

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

LUTON v. WATFORD.

Luton met Watford on Christmas Day at Luton and only effected a draw, the match ending in each side scoring once. The teams were:—

LUTON.—Platt; Watkins and McCurdy; Jones, Parsons and R. M. Hawkes; Rigate, F. Hawkes, Murphy, Moody and Walders.

WATFORD.—Biggar; Aston and Richardson; Badger, Hitch and Fyfe; Reynolds, Furr, Hindmarsh, Wright and Law.

Referee: Mr. A. Farrant (Bristol).

Bob won the toss; quite a momentous event in this way, and Luton had the advantage of a strong breeze which blew from the town end with considerable force. Murphy, who is a lad "frae Falkirk," saw his vis-a-vis kick off and quickly the Watford forwards flashed by, and were in the vicinity of Platt, where they remained for the greater part of the first ten minutes of the game. Luton forced a corner and Watford did ditto, but the only result was a breakaway by the home forwards.

Shot after shot was put in, but the Watford

defence proved stubborn stuff, and shots cannoned off them with tantalising frequency, and then Murphy tried a header which unfortunately went just too far and bounced off the bar on to the net. This was a clever piece of play on Murphy's part, and at once stamped him as a footballer—that sadly deficient status in the Luton team of this year.

Fred Hawkes looked like getting a snip but Biggar was just a yard too fast for him and got to the ball first. Walders and Rigate tried shots, but Biggar was very safe and kept dashing out at opportune moments.

The movement which lead to Luton's goal being obtained was simply a run down by Walders and a clever header from Moody, Biggar being beaten at close range. There was quite a demonstration at Luton's success, renewed again when Walders repeated his tactics and sent the ball across to his confrere, only to see a Watford head bob up and sent the ball to the half-backs. Bob Hawkes tried a pot shot at goal from a free kick, but again Aston's head made no mistake. Half-time found Luton leading by a goal to nil.

The second half was strangely reminiscent of the first, even to the time that elapsed before Watford got the equaliser. Furr should have brought off a goal in the first few minutes, but he appreciated Luton's bad luck, no doubt, and very creditably refrained.

About 10 minutes from time Watford were pressing, as a result of a free kick against Jones, and Badger sent in a long chance shot which went through a crowd of players and stupified Platt, who made not the ghost of an effort to save and the ball went bouncing into the net. The spectators were highly indignant at Platt, but were they in the goalkeeper's place they would find that keeping out a shot which passes through a crowd of players is not so easy as it looks. Eh, Platt?

However, this point proved the equaliser, and at the close it was small wonder that Johnny Goodall, the old war-horse, gave expression to a loud "Hurrah!" in favour of a goal which he said he thought Watford were fully entitled to on the run of the play. Will anyone with more experience of football kindly contradict "the old hand?"