

TOWN GAY WITH ARSENAL "FANS"

Before-Dawn Arrivals At Kenilworth Road

LUTON streets were gay to-day with an invasion of Arsenal "fans," sporting all sorts of costumes in the Gunners' colours, shouting, singing, and even dancing—to keep up their courage, as one Luton supporter put it.

Just one indication of the tremendous interest being taken in this sixth round Cup-tie was the arrival at the Kenilworth-road ground, hours before dawn, of supporters who wanted to be sure of getting the best position they could for viewing the match—an all-ticket one.

Schoolboys were offered as much as 30s. each for ordinary 4s. terrace tickets.

Receipts Are £6,000

Two new records for the Town club will be set up this afternoon. 28,000 tickets have been sold, which means that the ground record of 27,553, which has existed only a fortnight, goes by the board.

In addition the receipts, which are a little over £6,000, are easily the highest ever taken at Kenilworth-road. Previous best figures were £4,725 when Leicester were here for the Cup-tie three years ago.

Yes, We Have, This Week

A further allocation of bananas this week has added to the already plentiful variety of fruit available. Black and white grapes from South Africa are also a little cheaper, the former selling in two grades at 3s. and 3s. 6d. a lb., and the latter at 4s. 6d.

South African peaches and nectarines retail at about 9d. each.

Green vegetables are not so plentiful, brussels sprouts and cabbage being nearly finished and sprouting broccoli not quite ready.

Something a little different in tinned vegetables was selling in a Luton shop this week—tinned sweet corn from South Africa.

Other fruit and vegetable prices: mushrooms 6s. a lb., French cauliflowers 1s. 3d. each (average size), onions 8d. a lb., rhubarb 1s. a lb., pears from the Argentine 1s. 6d. a lb., best quality Brazil nuts 3s. a lb., and almonds 2s. 10d.

First to arrive, at 4 a.m., complete with Arsenal red and white scarf, and a rattle, was 17-years-old Lawrence Usher, of Fairview-road, Stamford Hill, who had left home on his cycle just after midnight.

He was arguing with the first Luton Town supporters over who would win the game, being quite convinced himself it would be a resounding victory for the Gunners.

HE WAS CONFIDENT

Second to arrive was regular Luton supporter Mr. Jim Briggs, of 60, Westfield-road, Dunstable, who left home at three o'clock to walk to the ground. He made the trip in 90 minutes.

His forecast was a 2-1 victory for Luton. Mr. Briggs has been the first Luton supporter to arrive at the ground at each cup-tie. So far, he has not been incorrect in his forecast of the result and the score.

He was joined at seven o'clock by Mr. John Ptolomey, of 21, Princess-street, Luton, and shortly afterwards, they were joined by a woman supporter of the Town. All were at the Bobbers' Stand entrance.

She was Mrs. Tasker, of 1, Hollow-lane, Hitchin, who came with her husband, and carried with her her breakfast and lunch in a straw basket.

SLOGAN CHANTERS

Gay groups of "fans" were prominent in the streets, including a small procession of youngsters supporting the Arsenal who made weird sounds with rattles and "musical" instruments, and chanted slogans in the American base-ball fashion as they paraded the streets.

"Six goals start!" was one of the more audacious cries of the Arsenal enthusiasts—and it made Luton people more amused than angry.

Not only were the Arsenal supporters parading and flaunting their colours outside the ground. Lutonians were given a sample of their enthusiasm in the centre of the town. The atmosphere was

(Continued on Back Page)

Big Prices For Cup-Tie Tickets

(Continued from Front Page)

friendly, and small boys in red and white tammies were warmly shaken by the hand when they stopped to talk to anyone.

COACH LOADS

By mid-morning, coachloads of Arsenal supporters began to arrive at the ground.

They left the coaches and paraded round the various ground entrances, some dressed in Arsenal colours, all sporting favours, scarves and other apparel denoting their champions.

A group of men and women stood by with banners which suggested that Arsenal were going to win this tie.

From Camden Town there arrived early to-day a Luton supporter, 28-years-old Gordon Brown, who is convinced that Luton will reach the semi-final.

Traffic was held up outside the Town Hall at 11 o'clock with about 50 red-cloaked supporters carrying a victorious Gunners' banner and dancing, to the amusement of shoppers.

On the ground workmen were busy putting the final touches to the alteration of crash barrier positions on the stand terraces.

They had also renewed barbed wire on the tops of the walls overlooking the railway that passes the ground.

All Night Wait For Cup Tickets

CROWD OF 300 BY 10 A.M.

Arsenal Supporters On Scene At Early Hour

The lure of tickets for the Cup-tie with Arsenal drew hundreds of Luton supporters to all entrances of the Town ground by 11 o'clock this morning — just 12 hours after the first two hardy arrivals had camped for the night under a blanket at the Kenilworth-road entrance.

Some of the supporters did not know who they were coming to see the Reserves play. All they wanted was to get that ticket which meant entrance to the Arsenal match. A few had cars waiting in the hope of getting away to Brentford after buying their tickets.

As early as ten o'clock there were over 300 people, many of them Arsenal supporters from London. By eleven there were over 600, but no sign of a Watford supporter.

Two Luton men, Mr. Raymond Lea, of 78, Hibbert-street, and Mr. James Johnstone, of 56, New Town-street, were the doughty pair who weathered the night at the Kenilworth-road entrance. They are regular supporters.

Mr. J. Hammond, of 69, Solway-road, Luton, was another very early arrival. With five others, he came at 6 a.m., after being on night shift at Vauxhall Motors.

FIRST ARSENAL SUPPORTERS

Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Wallington, from 134, Caledonian-road, King's Cross, London, were the first Arsenal supporters. Married 27 years ago, they have supported Arsenal a lot longer. They left their one-room home at 5.45 a.m.

Fifty-one-years-old Mr. V. J. Jole, of 9, Ampthill-square, London, N.W.1, has supported Arsenal since he was a child. By arriving at 8.15 a.m. he made certain of his ticket.

Luton supporters came from far and wide. At the ground before 8 a.m. were 43-years-old Mr. J. J. Bell, of Stafford-terrace, Kensington, W.8, who has followed Luton all his life, coming from London for every match; Mr. S. T. Stapleton, of 115, Heathfield-road, Hitchin; Mr. C. Coyd, of 31, Tilehouse-street, Hitchin; Mr. L. Horne, from 46, Doggett-street, Leighton Buzzard; and Messrs. W. G. M. Brewer and B. Norris, from Limes-avenue, Aylesbury.

First at Oak-road were Mr. H. Huckle and his daughter Doreen, both of 19, Cavendish-road, Luton. They arrived at seven o'clock.

RISING TIDE

By 11.30 crowds 100 yards in length and four deep were at the Oak-road and Ivy-road entrances, and a four-deep queue stretched two-thirds of the length of Kenilworth-road.

Several coaches arrived from London during the morning, carrying Arsenal supporters taking advantage of the chance of a Cup-tie ticket.