

NO EASTER MONDAY LUCK.

Opinions differed at the Easter Monday meeting of Luton and Watford as to whether the attendance equalled that at the Liverpool cup-tie, but it cannot have been far short of 13,000. In any case it was certainly a record Southern League gate for the Town ground. Watford had a big following of bedecked and enthusiastic supporters, and one of them before the game set himself up as a rival to the Red Cross Band. Clambering on the sloping roof of the lane stand he divested himself of coat and boots and gave quite a lively exhibition of dancing until he tired himself out. This was not the only diversion out of the ordinary, as during the first half there was a fight between a couple of spectators on the terrace near the back of the Watford goal. The crimson was soon flowing very copiously and one of the directors had a good deal of difficulty in separating the contestants.

Luton had Simms and Bookman back in the team, and therefore Hoar returned to outside right in place of Grimes and Roe for Hill at inside right. With Rutherford and Dodd also away there were three changes from the side which played at Watford, but the visitors made only one change, their captain, Fred Gregory, returning to left back in place of Grimesdell.

The outstanding feature of the first half was the wonderful exhibition given in the Watford goal by Williams, who somehow always manages to be right at the top of his form whenever he visits Luton. To go into the details would be but to chronicle instance after instance of the remarkable alacrity, intelligent anticipation and fine courage with which he defended his goal from the fiercest of onslaughts. Right from the start he showed himself at his best in keeping out a grand shot from Hoar, and as the game advanced he showed the same readiness in nullifying a series of fine efforts by Simms, Bookman, and Hoar. One of his best achievements was in diving for the ball when Simms was going through in glorious style, and holding on while first the centre and then Roe pitched over him.

Luton forwards were keeping up a splendid pace and playing really enterprising, go-a-head football, and it was disheartening to find all their work discounted by such an impenetrable barrier. Roe might have beaten him if he could have properly got to a centre from Bookman, which landed almost under the bar, but he could not steady himself and blazed wide. He did the same thing earlier on when right in front, but this made no difference as he was ruled offside. Apart from these instances the Blues could not be accused of throwing chances away. They were pressing for quite three parts of the first half, and yet Watford were lucky enough to score the only goal. Summers had a nasty one from Watrall to deal with a quarter of an hour after the start, Hodgkinson missed a rare opening and Edmunds hit the upright from a difficult angle, and then three minutes from the interval Edmunds secured the ball from the left wing clean between the backs and without hesitation drove in a shot which gave Summers no hopes.

In the first few minutes of the second half both goalkeepers brought off brilliant saves. Williams from Simms and Summers from White, and after ten minutes a penalty gave Luton the equaliser. Either Higginbotham or Roe would have had a gift if Wilkinson had not stopped a centre from Bookman with his hands, and from the penalty Elvey easily scored. A minute later Williams saved his side from falling behind with his most miraculous save, diving at Roe's feet and taking the ball off in wonderful style. Another brilliant save was from Bookman, and this time Williams himself

did not seem to realise he had accomplished the seemingly impossible.

Still Luton were not playing like the team of the first half. They had taken too much out of themselves, and on the top of this floor had gone lame, Simms appeared to be in agony, and Urwin was obviously feeling the effects of the Norwich "wars." Watford were, of course, having a correspondingly larger share of the exchanges, but they too were lacking in sting, and it was sheer bad luck when the last ten or twelve minutes brought them another goal. The ball was punted across from the right with three of the Watford forwards clearly offside. When Waterall pounced on it some of the Luton defence made the mistake of stopping to appeal for the referee paid no heed to it, and the outside left squared the ball for White to shoot in without any opposition.

The next minute settled the result. Simms caught up a centre from Bookman right in front, but could not get hold of it properly, and his final effort was weak. This was the Blues' last hope. Watford played four halves and put all their energies into defence, and though Val Gregory was hurt and had to retire Luton never looked like breaking through and the end came with the undeserved result

Luton 1, Watford 2.