

Football Notes and News.

By "THE GOALIE."

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

THE LAST AWAY MATCH.

If Luton win their last match of the season next Saturday, when they entertain Leyton, they will finish with an average of a point per match. Although this is rather disappointing in view of the splendid form displayed at the opening of the season, yet it is satisfactory enough, considering that Luton is a team of limited resources, both of men and money. This season, the "gates" have shown considerable improvement on previous years, and consequently the close season is not regarded with such dread as usual. The three holiday fixtures realised about £400, thanks to the unwonted good nature of the clerk of the weather.

The chief topic at this time of the year in football circles is the question of "signing on." It is an open secret that efforts will be made to retain most of the present players, and negotiations are at present in progress with some of them. Three players have been signed up to the time of writing, and these are Potts, Stephenson and Stansfield. Their retention will give nothing but satisfaction to the supporters of the club, for all three are players who have shown their worth. Stansfield is now entering upon his fourth season with Luton, and he is always a good trier, while Potts' dash, and Stephenson's opportunism are invaluable to a team.

Saturday's match at Brentford attracted only a moderate attendance on account of the attraction at the Crystal Palace, and there were only about 3,000 spectators present. The only absentee from Luton's side was Bob Hawkes, whose place was taken by the indefatigable Johnson, but matters were balanced by the fact that Brentford were without their chief marksman, Reid, Sibbald playing at centre-forward. The game was nothing to enthuse over, and was marked by the typical dullness of the last match of the season. Although Brentford deserved their victory, Luton were unlucky in losing the services of Johnson in the first half.

The visitors were the better team in this half, and Lashbrooke and Stansfield were responsible for many promising openings. The former tested Ling with a hard drive which the Brentford goalkeeper did well to save. Two corners were forced by the left wing, but these were unproductive, and a little later, Luton's chances were materially discounted by a nasty injury to Johnson. After a temporary incursion by the "Bees" had been repulsed, Lashbrooke sent in a magnificent cross shot, but Ling made a wonderful save, and Wightman almost scored with a free kick. Another promising shot was made by Stephenson, but only a goal kick resulted, and at the interval the score sheet was blank.

Brentford improved in the second half, and had a greater share of the play than the visitors. Wightman and Potts were fortunately in good form, and kept the score down to a single goal. This was of a lucky character, and was scored about midway through this half. Bartlett centred the ball from near the corner flag, but owing to the wind the ball swerved towards the goal, and in trying to clear, Naisby had the misfortune to knock the sphere against the goal post, whence it rebounded into the net. Brentford now attacked hotly, but they were very weak in front of goal, and Naisby was rarely troubled. This was due to the fine defensive work by Wightman and Potts, whose success at times incensed the spectators, although these players were perfectly fair in their work. Towards the close, the game deteriorated into a very lifeless display, and everybody welcomed the final whistle, when the score stood:—

BRENTFORD 1, LUTON 0.