

LAST NIGHT'S GATE WAS SMALLER THAN IT LOOKED

IT will surprise most of those who attended last night's match to learn that the attendance was only 25,349, with receipts £1,556 19s.

It certainly looked as if the 30,000 mark had been reached, especially as all the gates were closed.

Archie Wickson told me this morning that the crowd on the new terrace beat them.

They blocked up the entrances, and the late-comers could not get through.

He estimates that there was room for another 3,000 or 4,000 here, and they would have been accommodated comfortably had the entrances been kept clear.

INTELLIGENT PACKING NEEDED

ARCHIE said they would have to think out some way of keeping the entrances clear.

Each of the three was blocked with people, and the police finally closed the gates for safety's sake.

A little intelligent packing would have provided room for some hundreds on the terrace in front of the grandstand, for there were spaces between the people.

There was no organisation, and it will pay the Club to employ a few men with megaphones and make the people close up together.

RECORD GATE AND RECEIPTS

STILL, both the gate and the receipts were a record for a League game, but the Club is going to lose money this season unless they see to this matter of organisation.

I can well imagine the feelings of a man who has rushed to the ground straight from work only to find the gates closed, and his feelings afterwards when he hears that there should have been room.

The largest League gate previously was 23,142, with receipts £1,427 18s. 6d. This was against Coventry City on April 25, 1936.

BEATEN ON SATURDAY?

I WOULD not be surprised if this new record goes by the board on Saturday.

The enthusiasm of the supporters last night was as great as has ever been seen on the ground, and they are assured of another attractive match on Saturday when Manchester United are the visitors.

VILLA LACKED PUNCH

LAST night's match abounded in thrills from start to finish, and the Town just deserved their narrow victory by virtue of their extra dash and superior teamwork.

The type of game the Villa played will not take them into the First Division. They played lovely, constructive football, but there was a total lack of punch in front of goal, and I can see now why they are so anxious to obtain the services of Joe Payne.

Broome was entirely blotted out by Nelson, but his colleagues made the mistake of giving him the ball far too much in the air.

DETERMINED DEFENDERS

THE visitor's crisp, short passing, and their clever combination, often carried them into the Town's penalty area, but here they were opposed by

Entrances Blocked on the New Terrace

ORGANISATION WILL HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED

determined, solid defenders, who refused to be broken down.

Nelson played his part manfully, and he had his hands full, too.

Broome was rarely seen, and Nelson found time to help cover the inside men.

After being puzzled in the opening stages by Phillips' speed, Smith successfully smothered him, and only on two or three occasions afterwards was the Villa captain in the limelight.

KING AND SMITH

SMITH played right on top of him and gave him no chance to control the ball before the tackle was made.

Phillips could never manage to come through on the inside, for Smith relentlessly forced him into the touch-line.

King had the best Villa forward to look after in Maund.

A tricky winger this, but King came out of his ordeal well, and Maund was allowed very little rope.

NOT QUICK ENOUGH

FINLAYSON and Fellowes were frequently too slow in getting the ball away, and both wasted valuable seconds in bringing the ball under control when a good, hard kick was what was needed to clear the danger.

Occasionally, Finlayson was brilliant, but Fellowes had periods of mediocrity, and excellence, especially in the first half.

Both did their best work in the second half, when they knuckled up to the task of keeping the goal intact.

Neither spared himself in tackles; they were stalwarts in defence.

RIGHT WING SHINES

HANCOCK and Dawes formed by far the better wing.

Dawes was perhaps the best of the Town forwards, and I am sure we are going to see the best of this player this season.

He worked hard and successfully, and his powerful shooting was a feature of the game.

His goal in the opening seconds of the match paved the way to victory, and the second goal came after one of his pile-drivers had struck the woodwork.

Hancock, too, scored a wonderful goal, and is showing a great improvement on the form he produced last season.

HANCOCK PUZZLES CUMMINGS

THERE is no player in the Town forward line who can beat a man in as small a space, and he was always the source from which most danger came.

It is all the more praiseworthy when it is considered that he was opposed to a £9,000 International back in Cummings, for whom he was frequently too clever.

Allen followed Payne about like a shadow, but this did not prevent Joe providing his quotum towards the victory.

PAYNE v. ALLEN

JOE was frequently to be found on the left wing in his effort to escape the attentions of Allen, and though he was nearly always beaten for possession in the air, this was not the case when the ball was on the ground.

Joe worked terrifically hard, and kept the defence at full stretch with his electrifying dashes.

