

Football Notes and News.

[By "GOALPOST."]

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

LUTON'S POOR DISPLAY AGAINST READING.

The high opinion which local spectators had formed of the Luton team, after their fine display against Norwich City on the Wednesday previous, was to some extent qualified after the result of Saturday's encounter with Reading, when the Blues only succeeded in effecting a draw. True, opinion slightly differed; while some felt that Luton deserved to win others fancied that Reading deserved to do more than share the points, on the afternoon's form. But perhaps a draw was satisfactory to both sides.

The complaint was not that Luton only succeeded in effecting a draw—dissatisfaction was expressed that the locals gave such a comparatively poor display. The side, especially the forwards, were as weak and ineffective on Saturday as they were brilliant on Wednesday. After seeing them play against Norwich, one might have imagined that Luton had got a formidable team, though naturally deprecating a hasty conclusion. Now, however, satisfaction is by no means general with the combination.

Perhaps there is something in the fact that Luton never do play a decent game at home against Reading. Saturday's match was no exception to the rule. But if the Town do give a poor show against the Biscuit team, they generally bag the two points. Last season the game against Reading was one of the poorest seen on the Ivy-road ground, but Luton managed to win 3-1, though in the return match at Reading, the Blues lost 3-0.

It is doubtful if we shall see a worse display at Luton this season than that of Saturday afternoon. Play was especially poor in the first half. True, one or two things militated against Luton. In the first place, R. M. Hawkes was absent, as the captain is at present with the English amateur team in Sweden. Dimmock was chosen to fill the vacancy. It was not likely that the local lad would do justice to the new position, and though he tried every inch, Dimmock was really the weak point on the home side.

But that did not account for the weakness of the attacking line. The same string of forwards were played as on Wednesday, but their efforts were most disappointing. They seemed to be all the time at "sixes and sevens." Bradley, who we must recognise, did not come to Luton as a centre-forward, again deputised Menzies, but as a pivot he was not a success. Bradley did plenty of dashing about, but he was more often amongst the backs than in the front with his partners. Haycock, too, was guilty of some selfish play, though Brown and Johnson played the passing game very well. The fact was, the centre point being weak, some of the wing passes went begging.

As hinted, the first half was almost devoid of any point of interest. It was not until just on half time, when Moody opened the score for Luton, that the players began to waken up. Moody, who was almost 30 yards out, hooked the ball into the net with an oblique shot. It was truly a magnificent goal, and gave Newbigging, the custodian, no time to save.

In the second moiety, play was for a time a little better, though it was never at all exciting. The venue of play was being frequently transferred. Eventually, Jarvis, who had ably defended his charge, had to admit defeat to Terplin, the Reading centre-forward. Shortly afterwards, Wilkes, the visitors' left back, handled in the penalty area. Jones took the kick, and of course, had no difficulty in giving Luton once more the lead. The Blues now had the game in their own hands, though Reading were frequently on the attack. During one of these rushes, Leonard beat Jarvis, a few minutes to time, and the game ended in a draw of two goals each.

The home defence was really to blame for the visitors' last goal, despite the fact that McCurdy showed better form than on Wednesday, while Gregory also did better. Still, as was admitted, perhaps after all Luton had little to complain at in dividing the honours. Let us hope that at Southampton on Saturday our forwards will show greater cohesion and combination.