

Football

SECOND LEAGUE.

BURTON SWIFTS v. LUTON.

This return game took place at Burton on Christmas Day, before the largest crowd of the season. Luton played with india-rubber boots, except McCartney, whose shoes would not fit him. Luton pressed immediately, and, in fact, did so most of the game. They scored first, after a beautiful piece of combined work between Little and Donaldson, the latter scoring. Had Birch been smarter in parting with the ball, more scoring would have been effected. Crossing over with a lead of 1 goal to 0, Luton again pressed, Donaldson and Little leading on some fine charges, but from a foul Burton got a goal. The ball left the feet of Aspdey, and striking the under edge of the bar went into goal. The Referee allowed a goal, although no second player had touched the sphere—a very unfortunate decision for Luton. Burton's second goal was secured after the ball was a yard over the goal line, before being brought back into play and put through. Luton penned their opponents into their goal almost continuously, but erratic shooting and the good goal keeping of Gray kept the visitors at bay. The result was a defeat for Luton by 2 goals to 1.

The referee was extremely unfair to Luton, and he was ably backed up by one of the linesmen, a local man. The latter fact was discovered by Little's overhearing the said linesman telling the Burton men on his side of the field that one of them should lie down inside the 12 yards line, and a penalty would certainly be given. On this becoming known at half time, Mr Jackson informed the referee that he should have a turn in lieu of the Burton man, and he accordingly acted officially on the line during the second 45. The Luton men all played well, and the most striking feature was the capital combined work of Donaldson and Little, splendid openings being the outcome of their united labours. The teams were:—

Burton—Gray; Cunningham and Aspdey; Hannah, Wyllie, and McKenzie; Goodchild, Fisher, Leigh, Blackie, and McLure.

Luton—Williams; McCartney and McEwen; Davies, Stewart, and Docherty; Gallacher, Birch, Donaldson, Little, and Ekins.