

Thirteen Minutes To Go— Then Swindon Went!

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LUTON

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SWINDON

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ONLY too often do Cup-ties degenerate into wild scrambles for self-preservation. Not so this one. Two sets of players contrived to keep interest alive from start to finish in a clean and hard encounter.

But let me say at once that the better side lost. It was Swindon who captured the imagination as a typical Cup-fighting side, with their long-flung passes from wing to wing, their thrust down the middle, and their first-time snap tackling in defence.

The luck of the draw just turned the balance against them. Manager Ted Vizard has welded together a sound side. Sharp-shooter Morton, from Torquay, at centre; dangerous raiding right-winger Jones, schoolboy international from an unpronounceable Welsh village, and Hetherington, a left-winger built on the Hobbis lines, are the nucleus of a brilliant forward line.

Experienced Morrall is a cool pivot and Smith a great left-back in the making.

Apart from good work by Vinall in the first half, chief honours in the finessing side went to Coen, who made several fine saves from the accurate Morton.

Swindon went off with terrific enthusiasm,

and for 15 minutes the Luton defence did a lot of chasing. Then tplay evened out and it had just begun to look like a goalless first half when Ferguson met a centre from the left. His drive was diverted by a defender past Swindon's goalkeeper. The whistle came two minutes later.

MORTON'S EQUALISER

Again Swindon fought valiantly, and in six minutes of the second half were rewarded. Morton had narrowly missed with his head before flashing through the equaliser.

Thirteen minutes from time came the winner. Stephenson took a square pass from the right wing and gave the goalkeeper no chance from close in.

To the very end, Swindon did not give up fighting and there were moments, under extreme pressure, when the home defence wobbled visibly and a replay seemed a very real possibility.

Strange that Swindon should break the ground record with 25,746, for in December, 1921, they set up a new attendance figure at Luton at 15,671.