

LUTON v. BRENTFORD.

Played at Luton on Tuesday. Result:—

Luton 4 goals.

Brentford 2 goals.

The holiday programme concluded on Tuesday when Brentford provided the opposition and gave entertainment to a crowd of quite 7,000 people. In view of the unfortunate affair between Riley and Smith in the Cup-tie on Nov. 20th, there was some speculation as to whether the former would be included in the Brentford ranks, his suspension having expired, but he was an absentee.

Teams:—

Luton—Jarvis; Chapman and McCurdy; F. Hawkes, Jones, and R. Hawkes; Brown, Quinn, Smith, Johnson, and Stansfield.

Brentford—Ling; Rhodes and Buxton; Richards, Hamilton, and Jay; Bartlett, McCafferty, Rushton, Reid, and Walker.

Referee, Mr. R. A. Stephens (London).

Bob Hawkes again won the toss, and Luton had the assistance in the first half of a good westerly breeze. The Luton team commenced the match without Brown, but before two minutes had gone he appeared on the field, and led an attack on the Brentford end. The ball was crossed to Stansfield, who dribbled down the wing and shot from long range. Ling endeavoured to catch the ball, but failed to hold it properly, and before he could recover possession, Smith had the ball in the net.

The Brentford men protested that Smith had handled, but neither the referee nor the linesmen saw any infringement, and the point was allowed to count to Luton's credit. Naturally there was a strong demand on the part of the crowd for more, but goals against a team like Brentford take more than a minute usually to materialise. Jones was penalised for a foul, but Walker was ruled off-side. Rushton, who was limping when he went on the field, received an accidental kick as he allowed the ball to pass to Reid, but Chapman intercepted.

Smith was the victim of a foul by Jay, and a series of attacks on the Brentford goal resulted. The ball was sent to Brown, who smartly returned it, and Smith headed over the bar. Bartlett and McCafferty quickly changed the venue of operations, but the former centred behind the net. Brown again caused Jay and Buxton trouble, and succeeded in outwitting them both, his centre being headed again by Smith, but into Ling's hands.

Stansfield, on the opposite side of the field,

bustled Richards and Rhodes off the ball, and was considerably assisted by Johnson. The goalkeeper was next seen having a contest with Smith and Quinn for the possession of the ball, but superiority of numbers eventually told, and Quinn passing to Smith, the latter made no mistake and added Luton's second point. Though two goals to the good, Luton were not having quite all the play, and a centre from Walker's foot looked very dangerous. Jarvis handed the ball on to McCafferty, but Chapman gave him no rest and eventually robbed him.

The ball was next seen to strike Bob Hawkes' hand as the Luton player was well in the penalty area, but as it was regarded by the referee as accidental, play was allowed to continue. Walker sent just by the opposite post, and Luton were lucky not to have had a point put up against them. Always working for an opening, Smith ran round several opponents and passed to Quinn, who, from the 18 yards' line shot hard, and the wind carried the ball past Ling and into the net, making a trio of goals for Luton.

Walker missed a comparatively easy chance, and then beat F. Hawkes and put right across the mouth of goal. In the next minute a dash was made by the whole of the Brentford forwards, and Bartlett sent the ball across well. Fred Hawkes charged Reid over in the penalty area, and Mr. Stephens at once pointed for a penalty kick. Rhodes, who is reputed never to have missed such a chance, easily beat Jarvis, and half-time was called with Luton leading by 3 goals to 1, this being the final score in last year's game.

The second half was not so good as the first. Jarvis was early called upon twice, the first time from Bartlett, and the second from Rush-ton, who went to outside-right, with McCafferty at centre and Bartlett at inside. The referee had a few words in Abe's ear for a foul on McCafferty, the crowd hooting the action of the official in charge. The next goal fell to Luton's lot, and was worked for by all the forwards, Johnson beating Ling with a hot shot, simultaneously to being knocked over by Rhodes.

Ling found occupation for his hands from a header by Smith, Stansfield putting in the centre which rendered this possible. Once before in the game F. Hawkes had been pulled up for blocking the ball with his foot whilst his opponent went over, and a second decision on the same lines proved costly to the home side. From the free kick the attack on the Luton goal was concentrated on the Brentford left wing, and working close to the flag, Walker screwed in a centre, and Bartlett scored from very close in.

A last despairing effort was next made by the Brentford men, and Jarvis made a sensational save from McCafferty, the Luton goalkeeper falling and then getting to the ball again and clearing. The last minute of the game provided a little sensation, Smith being bundled about as he was in the penalty area, but nothing fell to Luton, and the game closed with the home side still leading by 4 goals to 2.

The spectator would never have considered that each side had covered a heavy holiday programme. The Luton men gave one of their best Saturday displays, with Smith always on the qui vive for revenge for his Cup-tie treatment. Jones worked hard, Bob Hawkes was exceptionally clever, and F. Hawkes deserved sympathy, for the free kicks which led to the Brentford goals should never have been given. Walker was the fastest of the Brentford forwards, the halves were good, Rhodes was the better back, and Ling proved safe in goal. The shots that scored were beauties. Jarvis was also in his best form. Mr. Stephens kept a firm hand on the players, and at once stopped with vigour any roughness.