

Football Notes and News.

[BY "GOALPOST."]

LUTON DRAW AT READING.

In the Southern League, at Reading, on Saturday afternoon, Luton did exceedingly well in effecting a draw. This season the Berkshire team have almost constituted a record in regard to draws; if one mistakes not, Saturday's draw was Reading's twelfth since the opening of the season. Last year the "Biscuit" men divided the points with Luton, winning at home 3-0, but losing on the Ivy-road ground 1-3.

For Saturday's match the Blues made one or two changes on their side. For instance, Tyldesley partnered Gregory at back; White was in his old position of centre-half, Jones taking "Bob's" place at left half. Stansfield was again on the left wing along with Moody, while Brown and Haycock constituted the other wing, Menzies being at centre-forward.

The ground was in fine condition, considering the recent weather. Luton soon worked down, and Stanfield centred to Menzies, who shot in, but Newbigging saved splendidly. Reading retaliated, and Wheatercroft received the ball in a good position, but hesitating too long, he lost possession. The Luton players took up the running, and Moody dropped in a shot which Newbigging tipped over. Once again play was transferred, and Platt saved well from Burch. Next Burch received a nice pass from Wheatercroft, and looked like running through, but lost possession. The next minute he tested Platt with a beauty, and Leonard missed by inches.

Luton got away on the right, but Brown finished badly. A miskick by Smith looked dangerous, but nothing resulted, and then Huggins transferred play with a fine run. His final shot, however, was safely disposed of. At length the persistence of the home team was rewarded when Platt failed to clear effectively from Huggins, and Wheatercroft scored. Straight away Luton forced a corner, from which Haycock equalised. This came after after thirty-five minutes' play. Till half-time Reading had the best of the game, and were attacking continuously, and it was only by the narrowest shave that the Luton goal escaped. The score at half-time was Reading 1, Luton 1.

Resuming, play again ruled in Reading's favour, though neither side succeeded in giving their best. The exchanges for a considerable time were tame and uninteresting, the players seemingly wishing to store up their energies for the final excitement. This began when Haycock, running out of his position, got the ball, and with a long shot which deceived Newbigging, placed Luton ahead.

The game now became exciting, the Reading players evidently saw that their record for drawn games was in some danger, and they rallied again and again to restore the balance. A nice pass from Burch gave Wheatercroft the required opportunity, and at close range he was able to beat Platt and equalise the score.

Reading attacked furiously in order to be able to record a victory for a change. In fact, Wheatercroft put the ball in the net, but he was ruled offside. Huggins, too, completely beat the goalkeeper with a low drive, but the ball struck the post and stopped dead on the goal line and refused to roll over it. Reading took several corners, from one of which Leonard should have scored, but did not. Platt also saved time after time in brilliant fashion, and thus Reading preserved their record for drawn games, this making their twelfth, and the game ended in a draw of 2 goals each.

It must be confessed that Luton were a trifle lucky in sharing the points, and it may seem hard that Reading have had to make up for the "beastly" luck we have had once or twice away this season. Luton's defence was weak, and the halves did not shine to advantage, while the forwards were well held in check. Platt did wonders in goal, but he was very fortunate once or twice. Had the Blues lost on Saturday they would have dropped to seventh place from the bottom of the League.