

FOOTBALL NOTES and NEWS

By "GOALPOST."

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

LUTON'S TWO POINTS AT READING.

On Saturday Luton Town bagged a brace of points at Reading, the Blues winning by the only goal scored. It must be admitted that so far as obtaining the goal was concerned, Luton were distinctly lucky. However, it is not often a bit of good fortune comes the way of the Strawhatters, and they will doubtless have plenty of hard luck to make up for it before the season is very old.

It will be remembered that last season the teams drew on both occasions when they met, the score being 2-2 at Reading and also 2-2 at Luton. It had been rumoured that the Biscuit town had got a vastly improved team this season, and naturally Lutonians were not very confident as to the result of their team's visit to Berkshire, especially after the form shown in the Norwich match. However, the weather conditions were very unfavourable, and anything like scientific football was entirely out of the question.

Luton played exactly the same team as did duty the previous Wednesday. The home side, too, were literally at full strength.

The Strawhatters opened the attack, and the right wing bore down on O'Donnell's charge, but the custodian got in a lucky kick and so saved a dangerous situation. For a considerable time after this, Reading was having by far the better of the game. Martin, the outside right, was giving some trouble, his centres always causing anxiety to the Luton defence. Once he gave a splendid pass to Wilson, the centre-forward, and that player looked like finding the net, but Hedley once more came to the rescue, and Luton breathed again. The check to Reading was only temporary, however, and a moment later Shepherd, Wilson, and Reynolds were all after goals, giving the Luton backs an anxious time. Birch, Reading's outside left, had a good chance, but failed badly.

The Blues now took up the running, and the left wing easily beat West. Either Stansfield or Moody looked like scoring, but Bartholomew got back, and succeeded in clearing. However, Luton again bore down on the Reading lines, only to see "Brown" shoot wide. Thrice in quick succession was C'Dornell called upon to clear his charge, but the custodian was quite safe.

Play after this ruled more even, and was withal rough at times. Now it was Luton's turn to be once more on the defensive. Birch this time led the attack, but the only result was a fruitless flag kick. Hedley was playing a fine game, and smartly accounted for the combined movements of Martin and Shepherd. Just on the interval, however, the visitors were a bit fortunate in avoiding defeat. Reynolds had the Luton goal practically at his mercy, but a lucky "header" of Chapman's saved the situation, and half time arrived with a blank score.

On resuming, Moody, who had been carried off the field in the first half, returned to the Luton ranks. During the early stages the visitors' goal had a marvellous escape, the tripping of Bartholomew alone saving Jarvis from being defeated. Still, the Reading forwards swarmed round their opponents' citadel, and could do practically everything but find the net.

It was shortly after this that Luton's bit of luck came. The Blues were close to the Reading goal, when the locals appealed for a foul, and practically ceased playing. The referee, however, took no notice. "Brown" passed to Smith, and that player tapped the ball into the net. The point, however, had to stand. It was unfortunate for Reading, because they evidently understood that the foul was so flagrant that they were to have a free kick, seeing that Henderson was prostrate on the ground when the leather was netted. The crowd soon showed their dissatisfaction, but if there was any complaint at all it was against the linesman and not the referee, who was in a bad position at the exact moment to judge the foul. The linesman on the other wing did put his flag up, but the referee apparently did not see it.

After this piece of bad luck, Reading took up the game vigorously, but the shooting was bad. O'Donnell saved a certain goal by rushing out and robbing Moody. Subsequent play was rather rough. Birch beat the home forwards and shot splendidly. Jarvis diverted luckily with outstretched hand. Still pressing, Reading were awarded a corner, and Jarvis was much hustled. Luton took up the running, but could not add to their score, and eventually won by the only goal of the match.