

Luton Town Football Club.

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

WATFORD v. LUTON TOWN.

A NARROW VICTORY FOR LUTON.

The meeting of these old rivals for the first time this season in the League football was eagerly anticipated by the supporters of both clubs, and an excursion train from Luton by the L. & N. W. R., took a good number of Luton enthusiasts to the Cassio-road enclosure on Saturday afternoon. The Watford eleven have been performing rather indifferently of late, and their defeat in the English Cup by Fulham came as a great surprise, while certain players have not given satisfaction, and suspensions have been rather frequent.

As a consequence, Watford were not able to turn out at full strength, two or three reserves were called in. In the Luton eleven Sharp was still unable to play, and Street appeared in his stead, while Hilsdon was again in the centre. Bob Hawkes once more appearing at right half. It was expected that Luton would be able to bring back at least one point, and the team made the journey full of confidence. The weather was fine, but very cold. About 4,000 spectators were present, when the referee, Mr. L. E. Swain, whistled the following into order:—

Watford: Horner; Lyon and Cother; Munn, M'Avoy and Dackers; Brown, Eames, Morgan, Murray and Tennant.

Luton: Frail; Lindsay and Street; F. Hawkes, White and R. Hawkes; Durrant, Blessington, Hilsdon, Moody and Allsopp.

The ground was in good condition and everything favourable for a keen contest. Nothing was done up to the interval, though both teams came very near scoring. Frail, in Luton's goal, greatly distinguished himself. One fine shot from the left he stopped by throwing out his arm when he appeared completely beaten, and soon after, when Morgan whipped in a surprise shot, he gathered the ball in masterly fashion. At the other end, Horner had been busy, and though not so brilliant, had done some capital work. However, the shooting was very wild all the players appearing to suffer from excitement. Durrant especially was a sinner in this respect, and time after time landed the ball anywhere but near the net.

About ten minutes of the second half had gone when Horner was in difficulties with a shot by Hilsdon. He stopped the ball, but was too hampered to clear, and Blessington scored. Watford pressed, and the Luton goal had wonderful escapes, Frail saving at full length from Tennant, and stopping a number of other shots which most custodians would have missed. Several times he was at full length on the ground holding the ball, with the home forwards scrimmaging round him, but he always came up smiling. There was a chance right to the end that Watford would equalise, but they could not, and the crowd went away very disappointed. The result was:

Luton.....1 goal,
Watford0 ,,

NOTES.

Watford played so well that they did not deserve to be beaten. The most conspicuous players in a hard, keen game were Lyon, Morgan, and Eames for the losers, and Frail, Lindsay, and R. Hawkes for Luton.

To-morrow Luton are at home to play Fulham for the first time and contest the right to enter the next round of the English Cup. The Fulham men are practically strangers to Luton though they are a prominent club in the London League, and they defeated the Luton Amateurs in the previous round by 4 goals to 1. They were also victorious over Watford in the English Cup. There should be no doubt as to the result but it will be wise for Luton not to take their opponents too cheaply. The kick-off is at 2.30 and the referee is Mr. S. R. Carr, of Surrey.