



SECOND LEAGUE.

LUTON TOWN v. SMALL HEATH

THE REFEREE MILDLY "MOBBED."

In this match, played on the Bury Park ground, Luton, on Saturday afternoon, Luton were again defeated—this time by 2 goals to 1. This is a slight improvement on their previous performance against Small Heath in December last, when the latter scored 3 goals to Luton's 0. The attendance was far from encouraging, and as this was Luton's last home match it could be taken as a very clear indication that public interest in its progress has almost died out. The gate only amounted to £19.

The meteorological conditions suggested a sudden change to the dog days. Throughout the afternoon the sun shone with considerable power, and was a source of some inconvenience to the players. Each team appeared on the ground as announced, and at 3.45 Luton started the ball rolling and quickly adopted offensive tactics. A foul against the visitors improved their position, but a deplorable blunder on the part of McInnes allowed the Heath an opening. Luton, however, rallied and a long shot sent in with unerring accuracy by Holdstock provoked a feeble cheer. The homesters' prospects at this stage were considerably shattered by the condition of Dow, who was seen limping off the ground. However, with a liberal and vigorous application of oils, the local favourite was afterwards able to resume his position in the field.

Small Heath were showing better combination than their opponents, and Daw was kept fairly busy. He safely negotiated a hot shot from Leake and another from McRoberts, but a corner had eventually to be conceded. Luton rose to the occasion, the play of Williams and McCurdy being particularly noticeable. Another failure on the part of McInnes at a crucial moment enabled Heath to return to the attack, and Daw had to fist out. A smart piece of passing on the part of Williams, Brock and Brown followed, resulting in the latter taking the ball well into the visitors' territory, and a corner subsequently fell to Luton.

Great dissatisfaction was openly expressed at this juncture at many of the decisions of Mr. Jones, the referee, the allegations being that he was favouring the visitors. About seven minutes before half-time, Main drew first blood. The people lining the ropes were almost unanimous in their opinion that Main was off side. Mr. Jones, however, would have none of it, and allowed the point; and the wrath of Luton was consequently great. Small Heath still attacked, and a second or so before the whistle blew McRoberts, who was palpably off side, sent the ball through the uprights. This was also allowed by the referee, who retired from the field amid a howl of execration. Interval—Small Heath 2 goals, Luton 0.

On changing over Luton played up in a determined manner, and quickly forced a corner. The Small Heath citadel was attacked time after time; a hurricane shot from Holdstock being splendidly placed. Luton, however, was considerably weakened by the absence of Dow, who had left the field. The homesters played a plucky game, and no length of time elapsed before Eckford found an opening and beat Robinson. The Luton crowd gave a wild cheer of delight, but the enthusiasm was short-lived. It was Jones again. He declared Eckford off-side. The fury of the spectators now knew no bounds. They flung most offensive epithets across the field at the head of the offending Jones. The Luton team surged around him in an excited mass. Mr. Shackleton, the linesman, also had a brief, but apparently heated interview. Jones, however, was inexorable and was probably about the calmest individual on the field.

The attack of Luton, in spite of their ill success, had plenty of sting in it, and Burbage sent in one or two "powder" shots. Nothing else was scored by either side, and the match ended in a win for Small Heath by 2 goals to 1. As the players left the field the crowd mobbed and howled at Mr. Jones all the way to the dressing room, and it is probably fortunate that this was his last appearance on the Luton ground this season.

To ensure the safe conduct of Mr. Jones from the field, a messenger was despatched to the police station, and Inspector Rogers and two constables shortly afterwards appeared on the scene and dispersed the crowd. Teams:—

Luton: Daw; Dow, McCurdy; J. Brown, Holdstock, Williams; W. Brown, Brock, Burbage, McInnes, Eckford.

Small Heath: Robinson; Pratt and Archer; Seake, Wigmore, Adey; Wharton, Main, McRoberts, Aston, Bennett.