

THE DRAW AT PORTSMOUTH.

Yesterday's replay, fully reported on another page, makes an extended report of the match at Portsmouth on Saturday unnecessary, but the gallant display of the Town must be referred to here. It was a typical Cup-tie tussle, and the issue was in doubt right to the last second of the game, for at that poignant moment Bailey caught a high shot under the bar and got it away. In the first half the Town had rather the better of the exchanges, and with the forwards playing a fast and open game Portsmouth's defence was frequently in difficulties, and it was only by the adoption of offside tactics that they kept the Town from scoring on several occasions. Time after time one or other of the Town forwards was whistled offside when barely across the half-way line, and but for this Portsmouth would not have done half the attacking they did, and that was not a lot. Some of the Town's forward movements were cleverly executed, and after one of these Bassett skimmed the bar with a glorious drive. A second saw BASSETT take a different course, for instead of shooting on the run he dribbled round two opponents and then shot hard in, and beat Robson to the wide world.

In the second half Portsmouth fiercely attacked between spells of midfield play in which the halves of each side played finely, and only the magnificent resistance offered by the Town delayed the equaliser for twenty minutes. This goal came about from a free kick forty yards out. Martin drove the ball into goal, and Bailey saved, but could not hold the ball, and STRINGFELLOW nipped in and shot through. Afterwards the Town had more of the game than previously, although not so dangerous as Pompey, and when the final whistle came the honours for the draw lay with the defenders.

For the Town Bailey did well in goal, and Tirrell played the game of his life, even outshining Lennon. The halves were on their very best behaviour, every man playing a wonderful game. The forwards did good work in the first half, when they worked coolly, cleverly and quickly, and had they been able to circumvent the one-back game they might have run up a winning score. In the second half the two inside wingers were drawn back to the help of the defence, and although the result of the game might appear to justify that course, it rendered the forward line almost innocuous for a long time. Bassett was splendid in the first half, but was lamed early in the second and could scarcely raise a gallop. Higginbotham, while he was in line with the others, was great, his fearlessness and weight being a great advantage. Although Simms got no shooting practice, he led the line in his cleverest style, his feeding of the wingers being a feature of the game. Butcher performed almost as well as ever, being eager and sprightly, and working like a Trojan. Bookman did not do badly in the first half, but in the second he could not get on very much.

For the home team, Robson had not a lot to do in goal; Knight was a great back, and Martin a stubborn and relentless half, while Beedie was the cleverest in the forward line, with Stringfellow a good second.