

LUTON v. BRENTFORD.

On Tuesday Luton received a visit from Brentford, their conquerors in the English Cup competition. There was a record holiday crowd of about 9,000. A fine game was witnessed, Luton winning 4-2. There was some uneasiness in certain quarters at the prospect of "a row" in the way of retaliation for Riley's behaviour in the Cup match at Brentford. Had there been any disturbance it might have been a serious matter for Luton. In any case "retaliation" would have done no good, as the affair is now long past, though it is true local football supporters possess long memories. To their credit be it said, the Brentford directors did nothing to encourage any disorderly scene; on the contrary by leaving Riley at home they removed the possible source of any probable trouble. However, if there really was any "storm brewing," it fizzled out before the match started. It is true that there was a great deal of booing at some of the referee's decisions, but on the whole it was a splendid orderly crowd.

There was a slight alteration in the home ranks. Moody was not able to turn out, and his place was taken by Johnson. The back line was composed of Chapman and McCurdy. Both teams looked in the pick of condition, Brentford having the distinct advantage in weight. The turf had greatly improved, and played better than one expected, despite a little heavy going.

The visitors were set to face a strong wind, and were soon on the defensive. The Luton front line went down the field in beautiful style. Johnson sent in a brilliant shot, which Ling stopped just under the bar; but the Brentford custodian failed to punch far enough out, and Smith, who was well placed, neatly headed into the net before the game was three minutes old. Encouraged by this early success, Luton went at it hammer and tongs, and gave the visiting backs a hot time of it. Brentford made temporary incursions into the home territory, but Jarvis was never severely tested.

After a quarter-of-an-hour's play, further success fell to the Blues. Brentford were severely pressed, and Smith put the finishing touches to the attack by scoring a fine goal. Quinn soon followed with No. 3. For a time play ruled more even, and the "Bees" were now more frequently on the attack. On one occasion when the visiting forwards looked a trifle dangerous, Fred Hawkes and Jones were guilty of a foul, and the referee promptly awarded a penalty. Rhodes took the kick, and succeeded in reducing Luton's lead. So at half-time the score stood 3-1 in favour of the locals.

The second half was at times even more exciting than the first. In less than 15 minutes, Johnson took a pot shot from a difficult angle, and the ball spun by Ling into the opposite corner of the net. After this play was rather a bit rough, and Jones, who was perhaps the chief offender, was properly cautioned by the referee. Brentford after this made "rings" round their opponents, but they could not score. Eventually, however, McCafferty beat Jarvis with a lightning shot. Still, Luton had a substantial lead, and they succeeded in maintaining it to the end, when the result was:

Luton 4 goals, Brentford 2 goals.

In one sense it was a peculiar game. Away in the field Luton easily held the upper hand, but in front of goal Brentford were always dangerous. It is many a season since Luton's citadel had such a succession of marvellous escapes. Especially was this the case in the second half. How Jarvis's charge escaped time after time must have been a mystery to the crowd. In any ordinary match the home side must have been down two or three goals. It is true that the locals came near scoring a few times, but they did not experience anything like the hard luck that fell to Brentford. Certainly the most prejudiced supporter must confess that the Town were a little lucky to win by so large a margin.