

FOOTBALL.

LUTON v. WATFORD.

ANOTHER WIN FOR LUTON.

The visit of the Watford team to Luton on Saturday formed the first meeting of the sides in the Southern League competition, the other encounters having consisted of two friendlies and an Association Cup-tie. There was a very fair attendance, the weather being fine. In the Luton team R. Hawkes once more appeared as substitute at left half for Williams, while there were several changes on the Watford side, Nidd going in goal, and the whole of the other lines being sorted up.

Mr. N. Whittaker (who refereed the game at Watford between these sides) had charge of the following teams:—

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

Watford: Nidd; Cother and Wragg; Munn, Hamilton and Greenslade; Cottrell, Lyon, Harvey, Chalmers and Brown.

Linesmen, Messrs. E. J. Brentnall (Wimbledon) and 1. Haydock (Putney).

There was a strong wind blowing, and the winning of the toss gave Watford the advantage of this. Shortly after the start the home centre forward went straight through, but was pulled up for getting off-side. Following an unproductive corner to Luton Harvey went down well and wound up by shooting over the bar. A first-rate exhibition by Ord was witnessed, and when a corner kick had been cleared by the locals the "blues" (who were, by the way, arrayed in new colours) made an incursion into the Watford territory, where Nidd brought off a splendid save from Brown. In saving a capital shot at goal Sharp was injured in the knee and a brief suspension was necessitated. The left back pluckily resumed, though it was obvious he was suffering pain; but he eventually had to retire for good. A corner to Luton produced a grand save by Nidd, following which F. Hawkes steered over the bar. Colvin gave an excellent exhibition, after which Luton Brown shot just over the bar, the same player hitting the post just afterwards. A corner to Luton was awarded and Lindsay rushed up and sent the ball into the net; but for some reason (it was said for impeding the goalkeeper) the point was disallowed. Another fruitless corner was awarded against the visitors. At the interval the teams still stood in these positions:

LUTON, 0; WATFORD, 0.

Early in the second half a corner accrued to Luton, and this led to R. Hawkes landing the ball on the top of the net with a brilliant attempt, this being one of the very best shots of the afternoon. Just afterwards Tierney centred well after a good run and Blessington sent into the net. A first-rate attempt by Hawkes was unsuccessful, and one from the home centre-forward travelled just above the bar. The locals had by this time got the measure of their opponents, who had played a first-rate game in the opening half. The homesters were now palpably the better team. Tierney shot splendidly on receiving from Durrant and the ball was well disposed of. Later on Harvey took a turn at shooting, and Chalmers sent wide with a good one that deserved a better fate. At this stage Sharp had to retire, and for the remainder of the match the Lutonians played the one back game. There was some excuse for this, seeing that they were a man short; and in any case they were only imitating the tactics followed by the visitors prior to the interval, when Wragg played well up the field all the time and so put the Lutonians off-side persistently. Durrant was cautioned for indulging in a silly exhibition, one of the Watfordians being addressed at the same time by the referee. Towards the end of the game it was seen that Cother had gone up amongst the forwards. All the efforts of the visitors proved unsuccessful, and in the end the Lutonians ran out winners with these totals:

LUTON, 1; WATFORD, 0.