

SECOND LEAGUE.

LUTON v. BURNLEY.

A FINE TRIUMPH.

But for the wretched weather of Saturday, a huge crowd would certainly have witnessed the Town's grand success over the Second League champions, and the local Directors deserve every sympathy in their misfortune in taking only £79 instead of double that sum. A liberal estimate of the "gate" would be 2,500. The absence of Coupar and McCartney, caused by injuries at Newcastle and Burslem, did not make the home team's prospects very rosy, and every credit is due to the men for the manful way they buckled down from the start to gain two points certain. The Burnley men, who appeared in red, looked a smart and business-like eleven, and spared no effort to win.

Mr. Adams, of Birmingham, was referee, and had the following men under command :

Luton : Williams ; Davies and McEwen ; Perrins, Stewart, and Docherty ; Gallacher, Little, Donaldson, McInnes, and Birch.

Burnley : Hillman ; Reynolds and McLintock ; Beveridge, Taylor, and Place ; Morrison, Ferguson, Ross, Bowes, and Place, jun.

The start was made 5 minutes ahead of the advertised time, and Luton lost the toss, playing with the rain in their faces. It was a stern, ding-dong battle from the first, and the spectators watched the opening exchanges with rapt interest. A couple of fouls—rather foolish affairs—were given against Perrins and Little, and the Burnley right wing caused great anxiety by their impetuous rushes. The visitors early showed some fine football, and the clever passing among their forwards was much admired. After a fruitless corner to the visitors, Birch got away, but was given offside. The enthusiasm of the onlookers was first evoked by a splendid dash of Little's, which nearly enabled Donaldson to score.

The locals played with steady confidence, despite the excited demonstrations of their supporters, and were soon holding the upper hand. A beauty from Docherty was cheered, and then the Burnley forwards severely tried the Luton defence, but shot by the post. Luton retaliated, and a magnificent shot from Little was just scooped behind by Hillman, who also saved smartly from the resulting corners. McInnes centred right across the goal mouth, and McEwen made several grand clearances.

Only 21 minutes passed and Stewart had just been fouled, when amid immense enthusiasm, Donaldson literally forced his way through the Burnley back division and clean beat Hillman. The echo of the mighty shout which greeted this feat must have been heard in distant Lancashire. Some 5 minutes before this, however, Burnley had broken through in very dangerous fashion, and, with the goal at his mercy, Place missed badly. So far, Hillman had saved five shots to Williams's one.

Having got the lead, Luton played with re-doubled energy. Little was fouled, and from Davies's place kick, Hillman steered the ball over-head, but offside stopped further aggression for a while. In a collision with Donaldson, Reynolds got "winded" and left the field, though he soon returned. Birch forced a corner, but at this period Burnley seemed to improve, while Luton's defence was a trifle lame. Place, jun., struck the post, and Williams saved wonderfully with the visitors' vanguard quite clear, offside being given immediately afterwards.

Burnley were evidently not to be played with, and Luton had to use the utmost alertness to keep them at bay. Eventually, the home forwards got to the other end, and a bad foul on Birch within the 12 yards' line was only punished with an ordinary free-kick. A corner resulted, and Hillman fisted out from McInnes's head-in, Gallacher being next fouled. Another moment of suspense for Luton came from the clever Burnley forwards, but Williams saved at the expense of a corner, and Place failed badly at the second time of asking. The interval arrived :—

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Everyone was delighted with the splendid exhibition of the Luton men against such formidable opponents, but the result was still in the balance. In the hope of improving their position, Burnley put Place in the centre. The pace had been so hot up to the present that things slackened for a portion of the second half.

Luton re-started in the winning vein, and Donaldson forced a corner after a terrific tussle, Hillman rushing out to clear. Once more McEwen shone in defence, and then came Luton's second goal, 16 minutes from the kick-off. Thanks to a fine pass from Little, Gallacher ran through all opposition and scored with a glorious shot from the wing, McInnes putting on the finishing touch. The spectators were wild with rapture, and cheered themselves hoarse.

This did not settle the game, but Luton made up their minds not to yield an inch. Williams had to kick out twice, and the spectators winced a little as the ball was rather greasy. Gallacher shot into Hillman's arms, and the Dundee man was again called upon by Donaldson. As Burnley found their hopes of victory vanishing, they adopted very vigorous tactics, and Birch was roughly treated by Reynolds, the pair nearly coming to blows. McInnes was also fouled, and Hillman cleared, Stewart then shooting miles over. For a time Luton made rings round their opponents, but their big efforts soon began to tell on both sides. Gallacher forced a corner, but the Burnley custodian was impeded. The visitors' centre-half unscrupulously tripped Donaldson, as he seemed certain to score, but Docherty's place-kick was splendidly saved by Hillman, who had to clear again from a foul on Gallacher. Just on time, an expiring effort was made by Burnley, but Williams interposed magnificently, and the result was :—

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