

Southern League.

WATFORD v. LUTON.

Played at Watford yesterday. Result:—

Watford	1 goal.
Luton	1 goal.

Teams:—

Watford — Biggar; Lockett and Betts; Cleaver, Kent, and Fyfe; White, Skinner, H. Smith, Maclaime, and Moore.

Luton—Jarvis; Chapman and Hedley; F. Hawkes, Jones, and Trueman; Brown, Quinn, Smith, Moody, and Stansfield.

Referee, Mr. J. G. Wilson.

Quite a good number of Lutonians made the journey to Watford yesterday by rail and road, and the attendance was between three and four thousand. Luton were represented by the team which won by four goals to two last week, but Watford made some changes. Squires and Grieve were absentees, Skinner, a reserve back from Southend, was introduced at inside right, and Smith made his first appearance at centre-forward since he broke his leg at Southampton last season. He is an amateur. White is a former Exeter City man.

Fred Hawkes lost the toss, but the Luton forwards were soon in evidence. One particularly fine run was stopped by Betts. Then Maclaime rushed to the other end and forced a corner. Jarvis ran out to save, but recovered before Fyfe put in a long shot. When Luton came again Lockett proved to be very strong in defence, and at the other end Hedley cleverly robbed Smith. At the end of ten minutes, Luton scored. Stansfield centred and Betts kicked the ball to Moody, who took deliberate aim and scored with a high shot in the corner of the goal.

Watford's forwards were not playing at all well, but Skinner had an easy chance to equalise after Jarvis had left his goal. He sent wide, much to the disgust of the home crowd. In the succeeding play, Watford improved somewhat, but there was very little incident in the play. The first free kick was for a foul on Jones, and in the attack which followed Biggar punched a long shot by Brown.

The general play of the home team did not inspire confidence, and the Luton front rank was much the better set. A fine long shot by Fyfe went straight to goal, where Jarvis easily disposed of it. In one or two attacks by Watford the halves did not lend sufficient support to their forwards, and a striking contrast was afforded by the Luton trio, Jones in particular generally being on the spot when wanted. An aggressive movement on the Watford left looked dangerous, for Hedley skied the ball, but Jarvis saved amidst a crowd of players.

Good play by Stansfield and Moody found Smith near the Watford goal, and he did his best with a shot from a difficult angle. A couple of free kicks gave Watford a look in, and from the second Jarvis saved a header by Smith, who was at close quarters. Watford came again, but the defence prevailed, and in a further attack Moore shot wide when he had a good chance. A minute later Jarvis was fortunate in clearing when he was on the ground and the ball was at the feet of Smith.

It will be seen that Watford improved as the interval drew near. This was not really due to any excellence on their part, but to the easy way in which Luton went about their work. Still, Luton were much the better team, and were fully entitled to the lead. The goal was an easy one, however. Moody had plenty of time to take aim, and Biggar should have been fully aware of the direction in which the ball would go.

Directly after the resumption, Watford got away, but the ball went wide. A fast run by Brown caused Kent to give a corner, and Biggar saved Jones' header. The Watford forwards were making the running, when Chapman dashed across and kicked into touch. Then Luton got away, and Betts robbed Quinn just as he was about to pass out to Brown. Stansfield made a good run, but was pulled up for fouling Cleaver. A nice centre by White led to quite a prolonged assault on the Luton goal. A corner was awarded, and after Jarvis had saved a clipping shot by Kent, Moore ran the ball out of play. A couple of centres by Brown were well caught by Biggar, who next came out and prevented Moody from profiting by a forward pass by Stansfield. Watford quickly got to the other end, where they lost chances by bad shooting.

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After Luton had been pressing, the Watford forwards got away in a line, but Chapman stopped them by kicking out. One of the best attempts of the match was made by Smith, whose low shot Jarvis had to be very smart to save. Momentary stoppages caused by injuries to Jones and Cleaver were followed by fast exchanges, and the play was now really interesting. Smith fastened on the ball fifteen yards from goal and tried a ground shot, which Biggar did not have much difficulty in clearing.

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A miskick by Chapman looked dangerous, but Moore ran the ball over the line. Moody next got clear and tried a hard high shot. Biggar, who had come out, put up his hands, and the ball went over for a corner. This was cleared, but Luton came again, and Quinn shot wide rather weakly. Stansfield tricked two or three opponents, but was prevented from getting right through. Following a centre by Brown, Stansfield's header was punched out by Biggar, and a shot from the outside left met with a similar fate.

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Then came the most sensational incident of the match. Trueman kicked in the wrong direction, and the ball was a trifle too high for Chapman to head it. Moore centred, and Smith was presented with a glorious chance, but Jarvis came out and literally took the ball off his toes. Stansfield made a fine effort and finished with a good shot, Biggar just touching the ball before Quinn steered it behind. On another occasion, however, Quinn deserved to score with a shot which went over the far corner of the goal. Hedley was also conspicuous with a fine clearance when MacLaine was getting dangerous.

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Five minutes from the finish Smith equalised. The ball came across from Moore, and the centre-forward, who was in an offside position, steadied himself and shot into the net. The goal was allowed, and the spectators cheered the home players on to greater efforts. There was some exciting play in the mouth of the Luton goal, but time came without any further score. The goal was the outcome of very persistent efforts on the part of Watford. Luton, so far as the general play was concerned, were the better team, and were unlucky to have victory snatched from their grasp.