

LOOKS LIKE SOLVING TOWN'S PROBLEM

County Hit Back After Being Well In The Toils

(By Chiltern)

From the Town point of view, the salient point that arose from their muddy, ding-dong battle with Notts County at Meadow-lane on Saturday was that they have at last found a centre-forward with the ability to knit the front line together and to get among the goals.

To score twice in the first 23 minutes and later to go very close to doubling his tally was the best possible way in which Morton could demonstrate that he can well prove to be the answer to the trouble the Town have experienced since the departure of Pye, and there seems nothing more certain than that he is in for a long spell in the middle.

His quickness on the ball frequently surprised the home defence and not only did he link up the line admirably, but he showed good positional sense and real finishing power.

Altogether, his performance was such as to go a long way towards removing the anxious towns which Town officials have been wearing, and the point from his ground was a very good performance.

Yet, everybody had the feeling that it should have been a good deal better, for never have I seen a game look more firmly buttoned up than this was, eleven minutes from the end, when Adam obtained the goal that gave the Town a 3-1 lead and seemed to pound the death knell of the County.

Had Not Suggested Scoring Power

LITTLE that had occurred previously suggested that the County forwards were powerful enough to snatch a couple of late goals, but they got one before the Town had really had time to digest the fact that they were in "easy street."

It was one of those speedily-worked affairs that began in the home penalty area when Groves was dispossessed after hanging on to the ball too long.

Immediately, it was swept upfield to McCormack, who as he was challenged by Owen, pushed it down the middle.

Here, Broadbent had positioned intelligently and he went in to drive the ball low past the advancing Stretton to put his team back in the game with a fighting chance.

"Longest Last Nine Minutes Ever"

BEFORE that happened the Town had been playing fluent, smooth football that threatened to add to the County's plight, but Broadbent's goal brought a complete change to the game and one Town player admitted afterwards that the last nine minutes were the longest he had ever experienced.

All-out, neck-or-nothing attack was the County's policy after this and, with the small crowd making enough noise for twice the number, the Town were thrown right out of their stride and completely back on the defensive.

