

## **WATFORD'S BANK HOLIDAY REVENGE**

The return match of the Luton and Watford Southern League teams at Luton, on Easter Monday, was favoured with ideal weather, and there was another bumper "gate," the takings realising £315—an advance of £24 on the proceeds realised at Watford. There were over ten thousand spectators to see the Luton team once more maintain the season's reputation by nullifying the gain of two points achieved at Watford. Both clubs had two changes from Good Friday. Wileman, as on Saturday, was inside-right vice Roe, and the thigh injury Bob Hawkes received at New Cross kept him out and brought Heath in at left-half. Watford were without Hastings at outside-right, and Kennedy at centre-half, the newcomers being two of the halves who played in the Reserves game on Good Friday, Barnshaw at centre, and McMorran at left-half. F. Gregory, in consequence, moved up to inside-left, and Green went outside-right.

Watford won by 2-0, and all the scoring was Jones in the first half. Things might have been very different if Simms, who went very close from Roberts centre in the first minute or so, had got the better instead of the worse of a mix up with

the goalkeeper and one of the backs, but after the first few minutes the Blues were never really seen to advantage. A light ball and lively playing pitch always seemed more of a bother to the homesters than to their rivals, who were altogether quicker and more workmanlike in all their movements. Elvey in particular never seemed to get over his unhappy experiences of the first few minutes. Troubled by the bounce of the ball he took too long in making a clearance, and kicked on to Waterall. Mitchell came out and it was quite a toss up whether he got there first. He just managed it, but he again kicked on to Waterall, and it was the luckiest thing in the world that the ball rebounded at an angle admitting of a clearance. Directly afterwards, however, Elvey was again in trouble, and this time F. Gregory was too quick for him, and slipping the ball by steered a first-time shot straight into the centre.

Watford were always the superior side after this. Luton were penned in for long times together, and strong incident was singularly lacking, considering the keenness of the rivalry. Dunn and Frith alone shone in the work of defence, and they were worked pretty hard, but the Watford forwards were generally on top. Edmonds and the left wing made a particularly thrustful combination, and F. Gregory justified his inclusion in the front line by shooting with remarkable power, and oftentimes with great accuracy, on almost every possible occasion. Mitchell more than once had trouble from both Gregory and Waterall, and he once effected the most picturesque—and at the same time one of the luckiest—of saves from a corner. As he darted out to brush the ball away it was touched out of his reach, and in the scramble it seemed that it must go through, but at the right moment Mitchell pounced on it, and taking to the ground held on until the referee awarded a free-kick against Watford. The second goal did not come until a quarter of an hour before the interval, and in a sense it was quite an act of justice. Edmonds was dashing through when Dunn half hooked him up outside the penalty area, and although he half recovered his balance a smashing shoulder charge from Elvey robbed his shot of some force. But for either of these occurrences he would undoubtedly have been a scorer for even as it was Mitchell had all he could do to push the ball away. The visitors were very strong in their claim for a penalty—although it was nothing like one—but it panned out very well for them because the left wing got the ball back into the centre, and Edmonds sent it in without a moment's hesitation.

The visitors were splendidly backed up by their halves, and the home forwards have rarely been seen to poorer advantage. Generally Simms was in the mood he favours when things do not go well for him, and the only other time Luton looked like scoring was when Wilman hooked in a great first-timer with the left, and just missed the post. Roberts was consistently landing the ball behind, and the only promising work came from the left wing, but Rollinson was handicapped in that Hoar was well marked, and sometimes most unceremoniously treated. This was especially the case in the second half, Bulling evidently being determined to give him no chance of repeating his Good Friday tricks.

Diversion of any sort came as altogether welcome relief in the second half, for the play was terribly tame. Watford always held the game in hand, but they did not cover themselves with glory, and practically all the incident occurred in the first few minutes.

This was Luton's fifth successive Southern League defeat at home, and in the period covered by this failure to register points at home they have actually picked up eight out of a possible ten away. Altogether they have gained only 13 points out of 18 home games.