

ORIENT HELD UP

Hatters Win a Point at Lea Bridge

(By CRUSADER)

JUST when support was very much in the balance, LUTON TOWN rose to the occasion and snatched a point from CLAPTON ORIENT on their own ground. They were worthy of a better result, for they played splendid football, and could they have rounded off their cleverness in midfield by infusing more determination into their finishing they would have won. It was a fairly lively game, with now and then too much vigour, and it was not until rather late that the Town players began to recognise that they would have to give a Roland for an Oliver if they were to reap any reward for their efforts.

* * *

The balance of play was generally with the Town, but the Orient had a way of smashing through in defence, and then their left winger, Rigby, the old Blackburn and Middlesborough forward, was always skilful enough to endanger the Town goal. Indeed, he was just about the most dangerous forward on the field, for he invariably made good use of the chances that came his way. It was after two or three efforts of his had been beaten off that the Orient scored their first goal when only five minutes had elapsed. Harford had beaten out a shot that came awkwardly, and MILLS sent the ball back, and it passed just inside the farther post, before Harford could take position again.

* * *

Play was always fast and vigorously contested, but the better chances went to the Town. Once Bell just failed to get the ball on his head when Rennie drove it right across the front of goal, while on another occasion, Crompton leaped into the breach and headed over his own bar when Martin had shot at an open goal, Gill being well out. These were the best openings during the first forty-five minutes, for so well did the defenders on each side protect their goal, that the shots were usually well covered by the goalkeepers.

* * *

In the second half, play became very fierce at times, discretion being little considered as each side made desperate efforts to batter through. The Town again had the balance of play, but the Orient's raids were always a menace to Harford's peace of mind, and he had to make at least three very fine saves to prevent a score, while on another occasion, a smashing drive by Davin hit the bar, with Harford out of goal, but the defence covered up quickly, and the ball was scrambled away. The Town made their attacks usually by closer formation, and much skilful work came from Martin and Rennie.

* * *

Martin and Bell had hard luck on several occasions, the centre-forward once blazing away at point-blank range, only to see an opponent get in the way as the ball was all but over the line. An exchange of places by Bell and Martin did not seem to make much difference for a

long time, for the Orient defenders packed their goal, and their inside forwards did as much half-back work as the usual trio. However, the home team seemed to tire a little under persistent pressure, and the Town worked harder than ever. Gill made good saves before he was eventually beaten, and the scores brought level. Before then, Pease had looked like getting a goal when he was brought down violently from behind when almost under the bar.

* * *

The successful movement was initiated on the right, which had not been so prominent as the left. Kean was playing well up, and, with Pease and Bell, got the better of the Orient left flank: Bell received from Kean and tapped the ball forward for MARTIN to shoot in his stride, and the ball travelled into the net, passing just inside the post. It was in every way a goal better deserved than that scored by the home team. The play afterwards was marked by a determination among the defenders that the forwards should have little rope, and so it petered out.

* * *

Harford did his part efficiently, but he owed a lot to the clever positioning of Kingham and Gibson, who played magnificently against a fiery lot. Both kicked cleanly and kept cool under pressure. Fraser was again in really brilliant form, his work both in defence and attack being magnificent, and he surpassed all other middle men. Kean did very well, and Mackey, if not an outstanding success at centre-half, played a confident and very useful game. There was little room for complaint about the manner in which the forwards worked in midfield; every man played fine football, but in marksmanship there was a definite deficiency, otherwise there would have been a comfortable victory.

* * *

The Orient had a side with almost as much experience as the Town. There was no better player than Lucas, the captain, on their side. The old Liverpool captain put up a splendid game: at times he carried too much cuteness for Anderson, though the little winger found that the best way to beat him was not to dally too long. Crompton was a powerful partner. The halves were middling, and, forward, another fine old player was Rigby, whose skill was the mainspring of the Orient's attacks. Rarely did he lose a ball, and he led Kean and Kingham a rare dance at times.

There were 11,000 spectators.

* * *

CLAPTON ORIENT 1
LUTON TOWN 1

ORIENT: Gill; Lucas, Crompton; Fogg, Fellows, 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.