

A PRECIOUS POINT

LUTON DIVIDE SPOILS AT LEA BRIDGE

A Vigorous Game

(By CRUSADER)

ORIENT: Gill; Lucas, Crompton; Fogg, Fellowes, Ware; Mayson, Davin, Crawford, Mills, Rigby.

LUTON: Harford; Kingham, Gibson; Kean, Mackey, Fraser; Pease, Martin, Bell, Rennie (A.), Anderson.

Referee: Mr. D. G. Kirby, Coventry.

CLAPTON ORIENT 1

LUTON TOWN 1

Scorers: MILLS for Orient, after five minutes. MARTIN for Luton after 80 minutes.

LUTON TOWN drew on CLAPTON ORIENT'S ground for the third time in succession. If they played as well on the next visit the Orient will have to find an exceptionally good side to retain even one point. As usual, it was a vigorous game; whether old or new players, the Orient generally find men able and willing to "mix it," and Saturday's struggle revealed that the new team was much of that calibre. With the crowd urging them on in typical North-East London manner, the Orient players threw themselves into the conflict with a "do-or-die" ardour, often reckless, though, perhaps, free from vicious intent. As a scientific side the Town were always the more stylish, and, territorially, had the better of the exchanges, but the hard kicking and fierce rushing of the home team always menaced the stability of the Town defence. In view of the changes that had been made, it was questionable whether the shock methods would be frustrated.

HOPE AT HEATING POINT

Happily, they were, and the Town fully deserved their share of the spoils. They would have taken both points if the attack had been able to round off the bright work in mid-field. Gill had twice as much work as Harford, but it was discounted largely by the weakness of the shooting and the absence of penetrative ability. The Town half-backs gave the front line magnificent assistance, and the combination was really good considering the uneven state of the ground. A pass on the turf could seldom be relied upon, but the Town continued to outwit the home halves with a regularity that kept hope at heating point, but the fierce resistance of the Orient rearguard was just as often too much for them, and the marksman at close quarters was usually squeezed out. Bell had such a rough time of it that none was surprised to see him change places with Martin during the second half, and although one would be loth to attribute the winning of a point to the change, Martin continued to be as effective as before, and yet to escape the buffeting that befell Bell.

AN EARLY GOAL

Both teams found their stride quickly, and within a couple of minutes each goalkeeper had handled the ball. Then came a quick move on the Town left, and as Bell accepted the centre, the whistle went for off-side, and the crowd roared at an obvious blunder, for Crompton was on the blind side of the referee, and Bell, with a clear run-in, was well on-side. The Orient left was also their first danger spot, Rigby showing clever control, and Mills just drove in a hard shot which Harford handled neatly, and then the ball was banged from end to end by the backs. Then the Orient left came again, and after the ball had been beaten out by Harford from a crowd of players, it was sent back by MILLS before the goalkeeper could recover, and rolled tamely into the net. Play was fast and even after this, each goal being threatened in turn, but the Town were showing the better style, and when Rennie flicked the ball across almost under the bar, it brushed Bell's hair when only a distinct nod was required to divert it into the net.

CLOSEST SHAVE

There were more thrills in the neighbourhood of Gill, and both he and his backs found difficulty. Indeed, the Orient's halves and inside forwards were all engaged in defence, and though the Orient forwards made raids, they did not give Harford anything worse than anxiety. Rigby was the Orient's chief aggressor, his foot-work being delightful, and but for the constant watchfulness of Mackey and his backs, more than one raid might have been fruitful. Crawford went very close on two occasions, and Rigby had a good shot that flashed within a foot of the upright. The closest shave of the half was at the other end, however, for, following a centre from Anderson, Gill could not hold the ball, which dropped over his shoulder. Martin was on it in a flash, and shot direct for the empty goal, but somehow Crompton leapt into the breach and headed over the bar. Undoubtedly the Town deserved, on the run of the play, to be in front, but it could rightly be claimed by the Orient rearguard that their gallant resistance had deserved a clean sheet.

ORIENT 1

TOWN 0

The Town resumed strongly, and their supporters were more gratified by the better understanding shown throughout the team. It was some time before the Orient had a real attack, but Rigby's coolness and skill was ever a disturbing factor, and mainly through his ability to draw the defence, the Town goal had to undergo heavy pressure. A variation came when Mayson got right through and shot hard, but Harford flung himself at the ball and turned it round the upright. Corners followed in quick succession, and the Town backs had to defend desperately. Within the next twenty minutes Anderson, Mackey and Gibson were all in the wars, but the siege was raised, and Fraser was in the picture with great work. As a result, the Orient goal underwent as hot a time as that which had occurred at the other end, and once Pease was badly fouled as he ran into the goal-mouth, but the appeal was unheeded. Kean and his right wing were playing better, and centres from either flank dropped in the Orient goal area, but were beaten out.

ALL SQUARE

When the ball was got away there was a massed attack on the Town goal. Harford saved finely at full length; a couple of corners were forced, and in a fierce melee Davin shot hard and hit the bar, the ball coming out to be rushed away. Back to the other end play went, and it seemed as though Bell must score after clever work by Rennie, Anderson, and Martin, but his shot rebounded from a packed goal, and

saved time after time, though there was nothing very difficult about most of the shots, but at last the Town got their reward for a long and persistent attack. There was a flutter on the right, where Kean and Pease were prominent, and the half-back sent inside to Bell; the latter transferred promptly to MARTIN, who was at centre-forward, and he shot first time, the ball going right away from Gill and just inside the upright. This was ten minutes from the end, and the Town had the better of the remainder of the game, though both teams were inclined to be watchful in defence, and to hold what they had.

PLAYERS

Harford was safe enough, and made good saves. Kingham and Gibson were a splendid pair of backs, kicking cleanly and showing good judgment in tackling. At half, Fraser was again the outstanding player, his work in all respects being resourceful and of great help to the attack. Kean had his work cut out against a very skilful wing, and did well, while Mackey played up to expectations as pivot. He did not allow Crawford very much rope, though in attack he sometimes over-kicked his forwards. Pease was again closely shadowed, and should have had more work; Anderson maintained the confidence reposed in him, though at times, as could be well understood, he might have made ground before parting with the ball. Martin and Rennie were clever without finding a pass to the opposite wing as often as usual, and Bell was a trier, but was generally over-powered at close quarters.

For the Orient, Lucas and Crompton protected Gill finely. There was no by-your-leave about their work, and the halves were much the same. Mills was a very dangerous inside forward, and Rigby the pick of the line and very nearly the cleverest forward on view.