

WEDNESDAY'S GATE A DISAPPOINTMENT

NOT A FAIR TEST OF CUP'S APPEAL

Focussing Of Lights Will Remove Shadows

By Chiltern

MOST accurately, attendances at Kenilworth-road reflect what sort of a time the Town are having on the field, and fewer than 7,000 people bothered to go to watch their first ever Floodlit Cup-tie with Chelsea on Wednesday.

Officials, who had estimated that there would be 10,000 there at least, were expressing disappointment afterwards, but I do not think that after the drubbing at Tottenham, combined with the fact that Chelsea are not the most attractive of teams at the moment, this was a fair test for the drawing power of this competition.

IF the Town are lucky enough to secure another home tie in the next round and the playing record improves in the meantime, then we may then be able to judge just how much of a public there is for competitive floodlit football.

This match was by no means a bad advertisement for it, for it produced a hard fight, with Chelsea, faithful to their pattern in recent years, producing rather a boisterous brand of the game and rather throwing the Town out of their stride in the second half.

Yet, earlier, with George Cummins showing much artistry, the Town had shown a marked improvement on recent displays.

X-Ray Examination For Reg. Pearce

ONE or two of the experiments misfired somewhat, but, even so, the manager's idea today was to give substantially the same side a chance to settle down.

This was sabotaged at the last moment because of the injury to Reg. Pearce. He received a kick on the bone of a foot at Tottenham last Saturday and was unlucky enough to receive another on the same spot on Wednesday.

Yesterday it was sore and inflamed, he could not even get a football boot on and, as a precaution, he was sent for an

X-ray examination, result of which is still awaited.

Gregory Experiment Was Interrupted

PEARCE does not look to me as likely to become the answer to the centre-forward problem.

His virtue is his capacity and willingness for hard work, which he carries to extreme when in the middle and, on Wednesday night, he was tending to do others' work when he should have been making a bee-line down the middle of the field.

In the end, the experiment of playing Tony Gregory on the left wing, interrupted today, could turn out to be a success, but he would have to be given time to settle down in the position before a final judgment could be passed.

No Shadows When Lights Go On Again

FOR the first time, the improved lighting was on show to the public and it was noticeable that there were shadows on the field which it had been said would be eliminated with the addition of the new spotlights.

Explanation of this was forthcoming from Secretary Phil Coley, who told me that the contractors, after completing the work, had been left with no time in which to focus the lights correctly.

This is being done and there will be no shadows when the next floodlit match, that with Charlton Athletic youth team on October 17 in the Southern Junior Floodlit Cup, is staged.

Goal That Was Not Caused Discussion

THAT fault apart, the lighting gave spectators a much better view of the play and it was much easier to follow the flight of the ball than it was previously.

Of the "goal that was not" incident, there was a deal of discussion afterwards, with Chelsea manager, Ted Drake, asking: "How did the referee know that the ball went through a gap in the net?"

To this, Cup Final referee, Alf. Bond, replied: "This is always a difficult decision to make, but I inspected the nets before the start and I knew that there was no gap there then."

Incidentally, he told me that had Gordon Turner not scored from the penalty spot, he would have ordered the kick to be re-taken because Bill Robertson had moved beforehand.

Find Difficulty In Getting To Matches

FOLLOWING complaints from a number of people, chiefly from the Hitchin and Letchworth, Bletchley and Hemel Hempstead areas, some of them season ticket-holders, about the difficulty of making the journey to Luton on Saturday afternoons, the Town have made representations to the Licensing Authority.

These are on the lines of the desirability of issuing licences to coach proprietors in those areas to make trips to the matches.

Reply of the Authority was to the effect that transport facilities are adequate and a denial that any action taken by them has contributed to falling attendances at Luton.

Now, the Town have followed with a further letter drawing attention to the fact that they have had complaints that the transport facilities are not adequate.

McNally Switch Was A Surprise Packet

SURPRISE packet produced by the Town manager yesterday was in naming Brendan McNally, that highly promising full-back, as centre-forward in the Reserves today.

Said the manager: "McNally looks goal-hungry and it has always been in my mind that he could be turned into a goal-getter."

"Plenty of full-backs have been converted into successful centre-forwards and Aston Villa are doing it tomorrow with Lynn."

With the decision taken to restore Bob Morton to the middle line, the leadership problem becomes even more acute and present circumstances make such a gamble worthwhile.

Applications In For Harry Wright's Job

BEFORE the advertisement for someone to replace Harry Wright, who leaves Luton for Everton on Monday, has been issued, the Town have had applications for the job.

