

FOOTBALL NOTES.

[BY "SPECTATOR".]

TWO SOUTHERN LEAGUE POINTS.

LUTON DEFEATS WATFORD.

Luton defeated Watford on the latter's ground on Saturday. There was a large crowd to witness the game, there being a large number of spectators from Luton to give the Luton players encouragement. The kick-off took place a quarter of an hour later than it should have been, consequently the game had to be finished in semi-darkness.

The following were the teams:—*Watford*: F. Y. Horner; F. Lyon, and Cother; Munn, McAvoy, and Dackers; Brown, W. Eames, J. S. Morgan, Murray, and Tennant. *Luton*: Frail; Lindsay and Street; F. Hawkes, White, and R. Hawkes; Durrant, Blessington, Hilsdon, Moody, and Allsopp.

The visitors early got to work, and were soon putting the Watford men on the defensive. The ball, however, was a new one, and the ground hard and lumpy, so that more often than not the sphere went yards over the bar. Several times the Luton men got down, but failed from one cause or another to register anything. Praise should be given to Horner, for he defended his charge well, and it was greatly owing to his exertions that Luton was repulsed. Once Munn saved in the goal-mouth. Then Eames and Brown got away to the other end, and Frail had to save several times.

One very narrow escape the Luton goal had, and it was only a brilliant save by Frail that averted danger. The Watford forwards made a fine run down and Murray got quite clear and had only to put by the Luton goalkeeper. Murray shot hard and Frail just managed to put out his left hand and keep the ball out. W. Eames had a similar chance, but he put high over the bar. This was a narrow escape for Luton. With a little luck Watford would have been one up. Hands against Street was the next incident, and from the place-kick taken by Lyon, Frail had to fist out.

Watford were playing for all they were worth. Again they visited the Luton end and Frail was obliged to concede a corner. Dackers placed over the bar from the corner kick, which was taken by Brown. Soon afterwards Luton did a bit of pressure and a corner resulted. Durrant took the kick, but nothing came of it. A free-kick was given against Watford, and White was able to take a pot-shot at goal, but placed by the post. From a subsequent run Durrant was adjudged off-side. Luton continued to press, and it seemed as if they must get through. One period of pressure was ended by F. Hawkes placing high over the bar.

The referee gave a foul against one of the inside forwards for jumping at Lindsay, and several other should have been awarded, but were not. Watford however, got down by means of Brown, who put in a shot which struck the half-back, or might have proved very dangerous. Morgan put in a very awkward shot just inside the post, and Frail made a dash forward and caught it. This was a very smart save as Morgan shot from a peculiar position. A stupid foul on Bolan Brown by Street was duly noted and the Luton back came in for a good deal of booing.

The referee next made a mistake in giving Luton off-side, and Morgan from the kick was making a dangerous run when he was stopped by Street. Watford then had a turn at pressing, and Brown put in an excellent shot, but just a little too high. Luton went away with a dash to the other end and the Watford goal experienced a narrow escape. Hilsdon got too far down the field and was given off-side though to many the decision was open to doubt. The game had been devoid of some of the Cother-Durrant incident, but just to break the monotony Durrant showed what he could do and ran round Cother.

Two fouls were given against Watford, but neither came to anything. To avoid a too close contact with the goalkeeper the Watford players ranged themselves across the field, leaving one back between them and the goal-line. This is what a writer in a contemporary has to say regarding this movement:—

"The defenders—and most attackers, for the matter—only grasp one effect of the manœuvre. If the attackers would remember that, having kept behind at least three defenders until the kick has been actually taken, they may dash forward and play the dropped ball even under the goal-bar with perfect legality, they should not see so many free-kicks rendered nugatory by a device only effective against the ignorant."

These kicks having been disposed of, Allsopp made a good run and should have scored, but probably owing to the lightness of the ball placed the sphere over the goal. Durrant was in a good position to shoot, but again the leather went high over the bar. Hilsdon a little later made a similar mistake. Watford had not been doing anything great for a few minutes, but at last a corner rewarded their efforts. This was taken by Brown, but Munn shot over the bar. Half-time arrived with no score:

LUTON, 0; WATFORD, 0.

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Directly after the re-start Luton pressed, and Allsopp struck the post with a good shot, but the whistle had sounded for a breach of the rules. Tennant neatly tricked Lindsay, and Brown took the centre, but could only place over the bar. A little later it was fortunate that the old law regarding penalty kicks has been altered, for Lindsay was adjudged to have fouled a Watford player close to the Luton goal-line. Nothing came of the kick as might be expected. Tennant went by Lindsay again, though this time he was a trifle lucky, the ball hitting him and giving him another chance.

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With the time drawing on and no score, the game had the appearance of resulting in a draw, but a change came over the operations. Luton went away with a rush and a shot was put in. Horner failed to hold it, and the ball went into the corner of the goal, but the goalkeeper scooped it out. Before it could be got away the ball was rushed through. Blessington was credited with scoring the point. Munn put Durrant through a little unrehearsed performance and the referee awarded a foul. Durrant put in a shot from the kick, but the goalkeeper had been impeded.

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From this kick Eames made a good run down and Frail had to save on the ground with several opponents round about him, but he managed to clear. Hilsdon was putting in plenty of dash at this time, and placing across the field from one of the corners Bob Hawkes tried a shot at goal, which proved useless. Frail had all his work cut out a few minutes later, for he caught the ball and several opponents went for him for all they were worth. He eventually gave a corner, which was resultless. Next Watford had a free kick. Cother took it. For some apparent reason he gave it a little kick and then another hard one, but the referee had noted the manoeuvre and awarded a free kick for Luton.

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The disgust of the spectators was apparent from the noise they made, and doubtless they were unaware that a breach of the rules had taken place. Lindsay apparently left the ball to Frail, but before the latter could pick it up he was charged about, and eventually received a kick on the leg. It appeared that he would have to drop the ball and that Watford would force it through, but this long hoped for event on the part of the Watford supporters did not come about, and eventually the referee awarded a free kick for Luton, which removed all danger for the present of the score being equalised.

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Watford certainly improved towards the end of the game. A corner was conceded by the Luton players but the ball failed to find its way by Frail. Hands close in for Watford was also given, but again this advantage proved worthless. Whenever the team pressed at one end the spectators at the other could not follow the play owing to the darkness, but the referee endeavored to have the game played out and eventually succeeded. Nothing further resulted in the way of scoring and the game ended:

LUTON 1; WATFORD 0.

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In goal Horner made several good saves and could not possibly be blamed for the goal which was registered against him. Lyon was more prominent than Cother. The halves were guilty of the fault of not following the forwards closely, but still they did well. Tennant, Morgan, and Brown were the first of the forwards although the other two were very good. Luton have to be grateful for the display given by Frail in goal for the goalkeeper might have been easily beaten. Lindsay and Street were good at back, the halves were up to their usual standard, and the forwards were good.

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In the Southern League, on Saturday, Brentford won their first match in this competition, and Southampton received a temporary check by only gaining one point at Wellingborough. Otherwise the matches resulted in accordance with general anticipation. Reading seem to be invincible, and won at Northampton, and New Brompton did well to draw at Canning Town. Tottenham Hotspur, though they beat Swindon, found the railway men a much improved team. Millwall received a rare dressing down at Portsmouth, and Bristol Rovers readily beat Queen's Park Rangers.