

FOOTBALL NOTES AND NEWS.

By "Grasshopper."

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

LUTON DRAW AT WATFORD.

Of recent years there has been keen rivalry between Luton and Watford, and this admirable sporting spirit found another outlet on Good Friday, when the Blues paid their annual visit to the Hertfordshire town, in the Southern League tourney. It was an ideal day, and the railway excursions were well patronised. But a very large number must also have travelled by brake and cycle. Indeed, for two hours during the morning one might have imagined he was on the Epsom road on Derby day.

Every year the Blues appear to be followed by an increasing crowd, and their supporters on Friday numbered many thousands. Watford, in fact, had a record gate, the receipts being £275. When the Herts team visited Luton on Christmas Day the gate was £180, but it will be remembered that on that occasion the weather militated somewhat against a large crowd. It is a fact that no team could be more of a "draw" at Watford than Luton; but as the clubs "pool" the gate money, each will benefit.

Luton, who had with them their strongest team, experienced a certain amount of hard luck in only managing to make a draw. Against such hard fighters as Watford, one did not expect to see the Blues have all the play; but it cannot be denied that Luton were the better team, and practically held the upper hand all through. Though Watford are not to be despised, the exhibition of the home team was not of the best, and their efforts were spasmodic. However, the play of the visiting forwards was somewhat erratic, but still they showed better combination than is sometimes the case.

Amidst some excitement Brown opened the scoring for Luton, and this early success had the effect of putting the Watfordians on their guard. After that the defence paid special attention to the visitors' centre-forward, though once "Sandy" missed a glorious chance. He had only to quietly place the ball in the corner of the net, but he shot high over the bar.

A short spell of keen play followed, and eventually to the delight of the home crowd, Turner beat Platt with a good shot. Thus the scores were brought level. Luton were, however, again after goals, and for a good while the locals were kept on the defensive. But the home custodian was more than safe, and frustrated all efforts on the part of his opponents to find the net.

Luton obtained the lead eventually, when Fred Hawkes scored in capital style. The right half completely beat the whole Watford defence, and all on his own shot the leather into the desired place—the home supporters awarding merited applause for an opponent. Law, however, equalised for Watford. Unfortunately Hogg met with an accident and had to retire. It was really during the Luton man's absence from the field that the Herts team managed to avert defeat. Result:

Luton, 2 goals; Watford, 2 goals.