

The Southern League.

LUTON v. WATFORD.

Played at Luton on Saturday. Result:—

Luton	4 goals.
Watford	1 goal.

The teams were as follow:—

Luton—Frail; Lindsay and Williams; F. Hawkes, White, and R. Hawkes; Durrant, Blessington, Davidson, Moody, and Allsopp.

Watford—H. W. Higgins; F. Lyon and Allan; Dackers, McAvoy, and Matthews; Brown, W. Eames, J. S. Morgan, Murray, and Tennant.

Referee, Mr. H. E. Walker (Reading).

The unfavourable weather on Saturday had a very prejudicial effect on the attendance at this match, and there were not more than a couple of thousand persons present when Watford kicked off, Lindsay having again been successful in the spin of the coin. The ground, owing to the heavy rains, was in very bad condition, and it soon became evident that the players had all their work to do to keep their feet. The visitors, however, started with surprising dash, and more surprising still, they kept it up pretty much all the way through, so that Luton had to work hard for every point they got.

Our old friend Roland Brown was the first to make the running, but Luton made a prompt response, and Allsopp, after tricking his man, put in a lovely shot, which Higgins saved just under the bar, at the expense of a corner. Durrant placed, and from a well-directed kick by Fred Hawkes, Blessington headed in, and again the custodian could only save by tipping over the bar. Durrant again took the corner kick, and Allsopp with an open goal sent a trifle wide. A moment later, Davidson had a glorious chance, having the goal quite at his mercy owing to Higgins having left it to effect a clearance, but the Luton man disappointed expectation by lifting the ball over the cross-piece.

Watford got very little relief, however, for Allsopp brought the ball down again, and Davidson sent in a grand shot, which was saved by Higgins in brilliant style. A good shot by Blessington was similarly dealt with, and after a fruitless corner, Durrant found himself with an open goal, but as luck would have it fell at the critical moment, and so Watford got another let-off. The visitors now retaliated, and Tennant was responsible for a very fast shot which went a trifle wide. Morgan next shot over, and Luton then went away. After a couple of corners had been taken without effect, Allsopp made a nice run, finishing up with a grand centre right along the line, and Blessington had little trouble in converting. The visitors made a vigorous appeal for offside, but there was clearly no ground for it and the appeal was very properly disregarded.

Luton at once returned to the attack, and Higgins had to have his wits about him to save from a fine shot by Fred Hawkes. Pressure was maintained for a time without result, and Watford then got away and had the luxury of a corner, but nothing came of it. Luton created a diversion, but Watford came again, and Frail saved well from a smart shot by Tennant, who, however, was then adjudged to have been offside. Play was now of a more open character, both goals being visited in turn, but the Luton attacks were the more dangerous.

At length Higgins gave a corner to a capital attempt by Davidson, and Allsopp having placed, Davidson passed out to Blessington, who put in a hard drive. The custodian ran out to meet it, and the ball rebounding, it was shot in again and went through off Allan, who had just previously been hurt and only came on again in

and the home-esters thus crossed over with the useful lead of two goals to nil.

In the very first minute of the second half Luton had hard luck in not scoring, a scrimmage taking place in the mouth of the Watford goal. The visitors' respite was not of long duration, for Allsopp put in another of his dashing runs, and from his centre, Durrant took the ball well to the front, and gave Higgins no chance with his very deliberate shot. Thus Luton were three up. After this play again opened out, and eventually Williams gave a corner, from which Brown placed nicely, and Frail running out and missing, Morgan tapped the ball into an empty goal.

This seemed to put renewed life into the Luton attack, and the Watford defence was kept very busily employed. Just before the finish Higgins made another brilliant save from Davidson at the expense of a corner and Durrant placing beautifully, Moody added the fourth and last goal.

The game, despite the somewhat one-sided nature of the score, was full of interest from beginning to end, for, as already stated, Watford played with a lot of dash and were a much better team than most of us expected to see. It was perhaps a little unfortunate for them that they caught Luton at their best, the fact being that the advent of a new man with the reputation of being a good shot put new life into the home-esters' front string, and there was more shooting than we have seen for many a long day.

Davidson did not astonish the natives by scoring as he did the previous week against Shepherd's Bush; as a matter of fact, he did not score one of Luton's four goals, but in the first half, at any rate, he performed in capital style, passing, taking passes, and making openings in excellent fashion, and keeping the forward line well up to the mark. In the second half, however, he seemed spun out, and was seldom dangerous. Perhaps the best of the Luton forwards was Allsopp, who made many fine runs and centred with gratifying precision. Moody and Blessington both went for all they were worth, and on Saturday's form they were worth a great deal, while Durrant also showed to better advantage than in some recent matches.

The halves are never anything but good, and again on this occasion they did all that was asked of them in splendid form. Williams was indefatigable at back and did much good work, and Lindsay played a great game, never making a mistake.

Of the visitors, Higgins was the bright and shining light, his custodianship eliciting well-merited cheers from the spectators. Lloyd is a capable back, the halves make a very fair trio, and forward, Tennant and Murray are a very effective left wing. Morgan played a smart game at centre, and Roland Brown at outside-right showed that there is plenty of good football in him yet.

In the other League matches all the home teams were victorious, Kettering beating Brentford by 3 to 2, Reading overcoming Northampton by 5 to 1, New Brompton accounting for West Ham by 2 to nil, Southampton lording it over Wellingborough by 3 to nil, and Queen's Park Rangers vanquishing Bristol Rovers by 2 to nil.

On Saturday next Luton are due at Brentford, and they ought to make a great effort to capture another two points. Brentford, despite their lowly position, however, still take some amount of beating, and Luton will need to put on their best shooting boots in order to do it.