

LUTON v. WATFORD.

Compared with last year there was a slight decrease in the gate receipts for Christmas Day's match, when Luton opposed their nearest, and perhaps keenest rivals, Watford. The Hertfordshire team had a good following, and the gate, which as usual will be pooled, amounted to about £190.

There were one or two alterations in the teams. Surprise was felt at Brown's absence from the home side; but Sandy was not able to play, and Murphy filled the gap. White was again at centre-half. For Watford Richardson went back in place of Brooks.

The game opened fast and continued so right up to the end. For the first half-hour the game was fairly even, but afterwards the Blues appeared to be having the greater share of the attacking; but they found Biggar impregnable. Murphy, who was playing fairly well in mid-field, completely failed every time at the critical moment, and the many opportunities which he had were lost. The absence of Brown was too conspicuous to mention. Watford kept up a fast pace, and made Luton look to their laurels. Half-time arrived with a blank score.

Resuming, the game was of as dashing an order as ever. Biggar was doing wonders in goal, and saved a number of marvellous shots. It is safe to say that the Watford custodian has never saved more brilliantly than he did on Tuesday. In this connection one shudders

to think what would have happened to Platt if he had stood in Biggar's shoes; but that is another story, for Platt had not a great deal to do. Hogg was being constantly beaten by his wing opponent, but the effort always lacked finish. There was a marked want of dash in Watford's efforts in front of goal, and so the home custodian had not many difficult shots to deal with.

It was fully twenty minutes from the re-start before anything tangible happened. Then Warner, from a corner, opened the score for Luton. Up to that time it did not look as if either side would score, though it must be admitted that in the first moiety the locals should have been a couple of goals up. Not long after this success, Pickering increased the lead, heading in from a centre by Warner. Result: Luton, 2 goals; Watford, nil.