

LUTON

- THE -

ALBION NEWS

AND OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

WEST BROMWICH ALBION FOOTBALL CLUB, LIMITED

President : The Rt Hon. The Earl of Dartmouth, G.C.V.O., T.D., D.L.

Directors : Major H. Wilson Keys, M.C., T.D. (Chairman), Mr. A. Claude Jephcott (Vice-Chairman),
Mr. Norman W. Bassett, Mr. W. H. Thursfield, Mr. W. E. Jephcott and Mr. L. J. Nurse.

Secretary : Mr. Fred Everiss, J.P. *Ground* : The Hawthorns, West Bromwich

Telegraphic Address : "Football, West Bromwich." *Telephone No.* : 0095 West Bromwich

Club Colours : Shirts—Navy Blue and White Stripes. Knickers—White

(All communications regarding editorial matter in this programme should be addressed to The Editor, The Albion News, The Hawthorns, West Bromwich. For advertisement rates and spaces apply to the Secretary of the Club.)

Vol. XXXIX No. 27 (Copyright)

JANUARY 31st, 1948

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Football League (Div. II)

Date	Opponents	Gr'nd	Result	
			For	Agst
1948				
Jan'y 1	Newcastle United ..	away	1	3
" 3	Barnsley ..	home	0	2
" 10	Reading, 3rd Round F.A. Cup ..	home	2	0
" 17	Plymouth Argyle ..	away	1	2
" 24	Tottenham, 4th Round F.A. Cup ..	away	1	3
" 31	Luton Town ..	home		
Feb'y 7	Brentford or 5th Rd. F.A. Cup ..	away		
" 14	Leicester City ..	home		
" 21	Leeds United ..	away		
" 28	Millwall or 6th Round F.A. Cup ..	away		
March 6	Chesterfield ..	home		
" 13	West Ham United ..	away		
" 20	Bury or Semi-final F.A. Cup ..	home		
" 27	Southampton ..	away		
" 29	Birmingham City ..	away		
" 30	Birmingham City ..	home		
April 3	Doncaster Rovers ..	home		
" 10	Nottingham Forest ..	away		
" 17	Bradford ..	home		
" 24	Cardiff City or F.A. Cup Final ..	away		
May 1	Sheffield Wednesday ..	home		

Central League

Date	Opponents	Gr'nd	Result	
			For	Agst
1948				
Jan'y 3	Sheffield United ..	away	0	0
" 10	Wolverhampton Wanderers ..	away	2	0
" 17	Manchester United ..	home	1	4
" 24	Newcastle United ..	home	1	4
" 31	Stoke City ..	away		
Feb'y 7	Preston North End ..	home		
" 14	Burnley ..	away		
" 21	Leeds United ..	home		
" 28	Sheffield Wednesday ..	home		
March 6	Manchester City ..	away		
" 13	Derby County ..	home		
" 20	Blackburn Rovers ..	away		
" 27	Blackpool ..	home		
" 29	Newcastle United ..	away		
April 3	Huddersfield Town ..	away		
" 10	Bury ..	home		
" 17	Everton ..	away		
" 24	Chesterfield ..	home		
May 1				

LEAGUE TABLES TO DATE

FOOTBALL LEAGUE, Division 2

	P.	W.	L.	D.	for agst	Pts
Birmingham City ..	26.	16.	4.	6.	34.17.	38
Newcastle United ..	27.	15.	9.	3.	50.31.	33
Cardiff City ..	26.	12.	6.	8.	44.31.	32
Tottenham Hotspur ..	26.	12.	8.	6.	44.25.	30
Sheffield Wednesday ..	26.	13.	9.	4.	42.38.	30
West Bromwich Albion ..	28.	13.	9.	4.	37.34.	30
Southampton ..	26.	12.	9.	5.	45.40.	29
Chesterfield ..	26.	11.	9.	6.	37.33.	28
West Ham United ..	26.	9.	17.	10.	35.32.	28
Coventry City ..	26.	11.	10.	5.	44.35.	27
Bradford ..	26.	12.	11.	3.	43.40.	27
Fulham ..	26.	11.	12.	3.	35.35.	25
Leicester City ..	26.	9.	10.	7.	36.38.	25
Barnsley ..	27.	10.	12.	5.	41.43.	25
Bury ..	7.	10.	10.	37.	37.24.	
Luton Town ..	26.	9.	11.	6.	37.38.	24
Leeds United ..	27.	9.	13.	5.	36.43.	23
Plymouth Argyle ..	26.	6.	9.	11.	22.39.	23
Nottingham Forest ..	26.	8.	14.	4.	31.38.	20
Brentford ..	26.	6.	12.	8.	25.50.	20
Millwall ..	26.	5.	13.	8.	25.42.	18
Doncaster Rovers ..	26.	6.	15.	5.	26.47.	17