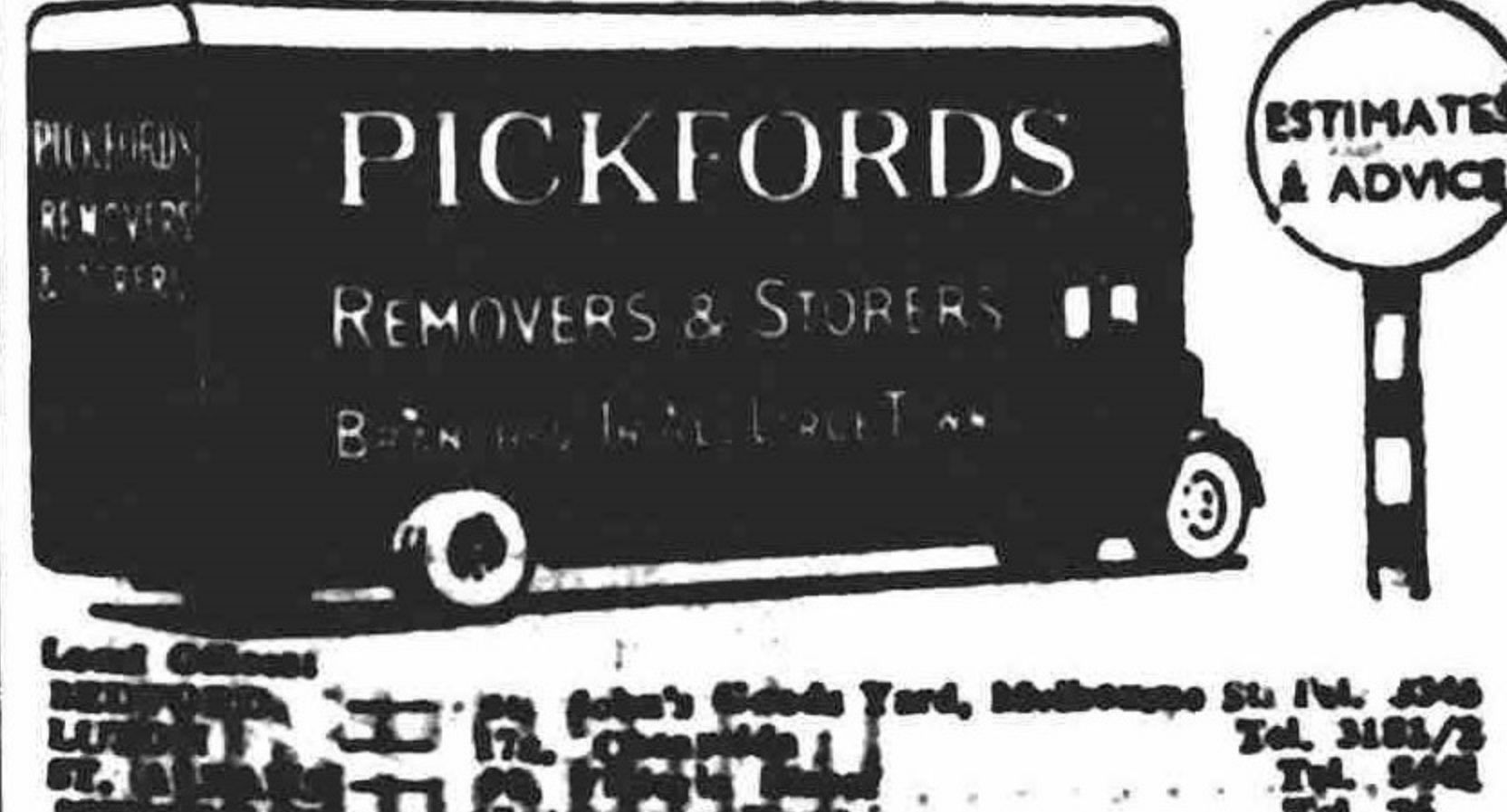
Even so, despite one or two scares, they looked as if they could hold on to their narrow lead, but it was not to be, and a corner, for which there were 18

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FOR THE RECORDS

NOTIS COUNTY 3
Johnston, Broadbent, Wylie
LUTON TOWN 3
Morton (2), Adam
NOTIS COUNTY: Bradley; Southwell, Deans; Adamson, Wade, Jarvis; Wills, Wylie, McCormack, Johnston, Broadbent.
LUTON TOWN: Stretton; Dunne, Aherne; Pemberton, Owen, Shanks; Davies, Turner, Morton, Groves, Adam.
Referee: J. S. Pickles, Bradford.
Attendance: 10,500.

Was Reliance On Defence Inevitable?

FOR a long time after this, the County had to fight to keep down the score, but they had a turn on the attack without doing any material damage and then came Adam's goal when he chested down a clearance by Deans and went on to beat Bradley with a shot that went in off the post.

For their capacity to fight back when apparently faced with a hopeless cause, the County deserve every credit, but whether or not the Town were faced with any other option but to rely on a packed defence to hold their slender lead in the closing minutes, is a moot point.

On previous occasions, this idea of holding on to what they have, has crept into the Town's tactical plan but, on this occasion, it could have been that it was forced upon them by the County suddenly discovering that they were back in a game that they must already have been inclined to regard as written off.

Might Have Been In Unassailable Position

ON this showing, at any rate, the heavier going will suit most of the Town forwards who played a more effective, forceful type of game than the Town fans have seen for some time.

With a bit more luck and, at times, better judgment of the final pass, the Town could have put themselves in an unassailable position, for they frequently cat-gaping holes in the County defence.

Once all Adam had to do to make certain of Morton completing a "hat-trick," was to pull the ball back to him, but he tried to force it past Bradley and a great chance was lost.

That was just one of those instances when the finish did not go right, but those apart there was a good deal to give rise to optimistic thoughts about the future.

