

United League.

LUTON v. WATFORD.

Played at Luton on Tuesday, and resulted in a goalless draw. The teams were as follow:—
Luton—Platt; Blackett and McCurdy; H. Parsons, White, and Gallacher; Warner, Macdonald, Brown, Pickering, and Barnes. Watford—Higgins; Aston and Brooks; Main, McCartney, and Fyfe; Eaton, Turner, Eames, Reid, and Kelly. Referee, Mr. S. R. Carr.

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About three thousand people assembled to see this match, and the play during the first half proved to be of a fairly interesting character, both teams putting in some hard work. Brown came very near scoring soon after the start, his shot just clearing the bar, but for some time afterwards Watford had the better of the play, and Platt had to save a splendid shot from Turner. At the other end, Higgins was called upon to deal with shots from Pickering and Blackett, and then Watford again taking up the attack, Reid had

hard luck with a hot drive, the ball passing just outside the goal.

After Pickering had experienced similar fortune in taking a centre from the right wing, Blackett gave a corner, and this was beautifully placed by Eaton. Platt attempted to fist away and nearly knocked the ball through his own goal, but someone got in the way, and after a scramble Reid headed wide. Then Luton attacked again, and Warner and Pickering were responsible for good shots. Watford retaliated, and kept up the pressure till the interval, the Luton goal having several narrow escapes. Indeed, had the visiting forwards not shown a fatal inclination to dally with the ball, always wanting a better chance than that that came to foot, a score must have resulted.

Play in the second half was not of a very high-class character. During part of the time Blackett went forward and Macdonald back, but it made little difference to the effectiveness of the attack. Once there ought to have been a penalty for Luton, when Macdonald was pulled down, and later on a penalty was given, owing to Pickering being pushed down by Aston, but Brown, who took the kick, hit the inside of the bar and the ball rebounded. The concluding stages of the game were very tame, but it must be conceded that Watford fully deserved their one point.

Considering the work the Luton men had gone through during the holidays, it would be quite unreasonable to criticise them severely. Indeed, the wonder was that they could do so well. Watford had the advantage of being at full strength, and their midfield play was smart, Kelly especially performing in very clever style. Both goalkeepers had a fair amount of work, and got through it very creditably.