

The Southern League.

WATFORD v. LUTON.

Played at Watford on Good Friday.
Result:—

Watford	1 goal.
Luton	1 goal.

Teams:—

Watford—Biggar; Aston and Brooks; Fyfe, McCartney and Richardson; Badenoch, Goodall, Eames, Turner, and Spikesley.

Luton—Platt; Blackett and McCurdy; Gallacher, White, and R. Hawkes; Warner, Macdonald, Brown, Pickering, and Barnes.

Referee, Mr. J. Mason.

The matches between these clubs always draw a large number of spectators, and on Friday the excursion trains from Luton and St. Albans were well patronised. A good number also made the journey by road, and there was a gate of eight or nine thousand when Eames kicked off. Watford made some progress from the initial attempt, but Luton soon took up the running, and Warner narrowly missed from a centre by Barnes.

At this early stage it was seen that the game would be very fast, and there did not seem to be much to choose between the teams. The first corner of the match fell to Watford at the end of five minutes, but Goodall headed over. Eames next caught the eye by beating two or three opponents, but his finishing effort was weak, the ball going over. Platt made a good save from Badenoch, and Bob Hawkes then tried to force matters, but shot wide.

Then came one of the best opportunities of the match. Following a centre by Warner, Brooks simply touched the ball to Brown, who had the goal at his mercy, but sent over the stand at the back. A few minutes later Pickering had a chance, but dallied, and the effort only resulted in a fruitless corner. After Platt had saved from Turner close in, Macdonald fell over as he was about to shoot. Just before the interval Aston hit the bar with a free kick.

Up to now the play had been fairly even, but Luton might easily have been leading by one or two goals if they had used their opportunities. A change came over the scene in the second half, which was not five minutes old before Brown had headed through after Macdonald had made an unsuccessful attempt from a fine centre by Barnes. Straight from the kick-off Watford went away, and the ball was put towards the Luton goal. Platt ran out and, with several players round him, attempted to kick away, but missed the ball, and Turner gently touched it into an open goal.

Watford had matters pretty much their own way for a time, their right wing being especially dangerous, and the persistency with which the ball was sent across the mouth of goal was not very pleasing to the Luton spectators. Spikesley made the worst miss of the match after taking the ball in from the left. He got within about a yard of the goal-line and both he and Turner might very easily have scored, but fortune favoured Luton.

Not long afterwards Brown was given offside in the Luton half of the field, and this serves to show how much Luton were pressed. At length Pickering made an effort to get through, but a much more likely-looking attempt was made by Badenoch, who was making straight for goal when he was brought down by White. The free kick was not improved upon, nor was the one given a few minutes later against Gallacher.

In the last five minutes Luton acted on the aggressive once or twice, but generally speaking Watford were much the better team, and on the run of the play in the second half Luton were fortunate in gaining one point. They played their usual game, and it was again noticeable that Macdonald sadly neglected Warner, who did not get the ball more than four or five times in the forty-five minutes. The Watford halves played a fine game, Fyfe being especially prominent, and Goodall and Badenoch did some good work amongst the forwards.

The gate-money amounted to £230, and of this Luton take half. In the match at Luton on Christmas Day, when the gate was also pooled, the receipts realised £217.