

THE BIG CHANGE.

"COBBLERS" OUTPLAYED LAST NIGHT.

DENNIS ELECTRIFIES LUTON'S ATTACK.

(By "CRUSADER.")

LUTON TOWN 2 goals
NORTHAMPTON TOWN Nil

LUTON.—Brookes; Johnson, Graham; Mills, Walker, Millar; Mackey, Shankly, Kerr, Dennis, Brown.

NORTHAMPTON. — Smith; Watson, Brett; Williams, Wood, Needham; Pease, Poyntz, Lockett, Myers, Page.

Referee.—Mr. N. Shuker, Whitwell.

It has always been a mystery to me why Notts Forest utilised George Thomas Dennis in such a curious fashion. He had scored 50 goals as inside-left during five months of the 1919-20 season when the Forest picked him up. For the "four seasons and a bit" that he was with them he played but twice in his original position, and he had two goals to his credit. The rest of his time he was at outside-left, chiefly with the Reserves. It came as no surprise to me that he was given the position of inside-left for the Town last night. His play on the left wing has been good, but it always seemed to me that he would be a replica of the late Arthur Wileman if he were placed inside. So it happened last night, when he kindled an enthusiasm in attack that has never been seen in any previous game this season. He was always forging ahead, making opportunities for others, rushing into the thick of the fight, shooting when he got the chance, and using his wits all the time. While there was no little heart-burning over the other changes in the team, this change compensated for the others. Dennis deserved his goal just as much as Shankly deserved his—the one by reason of all-round excellence, the other because he maintained his mental balance at a critical moment after a gallant single-handed effort.

THE CHANGES.

Of the changes the Town made, frankly, I did not see any great improvement in the middle line with one exception. It has been urged against Jennings that he was no feeder. Well, an analysis was taken last night, and there was certainly no improvement in that direction. The figures I do not propose to give at the moment. Walker played a hard, useful game, and Mills was clever as usual, both in attack and defence. The exception was Millar, and he adopted what I think are the right tactics, for he gave most attention to the outside man, and was so successful that the "Cobblers" crack winger had his worst game for a long time. He was practically helpless to make headway. Millar is no stylist, but he did very well indeed, and with Dennis lending a lot of assistance. Graham was not often in difficulties. Neither was Johnson for that matter, and the result was that Brookes had only one very difficult shot to stop, and that came from half-back Needham a minute after the interval. The defence did well. The attack was the best we have had so far, thanks chiefly to Dennis. Kerr also did well, and but for an unusual dalliance when in shooting position, would have done a lot more damage. He gave some nice passes, and made one or two thrilling bursts. Shankly was rather slow in catching Dennis' zeal, but eventually did so, and his goal will not be forgotten for a long time. Mackey put across some useful centres, and showed good speed, and was better in the second half than in the first. Brown showed up brightly, his speed and centres being splendid.

Of the "Cobblers" Smith was blameless. Watson was a strong back, but Brett was apt to get rattled, and both were prone to fouling. Wood was the cleverest of a hard-worked middle line, and forward Lockett and Page were ever on the alert, but did not get much scope.

THE GAME.

It was a hard, fast game, typical of old-time rivalry, and the spoils went to the better side, although the combination is still open to improvement.

Lockett won the toss, but the Town were first aggressive, Shankly shooting hard for Smith to save at the foot of the post. Then came a grand run by Brown, who shot right across goal from close quarters. This was followed by a swift dash by Kerr, and Brett twice fouled him in the penalty area, but the referee heeded not the yells of the spectators and players. The Town pressed heavily. Dennis showed he could play inside all right, for he initiated several attacks, and Kerr was very persistent. The "Cobblers" got going through a miskick by Walker, and Page sent across two good centres, and Lockett should have scored from one of them. For several minutes the "Cobblers" pressed, and Johnson kicked away from under the bar. After another spell of Luton pressure Poyntz got away and centred, and Myers, who was well offside, was allowed to shoot, the ball going a foot wide. The Town came down again, and Smith caught a high centre from Mackey, and set his left wing going. Weak play in the Town defence enabled Pease to force a corner, and it was some time before the ball was got away. Brown got a pass from Mills, and as the ball rebounded from Watson it was caught by Dennis, who sent a yard wide with a first-time drive. Another warm attack by the Town ended in Dennis putting in a high screw shot, Smith saving under the bar.

The Town continued to have the better of the game until Page got away. Things looked bad for the home defence, but Brookes saved neatly. A clever dash by Brown, in spite of a fierce foul by Needham, won a corner, and this was got away with difficulty. The "Cobblers" backs and halves were playing in rather unscrupulous fashion, and Watson pulled Dennis down in another attack, and from the free kick Smith had to save

thrice in quick succession. Another quick movement saw Shankly with a good chance, but there was no powder behind his shot, and Smith saved. There was much excitement when Kerr broke clean through from a pass by Mills, but he shot into the hands of Smith. Brown, who was doing well, made another quick raid, and centred right into goal, but there was none up to take advantage. Both sets of defenders played the offside game, and a rare bustling first half came to an end.

