

THE REPLAYED MATCH.

Played at Watford on Wednesday. Result:—

Luton Town	1 goal
Watford	nil.

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There were two alterations in the Watford team, Wright taking the place of Beach at centre-forward, and Beach going right half-back vice Woods. The Luton team had been considerably changed, Moore playing instead of Dow, who was on the injured list, the half-back line being composed of C. Ford, Crump and Hewitt, and the forwards being as follows:—Durrant, McInnes, Galbraith, W. Ford and Brock. The referee was Mr. B. M. Lockyer.

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The game had been looked forward to with a great deal of interest, especially at Watford, but unfortunately the weather was as bad as it well could be. The rain descended in torrents all the morning, and in the afternoon the aspect was not much better, though the downpour was not quite so copious. The ground, however, appeared to be in much better condition than could have been expected, and the Watford people were so enthusiastic that about 2,500 turned out to see the game.

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It was about nine minutes to three when the men lined up. Luton won the toss, and started with the advantage of a strong wind, but they did not seem to derive much help from it. Crump made a miss and Hare got away and centred, but a foul against Watford relieved. The homesters directly afterwards forced a corner, which was well placed by Hill, but another foul—this time against Beach—once more relieved the pressure.

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Luton then got down, and from a throw-in W. Ford shot by the post. A foul against Marsh enabled Williams to place well in the vicinity of goal. McInnes headed, and was followed in the same way by Durrant, and Galbraith shot the ball through, thus giving Luton their first point six minutes from the start.

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Luton going away again, Hewitt hit the corner of the bar with a good shot, whilst directly afterwards C. Ford skimmed the cross-piece. Then Watford got away on the left, and Wright receiving put just by the post, Durrant doing ditto a moment later at the other end. Crump was performing rather gingerly, and McInnes going to the rescue gave a foul, from which Oother placed beautifully and Perkins fisted away.

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Hare next made a lovely run more than half the length of the field, beating everybody except Perkins, who kicked away. A pretty piece of combination by Galbraith, McInnes and Durrant was spoiled by the latter getting offside, but Luton got down again, and McInnes scored, after W. Ford had been given offside.

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Watford then made the travelling on the left, and both the Luton backs being at fault, Wright got through, and Perkins ran out and failed to clear, but the ball rolled just by the upright. The game was very fast. Luton were soon down again, and from a centre by Durrant, danger was threatened, but ultimately Watford cleared.

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The referee was showing an amount of latitude which was deplorable, and several of the Watford players were more than vigorous, they were extremely foul, one of the men eventually striking a Luton player, who promptly retaliated. Still Mr. Lockyer took no drastic measures.

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After Watford had had a turn at the Luton end, the visitors responded, and Hewitt put in the mouth of goal, where Sharp fisted the ball, but only a free kick was given. This was cleared, but Luton got down once more by a pretty concerted movement, and McInnes headed a splendid goal. To the intense disgust of Tommy and the rest of the Luton players offside was given.

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Nothing further of note occurred before half-time except a number of fouls by Watford, which escaped Mr. Lockyer's notice, and the teams changed ends with Luton leading by one goal to nil, which, under the circumstances, did not seem to be enough to make the game safe.

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The wind now came on, a regular gale, accompanied by a downpour of rain, and Luton were set a difficult task in facing the elements as well as the Watford team. Hewitt was now playing forward, with W. Ford centre-half, and Crump left-half. This, in fact, had been the order for some time.

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The visitors were the first to get dangerous, and Durrant put in a grand shot, which Baker punted out. In a further attack, one of the Watford backs was to be seen making a desperate rush at Hewitt, whom he struck, but the referee again made no motion, except to give a foul against Hewitt.

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Watford went away from the kick, and McNee got clear and sent in a tremendous shot, against which Perkins seemed to have no earthly chance, but to the great relief and delight of the Luton contingent, he stopped the ball and threw behind. It was the grandest save seen this season. From a foul against Cother—given this time—Durrant got in a shot, to which Baker gave a corner, but nothing resulted. Directly afterwards, Hewitt sent in a beauty, but again Baker was equal to the occasion.

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Still attacking, Durrant centred, and Galbraith put in a fine shot which was just as finely saved, whilst a little later McInnes grazed the upright. Luton at this time were all over the home team, whose efforts were of a spasmodic nature. McInnes had wonderfully hard lines in not converting an overhead kick by Brock, the ball going not more than an inch over the bar.

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W. Ford was deliberately fouled by Robins when he was nowhere near the ball, but the referee threw the sphere up, and this almost spelt disaster to Luton, Watford getting away and Moore having to give a corner to save from McNee, but it was not turned to account. Watford did a little better towards the finish, and four minutes from time, miskicks by the Luton backs let in McNee and Hill, but Perkins brought off another grand save, and the Luton spectators breathed again, whilst they breathed still more freely directly afterwards when the whistle went for time.

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As far as a game could be spoiled by refereeing this one was, Mr. Lockyer giving a deplorable exhibition. The players were allowed to do pretty much as they pleased, and fists were put up with painful frequency. And then to finish up with, the whistle-holder curtailed the time in the second half to the extent of three or four minutes. Watford played the roughest game I have seen for a long time, and with a firm referee, at least two of them would have received marching orders.

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As to the individual merits of the winners, I can only say that the forwards generally played a very good game, Brock, who received a good deal of knocking about, being the only one who did not make much headway. Galbraith was not quite as conspicuous as on Saturday, but perhaps that was because the others did better. McInnes and Durrant both played up with great spirit, and Hewitt rendered a pretty good account of himself.

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At first, Crump seemed to be a signal failure, but subsequently he came on, and did some capital work. Both the Fords performed splendidly, especially in the second half, when Luton had much the better of the game. As to the backs, Williams did the tackling, and Moore the kicking, and each rendered yeoman service, whilst Perkins, as already indicated, gave a grand exhibition in goal.

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The Watford men played pretty smartly at times, but they were not seen to so much advantage as on Saturday, and appeared to depend much more on their bashing and shady tactics

than anything else. They undoubtedly met a superior team, and even the crowd were fain to acknowledge this at the conclusion of the game. But whatever their faults, it must be confessed that the team contains some rare workers, especially among the forwards.