

THE ENGLISH CUP.

WATFORD v. LUTON TOWN.

LUTON GAIN A FINE VICTORY.

The long-looked-for cup-tie with the Hertfordshire club has been fought and won after a hard struggle by Luton. The supporters of the Watford club hoped that with the advantage of ground they would be able to beat their near rivals, but the result proved otherwise. Watford had defeated West Hampstead in the previous round by 2 goals to 1, and Luton have defeated Apsley by 13-2, Bedford Queens 4-2, and Lowestoft 2-1. With a thick fog obscuring the landscape round Luton, it was doubtful in the afternoon whether the match would be played, but better weather conditions prevailed at Watford. Both teams had their strongest elevens out, Harvey again appearing in the Watford team after several weeks' absence; their new recruit, Munn, from Manchester City, was ineligible to play, and his place was taken by Harding.

A special train to Watford was announced by the L. & N.W.R. Company, the Luton club guaranteeing 300, but fully double that number took advantage of the excursion, and about 100 booked by the Midland excursion also run into the town from the district round, and fully 5,000 spectators were on the ground, the largest "gate" of the season at Watford. The L. & N.W. Artisan Staff Band, under the conductorship of Mr. W. Greenwood, formerly of Luton Red Cross, rendered selections of music, and at 2.35 Mr. Nat Whittaker whistled the following 22 into order:

Watford: Waller; Cother and Nidd; Wragg, Harding and Hamilton; Brown, Lyon, Harvey, Pangbourne and Chalmers.

Luton: Ord; Lindsay and Sharp; Hawkes, White and Williams; Durrant, Blessington, Brown, Tierney and Colvin.

Luton won the toss, and Watford kicked off amid great excitement. Luton were the first to attack, and Cother was early in evidence clearing an effort by Blessington, and again from a run by Durrant, Tierney made a good effort to get through, but shot over, while Watford, helped by a mis-kick by Williams, were enabled to get into Luton territory, but Ord cleared, and the danger passed. "Frees" to each side followed, but nothing tangible accrued, while "Roland" Brown made a good run on the wing, but failed badly in his final effort. The first corner of the match fell to Watford off White, but the ball was cleared.

Play up to this point was even, each goal being visited in turn, but neither keeper had been really tested. Durrant lost two good chances by shooting over, while Waller gave a fruitless corner to a grand attempt by Blessington. Chalmers spoilt some pretty play by Harvey by shooting behind, and three "frees" to Watford, two for offside, and one for a foul were all futile. In an attack on Watford goal, Colvin got hurt in a collision with Waller, and had to leave the field for a time, but happily he soon returned. Watford were playing a dashing game, and the Luton defenders had to be very smart at times to prevent them from scoring.

Free-kicks for offside against Chalmers, and a foul against Luton availed the respective sides

nothing, and Brown was warned by the referee for a foul on Lyon. White was playing a splendid game for Luton at half-back, and forced the game finely at times into Watford quarters. Brown headed over a fine centre from Durrant, and Waller had to save from a mis-kick by Nidd, while White shot over. Three "frees" to Watford were futile, and Nidd cleared a corner given by Hamilton. The interval arrived with Luton still pressing, and
No Score.

On resuming, each side were awarded a free-kick, but both proved futile, while offside against Durrant and Colvin were likewise unavailing. Lindsay forced Waller to give a corner with a well-judged shot, and Durrant hit the post from the kick, the ball then going out. However, after some mid-field exchanges, the Watford vanguard broke clean away, and a mistake between Lindsay and Ord resulted in Chalmers rushing up and opening the score with one of the softest shots imaginable, Ord being out of his goal at the time. Thus after 10 minutes play Watford took the lead. The Luton team at once set up a strong onslaught on the home goal, and in less than two minutes from the last score, Blessington had equalised with a grand shot from 20 yards range, which Waller failed to see, and thus could not save.

