

NEWCASTLE FOUND THE RIGHT FORMULA Town Played Too Close in Atrocious Conditions

By Chiltern

NOBODY is wishing for a quick return to reasonable weather conditions more than Manager Dally Duncan who, at Newcastle on Saturday, saw the football machine he has fashioned sorely handicapped in conditions that were near enough impossible.

The Town officials present were firmly of the opinion before the start that the match should not be played and were quite willing to face up to the fact of having had a long, fruitless and expensive journey as an alternative to the risk of having players injured.

It is a pity, would Newcastle be sorry if the match had not gone off for it was obvious that the weather would be badly cut in fact, it was 15,000 below zero, they have housed this season and nearly 30,000 less than they expected.

There was considerable cost to them and the Town suffered financially, too, because their percentage of the receipts will be an awful lot less than it would have been in the weather been good.

However, with the decision to play, it was up to the manager to see that his tactics as nearly as possible to what was required to get the atrocious conditions and they failed to do, as they also failed to do against Leicester.

Newcastle Had The Correct Formula

WHILE the fact that they managed to play such skilful football was a matter of admiration to the Lyneside fans, short passing was not the way in which to win this match.

Short passes often failed to reach their objective because the ball stuck in the curious mixture of mud and snow which covered the pitch and Newcastle's more forthright style which consisted of hitting the ball a good deal harder, proved to be the correct formula.

On the other hand, the Town tried to play in the same style as they had on drier grounds, controlling the ball, often trying to pass it to a man and then "stroking" the ball rather than hitting it.

Close Play Right Up To Penalty Area

ADMITTEDLY, this method enabled them to have quite a lot of the play, but the closeness of their style was carried right up to the penalty area.

Whereas Newcastle saw the light and were always willing to bang away at goal from anywhere in the region of the 18-yards line, the Town were always trying to reach closer quarters before trying a shot.

It was a terrific drive from the penalty area edge with which Curry gave Newcastle their first goal after 10 minutes, following a free-kick taken by Pemberton which was intercepted.

Unfortunately this, for the foul that brought the kick was on Baynham, who would have taken it himself had not he been shaken up.

Mud Prevented Turner Scoring

EXCEPT that goals only looked like coming their way infrequently the Town were always very much in this game, and by the way they began the second half I thought they stood a good chance of winning.

With the wingers switched, they began to move more briskly, and the way to break down the Newcastle defence was clearly pointed out when Pearce suddenly let loose a low, down-the-middle pass that might well have produced a goal.

For a time the Town exploited

FOR THE RECORDS

NEWCASTLE UTD. 4
Curry, Keeble (2), Davies
LUTON TOWN 0

NEWCASTLE UNITED:
Simpson; Woolard, McMichael; Stokes, Paterson, Casey; Milburn, Davies, Keeble, Curry, Mitchell.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; Dunne, Ahern; Pemberton, Kelly, Shanks; Cullen, Turner, Morton, Cummins, Pearce.

Referee: T. L. Wood, Bury.

Attendance: 21,412.

this move, and the equaliser should have come when Morton made an opening for Turner, who when he eventually managed to get firm possession of the ball, shot for an empty net, only to see the ball stick in the mud inches from the line, and Simpson was able to regain his goal and pick up.

Newcastle Finished More Strongly

A GOAL then and the Town's cause would probably have prospered for they continued to be on top, but a disinclination to shoot and not sufficient power when shots were made beat them.

Shanks showed the way with a great drive following a corner which looked a goal all the way until Simpson, with a great leap, grabbed the ball one-handed.

That was probably the turning point, and, as the half wore on, the superior physical strength of Newcastle enabled them gradually to press the Town back on the defensive.

Also the home team held the advantage of not having had to face a stamina-sapping Cup-tie only three days before, and they finished the game more strongly.

Three Goals Came In Nine Minutes

DESPITE that, there was always the possibility of a point-saver for the Town until 10 minutes from the end, when Newcastle began a burst of scoring that brought them three goals.

