

TOWN COLLECTED A NOTTINGHAM DEBT

Hit Back To Win After County Had Scored First

By Chiltern

NOTTS COUNTY ... 1 LUTON TOWN ... 2

After the "double" the Forest completed over them earlier in the season, Nottingham owed the Town something in the way of points and part of the debt was repaid at Meadow-lane on Saturday when the Town came away narrow winners.

This was exactly a repetition of last season's result of the meeting between the teams on this ground and it counted as the Town's first away victory this season.

Much-changed, struggling Notts fought hard to bring to an end their run without success, which now amounts to nine matches, and there was more than one period during the match when it appeared likely that they would do so.

One came midway through the first half, when LEVERTON, making his third appearance of the season against the Town, opened their account with a fast shot that gave Streten no chance from a quickly-made pass by Johnston.

Had Johnston been inches nearer to an unexpected cross from the right immediately afterwards, he must have scored, and the Town would have been in a position from which they would have found it difficult to extricate themselves.

As it was, Johnston missed the ball by the narrowest possible margin, and hopes the County had of consolidating their position were dashed in the 30th minute, when MITCHELL, from somewhere near the centre-forward position, carefully steered with his head a centre from Bennett well out of Bradley's reach.

OTHER PERIOD OF TRIAL

Other period of trial for the Town came during the first 15 minutes after the interval, when the County crowded on pressure, but they could not make the most of their chances, and never recovered from the goal the Town scored after exactly an hour.

CUMMINS hurled himself at the ball after Bradley had failed to hold a cracking shot by Watkins, and headed it over the line from no more than a yard out.

It was after this that the Town produced their most balanced football of the match, and but for some fine saves by Bradley, notably from Mitchell, they could have built up a bigger lead during this period.

On the other hand, Notts lost their earlier bite and snap, and their efforts to equalise were fairly easily controlled by the Town defence.

This department was not completely at ease during the first half when the County found the gaps but could not provide the finish. One reason was that Owen took time to find his feet after his lay-off, but long before the end he was playing with all his old assurance.

Perhaps due to a cold, Morton did not bring as much improvement at right-half as was expected, but Watkins had another good game and often shone as an attacking half-back.

STRETEN WAS IN

TOP FORM

A little more room than was desirable from the Town point of view came the way of Coole in the first half, but Aherne remedied that later.

On the other hand, Dunne obtained the mastery of Crookes from the start, and little threat came from this quarter.

When the County were at their most dangerous, the Town owed a great deal to Streten, who was in top form and made several brilliant saves.

Although their form late in the game was more impressive, the forwards scarcely made the most of the opportunities presented by a defence that was often wide open and the latest right-wing pair experiment could scarcely be described as a success.

Bennett rarely got away from Deans's close marking and, in addition to this, was rarely given

the ball in front of him so that he could use his speed.

While Scott qualifies for full marks as a whole-hearted trier and for his dash, he rarely linked up with his wing partner and he did not use the ball consistently.

With better support, Pye could have been a real thorn in the side of the County defence, for he was always dangerous in possession and his display showed a marked improvement.

From Cummins there was plenty of clever football and, apart from Pye, he was the most constructive of the forwards, though he still shows a tendency to hold on to the ball a shade too long before parting with it.

However, he and Mitchell formed the better wing, and the latter's shooting was always a danger.

NOTTS COUNTY: Bradley; Southwell, Deans; Allen, Leuty, Jarvis; Coole, Leverton, Johnston, Wylie, Crookes.

LUTON TOWN: Streten; Dunne, Aherne; Morton, Owen, Watkins, Bennett, Scott, Pye, Cummins, Mitchell.

Referee: J. W. Topliss,

Grimsby. Attendance: 13,000.