

LUTON v. BURTON SWIFTS.

A CREDITABLE DRAW.

Bank Holiday Luton were at Burton-on-Trent against the Swifts. Alterations had again to be made in the Luton team, the brothers Ford and Dow standing out and thus letting in Ralley, Sharp and Brock. As a large crowd present when the referee, Mr. W. D. (Accrington), set the following teams

Luton: Goal, Perkins; backs, Williams and Moore; forwards, Ralley, Sharp and Crump; half forwards, McInnes (right), Kemplay (centre), Birchall (left).

Burton: Goal, Gray; backs, Noon and Kirkland; forwards, Holmes, Mainman and Campbell; half forwards, Burton and Burton (right), Leigh (centre), Griffiths (left).

The home side won the toss and from the start went to work. Perkins, who made a brilliant save by giving a corner from which nothing came. A few minutes later Perkins put in a shot the length of the field, and centred it. The custodian punched the ball into the air, and Brock dashed up to head it but over-ran the ball and thus missed it. He was attacked, and following a mistake by some of the Luton defenders, Perkins, who scored. For a time

the home side had the best of the game, and Perkins brought off three or four splendid saves, chiefly from centres by the Barton outside right, who was swinging across some fine ones. The Luton defenders withstood the attack well, although there did not appear to be the best of combination among them. Ralley, especially, was just now making good clearances. As the game progressed the Luton forwards got into better swing and were often dangerous, but they were unable to beat Gray until Ekins put across a lovely centre from which Brock scored the equalising goal. This took place within two minutes of the interval, and thus when the midway stage arrived the totals were:—

LUTON, 1; BURTON, 1.

In the second half with the wind behind them things looked well for Luton. They started off with a dash and tested Gray, who saved his charge. For a time Luton kept up the pressure, but as their shooting was not of the best, while the defence opposed to them was strong, they were unable to score. Perkins was now having an easy time of it; indeed, he only touched the ball twice in the second half. Ten minutes after the resumption Kemplay headed the ball through from a centre by Ekins, but the point was disallowed on the ground of off-side, a decision which the Luton players did not much relish. Brock and McInnes were prominent with good work, but in this half of the game no point was scored, although the Burton goal was often seriously threatened. Just on time the home players came down on the Luton goal with a dangerous rush, but they were not successful in their endeavours to score, and the game ended thus:

LUTON, 1; BURTON, 1.

The Luton players have the satisfaction of knowing that with a depleted team they did better at Beeropolis than did last season's team on Christmas Day last year, when Burton were successful by an odd goal. In the first half Perkins was the most prominent man in the team through the fact that the others were playing below form and presenting chances to the Burton men. After the interval, however, the visiting team played splendidly and should have scored. At back Williams played a grand game, while Moore kicked strong and well. Ralley did a lot of good work, and the same remark applies to Sharp and Crump, while in the front rank Ekins played splendidly against his old clubmates, and had valuable assistance from Birch, another old Burton man, both meeting with hearty receptions from the crowd. Kemplay worked hard and with a considerable measure of success, while McInnes was as effective as usual and played unselfishly. Brock undoubtedly displayed his best game of the season; he was clever, fast, and plucky and altogether made a good show. It may be added that the referee was very smart, a remark which cannot be applied to Saturday's official at Lincoln.