

BRENTFORD v. LUTON.

Played at Griffin Park on Saturday. Result:—

Brentford nil.

Luton nil.

The teams were as under:—

Brentford — Price; Fells and Spratt; A. Barclay, Bentley, and McGovern; T. Kent, J. Chapman, R. Sloley, Simons, and Hendren.

Luton—Mitchell; Elvey and Robinson; F. Hawkes, Frith, and R. Hawkes; Stevens, Wileman, Simms, Brewis, and Wilkie.

Referee, Mr. R. W. Bussey, Norwich.

The programme at Brentford contained a sort of valedictory address to their supporters, and judging from the tone of the remarks they were not thought to have any real chance of promotion this season, although they were hoping to beat Luton for this last match at home. But as the sequel shows, they failed to accomplish the task. It was stated that their first season's experience had taught valuable lessons that would assist them next season. It had been found that the kind of football required at Griffin Park and on Welsh grounds is totally different, the grounds at Llanelli, Tonypandy and Newport being specially mentioned as nothing better than spongy bogs, while Mardy and Ton Pentre were composed of clinker and breeze, with no soil, and freely sprinkled with broken glass, pots, and other dangerous matter. Apparently Trebarria and Barry were visited when the conditions were better than when Luton appeared there, for no mention is made of either.

It was reported that the average Southern League gates had been very little less than that of the previous season, with the important difference that there were four short, and this shortage of fixtures had told its tale. However, it was recorded with evident pleasure each man had received his wages at the proper time, which had not always been the case in some previous seasons, while the profit from the programmes themselves had reached a record and amounted to over £80, a figure which seems very insignificant beside that of their near neighbours at Stamford Bridge, where for several years now the profits have gone over £1,000.

The five or six hundred Lutonians who filled the stand were rather surprised at the formation of the Luton front line, as it was not generally known on Friday that Rollinson and Hoar were rather badly injured against Stoke: the former's leg was very painful; indeed, he did not make the journey. Hoar, however, did go, but thought it would be safer not to play and thus Wilkie again figured at outside left after a prolonged absence from the Southern-League team. There was also considerable doubt as to whether Bob Hawkes would be able to stand the game, his knee troubling him, but expert attention from Billy Lawson in the dressing-room decided him to turn out, and at the finish the trainer's opinion that he would be able to last the full ninety minutes was amply confirmed, for Bob stated he had felt little trouble at all at the finish of what was the hardest game of the season.

The Bees' officials were lamenting the fact that Rhodes, who had a run against Aberdare, did not consider it would be safe for him to play, but they were hoping much from the inclusion of R. Sloley at centre-forward, who, by the way, is an old comrade of E. J. Dodd, as they figured as a wing for Ealing in the A.F.A. two seasons ago. The Cantab netted the ball three times on Good Friday against Aberdare, and his dash was expected to prove useful on Saturday. It will be noticed that Brentford had no fewer than four amateurs in their team on Saturday, three of them in the forward rank, which is quite a large proportion in League football, although Glossop have once or twice had as many on their side in the English League.

No one would have thought both teams had been engaged in a League tussle the previous day, although, of course, Luton had been the much more seriously tried of the pair, for the majority of the men on both sides never spared themselves in the slightest. Right from the kick-off it was a rare struggle for goals which never came, and it was perhaps fitting this should be the result, for the defenders of both teams played a fine game, and there could not be pointed out a really weak spot among the halves or backs, while the fact that the ball never beat either Mitchell or Price proves the goalkeepers made no mistakes.

Elvor had the more dangerous wing to contend with, but with the ever-ready assistance of Frith, who fell back with fine judgment time after time, he held Hendren and his partner in check. Robinson's big clearances were greatly appreciated by the Lutonians, and as a pair they have never done better service to Luton. Frith has already been referred to as a third back, but he also acted as policeman to the amateur centre-forward very efficiently, and on his flanks Bob and Fred Hawkes did their part nobly.

body.

The alterations in the front rank did not make for strength, or Luton would have made promotion certain on Saturday. Simms was rather nonplussed at times by the manner Fells played the McCracken game by throwing his opponents offside, and did not get within shooting range quite as often as he usually does. Stevens got a knock early in the game and also a nasty cut near the eye, and was not so good as he has been in several matches this season, although he never gave up for want of trying. Wilkie did not finish well except very occasionally but he put across a fine square centre late in the game, which might have given Luton the victory if Brewis had shot a trifle harder. But the miss of the match on the Luton side was in the first half, Wileman sending the ball over the bar when any Lutonian present would have been prepared to lay heavy odds on the Luton inside right scoring from a pass by Stevens, who had been allowed to go on from what seemed an offside position. Therefore, it would have been a bit rough on the Bees if the centre had been converted. Fells was the better back of the Brentford pair, and he tackled and kicked in fine style, although his partner also played well. Barclay put in almost as many shots as any of his forwards, while Bentley and McGovern never gave the Luton forwards the least bit of rope. Forward the Brentford line was pretty much on a par with Luton, although the visiting vanguard did not possess quite so dangerous a player as Hendren. On the opposite wing Kent did good work, but was not so well fed as his comrade at outside left. Simons, working hard to get through, had the best chances in front of goal, and once actually headed over the bar from two yards range, with Mitchell quite helpless. Chapman was not often in evidence, and does not appear to be doing quite so well as earlier in the season. At the finish the Brentford officials expressed themselves as quite satisfied their chance was gone, and wished Luton the best of luck in the First Division.