

WATFORD WIN AT HOME.

LUTON TOWN DOWN BY ODD GOAL IN THREE.

WATFORD 2 goals
LUTON TOWN 1 goal

WATFORD. — Williams; Horsman, Gregory; Toone, Strain, Carter; Stephenson, Smith, Pagnam, White, Mummery.

LUTON. — Gibbon; Lennon, Tirrell; Foster, Walker, Jennings; Hoar, Higginbotham, Thompson, Butcher, Clarkson.

Referee.—Mr. F. Dawson, London.

Last year at Watford I predicted for the home side a successful future when the team had got together a little more. They showed us the truth of it on Saturday. Opinions vary as to whether Watford deserved to win or whether a draw would have been a better reflex of the game. I think we were unlucky not to draw on the run of the play, but that Watford's better balance perhaps entitled them to the goal victory. It was not a satisfactory goal that gave Watford the points. We can take a licking, I hope, with the next, but where there is

ANY DOUBT

about a goal the benefit should be given to the defending side. That is one of the first maxims of the game, and Mr. F. Dawson, who, by the way, was severely criticised at Luton a fortnight ago, evidently flouted that maxim, as I will show in due course.

The first goal came after 11 minutes' play, and was a beautiful shot by PAGNAM from 20 yards' range, the ball going into the net like a flash, low down, and well out of Gibbon's reach. There was nothing so spectacular about Luton's goal, but it was another example of Butcher's cunning. When all was set out for a throw-in on the right wing Butcher crept up in the rear of the players, seized the ball and ran across goal, and pushed it forward at the right moment in the direction of Clarkson. Toone seemed undecided whether to hold Clarkson off or to go for the ball, and when he resolved on the latter Williams had run out. CLARKSON'S head was up first, and he sent the ball

INTO THE EMPTY GOAL.

The second goal came less than midway through the second half, and, as I have said, it was quite unsatisfactory. From a corner kick Mummery swung the ball in, and it swerved into goal. It appeared as if several players might have stopped the ball, but it went into the net. There was evidently a general impression among the players that the ball had gone over the line without anyone touching it. The referee seemed to be undecided for a moment, and then pointed to the centre. The Town players crowded round him, but for a little while he refused to give way. Then he walked over to a linesman, and, whatever was said, his decision was not altered. At the time, as White and Strain shook hands, we thought that one of the two had scored, but after the game I asked the Town players what really happened, and they were unanimous in saying that the ball was over the line when it touched Gibbon's leg, and they expected a goal kick to be awarded.

It was hard lines to be deprived of a share of the spoils in that way, especially as for the previous 20 minutes the Town had been far the better side and done much more pressing. It was a case of

POOR AND INFREQUENT

shooting, and in the forward line alone could Watford claim superiority. The play of the home vanguard in the first half was exceptionally good; they got off the mark splendidly, moved in unison, and were not slow to concentrate on Gibbon's charge. Few of them did any shooting except Pagnam, however, and it was perhaps as well for the Town. In the second half they were not so prominent, because they had fewer chances, but one or two dangerous raids were nullified by questionable tactics. Stephenson was a clever winger, constantly threatening danger, and Pagnam's sudden raids were just as full of peril. On the other flank, Munnery did well, and both inside forwards, Smith and White, were helpmeets to the men on either side. Of the halves Carter was the best, although all played well, but the backs, Horsman and Gregory, were none too safe, although rather boisterous, and Williams was quite safe.

The Town team again did well individually, but once more there was a lack of method and understanding in the forward line. For one thing, Thompson did not rise to his best, and that was perhaps

NOT SURPRISING.

He got a knock early on, and when he retaliated the referee took his name. He did not get many chances of shooting from easy positions, because the ball was usually in the clouds. Hoar centred well, and gave Gregory a lot of anxiety at times, as did Higginbotham, who was all right in initiating many attacks and showing more than a little crafty footwork, but did not shoot half enough. Butcher played splendidly in midfield, and was quick and thrustful. He was not far short of being the best of the forwards, and he gave Clarkson many passes, but the latter did not dribble or middle in his best style, although Toone was often puzzled. The halves were better spoilers than Watford's, but not quite so good in feeding. Walker could not hold Pagnam in the early part, but kept a tighter rein on him in the second half, and once went right through in great style and finished with a rousing shot that deserved a goal, but for a marvellous save by Williams. Walker's diffidence in thinking that

he would not make a forward can hardly be accepted in face of efforts like this. Foster and Jennings were

STRONG AND VIGOROUS,

and they also broke up well, but each was disposed to leave their opposing winger too much and bear into the centre.

Lennon and Tirrell were strong and usually sure. They covered each other and Gibbon finely, and the captain played a magnificent game, marred only by one slip that was retrieved. Gibbon was blameless except in the matter of the second goal, and some thought he should have got the ball away instead of allowing it to go.

The referee took the names of four Luton players—Lennon, Jennings, Thompson and—most curious of all, this—Clarkson. But he did not take the names of Horsman, Toone and Paguam, who were equally guilty. The only comment on his exhibition that I care to make is that he is just as likely to take the names of three or more Watford players next Saturday—if he officiates—for the game is at Luton.

The attendance was not so large as it appeared to be, and the official figures were 10,500, and the receipts £675.