First of them was officially credited to Keeble, but, in actual fact, it was off Kelly's foot that the ball entered the net, so the Town player told me afterwards.

He and Baynham went together to try to cut off Mitchell's centre, and, with Keeble in the mix-up, too, it looked from the Press-box that he had scored, and he was certainly congratulated by his colleagues.

That, of course, relieved the tension that there had been up to this stage, and the Town defence, which had stood up so bravely previously, became rather over-run.

Drubbing Could Well Have Been Otherwise

TWO minutes later, Davies secured a lucky rebound a few yards out and Baynham was left helpless and then, to make the result completely fantastic, the elusive Mitchell slipped through again to present Keeble with a chance on a plate.

So, there it was, the Town came away with a drubbing when it could very well have been a point or even two, and it was another case of strength counting much more than sheer skill.

One of the most difficult things in the world is for a team to have to change its style drastically, but the Town manager must be doing some deep thinking about the forward line while these conditions last because it simply is not providing the finish.

Ball Players All At Sea In Conditions

A BALL player like Cummins is all at sea on this type of pitch and he could do little in this match.

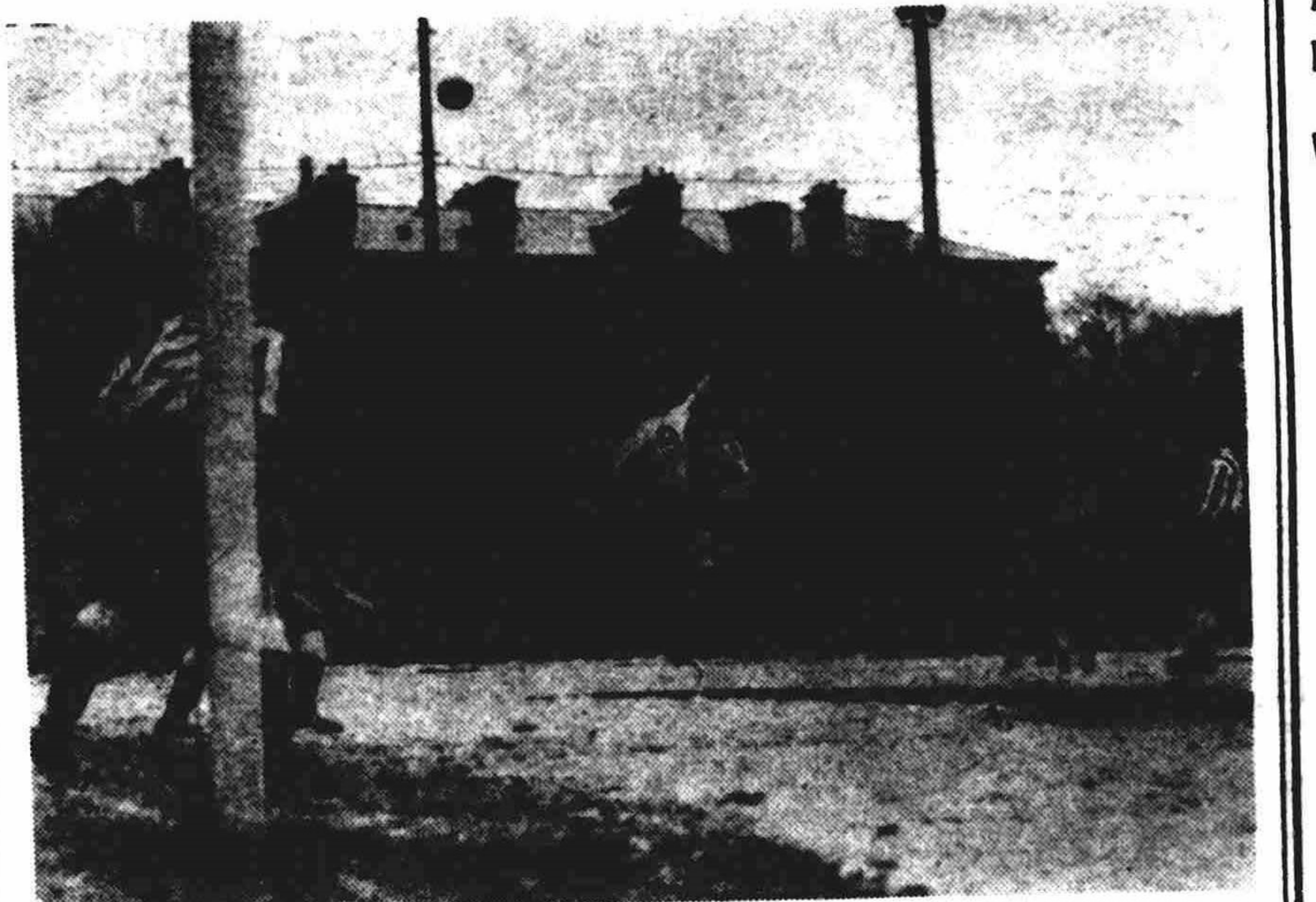
He held the ball too long, kept it too close which was the fault of Cullen, another whose style does not suit conditions like these.

