

The Southern League.

WATFORD v. LUTON.

Played at Luton on Good Friday. Result:—

Luton	3 goals.
Watford	nil.

Teams:—

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

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

Referee, Mr. J. T. Rowbotham.

Records were broken at Watford on Good Friday. In the first place this was Luton's first S.L. away victory of the season, while it was also Watford's first defeat at home. And this after Watford had registered their first away victory on the previous Saturday. On top of this there was the fact that the accommodation afforded to spectators was tested to its utmost capacity, the takings amounting to £317 8s. 6d.

Three special trains were run from Luton, and as large numbers also made the journey by road, supporters of the visiting team were well in evidence, especially as almost every one of them sported a little piece of blue ribbon. So large was the crowd on the ground that youngsters were allowed to sit down near the touch-line, and this fact resulted in one stoppage of the play, consequent upon spectators going on to the pitch to see an individual who had to be removed by the police.

The poet Craig was there, and everybody was in holiday mood. Considering the summer-like weather, the pace throughout the game was very great. No one who saw the game would deny that Luton thoroughly deserved their victory, although it did come as a startling surprise. The clubs were almost together on the table, and the chances seemed to be against Luton, seeing that they were playing away from home and with an altered team.

The absence of Platt was due to an abscess on his leg, and Haycock had been injured in the New Brompton match on the previous Saturday. Both Bob Hawkes and Fayers were absentees on account of the amateur international match at Amsterdam fixed for Easter Monday. Watford may have suffered through the absence of Fayers, but every man on the Luton side rose to the occasion, Menzies being the greatest success of all.

In justice to Watford, it should be stated that they had the better of the opening exchanges in each half, and made some very warm attacks on the Luton goal. McCurdy, however, was in tip-top form, and the safe play of Jarvis and Chapman also helped to keep the aggressors at bay. As a matter of fact, there was little to choose between the teams on the play in the first half, and Luton's lead of one goal at the interval did not make the result by any means a foregone conclusion.

After half-an-hour's play Moody received a pass from White and put in a long shot, the ball entering the top right-hand corner of the goal. Before the ball entered the net, however, the referee had blown his whistle because Palmer was on the ground. The Watford right-half had suffered a minor injury, and so an otherwise excellent point was disallowed. The first real goal was notched by Moody, whose low shot went in off the upright.

No. 2 was obtained by Menzies a quarter of an hour before the finish of the game. In the play following a free kick, Moody headed across the mouth of goal, and Menzies had little difficulty in steering the sphere into the desired haven. Shortly after this, Stansfield made a brilliant run and tipped the ball to Brown, who scored. The referee ruled that Brown was off side, but he seemed to receive the ball by means of a back pass.

In the closing stages Luton played with the confidence born of success, and came very near to scoring two or three goals in addition to the one credited to Menzies. This was the result of a centre by Brown. Betts endeavoured to clear near the upright, but only sent the ball to Menzies, who made no mistake with a cross shot. All was now over, except the shouting, and Luton people did not forget that when the referee blew his whistle for the last time.

Matches between these clubs are always full of incident, and this was the case on Friday, although there were times during the second half when both sides showed signs of wear. There was quite a number of foul throws, due

no doubt to some of the excitement manifested by the crowd being imparted to the players. The result of the game was a triumph for Bradley's dash combined with Menzies' skill, and aided by nine other men who played as well as they knew how to.