

FOOTBALL.

The Southern League.

REVIVAL AT LAST.

LUTON IN WINNING VEIN.

LEFT WING'S BRILLIANT WORK.

Had to Have a Penalty.

Luton, who were badly in need of points, entertained New Brompton on Saturday, and succeeded in getting a victory by three clear goals. Bradley appeared at centre-forward in response to the repeated demands that he should have another trial, it being claimed that Menzies is too slow.

The following was the team:

Luton.—Platt; Chapman and McCurdy; F. Hawkes, Jones and R. Hawkes; Brown, Haycock, Bradley, Moody and Stansfield.

New Brompton.—Batcup; Boyle and Nobbs; Hendern, Mavin and Arthurs; Powell, Eames, Whyman, Sheppard and Pickett.

Referee, Mr. W. Chadwick (Blackburn).

"Bob" lost the toss, and the visitors had the advantage of the breeze in the first half. There was a very nice movement in the opening stages, but the ball could not be got across and the chance was lost. A foul on Brown was noticed by the referee, and then Bradley got offside and was duly penalized, to the great disgust of the crowd.

New Brompton forced the play to the other end, but offside again pulled the game up. A very smart run by the Luton left wing ended in a centre by Stansfield, which fell into the hands of Batcup. Nobbs, one of the visitors, had to go off the field, and New Brompton played with ten men for a time.

Hendern kicked Stansfield on the side of the head just as the outside left tried to head the ball, and play was stopped for a few minutes. Brown all but forced a corner.

F. Hawkes ended up a nice attack by sending in a shot which appeared to have the goal at its mercy, but Batcup put up his fist and gave a corner, which was not improved upon.

The ball was carried down to the Luton end, and a centre was put across by Powell. Prickett met it with his head, and the ball crossed the front of the goal, and just missed the opposite post.

A foul was given against Jones, and from the kick New Brompton attacked, but this proved abortive. Pickett received a kick on the jaw, which he did not appreciate.

An exciting bully took place in front of the visitors' goal, and Moody shot the ball high over the bar when it appeared impossible. It was a glorious chance missed, but there was no time for taking aim.

Bradley made quite his best effort of the afternoon. He made tracks for goal with the ball at his toe, but Mobbs came across and gave a corner.

The goalkeeper a moment later caught the ball, just as Bradley dashed up. The centre-forward seemed to have a chance of kicking the ball out of his hands, but Batcup was very quick and threw the ball over the bar from another useless corner. Half-time:

LUTON	Nil.
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NEW BROMPTON	Nil.
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Resuming, New Brompton broke away, but the final shot went wide of the goal. Luton retaliated by forcing a corner, but in the ensuing play a foul was given against Jones.

Moody had hard luck, but fairly stood on the ball, which came across from Brown, and after he had dribbled about the defence had rallied, and he ended by sending wide. Bob Hawkes fell down at a critical moment, and the centre-forward sent wide of goal. Bob gave a corner a moment later.

Stansfield broke away from offside, but was allowed to go on. He forced a corner, which he had to take, and Moody, getting his head to the ball, put it into the net.

Batcup rushed out of goal only for Haycock to put wide of the post. Luton forced the play to the same part of the field, but the goalkeeper saved a shot from Fred Hawkes. A little bit of luck followed, and Luton, from Stansfield, centred from nearly off the line, and Moody put the ball through before Batcup could get at it.

Moody received the ball from Brown, who was fouled in the penalty area, and again headed through, but just at the same minute the referee blew for a foul. The referee awarded the penalty, which Brown took, but placed straight to the goalkeeper.

Luton had the better of the play at this stage, but the ball would not go through the goal. At last Stansfield forced another corner, and, placing well, Jones met the ball with his head and to his great delight saw the ball pass Batcup and enter the net.

It was too late for anything else to happen, and, the whistle blowing for a cessation of hostilities, the score stood:

LUTON	3 goals.
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NEW BROMPTON	Nil.
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Notes on the Game.

BACK TO FORM.

Light blue, generally speaking, was not a colour that was much in the ascendant on Saturday, except perhaps at Luton, where the local eleven terminated their run of bad luck and bad play by a smart victory over New Brompton. There was a refreshing keenness about the home team's work, and they well deserved the honours, the first which have come their way for a matter of six weeks.

Bradley appeared as pivot of the attack in place of Menzies, who has not played a good game for weeks. The styles were different, but it could not be urged that the newcomer was an improvement on his predecessor. He did a lot of aimless rushing, and worried the defence above a little, but he was generally held up before he got really dangerous. Bradley, in fact, appeared to me to be a bit short of training.

The rest of the forwards were lively enough, and with the half-backs in rare fettle they did not want for opportunities. In the first half the football was ragged and crude, but after the interval Luton jumped into their stride and won anyhow.

generally see. Possibly they had taken a leaf out of Northampton's book, and there was some heavy charging in the game, while the tackling was keen. The visitors on one or two occasions responded with shady tactics, and a bad spirit threatened to creep into the game.

Moody was unlucky in that he did not perform the hat trick. Twice he converted perfect centres by Stansfield, and on the third occasion he headed a cross from Brown into the net. The right winger was fouled as he centred the ball, and Referee Chadwick, to my mind, made a mistake in ordering the penalty kick to be taken after a goal had been scored. It was penalising the attacking side for an offence by the defenders, and the fact that Brown failed to score made the matter worse.

Jones crowned a good afternoon's work by heading a third goal, again from a flag kick by Stansfield, whose centres were patterns of accuracy. The centre-half played a useful "telling" game. I use the word "telling" advisedly, for Jones not only plays himself, but issues orders for all and sundry to do likewise. It is a habit he might very well drop. One can imagine that there are players in the Luton team who consider they do not require any instructions which Jones can give. Most people object to being ordered about.

New Brompton had two good chances to score in the first half, but they muddled them away, though once when the ball hit the inside of the upright with Platt well beaten they were unlucky. In the second half Luton always held the trumps, and this revival in form gives one the hope that they will acquit themselves with credit in their Easter matches. Saturday's victory, coupled with the defeats of Coventry and West Ham, has gone a long way to lay the Second Division "bogey."