The spectators were now very enthusiastic, and when from a corner, Brown gave Luton the lead, the cheering was tremendous, hats and sticks galore flying in the air. Play was now confined to the home half, and with the exception of a sudden break away, the Watford eleven were rarely dangerous, although one grand shot from Chalmers deserved to score, but Ord cleared in fine style. Luton several times came within an ace of increasing their lead, Colvin especially missing two splendid chances, but shot over each time. A series of "frees" to each team for offside and fouls followed, but all were unavailing. Just before the close, Tierney got in a grand shot, which just struck the bar, and no further scoring taking place, Luton retired winners of a hard game with the score:

LUTON	2 goals
WATFORD	1

NOTES.

The game was very interesting. Luton stayed better than their opponents, who in the closing stages of the game could scarcely raise a gallop, being practically done up. It was a well-contested game, and played in a pleasant and sportsmanlike manner.

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The various games played between the opposing teams show Luton's superiority both in League and friendly matches, but some of the encounters have been very close; the goal average, however, works out largely in Luton's favour. Last Saturday's game created more interest than any yet played between the two clubs, and Luton enthusiasts were naturally jubilant at the result.

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Waller, in goal for Watford, was not seriously tested, but he brought off one or two good saves, and could not possibly save the shots that scored. He appeared to be a bit nervous on Saturday, but the game may give him increased confidence. At back, Cother and Nidd both played a strong game, although the former was not too chivalrous with little Colvin, and as the end drew near he was played to a standstill.

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The middle trio never gave the Luton forwards much latitude. Harding played grandly at centre-half, and worried Brown incessantly. Wragg also played a hard game, and the second half went to centre-forward to try and improve the team's prospects, but despite his efforts they could not get on terms. Hamilton was always on the move, and did effective work, shooting finely, and causing Ord to be very alert.

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Forward, the Watford team are not over strong, Chalmers and Lyon being the best. The former caused the Luton defenders some anxious moments, and had his partner displayed equal merit, the game might have ended differently. Pangbourne was a passenger until the closing stages when he worked very hard, but too late. At centre, Harvey played a fine game up to the interval, some of his runs and passes being much admired by the crowd. He fell off considerably after the interval, and changed places with Wragg after Luton had scored. In Lyon, Watford posses a clever player, who had hard lines on two occasions in not scoring. Our old friend, "Roland" Brown was off song, and with the exception of a stray run or two did practically nothing. He only got across one really good centre, and that his partner missed.

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For Luton, Ord in goal was not severely tested, and although in some measure by running out of his goal he was to blame for Watford's point, yet he can be excused, for Lindsay was quite as much at fault. Lindsay all through played a grand game. He had a warm handful in Chalmers, and some rare tussles took place on the line between them, but the Luton captain usually came off best. Sharp has been seen to better advantage, but several times he cleared finely.

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The middle trio were also very active, White especially playing a grand game, and his performance was much admired by the crowd, and time after time he broke up the attack of Watford in fine style, and Hawkes also played an effective game, and stopped his wing several times when it appeared any odds on their getting through. Williams was disappointing, although he improved after the interval.

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In the front rank, Blessington shone out as the best forward on the field. The way he played with the home defence evoked much admiration from the local crowd, and when he scored the equalising goal he was loudly cheered by both partisans. His partner also played better than of late, but lost two fine chances of scoring by shooting high over the bar.

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Brown, in the centre, was a tower of strength to his side, and his goal that gave Luton the victory was a smart piece of work, he having to turn right round before he could get at the ball. Tierney also worked hard, and played his best game of the season. His shot just before the finish fully deserved to score, and had it been two inches lower might have beaten Waller. Colvin played a decent game, although his injury to some extent affected his play; but the way he tricked the burly Cother caused great merriment. After Watford had scored, the Luton forwards worked together with great determination, and in less than 5 minutes they had secured the lead, and what proved to be victory.

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The crowd conducted themselves well, and the Watford supporters took their defeat with a good grace. The referee was very fair, although rather keen on the offside rule, no less than 9 being awarded against Luton for this infringement, and 4 against Watford. However, they favoured neither side. The "gate," a record for Watford this season, amounted to £140.

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To-morrow (Saturday) Luton will play Watford at home.