

LUTON v. WATFORD.

Played at Luton on Tuesday.* Result:—

Luton 3 goals.
Watford 1 goal.

Teams:—

Luton—Jarvis; Wightman and Potts; F. Hawkes, Bushell, and R. M. Hawkes; Brown, Quinn, Johnson, Moody, and Stansfield.

Watford—Webster; Lockett and Stewart; Davis, Kent, and Beaumont; Tattersall, Flint, MacLaine, White and Squires.

Referee, Mr. G. J. Ross, Aldershot.

The accommodation of the Luton ground was tested to its utmost capacity on Tuesday, when Watford paid a return visit and brought a large following with them. There were eight or nine thousand people present, and the "gate" amounted to about £250. So great was the crush, that when Jarvis was making a save in the first half the spectators on the big bank swayed, and a portion of the fence at the corner near Ivy-road was broken down.

The weather was very cold, and snow began to fall about the time fixed for the kick-off. A strong wind was blowing, and the winning of the toss counted for a good deal. It was won by the Watford captain, but Luton showed up better than on the previous day, and were leading by two goals to nil at the interval. Both teams scored in the second half, but the play in this period was not very interesting.

Smith was again an absentee, but R. M. Hawkes returned to the team, and thus enabled Johnson to take the centreforward position. This proved to be a far better arrangement than the one adopted on the previous day, for it allowed Moody to partner Stansfield, while Johnson was good enough in the centre. The failing of the forwards was not a lack of cohesion but a disposition on the part of the inside men to get offside.

Although playing against the wind, Luton started in fine style, and Webster had to be smart to save a low shot from Stansfield. Watford then had a turn, and when the Luton forwards again got to close quarters Webster caught a dropping shot from Stansfield. The incident of the broken fence happened at this stage, and a miniature snow-storm came on.

Twelve minutes after the start, Moody opened the scoring, snapping up a pass from Stansfield and sending the ball into the top of the net. At the other end, Jarvis was charged when he was holding the ball and fell. At this period the wind was greatly in favour of Watford, and Bushell tried to head away, but the ball was blown behind the goal-line. Jarvis was kept busy for a time, and was successful in clearing.

The Luton forwards then got away in a line. The ball seemed to be going out of play, but Brown trapped it just in time, and Quinn tried a lightning shot which was a trifle too high. A good screw shot caused Webster to fling himself at the ball, which he diverted to the other side of the post. A cross shot from Johnson looked promising, but Webster saved.

Another shot from Stansfield gave the Watford goalkeeper some trouble, for while he was on the ground with the ball two or three Luton forwards tried to get at it. The result was that Webster had to receive attention from the trainer. After this Jarvis brought off one or two good saves. Then Stansfield centred, and Stewart headed out. Moody obtained possession, and although in a difficult position scored with a cross shot.

Although there was no more scoring in the remaining quarter of an hour before the interval, there was plenty of incident. A hard shot from Fred Hawkes hit the upright. Tattersall finished a fast run by sending across the goal, but none of his colleagues were there. Webster was saving a smart shot from Moody when he was fouled by Johnson. Another shot from Moody was saved by Webster on the ground, and it was evident that the goalkeeper was suffering from some injury.

He again received attention during the interval, and was able to resume. Early in the second half Beaumont, who is a Biggleswade man, was seen to be limping, and he went to outside left. He soon recovered, and it was from a centre by him that Watford scored their only goal. The first shot of the second half was put in by Brown. Webster punched the ball up and it fell on the top of the net.

Stansfield ran forward and reached a long pass from Moody. The centre was well judged, but Johnson was marked, and could not be blamed for shooting over. A long shot from Bushell might have caught some goalkeepers unawares, but Webster was equal to the occasion. A free kick taken by Brown produced a corner, and Lockett almost put through his own goal.

The corner just referred to produced another. The ball was swung across by Stansfield, and Fred Hawkes had no difficulty in touching it through. When the spectators saw that a goal had been scored they cheered very heartily, for it is not often that Freddy manages to do the trick, although he has a try now and again. There was a short stoppage for an injury to Whiteman, and the next incident was a corner

for Watford, after three players had rolled over a few yards from goal.

The Watford left wing having got the better of Wightman, Potts dashed across, but was unfortunate enough to collide with one of the Watford forwards. Potts had some trouble with his knee in consequence, and was carried off the field by Mr. Lawson. It was while Potts was off that Watford scored their goal. Beaumont was in his own half when he eluded Whiteman. The Watford man raced away, and his centre was converted by MacLaine.

Moody also scored an offside goal before Potts returned, and from a corner taken by Stansfield the inside left headed into Webster's hands. Moody also distinguished himself with a fine swerving shot, but fate decreed that there was to be no more scoring. Both sides slackened towards the finish, and it was evident that the players had had enough of football for this Christmas season at any rate.