

ENGLISH CUP.

LUTON v. WATFORD.—RE-PLAYED TIE.

LUTON WIN A WRETCHED GAME.

On Wednesday, in miserably wet weather, the English Cup tie between Luton and Watford was re-played on the Hertfordshire enclosure. There was an attendance of about 2500, three or four hundred of whom made the journey from Luton. The heavy rain had made the ground treacherous, and a high wind prevailed, making accurate play out of the question. Luton re-arranged their team, putting Crump at centre-half with Hewitt on his left, McInnes again appearing to partner Durrant. Watford stood down Wood in favour of R. G. Wright, the Casual, who went centre, Beach being sent back on the half-line. The full teams were :

Luton : Perkins ; Moore and Williams ; Ford (C), Crump, and Hewitt ; Durrant, McInnes, Galbraith, Ford (W), and Brock.

Watford : Baker ; Sharp and Cother ; Beach, Robins, and Marsh ; Hare, Slaughter, Wright, McNee and Hill.

Referee : Mr. B. M. Lockyer.

McInnes won the toss, and gave his side the benefit of the wind. Crump early made a mistake, which let in Hare, who centred well, a hot scrimmage ensuing round Perkins. A foul was given against McNee, and this brought Luton relief. Hill, however, forced a corner off Williams, nothing resulting from it. A long shot by W. Ford went wide, and the game livened up and got very fast. After ten minutes' play, Marsh fouled Durrant. Williams placed well in from the "free," and in the course of a bully Galbraith hooked the ball through, scoring what proved to be the only point in the game.

Luton now set up a hot attack. A hard drive by Crump went wide, and Baker saved smartly from a high dropping shot by Hewitt. Wright at last got clear, and at about 20 yards' range shot in, but he was wide of the mark. As the match proceeded the referee let the men get completely out of hand, with the result that the game from this stage was a most miserable exhibition.

Several times fists were put up and once or twice actual blows were struck. The dirty work seen was abominably bad, and Mr. Lockyer did little to check it. Marsh fetched Durrant down dirtily time after time, and Sharp struck Hewitt, while Hill and C. Ford "framed up" to each other. Half-time

LUTON	1
WATFORD	0

On changing ends, the Watfordians were hoping to see their men put a different complexion on the game, but it was at once clear that Luton had their opponents well in hand. Hare changed over to the centre, but this time the change did not work. Baker smacked out a capital cross shot by Durrant, and Beach completed the clearance. Just after this,

Perkins brought off a marvellous save. Hare had raced clear and passed to McNee, who drove in a hot grounder, which the Luton custodian dived at and held, finally getting it clear at the expense of a corner.

Taking a long pass from Durrant, McInnes headed a splendid goal, which the referee disallowed on the ground of offside. The point was quite legitimate, but this was only one of the many queer decisions of Mr. Lockyer. In a free-kick following a foul by Hare, Moore put the ball into the net without it receiving the necessary second touch. Galbraith had hard luck with a shot which went just too high and immediately afterwards McInnes lifted the ball over the bar. Despite the fact that Watford now had the benefit of the wind, they were almost continuously panned in by Luton, who had now thoroughly got their measure. Durrant, receiving from Gally's centre, raced half the length of the field, but in his anxiety to get as close as possible, ran the ball beyond the goal-line before centreing, spoiling a capital chance.

Close on the finish, Watford made strenuous efforts to draw level and once they looked like doing the trick. So Luton won a game, of which they had had much the better by 1 goal to nil. The referee added to his vagaries by stopping the game 4 or 5 minutes before time. After the game, an excited crowd gathered round the pavilion, threatening trouble, but they dispersed on urgent entreaties by the home committee. Altogether the game was a most unpleasant one.

Commenting on the game, "Linesman" says: "Watford are a hard, enthusiastic team, but their keenness led them yesterday to the foulest of foul play. If I say that instances were common—very common—of players holding their fists up to each other and going beyond even that, it will be gauged that the referee had no control over the players. I do not say that Luton were angels without the usual appurtenances, but Watford were certainly the instigators of the rough work, and if the referee had turned Hare off the field in the first quarter of an hour the proceeding might have served a good purpose."

Luton put the ball in the net three times altogether, and worked all through like the winning team. The inclusion of McInnes made all the difference, and though not really fit, "Tommy" gave his mates confidence. Galbraith deserves every credit for scoring the only goal, and he did useful service, though the wretched state of the ground made him slow at times. Watford were as much above their form on Saturday, as Luton were decidedly "off."

Moore played splendidly at back, being best on the field, and Crump, who changed to left-half after 20 minutes' play, did finely in the second half, while W. Ford, when shifted to centre-half, was very effective. Brock was the weakest man on the Luton side. Though playing against the hurricane in the second half, Luton had more of the game than ever. Perkins only touched the ball three times, but one of his saves was marvellous.

Luton have now to meet Shepherd's Bush (formerly Old St. Stephen's) or Richmond, and we have again choice of ground. Tottenham have to defeat Olapton before contesting the final with Luton.