

HONOURS EASY WITH WATFORD.

The keen rivalry of near neighbours is not conducive to a high exposition of football art, and whatever else may be said about the Town's two meetings with Watford no one would pretend that they could be regarded as classics from a football standpoint. They were, however, the sort of grim, determined struggles we have learned to expect between the two clubs, full of strenuous bustle and go, and neither body of supporters has any cause for complaint that the result was honours easy.

A huge crowd of Lutonians went over to Watford on Good Friday to see the Town beaten by the only goal scored—if they were lucky. That qualification is necessary for the 12,000 attendance left all previous records for the Cassio-road ground, and there must have been many hundreds who were unable to see anything of the game, or at any rate only fragments of it. The Watford ground is notoriously inadequate for the accommodation of a large crowd and the spectators encroached on the pitch to such an extent that several stoppages were necessary and the abandonment of the game more than once threatened.

The Town had the same team as on Saturday with the exception that Parker was at centre-half and Watford were represented by Williams; Horsman and Slade; Carter, Wilkin son and Toone; Bassett, Smith, Hoddinott, White, and Waterall. The only goal of the game was registered by Hoddinott in the first twenty minutes. Luton strongly appealed against it but the Watford men were full value for their victory. Their forward work was immeasurably superior and Bailey had many fine shots to save and would not have been disgraced if the score against him had been larger. Parker had his knee so badly damaged in a collision with Lamb early in the second half that he had to go outside left. Mathieson went centre-half and did almost as well there as at inside-left, but the alteration detracted generally from the effectiveness of the attack. How alone covering himself with glory.

Although Bank Holiday was nothing like so ideally favoured by the weather as Good Friday the attendance on the Town ground exceeded 12,000. Luton reintroduced Higginbotham for Shankland, and a slight injury to Roe caused Parker's reappearance. Watford made no changes and in the first half they always looked the more likely to take the lead. The Town backs were not at all convincing, and thrice the goal had lucky escapes. Bailey misfielded an awkward shot from Hoddinott but recovered with a brilliant clearance from White. Lennon badly let Hoddinott in, and although he spoiled the centre's shot White again failed to make use of a fine chance, and later Hoddinott cleverly slipped both the backs and a crashing shot glanced over off the bar. Williams was scarcely troubled until the last quarter of an hour of the half, when Slade had injured his knee and had to change places with Waterall, but in the last minute he was lucky to be on the spot when Simms seemed certain to get home with a header from Tookman's centre, and Horsman was more than once lucky to bar shots from Simms.

The Town quite turned the tables in the second half. Horsman continued to be the mainstay of the visiting defence and saved finely in a scrimmage after Simms had hit the post from a corner, but he could not repeat the feat from a slashing return shot by Mathieson, which glanced off him out of Williams' reach. This occurred after twelve minutes, and Luton have to thank Bailey for maintaining the lead more than a minute. With excellent judgment he fearlessly ran out with Smith right through, stopped the shot on the ground, and while full length handed away. Hoddinott still had a good chance, but the backs packed the goal and the halves harried him into sending wide. Ten minutes later he again went close with a great shot, but for the rest of the game the Town were the more dangerous. Horsman and Williams were brilliant in defence, but with the goalkeeper out Higginbotham lost a fine chance through dalliance, and Simms got right through only to shoot straight at Williams. On the whole Watford were lucky to emerge with a 1-0 defeat, but they put up a plucky fight.