LUTON TOWN 0
NORTHAMPTON TOWN 0

The second half opened with a great effort by Needham, and his fine shot was cleverly saved under the bar by Brookes. The Town promptly replied, and were only held up by the good play of Watson and Jeffs. Dennis sent Brown through smartly, but the latter was held off by Watson. Then Shankly forced a corner off Watson, and Brown placed this nicely for DENNIS to head into the net amidst great cheering. The players were feeling the excitement, the referee was not immune, and the spectators were in similar but more cheerful mood. By use of the offside rule, play was kept in midfield. A fine pass by Shankly gave Mackey an opportunity to put in a great centre, and Brown had a glorious chance, but lifted the ball over the bar. Kerr then had an opportunity, but dallied, and the ball was got away. Dennis was doing splendid work, and he gave Brown a nice pass, but the latter's centre was kicked away by Brett.

The Town were having all the play, but Smith was not called upon. Mackey was given a neat pass by Mills, and beat Brett with ease, but then shot badly. It was a long time before the "Cobblers" had a turn, and then Page, after outwitting Johnson, shot wildly outside. Graham headed away another attack by the "Cobblers," and then Kerr gave Mackey a nice pass, and from the latter's centre, Dennis volleyed over. A quick rush by the "Cobblers" was dangerous, but Graham foiled Lockett at the expense of a corner, and from this Wood shot over. The "Cobblers" remained in the danger zone for some minutes, but the ball was eventually got away. When the "Cobblers" were looking most dangerous SHANKLY came along with a lovely goal. Snapping up the ball near the middle line, he tore off, and as Brett came to meet him he cleverly side-stepped him, and went in to beat Smith and score a glorious goal. This was 15 minutes from the end, and the Town went at it hammer and tongs. Mackey drove across a fine centre, and Kerr headed over as he collided with Smith. Immediately afterwards Shankly came again with a clever bit of footwork, and shot only just wide. Poyntz was cautioned for a foul on Millar, and from the free kick the Town attacked warmly, and Smith saved again from Dennis. The pace slackened as the game wore to an end, and Watson badly fouled Kerr, Dennis firing in a terrific shot that Watson edged away. The Town maintained their advantage to the end.

RESULTS SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30th.

CHARITY CUP (1923-24) FINAL.

Fricker's Athletic 2, Leagrave & Dis. 0.

LUTON AND DISTRICT LEAGUE.

Division I.

Fricker's Athletic A 2, Norton Rangers 0.

Slip End United 4, Barton Rovers 0.

Davis Athletic 8, Sndon 0.

Division II.

Young Liberals A 1, Chalton 5.

Round Green Utd. 4, Bailey Hill Bro'd. 2.

Argyle 3, Totternhoe 1.

West End O.B. 4, Ivydale United 2.

Division III. (Section A).

Crusaders 3, Hucklesby's 1.

Division III. (Section B).

Silverdale 8, Villa 0.

Sundon A 3, Dunstable Argyle 2.

Stonley A 7, Streatley United 3.

Bagshaw's 9, Tilsworth United 0.

Ramblers 2, Silver Stars 0.

Division IV.

Corinthian Juniors 4, Lads' League 1.

Ivydale Juniors 2, Chiltern Juniors 7.

Church Section.

St. Mary's 5, St. Paul's 2.

Central Mission 1, Mount Tabor 5.

Bailey Hill Bro'd. 0, Aley Green Wes. 2.

St. Peter's (Dunstable) 1, Ceylon Ath. 7.

Park Town P.M. 0, Dunstable Congre. 0.

High Town P.M. 2, St. Andrew's (Woodside) 3.

St. Andrew's (Luton) 1, Markyate Wes. 2.

Trade Union Club.

HARVEST SALE FOR CHILDREN'S PARTY.

The lecture hall at the Trade Union Club, Park-street, Luton, was converted into a sale room on Saturday evening, when a good collection of harvest produce was disposed of to members and visitors. The first harvest sale of this kind was held a year ago, when a welcome sum went to help to give the kiddies a good time at the usual Christmas party. Saturday's sale was arranged for the same purpose, but as there were many contributions and many ready purchasers, last year's proceeds were more than doubled. Although the venture was described as a harvest sale, gifts were not restricted to the fruits of the earth.

The room was decorated, and the produce was displayed in attractive fashion, Messrs. W. Penn, E. Taylor, W. Pedder, and members of the Children's Party Committee being responsible for this part of the work.

A sum of £10 17s. was realised.