When he switched to the left for the second half, Cullen showed that he had the beating of Woolard, but he did not use the ball quickly enough or strongly enough to make this superiority effective.

Pearce, I feel is being wasted on the wing for, in this match particularly, the Town could have done with his driving power in an inside position and he is the type who thrives on work.

Morton Ploughed Through Bravely

WITH the support that came his way, he tried desperately hard, but the most successful of the forwards, perhaps because he is the strongest, was Morton, who kept ploughing through until the end.



Morton (Luton centre-forward) and Paterson (Newcastle centre-half) both go up to a high cross-shot. This duel was won by Morton, but Simpson cleared easily — a shot from Saturday's match at St. James's Park.

sure that Paterson would not have looked such a good centre-half as he did, but the real material that came Morton's way was somewhat limited.

Turner fought hard and, with Morton, always looked the most likely of the Town front line to score, but he, too, tended to fit into the general pattern of trying to play too much constructive football.

A strange criticism this but, as in everything else, circumstances alter cases.

Kelly Took His Chance Well

BIG query before the match was, of course, how Kelly would fit in at centre-half in his first big test in the position and I am glad to be able to report that he did very well and his display relieved much of the anxiety that had been felt about a second string for this berth.

He tackled hard, never spared himself and although there were some signs of inexperience about when to go in and when not to, this was only to be expected and he had every cause to be satisfied.

Until that last storming ten minutes, the defence as a whole looked compact enough against a strong, fast attack that took the shortest route to goal.

Should Not Have Been In This Position

BOTH Pemberton and Shanks put in a tremendous amount of work, but the latter got on better against Davies than Pemberton did against the thrustful Curry.

However, he kept going as did the rest of the defence who would not have been in the position of being over-run later on had the forwards made the most of the amount of play that came their way.

Against the tricky Mitchell, Dunne did extremely well and if he sometimes appeared to come too far upfield during the second half, the plan was sound because it was attack not defence that the Town needed at that stage.

Although he was bothered by the speed of Milburn, Ahern is not the first full-back by a long way to be troubled in this respect and he strove as manfully as the others to keep Newcastle at bay.

Baynham Made Many Daring Saves

BECAUSE the home forwards and even the wing-halves

showed no sign of shot-shyness, Baynham was much busier than his counterpart and he was the real hero of the defence.

Twice he was injured and on other occasions he risked a serious mishap when he dived at the feet of an onrushing forward.

At the moment, he is not receiving quite the cover that he

is entitled to expect or there would not be the necessity for this last ditch stuff, and his was a brave and highly competent display.

With the Kenilworth-road pitch again badly waterlogged, the Reserves' match with Tottenham had to be postponed, and the Town now have three home games to re-arrange.