CENTRAL LEAGUE

	P.	W.	L.	D.	for agst	Pts
Newcastle United ..	27.	19.	5.	3.	62.30.	41
Blackpool ..	29.	16.	10.	3.	50.31.	35
Liverpool ..	26.	16.	7.	3.	61.39.	35
Wolverhampton Wanderers ..	28.	14.	8.	6.	59.38.	34
Everton ..	27.	13.	7.	7.	57.41.	33
Manchester United ..	27.	13.	8.	6.	57.43.	32
Barnsley ..	26.	11.	7.	8.	55.40.	30
Huddersfield Town ..	28.	11.	9.	8.	48.45.	30
Bolton Wanderers ..	27.	13.	11.	3.	56.52.	29
Preston North End ..	28.	10.	11.	7.	38.43.	27
Blackburn Rovers ..	28.	9.	11.	8.	48.52.	26
Stoke City ..	27.	9.	10.	8.	33.45.	26
Sheffield Wednesday ..	27.	9.	11.	7.	53.42.	25
Derby County ..	28.	9.	12.	7.	55.60.	25
Aston Villa ..	26.	10.	11.	5.	47.53.	25
Leeds United ..	27.	10.	12.	5.	35.54.	25
Burnley ..	26.	9.	11.	6.	34.35.	24
Sheffield United ..	26.	10.	13.	3.	54.55.	23
Bury ..	26.	9.	14.	3.	44.46.	21
West Bromwich Albion ..	28.	9.	17.	2.	51.72.	20
Manchester City ..	27.	4.	15.	8.	43.79.	16
Chesterfield ..	27.	4.	17.	6.	33.78.	14

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SPOTLIGHT

George Arthur Rowley, to give him his full name, was born at Wolverhampton and began to play football at St. Peter's School, Wolverhampton, where he played at inside left.

Arthur's elder brother Jack showed exceptional promise as a footballer and Arthur soon gave signs he was to make his mark in the world of sport also, for he was selected to play for the Wolverhampton Boys for two years, and also for the Birmingham County Boys against such sides as the London Boys.

Leaving school Arthur became an outside left with the Wolverhampton Gas at the age of 14. Brother Jack fixed him up for trials with Manchester United, where he himself was filling the outside left berth with success, and he remained on their books for two or three seasons, playing during this time as a guest for Wolverhampton Wanderers.

At the end of the 1943-4 Season he decided to find a club nearer his native Wolverhampton and chose to sign for the Albion as an Amateur on March 17th, 1944, where his football on the extreme left soon gave him a professional engagement which he signed on 8th May, 1944. Shortly after the beginning of the following season Arthur played the first of his 26 first team games with a match v. Walsall, when he figured at outside left.

By this time he was at the calling-up age and was taken into the Army in the Lincolnshire Regiment. Finishing his training, he was drafted to Germany, but returned after a time and began to play football again. Brighton and Hove Albion called on him as a guest and played him at left back, but when he played for the Albion again it was as a centre forward he was asked to turn out, to fill a gap in an unexpected emergency. Arthur did well in his new position, but was only to play nine games before he was drafted overseas to Palestine. Here he played in Army teams with such players as Scottish international Adam Little, and again changed his position, this time to inside left.

He played for the Palestine Army XI and also for Palestine Combined Services against the Egyptian Combined Services, and has only recently been demobbed.

This season he has played in three positions in the Albion forward line: centre forward, inside left and outside left, and says he doesn't mind much where he plays as long as he gets a game.



G. A. ROWLEY

Visitors

Luton Town, who are the visitors to-day, have not a long record of matches with the Albion. The first time the two teams met was in 1924-5 in the F.A. Cup, but it was not until 1938-39 during our first season of Second Division football after relegation, that the Luton Town team came to The Hawthorns, in the Football League competition.

The Luton side began their football career in the old Southern League, but had three seasons in Division 2 from 1897 to 1900, when they lost their place and returned to the Southern League. In 1920-21 the Football League took over the Southern League and renamed it the Third Division (South) and Luton have been continuous members of the competition since that date.

In 1936-37 a total of 58 points was sufficient to win them promotion to Division 2, where they finished in 12th place in their first season. The outbreak of war caused a cessation of League football and the Albion and Luton met in wartime football on several occasions, the results being mainly in favour of the Albion, but with a return to normal football Luton have been more successful than ourselves in the matches we have played against them, for although they occupied 13th place to our 7th in the final League tables of last season they succeeded in taking four points from the two games.

