

LEAGUE POINTS SECURED.

A MERITORIOUS PERFORMANCE.

On Saturday the noted Burnley team visited Luton to play the return fixture in the Second League. The men came with a splendid reputation, for they had only once lost in a League match this season, that being so long ago as last October. Their total of points was 43 for 25 matches, this including five drawn games. It was scarcely to be expected that the Lutonians, who had a depleted team, should succeed in proving a stumbling-block; but so it proved, and the visitors were defeated in a magnificent game by two goals to none. The Burnley side was at full strength and included the noted Hillman, this being his first appearance since his return to his old love. On the other hand the Lutonians were without McCartney and Coupar, these absences causing a rearrangement of all the lines. The weather was not very auspicious, a driving rain sweeping over the ground throughout. This caused the grand-stand to become overcrowded, while a good muster of spectators were perforce compelled to line the ropes. The ground was in fairly good condition.

The sides took the field as follows:—

Luton Town: Goal, Williams; backs, Davies and McEwen; half-backs, Perrins, Stewart, and Docherty; forwards, Gallacher and Little (right), Donaldson (centre), McInnes and Birch (left).

Burnley: Goal, Hillman; backs Reynolds and McLintock; half-backs, Beveridge, Taylor, and Place; forwards, Morrison and Ferguson (right), Ross (centre), Bowes and Place, jun. (left).

Referee, Mr. Adams (Birmingham); linesmen, Messrs. Avery and Partridge (London).

Luton lost the toss and started operations against wind and rain. Perrins early fouled an opponent with the result that Burnley attacked and forced an unproductive corner. Another foul against the homesters was followed by Birch getting off-side, McEwen clearing when danger threatened. Little secured well from a pass by Docherty and transferred to Gallacher, who sent a stinging shot right across the mouth of goal. Burnley were stopped on account of off-side and when the locals pressed Docherty narrowly missed scoring. Little next shot hard and obtained a corner, from which Docherty steered behind, while McInnes also shot by. This failure was repeated by Stewart after the "stripes" had attacked determinedly, and then McEwen gave a grand exhibition, his pertinacity resulting in an opponent being robbed. Donaldson was very nastily kicked by an opponent, and Hillman fisted out neatly from Gallacher. Burnley next became dangerous and from the right wing banged in well; Williams came out to clear and left an open goal, whereupon one of the Burnley forwards headed behind tamely. This was a narrow escape for Luton, for a score for Burnley seemed inevitable. A beauty was sent in by Docherty from a distance, and then a bad foul on McEwen was allowed to pass unnoticed by the referee. Gallacher shot splendidly; but the ball was got away. The game was now fast and furious and there was not much to choose between the teams. Burnley were putting in some pretty work forward while their defence was superb; and these remarks apply equally well to the Lutonians, who were playing in surprisingly good style. It was a veritable battle of the giants and formed a game well worth travelling a long way to witness. On such form Luton would have defeated most teams in England. But to resume. McInnes sent behind after securing cleverly, and after a free-kick for hands against Burnley the homesters attacked in force, though with as little effect as formerly. A foul was awarded against McEwen, who had previously missed his kick somewhat badly, and Reynolds sent out from the free-kick. A further foul against the visitors enabled Davies to send up splendidly, the same player handling the ball a minute or so later. Following a foul against Burnley Donaldson obtained possession and, dashing off in that determined fashion with which we have become familiarised, scored a magnificent goal. This was a fitting culmination to the efforts of the locals, and the crowd did not forget to cheer; indeed, it has but seldom happened this season that the spectators have been more demonstrative. The applause was thoroughly well-deserved, for the goal was a beauty. Dirty play on Little and Gallacher was duly punished; from the second free-kick Davies placed grandly and Hillman just managed to tip the ball over the bar at the cost of a corner. From this Docherty sent over the goal-line. Donaldson, in an off-side position shot hard, as also did Docherty. Reynolds, who had been indulging in very vigorous tactics, came into violent collision with Donaldson hereabouts with the result that he had to be assisted from the field. His absence was not of long duration, however. During his absence Luton were checked by off-side. They quickly returned to the attack and Birch forced a corner with a hard shot. Another sturdy assault by the locals terminated with an off-side decision. Burnley attacked subsequently and the home defenders had some hard work presented to them; but they emerged with credit from the ordeal. Stewart cleared later on. The "reds" again swarmed to the attack and were adjudged off-side when they looked especially dangerous. Williams was called upon to handle for the first time in the game just afterwards. McInnes was nastily fouled within the 12 yards line; but the referee contented himself by awarding an ordinary free-kick. Luton very nearly scored, however, the ball going just outside the posts from Docherty's kick, and a corner was conceded by Hillman. From a fine header by Birch the Burnley custodian cleared capably. Following a further foul by Burnley Davies placed well, but the ball travelled across the goal into touch. At the home end Williams cleared badly and Burnley almost managed to get the ball into the net, the keeper falling. McEwen gave away a corner, and Place, jun., sent over the bar. At the interval the scores were:—

LUTON, 1; BURNLEY, 0.

When the teams faced the central ring for the second half it was noticed that Place has gone to the centre and that Ross was now at inside right. The conditions were now in favour of Luton, who went off in fine style. Donaldson early broke away and sent over the line, Birch following suit. An advance by Luton was spoiled by a foul against Birch. Gallacher secured well and sent out of play and Donaldson, take a pass from Birch, headed wide. Following a good attempt by Gallacher came another free kick against the strangers for fouling, and Docherty sent behind with an effort from a distance. Two blunders of Perrins were noticed, as well as a feeble clearance by Williams. Donaldson forced a corner, which was well placed; but Hillman rushed out and fisted away finely. Burnley at length managed to make their way to the home end, though only to send tamely into touch. McEwen was applauded for a clever display, as were Williams and Docherty for good performances. Burnley again attacked but McLintock sent out with a hot shot. The ball was taken up splendidly from the kick out and Gallacher, receiving from Donaldson, chalked up the second point with a low drive that gave Hillman no chance whatever of saving. This renewed success was the signal for a very enthusiastic demonstration on the part of the spectators. A foul against Donaldson was sandwiched between foul throws by Docherty and Perrins, while after a free-kick against Gallacher another fluky kick was set down to Williams. Following a foul against Gallacher McEwen relieved in first-rate style, while a long one from Little went into Hillman's hands. The Burnley keeper very nearly let through a swift one from Gallacher; he dropped the ball in goal, but recovered it just in time. Birch was injured on the left arm as the result of a brutal charge by Reynolds. After a foul by Burnley McEwen sent in well, Hillman dashing out and fisting away splendidly. After this Stewart sent high above the bar. The "reds" made their way up once more; but McEwen was thereabouts. Another smash occurred between Birch and Reynolds and the former appealed to the referee and exhibited his wounds. All the comfort he received was the awarding of a free-kick to his side. A couple of fouls against the locals enabled Burnley to advance and McEwen conceded a corner. At the other extremity of the ground the homesters obtained a similar advantage, while Donaldson very narrowly missed scoring. Donaldson shortly after had got away well and seemed certain to score, when he was badly brought down by Reynolds. Fortunately for the "reds" this occurred just outside the 12 yards line, so that all the satisfaction received by Luton was a free-kick. Hillman effected a capital clearance when Gallacher sent in well, and McEwen just afterwards steered over the bar. Another brutal foul was committed, this time on Gallacher. Just before the finish Williams effected a magnificent save when it seemed inevitable that Burnley must score. The outcome of the match was that Luton obtained a creditable victory and a useful brace of League points with the following figures:

LUTON, 2; BURNLEY, 0.