

At Luton On Tuesday

LUTON TOWN 1

Redfern (penalty)

NOTTS FOREST 0

LUTON TOWN.—Coen; King, Dunsmore; Finlayson, Dreyer, Roberts; Clark, Redfern, Billington, Connelly, Stephenson.

FOREST.—Todd; McCall, Munro; Clark, Davies, Pritty; Dyson, McNaughton, Crawshaw, Peacock, Beaumont.

Referee: G. Dutton.

Tuesday afternoon found the Forest at Luton for the return game, and the ground was in a terrible state. One half appeared to be nearly waterlogged, and the other half was soft, though there were not pools of water standing on it.

Forest had made five changes: Beaumont alone retained his place in the attack, and Ashton was displaced from goal by Todd. Forest pursued similar tactics, to those of the previous day. Crawshaw and the wingers kept well up the field, with the inside forwards playing very much like half-backs, and the others keeping well in the rear.

Result was that the Town forwards were well marked, and when long kicks went forward Crawshaw or his wingers tried hard to break through, and did so several times, but were unable to get in a shot worth while.

The Town did not trouble Todd a great deal, though he was more in evidence in the early stages than Coen. The latter's trouble came later. Clark and Stephenson got over many good centres, but the Forest marked the Town inside forwards well, and the struggle was waged just inside the Forest half for a long time.

In a sudden break by the Forest Beaumont got the better of King and swung across a good centre, and Coen made two fine saves within a few seconds, being loudly applauded for the second.

Connelly was brought down inside the penalty area, it seemed to us in the Press Box, but the referee placed the ball on the line itself, and Stephenson shot over the bar. There were few dangerous assaults, for the defenders kept play well outside the penalty area, but shortly before the change of ends the Forest made a desperate attack, and there was a struggle in the Town goal-mouth before Coen got the ball. Play slackened towards the interval which came without score.

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FOREST DEFENCE TESTED

The Town had much the better of the game on the resumption, and Munro and Davies were responsible for splendid work, and Todd was safe. Now and then some of the Forest defenders were none too scrupulous, and as at Nottingham, they conceded a lot of free-kicks.

Again play remained in midfield for a long time, with the players trying to scramble the ball out of the mud, and being robbed again and again, both teams failing to get the ball out to the wings as well as they might have done.

Finlayson was a star in his work with the ball, and the mud was sometimes a boon to him. There was a shout—first for a long time—when the Town forwards got moving like a machine. Connelly and Stephenson carried on after clever work by Roberts, and Billington received in front of goal; he slipped the ball to Redfern as Davies tackled swiftly, and the inside right shot hard, but the ball struck a defender and went for a fruitless corner.

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THE PENALTY GOAL

Responding to the shouts of the crowd the Town began to give the Forest defence a hot time, but when they succeeded in scoring it was a much disputed business. Billington received from the right, and essayed a pass to Stephenson, who was unmarked. McCall was between the two, and whether he stretched out his arm by accident or design only he knows, but the referee thought he did it purposely, and as the infringement was a couple of yards inside the penalty area, he gave a penalty kick.

The Forest players swarmed round the referee, but he was right on the spot and in a better position to see than most of the players, and especially Todd, who ran out of goal and made vehement protest. However, the referee adhered to his decision, and Redfern scored with a perfect penalty kick.

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CLOSING PHASES

There remained thirteen minutes to play, and the Forest made fierce attempts to draw level. The Town players were evidently tired, but they stuck to their task grimly. Dreyer was a host in himself, and the whole of the backs and halves offered stubborn resistance.

By sheer strength the Forest forced a way to the goal, and there were several players on the ground, Coen included, as shots were aimed at goal, but the defenders got in the way, and the ball was cleared.

The Town had slightly the better of the exchanges to the end, and they just about deserved their success, for they had countered dash and courage with courage and cleverness.