Greyhound Racing

TRAP 2 STOLE THE LIMELIGHT ON SATURDAY

But Numbers 1, 3 And 4 Were Right Out Of Luck

THREE traps—numbers 2, 5 and 6, provided all the winners at Luton Stadium on Saturday, and number 2 was particularly successful, with four winners.

There were some close finishes, for in four of the races less than a length separated the first two dogs.

Only two favourites succeeded.

I. (410 yds).—1, SCAMP (6); 2, Slipalong (5); 3, Still Waiting (3); 4, Saucy Girl (4); 5, Rocky (1); 6, Senator (2) reserve. 1, 1, 10, 8, 25.63. Non-runner Billy Boy (2). Off 6.43.
Betting: 2-1 Still Waiting; 3-1 SCAMP; Slipalong; 4-1 Saucy Girl; 8-1 Rocky; 10-1 Senator. Forecast £1 9s. 6d.

II. (470 yds).—1, OLL COAT (6); 2, Cabby (2); 3, Stephen K. (3); 4, Brian's Pal (1); 5, Sammy (4); 6, 2, 8, 1, 28.85. Shallowyn (5). d.n.f. Off 7.01.
Betting: 9-4 OLL COAT; 5-2 Cabby; 4-1 Stephen K.; Shallown; 5-1 Sammy; 8-1 Brian's Pal. Forecast 14s. 6d.

III. (410 yds).—1, NIGGER (2); 2, Hay Time (6); 3, Lucky Charlie (5); 4, Rosy (4); 5, Foxlaw (1); 6, head. 15, 6, 25.95. Non-runner Wee Billy (3). Off 7.24.
Betting: 9-4 Hay Time; 5-2 Rosy; 3-1 Lucky Charlie; 4-1 NIGGER; 6-1 Foxlaw. Forecast £1 6s. 3d.

IV. (470 yds).—1, TIN RIBS (2); 2, Jogger (6); 3, Lucky Strike (5); 4, Lion's Head (1); reserve; 5, Rabbit (4); 6, Kyme (3). 1, 4, 4, 1, 5, 28.64. Off 7.42.
Betting: Evens Jogger; 4-1 Lion's Head; 9-2 TIN RIBS; Kyme; 6-1 Lucky Strike; 8-1 Rabbit. Forecast £1 8s. 9d.

CHILTERN'S FORECASTS

DIVISION I
Aston Villa v Chelsea
Burnley v West Bromwich
Charlton Ath v Newcastle U
Luton T v Birmingham City
Manchester City v Huddersfield T
Preston N.E. v Arsenal
Preston N.E. v Manchester U
Sheffield U v Cardiff City
Sunderland v Bolton Wanderers
Tottenham Hotspur v Everton
Wolves v Blackpool

DIVISION II
Barnsley v Middlesbrough
Bristol Rov v Hull City
Bury v Bristol City
Doncaster Rov v Nottingham Frst
Fulham v West Ham
Leeds U v Port Vale
Liverpool v Leicester City
Notts County v Rotherham U
Plymouth Argyle v Lincoln City
Stoke City v Blackburn Rov
Swansea T v Sheffield Wednesday

DIVISION III (SOUTH)
Aldershot v Shrewsbury T
Bournemouth v Millwall
Brighton v Gillingham
Colchester U v Watford
Crystal Palace v Southampton
Exeter City v Coventry City
Leyton Orient v Brentford
Newport County v Southend U
Northampton T v Ipswich
Norwich City v Reading
Q.P.R. v Walsall
Swindon T v Torquay U

DIVISION III (NORTH)
Accrington Stanley v Chester
Bradford City v Crewe Alexandra
Darlington v Carlisle U

Gateshead v Grimsby T
Halifax T v Hartlepool U
Mansfield T v Barrow
Oldham Ath v York City
Scunthorpe U v Derby County
Southport v Bradford
Tranmere Rov v Rochdale
Workington v Chesterfield
Wrexham v Stockport County

