

Cr. Dedrick Opens New Football Ground

BIG CROWD AT FIRST MATCH

Saturday was a day of days for the Sunshine Football Club, when the new ground adjoining Sunshine Gardens was officially opened. The club had made a bold move in transferring its headquarters from Selwyn Park, but its confidence in the move was justified by an attendance estimated to be about 1500.

This was undoubtedly a step forward, proving that the local people take an interest in the club and are prepared to support it, now that the matches are played on a central ground.

Membership badges had been procured for disposal among patrons, and the revenue from this source and from a collection was over £20. This compares more than favourably with the experience of last season, when revenue from membership tickets and gate receipts was a little over £15. When the first day's takings exceed the previous year's takings it can be appreciated that the club officials are jubilant and confident of sustained interest and support.

THE OFFICIAL OPENING

The new ground was officially opened by Cr. A. E. Dedrick, who apologised for the absence of the shire president (Cr. W. Dempster). Cr. Dedrick was introduced by Mr. E. Nayler, president of the club, who also introduced the president of the Sub-District League (Mr M. Clota) and two of the vice-presidents (Messrs T. Murphy and P. J. White).

Cr. Dedrick said everyone would agree that the new ground of the Sunshine Football Club was a remarkable transformation from the

markable transformation from the previous barren appearance of the area. It had proved that the committee of the club was one of the most progressive and energetic organisations in the district. The committee had been prepared to commit itself to expenditure of about £50 to put the ground in order, and had done so with the conviction that its brand of football was of the right quality to interest local people. The area had been secured for recreation purposes by Mr Cecil McKay, who had erected the fine grandstand and dressing rooms, and he hoped that the work already done was a genesis of a sports ground that would be in keeping with the district. Further improvements were certain to be made; some even now were contemplated. He was proud of what had been achieved so soon, and he was sure that the Sunshine people were proud of it also. He had much pleasure in declaring the ground officially open.

Mr M. Clota said that the Sunshine Football Club deserved unstinted praise on the acquisition of such a fine central ground. He admired the spirit which had prompted the move. The attendance was a surprise to him; it was better than he had ever seen at Selwyn Park, and he was sure that spectators would be impressed by the standard of football produced among the teams of the Sub-League. It was now for the Sunshine people to show in a practical way that the efforts of the football club to provide them with entertainment were appreciated.