

United cruise to an easy win

Cambridge U. 3, Kettering 0.
(Attendance 726).

Cambridge United had one of their easiest games for several weeks when they cruised to a comfortable victory over Kettering in the Midland Floodlit League game at Newmarket Road last night.

After a dull, boring first half, United took the lead within minutes of the restart and added two further goals within a minute of each other halfway through the second period.

Hobbs scored the first when he ran across the goal to meet a low corner from Haasz on the right and head powerfully inside the near post.

Derek Finch scored the second from outside the penalty area with a dipping drive that went over the goalkeeper and then seemed to duck under the bar.

Against old club

Less than a minute later Dennis Randall, playing against his old club, scored the third when he fastened on to a long pass from Hobbs and poked the ball past the advancing Livesey.

Apart from these three goals and one fine save by Livesey from Hobbs in the first half, there was little to cheer the small band of faithfuls at the Abbey Stadium. Young Richard Ison gave another competent display at left-back. Each time he is promoted from the youth team he gives a sound performance and seems to rise to the occasion.

Little was seen of the Poppies' attack and Gerry Graham and his colleagues did not have much difficulty to keep their score sheet blank. Only once, in the second half, did Smith see the ball go past and then it went wide of the upright.

Injured

Brian Boggis was injured halfway through the second half and moved to the right wing with Alan Payne dropping back to wing-half and Jack Scurr at full back. Boggis, although limping, had a couple of useful runs down the right and, with a little luck, might have had a goal when a powerful shot was just wide of the post.

It was obvious that the players were running themselves down after a hard season and, because of this, the game in its early stages with the sun shining brightly, looked similar to one of the pre-season trial games with everybody getting to know each other.

Cambridge United: Smith; Boggis and Ison; Scurr, Graham and Finch; Whitmore, Haasz, Randall, Payne and Hobbs.

Kettering: Livesey; Norton and Ramshaw; Davey, Reed and Evans; Hooper, Salmon, Underwood, Kerry and Martin.



A neat header by Johnny Haasz failed to find the mark.

Hannah on mark for Ely City

Ely City 4, Norwich "A" 2.

Ely and Norwich "A" belatedly completed their Eastern Counties League cup programme last night in what turned out to be a pleasing match for Ely and an entertaining game for the crowd.

Surprisingly, perhaps, Ely took the lead after five minutes when Jimmy Hannah, now recovered from injury, put the ball into the net with a strong shot.

Norwich played a neat style of football and seemed to be in control more often than Ely. After 27 minutes centre forward Woolmer equalised for Norwich with a 25 yard shot and then outside right Close scored to give the visitors the lead.

But the superior control of Norwich players, exemplified by their left half was too often counterbalanced by rash shooting at goal, easily dealt with by the able Ely goalkeeper, George Taylor, or by loose, easily intercepted passes.

In the remaining eleven minutes of the first half Ely pressure culminated in a penalty goal by Shaw, that the Norwich goalkeeper, Palmer, just failed to stop and a goal by inside left Marston, made with Roger Pauley's help.

In the second half, Norwich

again showed ability in getting the ball and keeping it, though they had difficulty in then finding a use for it. Whenever they got the ball Ely came up to attack purposefully though some ill luck dogged their attempts.

Repeated headers missed goal by narrow margins and Hannah scrambled the ball into the net to have his goal disallowed for offside.

Offside continued to frustrate the Ely attack but Hannah's moment came when he whipped the ball into the net from a few feet away to ensure victory.

Shooting boots missing

St. Neots 0, Bury Town 0

Both sides played plenty of attacking football in this Metropolitan League game last night but all the shooting boots had been left in the pavilion.

Bury had St. Neots hemmed in their own territory for long spells but just lacked the "killer" touch. And, with the St. Neots attack looking dangerous in the breaks-away, it was anybody's game until the final whistle.

Brian Whitby led the St. Neots line with plenty of speed and some trickery which had centre-half Heffer worried, but he was soon a marked man and faded towards the end.

Just before the interval he had a golden chance when he slipped past Heffer after a clever pass from Burgess but he shot weakly as the keeper came out to challenge.

The best move of the game was when the Bury outside-left, Crichton, beat two men and cut the ball back for inside-left Basted to thump it against the bar.

But claimed that the ball had gone over the line, and Basted's protests almost had his name in the referee's book.

This escape sent the Saints on the attack, and they might have faced better had they given outside-left, Roy Newman, more of the ball.

But they wasted chances and slowed down the game with close passing which made little ground and little impression.

Alan Norman, at centre-half, and Peter Desborough, at left-back, were the St. Neots stars, but skipper Bobby Wilks was sadly off form.

Rejected by Isthmians

Part time professionals were rejected by the 20 clubs of the Isthmian League at a special meeting last night after it was proposed the amateur league should be opened up next season. London may still have a semi-professional league if a proposal by Sutton is agreed at a meeting to be held on May 4. Many clubs want more time to consider the proposal.

Jockeys trounced by lively Linnets

Newmarket 0, King's Lynn Reserves 6.

End of the season blues could hardly have been more apparent than in Newmarket's last home game against King's Lynn Reserves in the Eastern Counties League last night. The home defenders stood flat-footed in the face of one-way traffic and forwards floundered ineffectively in mid-field.

Kings Lynn, faster off the mark and in their passing, scarcely needed to go above a canter after the initial impetus of a quick goal.

Chipchase weaved in and out of a line of three Newmarket defenders, drew keeper Gawthrope and slid the ball across to Jones' waiting foot.

Newmarket were so impotent that not until the 30th minute did they get anywhere near a goal and then Brooks hooked past the post.

Right on half time the Linnets' right-half, S. Williamson, cracked a 35-yarder past Gawthrope, for goal number two.

Newmarket's centre-forward, Brooks, spent the second half limping on the wing. Faced with a Newmarket team lacking zest and marking slackly in mid-field, Kings Lynn had an easy run-in.

Bensson drove home from a Chipchase corner in the 58th minute and Williamson walked round two defenders into the area to push the fourth into the net in the 72nd minute.

All Newmarket could offer in return were a low left-foot shot straight at the keeper from Stearn and a brave long pot-shot from right-half Payne, potted down by Clarke.

Kings Lynn were utilising centre-half Stannard as an advanced half-back to pick up loose clearances and feed them back to his forwards and Newmarket could not escape the pressure.

In the last five minutes they surrendered two more goals to Chipchase, the last resulting from a rare mistake by Cruickshank, the Jockeys only stable defender.

Bill Frith leaves Chelmsford

Mr. Bill Frith, the ex-schoolmaster who has been manager of Covestry City, is no longer the manager of Chelmsford City, it was announced yesterday.

Mr. John Coward, the club's chairman, said in a statement: "The matter is in legal hands and all we can say at the moment is that Mr. Frith is no longer in the club's employ. I hope we shall be able to make a fuller statement later."

"One of the club's directors, Mr. Fred Langton, is running the team with the assistance of the trainer, Peter Harburn."

For some time now it has been known that Mr. Frith has not been to the New Writtle Street ground and yesterday he announced that he was suing the club for breach of contract. He hoped to stay in football. During Mr. Frith's two seasons with Chelmsford the club were runners-up in both the Southern and Metropolitan Leagues last season and have never been very far from the top of the Southern League this season.



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