SCOTTISH LEAGUE DIVISION "A"
Aberdeen v Partick Thistle
Clyde v Dundee
Dumfries v Stirling Albion
Leeds v Queen of South
Falkirk v Airdrieonians
Kilmarnock v Hibernian
Motherwell v St Mirren
Raith Rov v Celtic
Rangers v East Fife

DIVISION "B"
Albion Rov v Stenhousemuir
Aston v Hamilton
Berwick Rov v Brechin City
Dundee U v Arbroath
Forfar Ath v St Johnstone
Montrose v Cowdenbeath
Morton v Queen's Park
Stranraer v East Stirling
Third Lanark v Arr U

SELECTIONS
TEN HOME—Charlton, Manchester City, Bristol Rov, Fulham, Leeds, Brighton, Leyton Orient, Norwich, Accrington, Southport.
FOUR AWAY—Manchester U, Bristol City, Coventry, Grimsby.
THREE DRAWS—Sheffield U, Cardiff, Liverpool v Leicester; Newport v Southend.

RUNNERS AND SELECTIONS FOR LUTON TO-NIGHT

7.30 (410 yards).—656 Old Nick, Poacher, 353 Sabrina, 535 Sooty, Squaker, 44 Susanah; reserve, 55 Awlycorne.
7.48 (470 yards).—4 Jumbo Jinx, 42 Queen, 64 Red Head, 34 Sago, 41 Sunny Sue, 3 Tully San; reserve, 63 Kye.
8.06 (410 yards).—2 Arm In Arm, 321 Billy Bean, 234 Jeff, 113 John, 6 Old Fella, 215 River Bank; reserve, 4 Just Jake.

8.24 (470 yards).—621 Bosun, 3 Flo, 412 Gaf, 312 Ida, 441 Lion's Head, 221 Red Cross; reserve, 151 Met Ma.
8.44 (410 yards).—Avanti (Dec. 1, 5, 24.57, Dec. 13, tp 5, 24.50, Jan. tp 1, 24.52), 25 Jonathan, 213 Patri M, 65 Petra (Oct. 13, tp 4, 24.16), 1 Simon, 514 Tony Token; reserve, 4 Rocky Road.
9.04 (410 yards).—4 Adios, 353 A Bubble, 663 Fillet, 431 Knocker, 2 My Chance, 223 Sweet Alton; reserve, 141 Kyme.

9.22 (470 yards).—612 Frisky, 2 Legion, 421 Lucky Deal, 66 Sto (Jan. 3, tp 2 24.87), 212 Tree Top, 4 V.C.N.; reserve, 334 Bunter.
9.40 (410 yards).—514 Mariner, 5 Manor Park, 142 Office Boy, 42, 5 Maria, 412 The Porpoise, Whipt (Dec. 1, tp 2, 24.54, Dec. 31, tp 24.53); reserve, 53 Wallflower.

SELECTIONS
7.30—Poacher (Sooty, Old Nick), 7.48—Red Head (Sunny Sue, Tully San)
8.06—Jeff (John, Arm In Arm)
8.24—Ida (nap) (Lion's Head, Gaf)
8.44—Patrick M (Simon, Avanti)
9.04—Sweet Afton (Knocker, Chance)
9.22—Lucky Deal (Storm, Tree Top)
9.40—Whippet (The Porpoise, Off Boy)

FIRST IN THE FIELD

with all the

SATURDAY SPORTS NEWS

Including

CLASSIFIED LEAGUE RESULTS

LEAGUE TABLES

FULL REPORT OF TOWN MATCH

REPORTS OF DIV. 1 and 2 GAMES

LOCAL MATCHES

COMPLETE RACING RESULTS

SPORTS FEATURES

all in

THE SATURDAY TELEGRAPH
GREEN'UN
Every Saturday

Your own LOCAL Sports Paper

COUNT THEM IN THE STREET