

FOOTBALL NOTES AND NEWS

By "Goalie."

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

EXCITING STRUGGLE FOR PROMOTION.

LUTON DRAW WITH LLANELLY.

So close is the struggle for promotion, that the fact that Luton could only draw at Llanelly may have a serious bearing upon their chances, especially as Swansea drew at Cardiff. Southend were not playing, but Croydon visited Newport County—where Luton fared so disastrously—and won by the odd goal in three, and there is a possibility of them becoming likely candidates for honours. When the teams met at Luton the Scarlets lost by 2 0, but whereas Luton had gone back a deal since, the play of Llanelly had shown a decided improvement, and the locals were confident of avenging the reverse on Saturday. The heavy rains had left the playing area in a heavy condition, which was calculated to favour the home side. Both teams were at their strongest available strength, and there was a good crowd present when they lined out. Both Jarvie and Holland turned out for Luton.

Llanelly opened in sensational style, and the first minute's play nearly saw the downfall of the Luton goal, Bateman bringing off a brilliant save from Pain after Freeman had failed to get hold of Osborne's centre. Luton took up the running, and a free-kick close in against Peters for holding, gave them a chance, but Capel held Stephenson, and, driving across to the right wing, Fuge raced down and skimmed the bar. Bob Hawkes led a raid on Bailiff, and the Welsh international had to concede a corner to clear the danger. In the next minute the home goal was again threatened through good work by Worth, and Smith was just a second too late to turn the transfer to account. The Scarlets' left wing got the better of Jarvie, but Potts cut across when Bird looked like going through. At the other end Bailiff caught cleverly from Holland.

Goss got away cleverly from Bob Hawkes, and Llanelly got down, but Jarvie was faster than Fuge. The Luton forwards were under a disadvantage in having to do all their work in a quagmire, but the Scarlets' backs were none too safe, and Bailiff was kept much more on the qui vive than Bateman. The visitors got away on the left, and Bailiff saved from Holland, while James headed away a dangerous cross by Stephenson. With so much depending upon the result the visitors played with great dash, but the home defence held out doggedly, though once Bailiff had to run out a dozen yards to stop Worth. A mis-kick by Potts let in the Llanelly attack, and Pain was unlucky in having a shot cannon off Jarvie when Bateman was beaten. Stephenson threatened danger to Bailiff, but Peters cut across and kicked clear from Smith.

Considering the heavy state of the ground, the play was very fast, but it was of the kick and rush order, the ground defeating the attempts at combination. Luton were attacking when a clever move by Martin led to Llanelly scoring. Fuge took the ball down, and, drawing Jarvie and Fotts, fell forward for Freeman to race in and beat Bateman. Encouraged by this success, the Scarlets had the better of the play on the kick off, and Pain missed a fine chance, sending wide with only the keeper to beat. Worth was ever a thorn in the Llanelly defence, and, leading a raid, he beat Goss and Peters, and dropped the ball right in the goal mouth, but Bailiff was safe. Once again the Luton left-winger drove the ball across, and this time James came to the rescue. At the interval, Luton were a goal behind.

Luton had the wind with them on the cross-over, and they early took advantage of it, a balloon by James losing ground and letting in Wileman, but Peters stopped the Luton sharp-shooter. Bird got the better of Jarvie, and was penalised for fouling the winger, and Bateman had to fist away from the free kick. Bob Hawkes transferred play, and Peters pulled up Worth, but only at the expense of being penalised. The visitors set up a hot attack, and after Peters had been temporarily laid out Bailiff used great judgment in running out and punching away from Holland. Clear of the backs he ran in, and, with only Bateman to beat, sent yards wide. After Jarvie had saver from Bird, at the expense of a corner, Bateman turned the ball round the post from Fuge. There was any amount of spirit in the home attack at this stage, and Luton were lucky in not being a couple of goals down.

Smith tried a surprise shot at the other end but Bailiff was not to be caught napping. A minute later, Payne, after breaking through in brilliant style, again sent wide of the post, with only the keeper to beat. Bateman next got a shot from Osborne. Jarvie was finding Bird too big a handful, and continually fouled the clever left winger to prevent him breaking through. After a long spell of defending a miskick by Peters let the visitors in, and Holland, fastening on to the ball, made the scores equal with a half-slow drive that gave Bailiff no chance. With the possibility of two very valuable points the visitors played a dashing game on the re-start, and for some time there was only one team in it. Stephenson led a raid from which the home goal had a miraculous escape. Holland got to the cross and drove hard and true for the mark. Bailiff was beaten but the ball struck the cross-bar, and James kicked away. At the other end Bateman twice saved cleverly from free-kicks. Result:—

LLANELLY 1, LUTON 1.