement of the forward line, Stansfield crossing over and thus allowing Johnson to occupy his old position. Moody was, however, able to resume playing after a month's absence, and thus a serviceable front string was available. The Bees have been going very badly this season, and therefore there were some hopes of Luton improving their away record, although just recently the home team had been doing a lot better. Like the majority of clubs who have been removed from the Cup, Brentford's gates have been very poor recently, and at one period it appeared unlikely that 2,000 spectators would assemble, but just after the start I should judge there would be at least 5,000, which is pretty good, as it was stated the previous week, against Plymouth, only just over £90 had been taken.

Luton were greatly bothered by the sun in the first half; still they put up a good fight, and were quite the equals of their opponents in a really bright game. Just at the start the home forwards were very aggressive, and Sugden in particular got dangerously near to finding the net, one shot which he headed on to the upright being a very near thing. But Luton soon got into their stride, and several fine runs were put in by both wings. Johnson on one occasion beat Rhodes finely and put across a square ground pass. Haycock sent this in hard direct to McIvor, who saved in good style amid cheers. Another centre from Stansfield caused considerable anxiety to the Bees' defence, for the ball was not got away for quite an appreciable time, Moody sending in a couple of good shots, only to have them repelled by McIvor.

Luton forced a couple of corners, and from the second Stansfield drove the ball through with a cross shot, the ball glancing off Ewing's outstretched foot right away from McIvor. This happened after twelve minutes' play. Reid made a good effort following the re-start with a first-time shot from close range, but Jarvis brought off a clever save at the expense of a corner. Still it was only temporary relief, and the home centre-forward getting another opportunity, made no mistake this time with a high drive, and thus the scores were equal once more, the game being some twenty minutes old. From this point to the interval we had many bright bits of play but no further goals, and neither side could complain of the score at this stage.

The first incident after the re-start was a sparkling run put in by Stansfield, and he finished up with a splendidly-judged centre which Menzies made a really good attempt to reach, but Rhodes just managed to head out of goal as Menzies dashed up. It was noticed that Buxton and Connelly had exchanged positions, but it made little material difference to the effectiveness of the line; indeed, on the whole, the forward work of both teams fell off considerably. It is true most of the play took place in the Luton half, but even then Jarvis had comparatively little to do, although he did well to get away a shot from Buxton when closely pressed by at least three of the Brentford players. Again Stansfield put in one hard shot after getting clear which McIvor only just managed to get his hands to, and the game appeared likely to fizzle out rather tamely. Six minutes from time, however, a corner was conceded to Brentford, and almost before anyone realised it, the ball was in the net from Sugden. The players of both teams were taking up their positions at the moment, and the Luton men complain that they were waiting for the usual signal from the referee for the kick to be taken, and were not prepared for the ball coming across. Still the goal was allowed, and everyone thought the game was won by Brentford.

\* \* \*

But almost immediately after the re-start Moody getting the ball from Menzies, had the better of a tussle with Rhodes, and made straight for goal, McIvor being completely beaten with his final shot. Seeing just a chance to secure the long-hoped-for away victory, Luton buckled to in good style, and it was a very close thing for a third goal when Stansfield raced clear away and got in a grand centre. McIvor and Menzies both made for the ball, and although the Brentford goalkeeper just managed to block Menzies, he injured himself, and the game was stopped for quite a couple of minutes for him to recover. It was a daring save, for he practically threw himself at the Luton centre, but it secured his club a very valuable point, and the crowd were thankful for that.

\* \* \*

Jarvis has now been in goal in six Southern League matches and not one has been lost, but it was a near thing for the record being spoilt when the second goal was netted and only six minutes left for play. He was not overworked, but he did everything that could be expected on Saturday. Both McCurdy and Gregory played a strong defensive game, being much safer than in the early part of the season. Without being brilliant, the half-back line also did well, while the forwards were seen to most advantage before the interval.

McIvor, although on the small side, is a good goalkeeper, but the outstanding figure in the Bees' defence was Rhodes, who now appears to have quite recovered from his knee injury, and he proved a tower of strength. His partner, Ewing, did well at times, but appears to be a one-footed player, and if the ball comes awkwardly is rather inclined to miskick. In attack, Ryalls and Reid seem to be looked upon as the ones to be served with the ball, and both these men were well plied by their comrades. Reid, although only coming to Brentford since the commencement of the season, is easily top goal-scorer, and has already placed 12 to his credit.

\* \* \*

By securing the only goal at Leyton, Northampton strengthened their position at the head of the table. The other results were:—Crystal Palace 1, Swindon 1; Queen's Park Rangers 1, Exeter City 1; Brighton 0, Portsmouth 0; Southampton 2, New Brompton 0; Watford 3, Coventry City 1.

\* \* \*