Morton Looked The Part Of Leader

FOR much of this, the Town are indebted to Morton, who really looked the part of a footballing centre-forward with a shot in either boot and it is a matter worthy of comment that he scored both goals with his left foot, whereas his right is regarded as the stronger.

A stronger player than Groves at inside-left might well have provided Morton with more opportunities of showing his marksmanship and Groves does not seem quite ready physically for the hurly-burly of such a match in the mud.

No one doubts that he has rich promise as a ball player which he

revealed at times, but, generally speaking, he was too easily knocked off the ball and tended to hold on to it when a pass would have got him out of trouble.

Adam Back In More Dangerous Form

MUCH of Morton's material came from Turner, whose midfield play was both quick and incisive and he had a particularly good first half, while one run soon after the interval reminded me of the one that preceded his wonder goal at Bristol.

Back to something like his best form came Adam who was usually too clever and fast for Southwell and who, apart from some blemishes in finishing, was always a real danger.

In recent matches, Davies has not been using his raiding powers to the full and he had a sticky sort of first-half in which his finishing did not go right, but there was some measure of improvement afterwards.

However, as a whole, the line played football far ahead of anything the County could produce and three goals away from home should provide a real tonic for them.

Defence On Top Until Closing Minutes

IN assessing this match, it should be remembered that conditions were all in favour of forwards for the defenders found turning a matter of great difficulty and, despite the goals against them, the Town defence put up a satisfactory showing.

Not until those last thrills-packed minutes were they in any sort of real difficulty and the effectiveness of their covering was proved by the fact that Stretton had few direct shots to deal with until the full force of the blitz hit the Town.

More than anything else, it was enthusiasm, caused by desperation and sheer weight of numbers that caused the late hectic scenes in the Town's goalmouth.

Pemberton Fitted In Very Well

UNTIL then, the way down the middle had been effectively blocked by Owen, whose return brought the improvement in defence that had been hoped for and he gave McCormack an unhappy afternoon.

On almost the only occasion on which Owen was drawn out of the middle, the County secured their second goal. Otherwise, the centre-half was much the master of the situation.

Fears that Morton's move might bring repercussions in the middle line were unfounded, for Pemberton was strong and certain in the tackle and fitted well into the scheme of things.

From Shanks there was much hard work in this gruelling game and he took a grip on Wylie, the most constructive of the home forwards.

Town Are Vulnerable To Corners

NEARLY always coming in to meet the ball, Aherne kept Wills noticeably quiet and while greater danger always looked likely from the other wing, Dunne did well against Broadbent, a strong, speedy winger who often took a deal of holding.

Until the late minutes, Stretton's main task had been that of cutting off through passes often by snatching the ball away from the feet of oncoming forwards.

When the second goal was

scored, it looked as if he did not leave his goal soon enough and he certainly seemed to be taken by surprise by the third.

That came from a corner, something to which the Town defence has proved vulnerable in the past.

Heavy Trouncing For Town Reserves

IT is a long time since the Town Reserves were trounced so severely as they were on Saturday when, on their own ground, they went down 6-1 to a strong Arsenal side in the Football Combination.

Yet, strangely enough, Luton played brilliant football for the first 20 minutes or so and during that spell few of the spectators would have given much for Arsenal's chances.

Then, in the 29th minute, centre-forward Cliff Holton drifted out to the right wing, made ground rapidly and centred for Haverty, running in from the other wing, to bang the ball past Baynham.

A neatly-taken goal, but one that was right against the run of the play. Before the interval, Wilkinson scored again for Arsenal to give them a lead which flattered them.