Allen is a class player, and I wondered why it was that he could not gain a place in the Villa team at one time.

He has all the essential qualities for the centre half position, and it is fine praise to Payne to say that he frequently had Allen in difficulties.

LEFT WING COULD NOT GET GOING

MASSIE was a little bit too quick on the ball for Roberts, but the inside man worked tirelessly throughout.

However, the left wing has not yet struck normal form, and Stephenson had a poor match.

He could rarely get the better of Callaghan, who played right on top of him from the start.

Stephenson captained the Town side as he was playing against his old colleagues.

COEN'S BRILLIANT SAVE

JOE COEN had less to do than Biddlestone, but in the closing minutes he brought off a wonderful save when he dived at Haycock's feet and grabbed the ball.

It looked like a certain goal, and Joe well deserved the cheers that greeted him.

He had no chance with either goal.

SPORTS CHAT

—by—

CHILTERN

and with the second one especially, for Massie's shot skidded along the wet turf at a terrific pace.

MASSIE'S ARTISTRY

OF the Villa team, I liked their half-backs best. In Massie and Iverson they have two cool, calculating wing halves, who were always using the ball well.

Massie was the best middle line man on the field as far as sheer artistry was concerned, but I liked Iverson, too.

Callaghan struck me as the better back, but he and Cummings covered none too well.

Haycock and Starling were two polished inside men who displayed football at its very best, but it never got them anywhere, and never will until some punch is introduced into the line.

RESERVES' TWO CHANGES

THE Town Reserves visit Clapton Orient to-night at their new ground at Leyton in a London Combination match.

The team will show two changes from that which defeated Southend on Saturday. Lutterloch comes in for Dreyer at left back, and Kidd is brought in at left half in place of Loughran.

Team:—

Team.—Dolman; Mackey, Lutterloch; Childs, Strathie, Kidd; Griffiths, Ferguson, Cox, Hogg, Stevens.

WOES OF NEWCASTLE

GLANCE over this unfit list, with which Newcastle United directors were faced when they met to choose the side for their match last night.

PLAYERS UNFIT

Player	Position	Cause
ANCELL	...L.B.	..Fractured Rib
FAIRHURST	...L.B.	..Damaged ankle.
SMITH	...C.F.	..Pulled leg muscle
CAIRNS	...C.F.	..Internal trouble
GORDON	...R.H.	..Damaged ankle
CONNELLY	...I.L.	..Indisposed
WHITE	...C.H.	..Damaged ankle
LAW	...L.B.	..Tonsil trouble
PEARS	...O.R.	..Recovering from operation.

one with owners of greyhounds, with the result that when the track re-opens on October 4, there will be many newcomers taking part in races.

Hawkesley has had a very considerable amount of experience with greyhounds and is rightly looked upon as one of the leading London trainers.

During the five years he was at Catford he was leading trainer for three of them and runner-up once.

FUTURE CLASSIC WINNERS AT HARRINGAY

DOGBERRY JUBILIC, brilliant White City greyhound who will be figuring in classic races before very long, is the outstanding runner in the Poona Stakes at Harringay to-morrow night.

Other runners in this trophy race are Brave Don, White City's Laurels finalist, Golden Alexander, a Two-Year-Old Produce Stakes winner and Derby semi-finalist, Bealtaine, runner-up in the Laurels final, and Cullohill Mountain, a recent Irish importation who has had only three races in this country.

It is undoubtedly the best field that has contested an open event at Harringay for some time.

HARRINGAY TRAINER'S PROSPECT

CHARLIE ASHLEY, the popular Harringay greyhound trainer, is looking forward to a very successful season in 1938.

He has an exceptionally large number of young Irish greyhounds in his kennels, who should turn out real champions when a little more mature.

Two very promising recent additions to Ashley's kennels are Waltz Together, a brindled dog by Orluck out of Windgap Lodge, and Loop Together, a brindled dog by Altogether ex Loophole. Both are 1936 Irish whelps.

Waltz Together, who is just over eighteen months old, is owned by Mr. S. Rice, and Loop Together belongs to Mr. D. Clapman.

Loop Together had his first trial last Monday, and returned 30.04 seconds for the 500 yards course—an excellent performance in view of the fact that it was his first experience of the trap.

Waltz Together returned 30.84 seconds for the 525 yards course on the same day.

WEST HAM'S NEW TRAINER

THE appointment made on Tuesday of this week by Captain Neilson of Dal. Hawkesley as a trainer at West Ham is sure to prove a very popular