

Football Notes and News.

BRENTFORD ANNEX A POINT.

AN UNSATISFACTORY GOAL.

BY "THE GOALIE."

The match with Brentford on Saturday was the first Southern League game Luton have had at home since November 5th. The conditions were about as bad as they could be. A blustering wind was blowing, and the ground in a few minutes was almost ankle deep in mud. Several times when the ball was in the goal mouth, both defence and attack found it almost impossible to move it more than a few feet. In spite of these drawbacks, however, the game was fairly fast.

The home team were certainly the better after the first twenty minutes, and ought to have annexed both points. The Brentford goal had many narrow escapes, and Ling was in excellent form. Chief interest centred in the performance of the new back, Wightman, of Middlesborough. He was obviously out of training, and rather nervous at the start, but in a short time should develop into a useful defender. He showed a knowledge of tactics which has been rather lacking in the rear division.

Moody scored his eleventh Southern League goal—a typical one—and he now occupies second position among Southern League goal scorers. The point gained was not sufficient to prevent Luton from dropping still lower on the table, but as most of the hardest matches have now been played, this may soon be remedied. Anyhow, Luton ought to pick up three or four points during the holidays.

Luton made a miserable start; Brentford attacked and the outside left shot behind. The goal kick was taken by Wightman, who weakly placed it to Reid, and that player beat Naisby from fifteen yards. A brief attack by Luton was nullified by Moody kicking behind, and a second later a Brentford back used questionable means to clear from a free-kick. Luton gained two corners but both were cleared, and Richards shot just over the bar for Brentford.

Moody tried a long shot, and Smith almost headed in. Fred Hawkes dribbled through but shot weakly. Brentford seemed much more at home on the sticky ground than Luton, and gained two corners, both being cleared. Wightman, who had not been shaping any too well improved considerably and twice cleared by good kicks. A good run by Smith resulted in an abortive corner, and Naisby saved well from close in when hard pressed.

Wightman twice cleared in splendid style, and Smith was given offside when well placed, a very doubtful decision. Brown got well away, and beating the half-back, sent in a grand centre from which Moody scored a clever goal. Luton were now having most of the game, and Smith turned a shot from Fred Hawkes into the net, but he was given off-side. In saving a shot from Fred Hawkes the goalkeeper seemed to kick Stansfield in the back, but the referee ignored the incident. Half-time came with the score—Luton 1, Brentford 1.

A melee in the Brentford goal was followed by a break-away by the visitors, which yielded a fruitless corner. Returning, Smith got literally stuck in the mud when about to shoot, and the opportunity was lost. Brown centred into the goalkeeper's hands, and later almost repeated the performance. Stansfield also put the ball into the goal mouth. A corner kick to Brentford was well placed, but Wightman saved the situation. Luton ought to have scored a minute later, but Smith just missed Brown's centre.

Bob Hawkes tested Ling with a long shot, which the goalkeeper saved. Naisby was loudly cheered for a splendid clearance, and Wightman and Bob Hawkes also shone in defence. In heading the heavy ball, one of the Brentford halves was temporarily hurt, but was able to continue. Ryalls gained a corner for Brentford which was cleared. At this stage it was so dark that the game could hardly be followed.

A magnificent centre from Brown was passing right across the goal mouth, but the goalkeeper dived out, and took the ball off Smith's toe. Both teams made desperate efforts to obtain the winning goal. Moody tried a "header" and Smith dribbled through and shot into the goalkeeper's hands. Time came with the result—Luton 1, Brentford 1.