

Football Notes and News.

[BY "GOALPOST"]

Southern League.

LUTON v. NEW BROMPTON.

PRECIOUS POINTS FOR LUTON.

With such a decisive win over New Brompton on Saturday, Luton have practically made themselves safe against being at the bottom of the League at the close of the season. They were two precious points for the Blues. This year Luton have divided the honours with New Brompton, losing away by the odd goal scored, and now winning at home 3-0. Last year, on the Ivy-road ground, Luton lost, the score being 2-1 in favour of the visitors, but away, Luton won 1-0.

It will be seen that there was a slight reconstruction of the home side. Menzies was dropped, and Bradley was put in as centre-forward. Chapman was again at back with McCurdy. The following were the teams:—

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

New Brompton: Bateup; Boyle, Nobbs; Hendern, Mavin, Arthurs; Powell, Eames, Whyman, Sheppard, Pickett.

About 3,500 spectators were present when Luton kicked off against a stiff breeze. New Brompton opened the attack, but they were speedily repulsed, and Luton got in and appeared dangerous. New Brompton were full of running, and with a little steadiness might have scored early. A free kick was awarded them close in, but it was badly taken, and not long after Platt ran out to intercept a centre from Powell, but missed, and Pickett was presented with an open goal. The last-named had only to trap the ball and score, but he tried to reach the net at the first attempt, and headed wide.

Good half-back play by the home side at length led to a series of attacks on the visitors' goal, but the shooting was a bit scrappy. A fine shot by Bradley was luckily blocked by a Brompton defender, and a good effort by R. Hawkes went over. Moody had the best chance so far, but from short range shot yards over the bar. At half-time the teams crossed over on an equality, neither side having scored.

The second half promised better things when the visitors began to press with improved methods, but they were well held by the home defence. Luton then attacked and forced a corner. This was cleared, and a free kick further relieved New Brompton. The respite was not for long, however, the home forwards coming away in nice style and appearing very dangerous. The shooting was still moderate, both Moody and Bradley missing possible chances.

There was little of interest until the home forwards settled down to methodical play, and after a fine passing run, a corner was forced. The flag-kick was nicely placed by Stansfield, and Moody headed the ball into the net.

Luton continued to attack, and from a grand centre by Stansfield, Moody breasted the ball through for the second goal. The home side had much the better of the game after this, and attacked strongly.

Next, Luton were awarded a penalty, but Brown shot straight at Bateup, who cleared. Up to the finish play was much in favour of Luton, and Bateup was frequently tested. He cleared many shots, some of them rather luckily, but was at length beaten by Jones just on time.

Result: Luton, 3 goals; New Brompton, nil.

Bradley was scarcely an improvement as pivot of the front line; he did a rare bit of bashing about, but generally lacked judgment. All the same, he gave the New Brompton defence a rare bustling. Both Luton's wings appeared a trifle weak, and the half-line scarcely showed up to advantage. McCurdy showed surprising improvement. Platt was scarcely more than a spectator, but his charge had a most lucky escape on one occasion. New Brompton did not display anything like form, and are doubtless in a false position in the League table. On the whole the game was rather a poor one.