

Football Notes and News.

[By "GOALPOST"].

Southern League.

LUTON DRAW AT BRENTFORD.

By dividing the points Luton Town did very well at Brentford on Saturday. The remarkable thing, however, about the Strawplainers this season is that they are not able to win on foreign soil. The writer knows a gentleman who at the beginning of the season had a little sporting bet against Luton winning a match away from home—in the Southern League, of course—before Christmas. He took the slightest odds, and won. But it was a rather "cheeky" bet, all the same. It is doubtful if the Blues will now bring the two points home with them before Easter. They have Watford well marked. But this by the way.

Last season Brentford divided the nonours with Luton, winning at home 3-1, and losing at Strawopolis 0-1. Last October Luton won 3-1 on the Ivy-road ground, so that this season we have taken three points out of the "Bees."

As will be seen from the teams that lined up, Luton were still without Platt. "Bob" was also absent, White going centre-half. Moody returned to the front line after a month's absence suffering from a kick. The teams were:—

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

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

From the kick-off, the home front string took up the attack, Reid being prominent in the forward line. The ball was quickly on dangerous ground, and Jarvis had to protect his goal in the first minute of the game. Luton retaliated, and crossed the halfway line, but the next incident of interest was another rush upon the visitors' goal, this time Sugden being the prominent forward. He raced down the right and centred the ball, but it was placed a little too forward, so that Jarvis was able to capture it and clear.

Luton first became dangerous when Menzies worked into a good position and shot for goal, but Rhodes intercepted the shot and cleared. Again the ball was placed in the Brentford goal, and McIver cleared from the press of forwards that crowded on him. The visitors managed to pen Brentford in their own half, and took several corners, without result. Luton here showed some excellent combination, and when Stansfield was put in possession of the ball in a convenient spot and registered the first point at short range, the goal was well deserved. This success came after a quarter of an hour's play.

Brentford spurred after this reverse, and had more success. Reid managed to get behind the backs, but made the mistake of shooting straight at the goalkeeper, who caught and saved. He did better shortly after this, when, as a result of some neat work, in which all the forwards had a part, he put the ball well out of the reach of Jarvis, and equalised the score. Rhodes put in some excellent work in the home defence, and McCurdy also showed up prominently at back at the other end of the field.

Luton were pressing, but Buxton brought welcome relief with a smart sprint down the left; he centred the ball, only to find that he had been too quick for the rest, who were not up, and the ball was easily cleared. Shortly before half-time he mulled an easy chance of giving Brentford the lead, and the sides crossed over with the score 1 all.

Resuming, play ruled even for a time, but Luton eventually returned to the attack, and there was some excitement when McIver ran out of his goal in order to clear, but lost possession of the ball to Menzies, who at once directed the ball towards goal-mouth. But Badger was at hand, and racing the ball, he was just in time to save the goal with a flying kick to the wing. Brentford now assumed the upper hand, and pressed vigorously, but could do little beyond this, as the Luton backs defended in sterling fashion. Play was taken to the other end, and Jones sent in a shot, which McIver just saved.

Again Brentford pressed on the attack, and Jarvis had rather a busy time. Richards took a prominent share in this pressure, and excelled in feeding his forwards in a judicious manner. From one of his passes forward Buxton put the ball into the centre, where Ryalls shot for goal and just missed. Time was approaching when Brentford were awarded a corner, and from this Sugden cleverly headed the ball into a good position, and, regaining control, shot the ball into the net in fine style, giving Brentford the lead.

Within a couple of minutes of this success, Luton worked down the field, and Moody received the ball in a good position and made no mistake, scoring for Luton with a good shot. Thus the scores were equalised again. In the short time remaining nothing further of note occurred, an interesting game thus terminating with a draw.

Result: Brentford, 2 goals; Luton, 2 goals.