

LUTON'S PUZZLING FORM.

GALLANT WIN AT BRENTFORD.

FOLLOWED BY HOME DEFEAT AGAINST CROYDON.

During the past journalistic week, Luton have won their first away match and lost their first home game. Both were in the Southern Alliance, and on both occasions they deserved to win. The away victory was gained at Brentford on Saturday, and was a triumph for training, Luton lasting better than the home team. In view of Croydon Common's recent good form the match at Luton on Wednesday was looked forward to rather with great interest, and considerable disappointment was expressed at the result.

An Uphill Fight.

LUTON WIN AFTER GAME STRUGGLE AT BRENTFORD.

With a slightly altered team, Luton won their second match of the season on Saturday, when they defeated Brentford on their own ground by 3-2. The fixture was in the Southern Alliance, but both teams played keenly, so that the result cannot be ignored as if it were the score in a mere friendly. The victory is all the more meritorious because Luton were a goal behind at half-time, and deserved to be on the run of the play. The cross-over, however, saw a welcome change, which resulted in the annexation of both points. Perhaps the most notable alteration in the team was the appearance of Donaghy and Brewis on the right wing, instead of Stevens and Wileman. Donaghy is the fastest man in the team, and on Saturday he proved the best forward on the field. Brewis also played well, and the directors are faced with the problem of discovering which one of the seven good men they possess must be left out. Simms' dash and shooting are as valuable as Brewis' brainy spade-work. They cannot both play at centre, and unless one of them is dropped it means that Wileman—an invaluable player—must be left out. The left wing is playing so well that it is not likely to be touched. The other alteration was at left-back, Jarvie appearing in Robinson's place. The teams accordingly turned out as follows:—

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

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

For a while Brentford played a fairly steady game, their forwards getting away on several occasions. They, however, spoiled their work at the finish, once losing quite a good chance, while on another occasion the Luton goal had a narrow escape, Elvey clearing in a clever manner. Little was seen of the Luton attack, and the home goal was seldom menaced. Elliott was now prominent with a nice wing run and centre. Simons got his head to the ball, but Mitchell saved cleverly. The game was contested with great spirit—perhaps too much of it—and the Luton men were often penalised. Bentley was always prominent, his tackling and judicious distribution of the ball having a lot to do with Brentford's superiority. Luton were rarely dangerous, and at length the Brentford attack succeeded. In saving a shot by Simons, Mitchell, the Luton goalkeeper, fell, and Johnson, rushing up, and hooking the ball from his arm, scored. Later Elliott nearly added a third point, his shot swerving just outside. However, Brentford led at the interval by 2 to 1, and quite deserved their advantage.

On resuming Luton showed better form, and a slip by Spratt let Donaghy in, but his shot went wide. Keeping up the pressure, Wiikie was responsible for a better cross shot, which only missed by a yard. It took Brentford some time to settle down, but they eventually got going again, and the Luton goal was hard pressed. Once the ball was got into the net, but the point was disallowed for offside. Mitchell was still kept busy, and did well to save from Johnson, though he conceded a corner in doing so. The visitors were now confidently attacking, and their efforts were at last rewarded by a good goal scored by Rollinson. Brentford now played with redoubled energy, and the ball was constantly kept in the vicinity of the visitors' goal. However, the advantage was nullified by weak finishing and wild shooting. The Brentford defence was caught unprepared after thirty-two minutes' play, and Brewis easily scored, putting Luton ahead for the first time. Brentford's defence was still being harassed, the Luton forwards continuing to play with great dash and no little skill. In the closing stages, Brentford tried hard to equalise, but Luton never looked like losing the lead, and, indeed, during the last twenty minutes, the game was chiefly in their hands, Brentford being clearly outstayed. Result:—

BRENTFORD 2, LUTON 3.

The game opened in sensational fashion, for a corner forced by Clark on the left was neatly placed by this player, and Simons headed through after two minutes' play. The teams settled down to a fast game. A free-kick close in nearly brought about an equaliser, the shot from Bob Hawkes being brilliantly saved by Price. Some capital combination was witnessed among the home forwards, Chapman and Elliott repeatedly giving the Luton backs some anxious moments. A fine movement by the visitors looked certain to produce a goal. Simms, however, was somewhat vigorously brought down in the penalty area, and a penalty was awarded. Bob Hawkes took the kick, and Price had no chance of saving.

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The conditions were favourable, there being little wind, but the play at no point rose above a moderate level, and at times it degenerated into roughness, the referee having more than once to admonish players. The displays of bad temper were unfortunate, quite spoiling the pleasure of the match. The result was that the men did not do themselves justice, and for the most part the ball was kicked about in an uncertain manner, the forwards especially failing to control the ball. After beginning in a fairly promising manner, Brentford went to pieces, particularly in the second half, and altogether disappointed their supporters. As the match was played, Luton were a shade the better side, but there was not much to choose in a very indifferent and unsatisfactory exhibition. There were about three thousand spectators present.
