

WATFORD v. LUTON.

Fine Victory Over the League Leaders.

CAPITAL FORWARD WORK.

Luton achieved a notable victory over their old Hertfordshire rivals at Watford on Good Friday, scoring four goals against two by their opponents.

The teams were—

LUTON.		
Right.		Left.
Mitchell.		
Elvey.		Dunn.
F. Hawkes.	Frith.	R. Hawkes.
Roberts.	Roe.	Simms.
		Rollinson.
		Hoar.
O		
Edmonds.		
Waterall.	Green.	Ronald.
		Hastings.
F. Gregory.	Kennedy.	V. Gregory.
Stewart.		Bulling.
	Williams.	

WATFORD.

Referee, Mr. C. C. Fallowfield (London).

If only the railway companies had offered the usual facilities it would have been a record gate at Watford yesterday. Notwithstanding all the difficulties it was estimated that over 500 Lutonians journeyed over by various routes. Quite a number travelled to St. Albans and then tramped the eight miles while others travelled as far as Mill Hill and Hendon, and then by motor 'bus. Hundreds journeyed by cycle. The team travelled by motor from Luton, and some players returned by the same route. Half the party, however, were left stranded, as one of the motors could not be induced to budge from the ground. Although efforts were made to get another over it did not arrive before the party left by train.

Both teams were at full strength, and with a level pitch there was every prospect of a good game. Before the match it was evident from the remarks of the Watford supporters that they rather feared the outcome of the struggle, for Luton have ever proved a tough handful for Watford. Since Boxing Day Watford have not lost a Southern League game; indeed, Luton's victory in the friendly at Watford on February 6th is their only defeat this year of any sort. But Luton's remarkable record away from home had evidently impressed the Watford crowd and the Lutonians present were just as confident their pets would keep up their record. The gate amounted to £291, and as the gate is pooled with the one at home it will ensure Luton receiving a decent amount. The rain held off until the majority of the spectators had assembled, but almost all through the game it fell slightly and rendered the ball a trifle greasy in the second half.

HOAR'S SCORING DRIVE.

Watford pressed at the start and Dunn was early on compelled to concede a corner although Ronald should have been given offside just before. Mitchell had difficulty in getting a shot from Edmunds clear in a scrimmage. But Hastings went even closer after rounding Dunn and putting the ball almost square along the goal line to Mitchell, who could only just touch it, and actually knocked it up to the underside of the bar. It cannoned clear of danger rather luckily.

Practically the first time Luton appeared dangerous they scored. A nice pass from Bob Hawkes gave Roe his opportunity and he sent the ball right across the mouth of goal to Rollinson. It seemed impossible for the Luton inside-left to miss scoring for Williams was right away at the opposite side of his charge, but the ball seemed to bounce awkwardly and the chance disappear. Hoar, however, was in attendance and sent in a rising shot which found the net.

After this Luton did better, Hoar putting in some fine work, but an error of judgment on the part of the referee brought about an equalising point for Watford. Hastings was getting clean away when he was fouled from behind by Dunn, but there is no doubt whatever that the actual foul took place at least two yards outside the penalty area. Both players fell inside the fatal crease and after consulting his linesmen the referee awarded a penalty kick to Watford. Kennedy took this and with a slow shot beat Mitchell.

Almost direct from the re-start Hoar went away in fine style and finishing up with a perfect centre, gave Simms one of the chances he appreciates. He promptly put Luton ahead again.

Before half-time Roberts had two attempts at scoring which might easily have been goals, but nothing further happened and Luton crossed over still leading by the odd goal.

SIMMS' SURE SHOOTING.

In the second half Watford were seen to greater advantage in midfield, but failed at the target and Luton without nearly so much pressing were the more likely scorers when they got away. Ten minutes after the crossing over Rollinson forced his way through and placing the ball nicely to Simms the Luton centre-forward netted again. This point practically gave Luton a winning advantage, for the visiting defenders were playing a stubborn game, and if Dunn's kicking was a trifle erratic, as a whole the backs and halves were well on top of the home attack.

Twenty-five minutes from the close, however, Watford managed to secure a second goal which was to some extent given them by the wind. Dunn appeared to clear all danger with a huge kick which at first seemed likely to carry the ball well over the stand, but it hung in the air and fell into play. Waterall gained possession; he sent right across the field and Ronald netted with a cross drive.

For a short time Watford put greater energy into their play and it was just possible, if the Luton defence had wavered at all, a different complexion might have been put on the game, but the defenders were taking no risks and were out to maintain the advantage gained.

Roberts was doing better than earlier in the game and once or twice brought the ball through in good style. Therefore it was not altogether a surprise when five minutes from the close he was instrumental in giving Luton an "odds on" chance of winning. Still, it was a curious goal for Williams dashed out almost twenty yards to meet the oncoming right wing, but failed altogether to secure the ball. Roberts actually put the ball over his head and it bounced into the vacant net.

All chance for Watford had been effectually quashed by this remarkable point, and with Luton content to hold the lead they ran out deserved winners. Result:—

Luton 4 goals.

Watford 2 goals.

TRIBUTE TO THE BACKS.

In the course of its report of the match the "Sporting Life" says:—

A record holiday crowd, numbering close on 8,000, attended but the game did not furnish a particularly bright display of football, the players apparently being too excited to give of their best. Luton owe much of their success to their backs, Elvey and Dunn, who time after time saved critical situations.