

Lupton Cup 1st Round – December 1968

WTC 0 : Dover 3

Braving the mud and the cold, Mr Delahaye (Assistant Inspector) kicked off and set the match in motion at 2.45 pm on December 11. There were incidents right from the start. In the first minute the ball was kicked onto the roof of the nearby Ekco factory. Four minutes later the second ball deflated and a "volunteer" was sent climbing over the roof for the first ball.

This light-hearted mood was soon forgotten, for the match was a tough one. Dover took the initiative from the start and the WTC team was under pressure. In the eleventh minute the WTC crossbar was rattled by a header and in the fifteenth minute only a fine diving save by Wright (in goal), prevented Dover from scoring.

The final twenty minutes of the first half was the only period dominated by the WTC. There were some fine runs by Partington on the left wing and some good mid-field distribution by Marcanik, while in defence Munoz came into his own, and for the rest of the match was almost unpassable.

Half-time came and the Dover defence had remained solid throughout. The second half belonged to Dover who seemed to keep running while the WTC tired and goals were bound to come. In the 54th minute Gamble made a fine run down the left wing for Dover. He beat three defenders before crossing the ball to give Douglas Hamilton a simple shot at an open goal.

From that moment on the WTC were almost a one-man team. The untiring Munoz held the defence together and made repeated attempts to relieve the pressure on the WTC goal. But he could not be in two places at once and two more goals followed in the 74th and 86th minutes. Both goals were scored by Preece, one a solo and one from a through pass from Gamble.

Dover fully deserved their victory, but all credit to a WTC team which never gave up trying. Lack of match practice and training facilities were handicaps which enthusiasm and courage could not overcome. A fine display in this, our first venture into the Lupton Cup.

WGS

From the Customs Journal dated February 1969