

FOOTBALL.

The Southern League.

Three Records Go.

LUTON BEAT WATFORD.

Holidaymakers' Jaunt,

A PLEASANT GOOD FRIDAY.

The annual football Derby between Watford and Luton took place on Good Friday afternoon, on the West Herts ground, when the "Straw-batters" secured two valuable Southern League points by defeating their near neighbours by 3-0.

Three records were beaten. First and foremost, Luton gained their first victory away from home in the Southern League this season; second, Watford sustained their first home defeat; and third the gate—which was pooled and reached £317—was the largest ever taken on the ground.

The weather was brilliant, and this attracted a very large number of people from South Beds. Three trainloads were conveyed to Watford by the directors' guarantee excursion, and the road between Watford and Luton was thick with cyclists and brakes from Strawopolis.

Luton's splendid victory delighted the visitors among the holiday crowd, and was all the more meritorious because three of the town's first team men were unable to turn out. "Bob" Hawkes could not put in an appearance owing to his taking part in a tour on the Continent, Platt was suffering from an abscess on the leg, and Haycock was lame through an injury sustained on the previous Saturday.

Jarvis took Platt's place in goal, Jones went to left half, and let in Fred White at centre half, and Menzies partnered Brown, Bradley being in the centre.

The teams turned out as under:—

Luton.—Jarvis; Chapman and McCurdy; F. Hawkes, White and Jones; Brown, Menzies, Bradley, Moody, and Stansfield.

Watford:—Biggar; Lockett and Betts; Palmer, Moffatt, and Richardson; Fyfe, Cleaver, MacLaine, Hubbard and Kelly.

Before the game started Jarvis was sent back to the dressing-room to change his jersey, and reappeared the same as the other Luton players. MacLaine kicked off before about 10,000 people. Play opened very fast, and seeing the strength of the sun it was surprising that so hot a pace was maintained. As first Jack was as good as his master, but Luton soon gave an indication of what they were capable by a splendid piece of combination, by which the forwards went down the field in a line.

The first real shot of the day came from Menzies, who sent in in fine fashion a little over the bar. Brown received from his partner, and made a dash for goal, but he also shot a little wide of the mark. At the opposite end MacLaine missed the upright, and a magnificent attempt by Cleaver was only saved by Jarvis punching over the bar.

Luton were given a slice of very hard luck when Moody received from White and netted the ball, but the point was disallowed because the referee had just sounded his whistle because Palmer was lying on the ground injured. First blood was drawn at little before half-time from a centre by Brown. For a minute Luton looked like missing their chance, but the leather passed into the possession of Moody, who scored, the ball striking the post and flashing into goal.

At the interval the visitors led by 1-0, but up to this point their superiority had not been so marked that a wider margin was expected. The opening of the second half ruled in favour of Watford, who secured two fruitless corners.

The ground was so crowded that the people were sitting and standing almost on the touch-line. The danger of them encroaching on the field of play was such that the referee found it necessary to stop the game pending the settling of a dispute among some of the spectators which threatened to interfere with the play.

Half an hour after the resumption, play following on a free kick against Watford resulted in Luton's second point. The ball travelled out to Chapman, who returned it, and after a few moments it came to Menzies, who promptly and cleverly placed it between the posts.

A few minutes later Stansfield got clean away, and when near goal passed to Brown, who quickly netted. The referee decided that Brown was offside, though on what grounds it was very difficult to understand. A little later a clearance by McCurdy set Brown moving, and from his centre Menzies registered point number three. When the final whistle was heard the Luton supporters delighted in the Town's substantial victory by three clear goals.

The visiting players performed so well that it is unnecessary to pick out anyone for special mention, save Menzies, whose display was a great improvement upon those of the last few weeks—indeed it ranks as equal to, if not better than, any he has given for the "Strawbatters."

The writer of the football notes in the "Watford Observer" says: "Good Friday's game at Cassio-road produced the largest gate which has been taken in the series of matches between the clubs. The proceeds were £318, which is £8 more than in the corresponding game last Easter, and £33 more than in 1907. At Luton last Boxing Day the sum of £286 was taken, so that the Strawplaiters again get the best of the pooling arrangement. Considering, however, what a large number of supporters they brought over with them, Watford have no cause for grumbling in this respect."

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As to the play, he remarks: "I have never seen a Watford half-line make such a poor show as did the trio who were on duty on Friday. They were ineffective in tackling, failed to pass accurately or to keep the ball on the ground, and generally did the wrong thing all through. Compared with them, the Luton halves were giants. Jones, White, and Fred Hawkes appeared to get a grip of the game as soon as it started, and they never let go. In Luton's victory they had more than an average share. Then McCurdy and young Chapman were in clipping form behind, and Jarvis was not unduly impressed by the importance of the occasion."

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