

Football Features.

BY "OLD CROCK."

BEATEN BY THE COBBLERS.

For Saturday's match at Northampton, Luton re-instated Mathieson for Butcher, the eleven which lined out being.

Northampton.—Smith; Watson and Jeffs; Bedford, Jobey, and Williams; Pease, Graham, Lockett, Hewison, and Chambers.

Luton Town.—Bailey; Lennon and Tirrell; Foster, Walker and Ilor; Hoar, Higginbotham, Reid, Mathieson, and Bookman.

It was not a great game, but the Cobblers were good value for a win of 2—0, registered through goals scored by Lockett two minutes before the interval and a minute after the resumption. Both were the outcome of scrummages in the goalmouth, and Bailey had no chance with them, Pease heading on to the bar before the second was scored. Most of the goalkeeping work fell to the Town custodian. An early injury to Watson in a collision with Bookman necessitated his removal to outside-right and Pease's transfer to inside-left for Hewison, who went back, but notwithstanding this re-arrangement the Cobblers displayed pronounced superiority in attack. Their finishing was not of a high standard, but in the work leading up to attacks they exhibited a desperate energy that was in strong contrast to the typical end of the season display of the visitors, and Lennon and Tirrell were often hard pressed, while Bailey made several fine saves. Little fault could be found with the Town halves, but the forward work was a long way below par.

Three changes were made in the team which left Luton this morning for the postponed game at Abberdare. Tirrell sustained a kick below the knee at Northampton and Stephenson took his place. Bookman also had his thigh hurt in the collision with Watson, and Ilor is in consequence crossing over to outside-left. Barnett takes the outside-right position and Mathieson is standing down for Butcher.

TOWN CLUB WIN THEIR OWN CUP.

Although the Town Reserves' season has not been so successful as that of the first team it has brought them a set of cup medals as a result of the institution of the Bedfordshire Invitation Cup, the Clarence being convincingly defeated by 5-0 on the Town ground on Saturday. With Graham lamed in the first ten minutes and twice subsequently knocked out, the Clarence more than once got dangerous in the first half, but the exchanges ran largely in favour of the Reserves and many chances were lost by feeble finishing. Sidney found the net direct from a corner kick after eight minutes, but a goal did not accrue until the last half minute before the change over, when a centre by Sidney was returned into the goalmouth by Bassett. Jephson sent in for Taylor to save and Dormer scored from the rebound. In the first few minutes after resuming a penalty for a foul on Bassett gave Stephenson the chance to maintain his reputation as the spot kick king, although he came nearest to missing this season by sending in off the cross-bar and within fifteen minutes the Town were two more up through Dormer and Jephson. Butcher completed the scoring after many unsuccessful attempts, and the Clarence came their nearest to scoring in the last ten minutes when Smith slipped everybody, including Gibbon, only to hit the upright.

The trophy—the thirty year old Luton Charity Cup, which was loaned to the Tradesmen's competition before the war, and has now been loaned to the County Association, was handed over to the Reserves Captain, Gibbon, by Coun. F. T. Neville, who described the Clarence display against the professionals as a testimony to the enthusiasm and standing of amateur football in Luton. The medal winners were Gibbon; Hull, Graham; Stephenson, Molyneux, Millar; Bassett, Butcher, Dormer, Jephson, Sidney.

The Reserves last Southern League game is at Exeter, and they made an average of one point per match certain on the Town ground on Wednesday evening, when they beat Millwall Reserves by the odd goal after being a goal down in the first few minutes.

