

Football.

[By CRUSADER].

The game on Saturday bore out the impression that was given by the Southern League and Southern Alliance tables—that Luton and Croydon are very much of the same strength. The fact that only goal average gave Croydon the lead of Luton in the Southern League, and that Luton would have topped the Alliance table but for the Common having played two more matches, invested the contest with a lot of interest, and it was a great pity that the weather was so atrocious as to lower the gate and to make the pitch resemble a mud-flat before the game ended. As it was, however, about 3,000 people attended. The majority, of course, sought shelter in the stands, but many, wrapped in mackintoshes, peered between umbrellas to watch the struggle in the mud.

The dulness of the afternoon led to the game being started five or ten minutes before time, and had not this been done, there is very little doubt but that the match would have had to be abandoned owing to bad light. If Luton could have been sure of leading by as many goals, no doubt the second gate would have been very acceptable to the Club funds, but they had to be content with one gate and two points, which, after all, may prove more valuable than two gates and one point. It was certainly a near go, however, towards the end, and very few people could have distinctly seen the scoring of Croydon's goal. It was in the last second or two of the match, when everyone thought Luton were coming off with a clear three-goal lead. Still, Croydon deserved to net that once, at least, for they gave Luton a good game. Yenson, their centre-half, was Croydon's outstanding man for his all-round play. About midway in the first half he collided with Stephenson, and both injured their heads. Stephenson had to leave the field for a time, but he afterwards got two of Luton's goals, the second of which came out of a struggle near the goal between Stephenson and Willemans and the goalkeeper. Worth was the first to score, and thus added another goal to his credit. It is noticeable how his cleverness in tricking men exposes him to the danger of being fouled by his inferiors. It's a pity that some players, when fairly beaten, cannot take the beating like men.

Should next Saturday be fine, it ought to give a much better opportunity of comparing the two teams, for one expects Croydon to be keen on wiping off this defeat, even though there are not "promotion points" at stake. Last Saturday's game, not unnaturally, contained a good deal of miskicking, for even if a player could manage to get a firm footing, the ball was in a terrible state. Potts, however, was very sure in his kicking.

The most brilliant bit of work of the match was by Abbott. Polson got through and put in a fine low shot, which was travelling to the inside of the farther post, when Abbott flung himself at it and just reached it with his hands in time to deflect it. In the next few seconds he cleared a difficult dropping ball. Abbott is proving himself a splendid goalkeeper. The home half-back line did well, and Fred Hawkes had a notable share in bringing about Stephenson's first goal. The forward line still continues triumphant. Willemans was played at outside-right in the place of Rogers. I understand that the dropping of Rogers was nothing to do with his play, but because it is quite necessary that Luton shall have a forward line well settled down for the Cup ties, and of course Rogers would be ineligible to take part in these matches, for he has already played in the Cup for the Clarence.

Luton now go up second in the table, and the race for promotion promises to be a decidedly interesting one. Southend, at home, beat Pontypriidd by 2-1 on Saturday, and the table reads:—

	Goals.						
	P.	W.	L.	D.	P.	A.	Pts.
Cardiff City	7	6	0	1	15	4	13
Luton Town	6	4	1	1	13	8	9
Southend	5	3	0	2	7	4	8
Swansea	4	3	0	1	5	2	7
Croydon	6	3	2	1	10	8	7
Pontypriidd	5	2	3	1	7	6	5
Aberdare	3	2	1	0	6	3	4
Newport County	5	2	3	0	6	6	4
Treharris	6	2	4	0	6	14	4
Mardy	7	1	5	1	12	16	3
Llanelli	4	1	2	1	5	7	3
Mid Rhondda	8	0	6	2	4	13	2
Ton Pentre	4	0	3	1	2	7	1