

FOOTBALL.

LUTON DEFEATED AT WATFORD.

SEVERAL MEN CRIPPLED.

Luton played the return match with the Watford Club on Saturday and sustained a reverse by two goals to nil. Despite the gloom which prevailed in the morning the fog lifted about midday, and except for a haze the weather was comparatively clear. There were about 3,000 people present watching the following teams appear to the whistle of Mr. E. G. Landragin:—

Luton: Ord; Lindsay and McCurdy; Clifford, Williams and Garrett; Durrant and F. Hawkes, Blessington, Tierney and E. Dimmock.

Watford: Hammett; Cother and Nidd; Sharp, Good and Jeffrey; Price and Wilcox, Parkinson, Allan and E. A. Varley.

The pace at the start was terrific, Watford going off at a great speed and Luton not being far behind. The Luton forwards worked their way down, and Blessington had a chance, though a poor one, which he did not accept, the ball going over the bar. The homesters put in some foul tactics, Williams being the victim. Lindsay took the kick and the result was an incursion into the visitors' territory, affording McCurdy an opportunity of opening the eyes of the Watfordians by a good clearance. Luton's left wing forced the play, and a tussle between Dimmock and Cother ended in a win for the "darkie." The referee was very slow in deciding a moment later, Ord having saved and the play having been transferred to the other side of the field, before the official whistled for off-side. Sharp and Parkinson—the "Bob" of old—gave a good exhibition, and with the help of the other forwards Watford took a turn at pressing. Hands against Sharp nullified the effort. McCurdy took the kick and handed the ball over to Blessington, who put a hard shot right into the goalkeeper's hands. The custodian cleared safely and play was transferred to the other end through the medium of Parkinson and Varley, the former playing a good game. A little later the last-named player beat Williams, but the back cleared and Luton took up the running, the ball eventually going behind. Play centred in mid-field for a period, but at length Watford got down and the outside left shot wide. Blessington and Hawkes put in some capable work and made some headway, but the backs were found to be in good form and they cut the hopes of the Lutonians short time after time. The Luton inside forwards went down the field in good style, but Blessington, who had got ahead, was given off-side. Lindsay limped visibly at this point and as time wore on showed no improvement. Play was confined to mid-field for a period. Durrant received the ball when in a good position and Cother was forced to kick out. A foul was given against Garrett, who charged an opponent who was watching the descent of the ball close by. As a result, Watford pressed, but nothing came of their effort, the ball going behind. Another foul was given against Luton, but again no advantage resulted to the home side. Lindsay was pressed a moment later and was forced to kick out, much to the disgust of the crowd. A nice centre at the other end from the Luton outside right was nearly headed through by Dimmock, the ball going just by the post. Luton made several very desperate attempts to get through but the forwards failed to shoot straight. A resultless corner having been given against Watford, the homesters got down by means of a dashing run, and after some fine play by Wilcox, Parkinson took a pass close to the line and had no difficulty in finding the net. The joy of the spectators knew no bounds and the players were exhorted to increase their advantage. The teams had seven minutes to play to half-time. Ord cleared with a tremendous kick from a shot by Varley, the ball travelling as far as the half-way line. Blessington caught the eye of the referee for getting too near his opponents' goal-line and for playing the ball when the necessary number of opposing players were not facing him. Wilcox put in a grand shot at the Luton citadel, which Ord cleverly negotiated. Watford now had the best of the play and several shots were put behind. Luton took a turn at pressing, following which Ord had to save, and did so brilliantly, from a stinging shot by Wilcox. Half-time arrived with the scores:

The interval was filled by the appearance of a capable brass band under the direction of Mr. Greenwood, a former conductor of the Luton Red Cross. When the teams reappeared it was noticed that considerable alterations had been made in the composition of the visitors' ranks. Clifford went back in Lindsay's place, Dimmock fell back into Clifford's position and Durrant was transferred to the other wing. The poor crippled Luton captain endeavoured to fill the outside right place, but save for his directions to the other men, he was not of much service. Luton went off in great style and it looked as though they would get on level terms, Hammett having to clear. Watford then took up the running and pressed for a considerable time, so that the Luton defenders were kept very busy. Durrant next put in some good play and easily beat Cother and centred, but again the effort proved futile, Lindsay putting just over the bar. Ord next found himself with a swarm of the Watford forwards around him and with only himself to beat them, so that he was compelled to throw the ball behind and concede a corner. The ball landed just in front of the cross-bar and the goalkeeper fisted it to the opposite end, thus giving a second corner. Nothing came of this, the ball travelling over the line. The Luton front-string got down by means of a desperate run and the ball was carried behind. A corner came Luton's way a little later and Lindsay took the kick. The ball was placed too far and Watford got down, but Clifford relieved. The next incident of note was Lindsay getting off-side. A moment later Blessington nearly got through, but was soon overhauled by Nidd and, having none to support him, the ball was again brought back. A free-kick for hands was given against Garrett about 25 yards from the home goal, but the Luton back headed away and play was again transferred to the other end of the field. Play had to be suspended for a time owing to an injury to a Watford man, but the game was soon resumed. An amusing mistake took place about this point. Clifford played one of the Watford men with some vigour, and the crowd mistaking him for the Luton skipper, cried out "Play the game, Lindsay." Lindsay, who was standing on the line away from everybody, smiled broadly. A foul against Luton in the middle of the field was the next incident of note, but one of the Watford men got off-side. Ord had great difficulty in getting the ball away a moment later, and whilst on the ground he appeared to get his right leg hurt. The game had to be stopped and when it was resumed the Luton goalkeeper limped about. A free-kick for Watford was the forerunner of a corner, but the latter was not turned to account. The referee next gave Lindsay off-side when he was not near a player nor the ball, and a little later the Luton captain, who had been a passenger all through the second half, left the field. Ord was next called upon to save from Parkinson. Hawkes was noticeable for the way he tricked several of his opponents, but without a partner it was not surprising that he could make no headway against half-back and back none too gentle in their methods. Parkinson made a splendid run down the field and, passing on to Varley, that player, who was close to the goal-line, ran back, secured the ball and placed it smartly in the net. The referee allowed the point, though it was a very doubtful one. From the re-start Luton went away in great style, a Watford man failing even to touch the ball until Luton were within the 12 yards line. Then Nidd came to the rescue. Dimmock next tackled Parkinson and the next second was observed to be on the ground rolling about. The game was stopped and eventually Dimmock was carried off the field. Cother and Durrant fell down in a heap locked in each other's embrace to the no small amusement of the spectators. Blessington tried hard to improve the aspect of affairs, but his effort proved of no avail. With nine men on the field Luton were penned in pretty considerably and when the whistle blew the home team was still pressing. Nothing further of note was scored and the game ended.