Arsenal Right On Top After Half-time

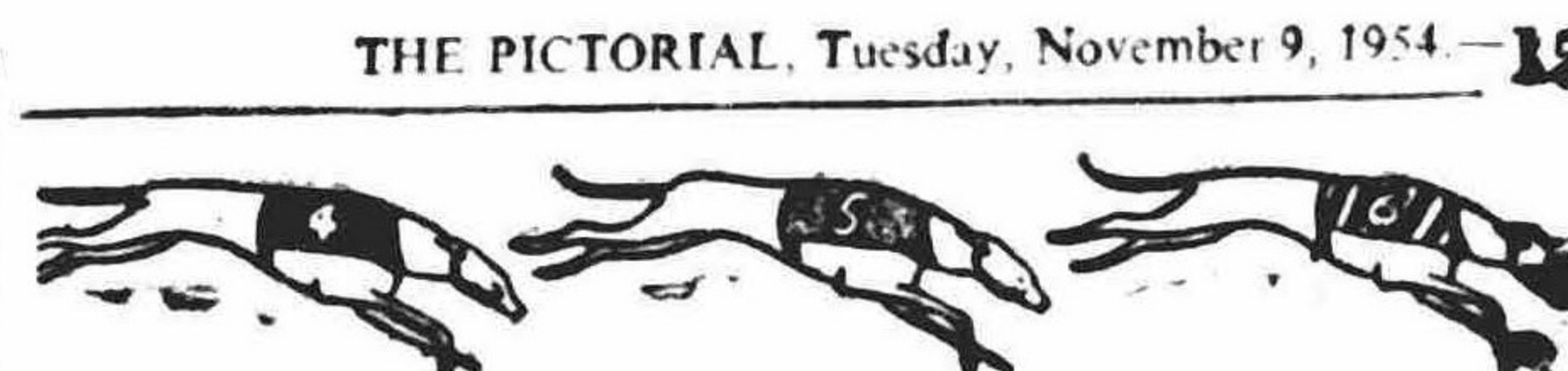
AFTER the interval, though, it was a different matter. Arsenal got right on top and they gave a dispirited Luton team a most uncomfortable 45 minutes.

They added four more goals through Herd, Holton (2) and Haverty and the only solace for Luton was in the shape of a well-taken "consolation" goal by Allen, scored a few minutes from the end.

Conditions were atrocious and mistakes by both sides were frequent.

The Luton defence was shaky, with Thompson, who, despite the conditions, tackled surely and hard, the best defender.

After their bright start, the forwards gradually got in the grip of the visitors' defence, in which Dodgin was a strong centre-half, and although Kelly and MacEwan changed places in the second half, this did not add to the home attack's effectiveness.



SUCCESSES FOR FOUR OF THE FAVOURITES

Trap 4 Was The Unlucky One At Luton On Saturday

Four favourites succeeded at Luton Stadium on Saturday, when winning prices were low. Trap 4 was the only one that did not start a winner.

Betting: Evens. **SAMMY:** Nobbler; 5-1 Born Tred; 6-1 Weng; 10-1 Others.
Forecast: 10s.

VIII (410 yards)—1. FOXLAW; 2. Whistler (3); 3. Gordon (4); Roday (5); 5. Jimmy's Lil (6); West Mead (2); 4. 3. 3. 12. 25. Off 8.55.

Betting: 7-4 Whistler; 4-1 Gordon; 5-1 FOXLAW, Jimmy's Lil; 8-1 West Mead.
Forecast: £2 18s. 6d.

RUNNERS AND SELECTIONS FOR LUTON TO-NIGHT

7.30 (410 yards)—564 Coffee Bean; 654 Jumbo; 344 Max Future; 245 Ann; 5 Senator; 356 Twilight; reser 265 Nancy.

7.48 (470 yards)—122 Clearasm; 4 Night Sky; 656 Nut Brown; Plasterer; 312 Rum Chicken; 216 S along; reser; 415 Bunter.

8.06 (410 yards)—533 Absolute; Cliff's Pal; 523 Jany; 413 Lucky J; 62 Sun Blind; 4 W.T.R.

8.24 (410 yards)—421 Big Ben; Hawk (Oct. 21, tp 3, 24.36 Nov tp 1, 24.45); 5 Fillet; 252 Knockor; Polite; 12 Tensing (Oct. 5, tp 6, 24.5 reserve; 2 Speckled Band.

8.42 (410 yards)—213 Alice; Golden Dollar; 26 Jackdaw; 512 Rev; 213 Sir Garnet; 451 Tripler.

