

Brentford v. Luton.

Played at Griffin Park on Saturday. Result—

Luton 3 goals.

Brentford 2 goals.

The teams were constituted as under:—

Luton—Mitchell; Elvey and Jarvie; F. Hawkes, Frith, and R. Hawkes; Donaghy, Brewis, Simms, Rollinson, and Wilkie.

Brentford—Price; Rhodes and Spratt; A. Barclay, Bentley, and McGovern; Elliott, J. Chapman, Simons, Johnson, and Clark.

Referee, Mr. S. F. Parrett, Dalston.

Both teams were presumably stronger than on the previous Monday, but one or two of the changes on the Luton side at any rate were to give those players who could not be found a place in the first match a chance to show their powers. Both the new-comers on the Brentford side were amateurs, and incidentally this caused the fixture to be honoured by the attendance of certain members of the Football Association Council with a view to the selection of the Amateur side for the first big representative match of the season, which takes place at Millwall within the next fortnight.

The attendance proved very disappointing, particularly as it was the Bees' first match at home. Just before the game commenced there was scarcely a thousand spectators on the ground, but the crowd ultimately swelled to about 2,500. The opening was sensational, for inside two minutes Brentford were a goal up, scored in the easiest manner possible. The home left wing brought the ball down, and in trying to clear Elvey gave a corner kick which was finely placed, and before Mitchell had a chance to rush the ball Simms had headed it clean through into the corner of the net. It was a staggering blow, but the Luton players were not giving up, and Bob Hawkes looked all over a scorer when he was badly fouled by Rhodes when all but clean through. The free kick came to Brewis, but he fired the ball well over the goal when splendidly placed. The game was proceeding in rather leisurely fashion when a sudden change came over the scene as a result of a prompt decision by the referee. Donaghy had made one of his dashes down the field, and the ball was really out of his reach, but as he was going through McGovern kicked him off his feet, and without any hesitation Mr. Parrett gave a penalty kick. It was quite a surprise to the majority of the crowd who had not observed the incident, but the ruling was absolutely a correct one. It was the first time the Luton captain had been placed in the position of selecting the penalty kick artist, and he at once decided to take the risk himself. He made no fuss whatever in the preliminaries, and quietly placed the ball out of the reach of Price, and thus equalised the score. Fred tried to follow his namesake's good example immediately afterwards with a dribble through, but his final effort went just over, although the attempt deserved a goal, and the shot was not a bad one by any means.

Just after this the first wrestling bout of the game took place between Spratt and Donaghy. Exactly what led up to the incident is difficult

to say, for it took place on the far side of the field, but the Brentford back caught hold of the Luton "flier" round the neck and literally pulled him over. Speculation as to what view the referee would take of the matter was indulged in on the grand stand, but he evidently did his best to bring about a better feeling between the players, and did not take extreme measures. The players, however, scarcely profited by these tactics, and fouls were far too frequent for some time, both Jarvie and Rollinson having free kicks awarded against them in quick succession. Certainly, want of keenness could not be charged against the players, and there was a trifle too much inclination to elbow each other, to say nothing of a regular embrace on the part of at least three couples during this period.

A sudden break-away by Elliott led up to another goal for Brentford, for his centre was pounced upon by Johnson, who, however, should have been pulled up for offside, for he was clear of everyone but Mitchell when Elliott passed the ball across. However, he sent the ball into the mouth of goal, and Mitchell falling managed to get his hands to it but could not clear, and Johnson coming on kicked it through while the Luton goalkeeper was lying on the ground. When the players took their places for the re-start, Mitchell was observed to be injured, and the referee called Lawson to attend him on the field. It appears when Johnson scored he actually kicked the ball from Mitchell's hands, and naturally his boot came into contact with the fingers of the Luton goalkeeper, and the latter's finger joints were knocked up, so much so that he could scarcely close his hand, but he remained on the field, although at one time it appeared likely at least a temporary change of goalkeeper would be necessary. Just after this incident, Elvey fell in making a desperate tackle, and he rather badly skinned his elbow joint, but he did not leave the field, although by the manner he carried his arm it was patent he had hurt himself. But half-time was approaching, and when the referee called a halt Luton were still a goal in arrears.

The first incident after the interval was a sharp drive from Wilkie, which hit the side net, otherwise the pace must have taken it through, for it was a good shot, but just a trifle out of range. Rhodes, who had been playing his usual vigorous game, evidently hurt his knee at this stage, but, as in the case of the Luton players, he remained on the field after the usual attention from the trainer. Two corners fell to the Bees, but neither were so successfully placed as the one in the opening minutes of the game. These were followed by two similar events at the opposite goal, but Luton were no more fortunate than their opponents in taking flag kicks in the second half of the proceedings.

But by this time Luton were getting the upper hand, Donaghy in particular causing the home spectators to wonder at his wonderful speed, and as he also improved in his centres he was rather a dangerous customer. Twenty minutes from the re-start he got away in his best style, and the ball was planted well over to the left for Rollinson to flick it through for the equaliser without giving Price the slightest chance. With the improved position brought about by this goal, the Luton attack worried Rhodes and Co. no end, and within ten minutes they took the lead for the first time during the game. Wilkie was the player who led up to the score on this occasion, but Brewis put the finishing touch to the goal.

The Bees never appeared likely to regain the lost ground, for Luton were now all out for a win, and with Donaghy always ready for a dash through, the spectators were rather glad there was only a few minutes to go. The only time the home forwards got within shooting range during the closing stages, Chapman almost equalised matters with a fine cross attempt, which, however, went a trifle wide, and Mitchell was not given an opportunity to show his powers, although it is doubtful if he could have got to the ball at all from the position he was in at the moment.

Luton quite deserved the points taking the game right through, and must be congratulated upon recovering so finely from an unlucky incident so early in the game in a corner kick goal. Mitchell did not have a great deal to do, but he gives his side confidence, and this is something. Elvey quite maintained his reputation, and looks likely to be Luton's first choice at right back. Jarvie, it is evident, has lost nothing of his dash of last season, and if he has a fault it is in getting a little too far up the field as he is inclined to at times, for this leaves a nasty opening if the ball is returned up the field. As a pair, the Luton backs quite held their opponents, whose forwards did not fill the picture quite so much as at Luton on Monday.

Luton's middle division were also seen to great advantage, Frith, for one, doing his best work up to date, and Simons was not given the rope he had at Luton. Bob and Fred Hawkes were both in fine form, and delighted the Lutonians present; and there was quite a respectable number present for the opening away fixture. Donaghy, in the second half, was Luton's most noticeable forward, but for consistent work all through Rollinson must be given the palm. He was the engineer of most of the mid-field movements, and as a wing the left pair were the more effective. Simms played a good game in the centre, but failed to notch his usual goal, and seemed a little disappointed in consequence at the finish. Brewis, without being brilliant, proved his worth by scoring the winning goal, and that is a lot.

The Brentford defence did not present the rock-like appearance it did in the first match, as the score shows, and Rhodes was handicapped in the second half through injury no doubt. Barclay is a big favourite at Brentford, and he works quite as hard as any professional could do, and in his case at least the Bees were stronger than at Luton. Forward, Chapman, the Southal amateur, was scarcely at his best, for he is one of the coming men in Metropolitan circles it is positively given out, and Brentford have been congratulated on all hands on securing his services.