

FOOTBALL NOTES AND NEWS

By "Goalie."

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

LUTON'S FOURTH DEFEAT.

PROMOTION PROSPECTS VANISHING.

In defeating Luton in the Second Division of the Southern League at Selhurst, on Saturday, by the decisive margin of 4 goals to 2, Croydon Common seriously affected the "Strawplaiters'" chance of promotion. It was the fifth meeting between the sides, the "Robins" having been successful on three occasions, and Luton once, the remaining game having been drawn. There were no other results in the Southern League on Saturday with any bearing on the championship, as Southend's visit to Newport was rendered abortive by the state of the County's ground.

The character of Saturday's game was reflected by the final score. Luton were well served in attack, but the defence was generally slow and erratic, and failed to check the nippy Croydon forwards. M. Price, a burly amateur appeared at centre-forward for Luton, and led the visitors' forwards with skill and judgment. He distributed the ball well, too, while he shot with accuracy. Wileman also did a lot of smart things. Croydon Common shone in every department. Little and Hutchins, the backs, played so well that Newton was rarely troubled in goal, but on one occasion he made a bad mess of a centre from Stephenson, and this presented the visitors with their second goal.

At half-back Croydon were immeasurably superior. Yenson was in remarkable form, and, with Bushell playing brainy football in the centre and Pace a rare spoiler on the left, the line played havoc with the best-thought-out movements of the Luton attackers, who as already stated, were badly supported by their middle line. The home forwards gave a brilliant display of bewildering footwork. Chester's cleverness on the extreme right was a revelation, and besides scoring two splendid goals, he put in an enormous amount of clever wing play, in which he was well served by Allman, whose unselfishness and accurate passes were features of the game.

The Common set a smart pace at the outset, and Abbott had to save shots from Allman and Page. He also made a fine clearance, following a corner, which enabled the visitors to break right away. This dash proved expensive to the home team, for Little was penalised for a foul, and from the free kick Wileman scored easily. The home forwards played resolute football following this, and eventually Chester equalised with a brilliant shot. Croydon came again from the restart, and Page gave them the lead after Abbott had failed to clear from Upex. At the interval the Common led by 2 goals to 1, and throughout the second half they were always on the top. Early on Chester scored another fine point, Allman adding a fourth shortly afterwards. In the closing stages Croydon eased up, and Luton were seen more in the picture. Newton cleared a splendid shot from R. Hawkes, but badly misjudged a centre from Stephenson, and Bob Hawkes easily scored. Result:—

CROYDON COMMON 4, LUTON 2.