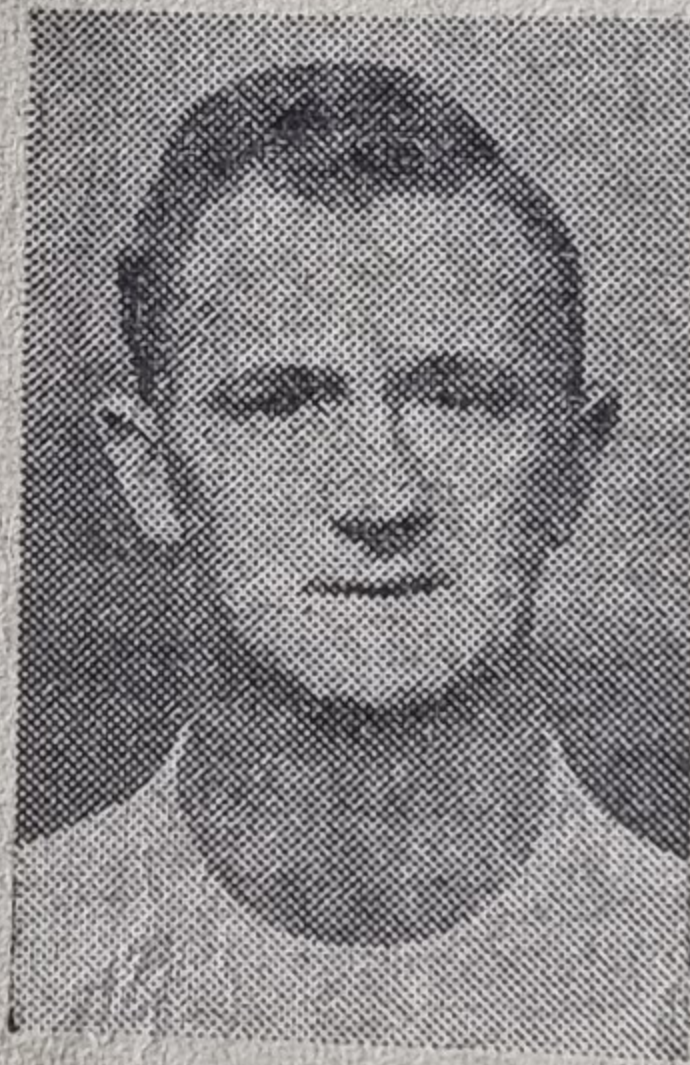
However, they will not be in a hurry to make the appointment and they are advertising for a trainer-coach.

During his spell here, Harry has done a great deal in the coaching line and the Town are looking for a man of real experience to follow him.

Seamus Dunne Is To Captain Eire

CONGRATULATIONS to Seamus Dunne, not only on his selection for Eire in the first World Cup match with Denmark in Dublin next Wednesday, but on the honour that has come his way in being chosen to captain the team.

A skipper was needed because the international career of the former captain, Peter Farrell, of Everton, seems to have ended temporarily, at least, and Dunne has had more international experience than most members of the side.



Seamus Dunne

When I spoke to him after Wednesday's match, Dunne was rather wondering whether there would be many vacancies in the team for players with English League clubs, following the fine display of the League of Ireland against the Football League recently.

Cummins Could Earn More Eire Caps

HOWEVER, only four "home" players, including the entire half-back line, have been chosen.

Almost certainly, there would have been a place for George Cummins had he been able to play regularly this season and, judging by his form in the first half against Chelsea, it should not be long before he forces himself on to the international scene again.

By a coincidence, another international in Ron Baynham was making his return in this match and as, apparently, Reg. Matthews earned some black marks when playing for the League XI, there

could be a possibility of Baynham regaining England status if he should find his best form immediately.

Billy Waugh Has Fractured An Ankle

A CHANGE of club has been unlucky for the former Town winger, Billy Waugh, who spent last season with Bedford Town.

He is now with Ashford, the Kent League club, and has had the misfortune to fracture an ankle, which will keep him out of the game for some weeks.

With the ankle in plaster, Billy who still lives and works in Luton, was at Kenilworth-road on Wednesday night, as was his former manager, Tim Kelly.

The Town manager, Dally Duncan, accompanied by the Chairman, Mr. Percy Mitchell, reciprocated Tim's visit by going to Bedford on Thursday to see their match with Peterborough.

To Celebrate Two Title Successes

TO celebrate the winning by their "B" and "C" teams last season of Divisions I of the South Midlands and Luton and South Beds League, the Town directors are holding a dinner on Monday which members of these teams, which contain many promising youngsters, will attend.

This is a gesture much appreciated by these youngsters and by those in charge of them.

The secretaries of the two Leagues, Fred Crain and Henry Oliver, and the Bedfordshire F.A. Secretary, A. D. McMullan, have also been invited.

No Benefit Match Here Next Summer

FOR the first time in several years, there will be no benefit match for a county cricketer at Wardown next summer.

In the past, Surrey players like the late Stan Squires, Eddie Watts and Arthur McIntyre have all benefited considerably from visits to Luton and Middlesex men, Jack Young, Sid Brown and Leslie Compton, also received substantial contributions.

Latest beneficiary, of course, was Jim Laker, who has written to the Town to tell them how much he appreciates the work which was put in when Surrey were here this summer.

Edrich The Chief Cricket Guest

UNFORTUNATELY, the fact that Laker will be touring South Africa prevents his attendance at the club's annual dinner on October 27 and the chief cricket guest will be the Middlesex captain, Bill Edrich, who is an old friend of the Town club.

During the summer, the Town did agree to a request by Dave Fletcher, the Surrey opening batsman who takes his benefit next year, to be allowed to bring a team to Luton.

Because of travel difficulties—Surrey are in Nottingham that week-end—Fletcher is unable to accept the only date which the club had available to offer.