9.0 (410 yards)—515 Arm In A; Ascot (Oct. 21, tp 1, 24.20; Oct. 2, tp 2, 24.15); 1 Black Shadow; 2 B Sail; 114 Joyful; 152 Whiteleaf.

9.18 (470 yards)—2 Blanket; Cabby; 651 Defender; 231 Kit-Kat; Old Coat; 561 Red Cross; reser; Ida.

9.36 (410 yards)—6F Boston Brown; (Nov. 2, tp 3, 24.35); 251 Brick Lad; 411 Kerry Dancer; 112 Nigh; 213 Poacher; 632 The Builder; reser; 146 Chevalier.

SELECTIONS

7.30—Senator (Coffee Bean, S Ann).
7.48—Shipalond (Rum Chicken, Clearasmud).

8.06—Cliff's Pal (W.T.R., Jany).
8.24—Tensing (map) (Big Ben, Pol

8.42—Alice (Sir Garnet, Revue).
9.0—Joyful (Black Shadow, Blue S

9.18—Kit-Kat (Defender, Blanket).
9.36—Nigger (Poacher, Kerry Dan



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Arsenal v. Huddersfield T.
Burnley v. Aston Villa
Cardiff C. v. Sheffield Wed.
Chelsea v. Tottenham H.
Everton v. Blackpool
Leicester C. v. Sunderland
Manchester C. v. Portsmouth
Newcastle Utd. v. Charlton Ath.
Preston N.E. v. Wolves
Sheffield Utd. v. Manchester Utd.
West Brom v. Bolton W.

DIVISION II
Birmingham C. v. Blackburn R.
Bury v. Port Vale
Hull C. v. Bristol R.
Ipswich T. v. West Ham
Leeds Utd. v. Doncaster R.
Lincoln C. v. Plymouth A.
Luton T. v. Liverpool
Middlesbrough v. Fulham
Nottm. Forest v. Derby Co.
Rotherham Utd. v. Notts Co.
Stoke C. v. Swansea T.

DIVISION III (SOUTH)
Brentford v. Swindon T.
Brighton v. Crystal Palace
Bristol C. v. Watford
Coventry C. v. Aldershot
Gillingham v. Exeter C.
Leyton O. v. Colchester Utd.
Millwall v. Norwich C.
Reading v. Newport Co.
Shrewsbury T. v. Q.P.R.
Southampton v. Southend Utd.
Torquay Utd. v. Northampton T.
Walsall v. Bournemouth

DIVISION III (NORTH)
Accrington S. v. Stockport Co.
Barnsley v. Darlington

Barrow v. Bradford
Bradford C. v. Chesterfield
Halifax T. v. Carlisle Utd.
Mansfield T. v. Tranmere R.
Oldham Ath. v. Crewe Alex
Scunthorpe Utd. v. Gateshead
Southport v. Grimsby T.
Workington v. Rochdale
Wrexham v. Hartlepool Utd.
York C. v. Chester

SCOTTISH LEAGUE DIVISION "A"

Celtic v. Stirling A.
Dundee v. St. Mirren
Falkirk v. Rangers
Hibernian v. Motherwell
Kilmarnock v. Hearts
Partick T. v. East Fife
Queen of South v. Clyde
Raith R. v. Aberdeen

DIVISION "B"
Albion R. v. Forfar Ath.
Alloa v. Morton
Arbroath v. Cowdenbeath
Brechin C. v. Stenhousemuir
Dunfermline v. Dundee Utd.
Hamilton v. Queen's Park
St. Johnstone v. Ayr Utd.
Third Lanark v. Aldrieonians

SELECTIONS

TEN HOME.—Burnley, Chelsea, West Brom, Bury, Leeds, Rotherham, Bristol C., Coventry, Mansfield, Crewe.

FOUR AWAY.—Manchester Utd., Fulham, Bournemouth, Bradford.

THREE DRAWS.—Preston v. Wolves; Birmingham v. Blackburn; Workington v. Rochdale.