This season they will not do this, for we already have a point from them, playing a 1-1 draw at Luton.

The complete record of League meeting is as follows:—Played 5, Won 1, Lost 3, Drawn 1, Goals for 6, Against 8, and their home and away record this season, when they are at present in 16th place, is as follows:

	P.	W.	L.	D.	for	agst	Pts
Home	12	6	2	4	21	11	16
Away	14	3	9	2	16	27	8
	26	9	11	6	37	38	24

They are in the Fifth Round of the F.A. Cup and are drawn to play against Queen's Park Rangers in London.

Do You Know?

1—Which player made F.A. Cup semi-final appearances with the most different clubs in history?

2—Which club received an aggregate of over £18,000 in transfer fees in one actual playing season for three half-backs it had recruited without cost from minor football?

3—Which club was relegated at the end of a season in which it had the help of 13 internationals?

4—Which player was signed as a reserve left-back by a Third Division club with which he became an international goalkeeper?

5—Within two seasons a Football League club had on its professional staff 15 players who had all been with another particular Football League club. What were the circumstances?

6—How often has it happened in Football League history that home victories, away wins, and draws have been identically the same in the First and Second Divisions for a completed season?

Answers on Page Seven

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 MILLARD (4) VERNON (5) EVANS, A. J. (6)
 ELLIOTT (7) McKENNAN (8) WALSH (9) FINCH (10) ROWLEY (11)

Referee:
 Mr. G. TEDDS,
 Bestwood, Notts.

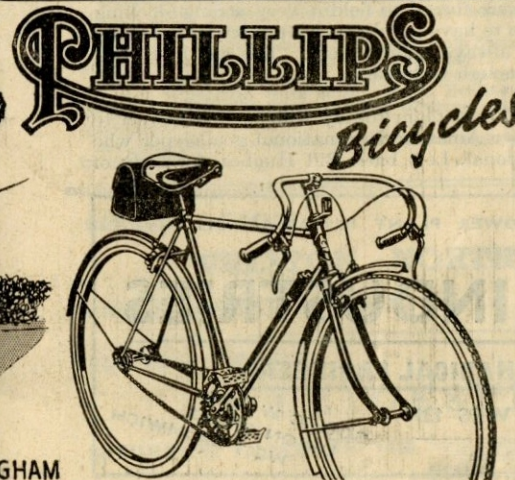


Linesmen: Messrs.
 J. H. IRVING, Oakengates (Red)
 T. JEPSON, Edwinstowe (Blue)

O'BRIEN (11) BRENNAN (10) BILLINGTON (9) OTTEWELL (8) WAUGH (7)
~~CHAMBERLAIN~~ (6) HALL (5) SOO (4)
 HUGHES (3) COOKE (2)
 Left STRETEN Right

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Birmingham Combination

Date	Opponents	Gr'd	Result	
			For	Agst
1947				
Aug. 23	Hednesford ..	away	4	2
" 30	Darlaston ..	home	1	3
Sept. 3	Redditch ..	away	3	1
" 9	Banbury Spencer ..	away	0	6
" 20	Danworth ..	away	0	2
" 22	Dudley Town ..	home	6	1
" 27	Stafford Rangers ..	home	6	9
Oct. 4	Bedworth Town ..	away	1	4
" 18	Nuneaton Borough ..	away	4	4
" 26	Atherstone Town ..	away	0	1
Nov. 8	City Transport ..	away	0	0
" 10	Atherstone Town ..	home	1	5
" 22	Bromsgrove Rovers ..	away	2	4
" 29	Nuneaton Borough ..	home	1	6
Dec'r 6	Moor Green ..	away	3	1
" 24	Stourbridge ..	home	1	0
" 27	Moor Green ..	home	3	3
1948				
Jan. 3	Stourbridge ..	away	1	3
" 10	Walsall Reserves ..	away	1	3
" 24	City Transport ..	home	2	1
" 31	Wolverhampton Wan. 'A' ..	away		
Feb. 7	Bromsgrove Rovers ..	home		
" 14	" ..	"		
" 21	Hinckley Athletic ..	away		
" 28	Bedworth Town ..	home		
March 6	Stafford Rangers ..	away		
March 13	Tamworth ..	home		
" 20	Coventry City 'A' ..	away		
" 28	" ..	"		
" 27	Banbury Spencer ..	home		
" 29	Wolverhampton Wan. 'A' ..	home		
April 3	Dudley Town ..	away		
" 10	Redditch ..	home		
" 17	Darlaston ..	away		
April 24	Hednesford ..	home		
May 1	" ..	"		

*Match to be played at The Hawthorns. All other matches to be played on opponents' ground.

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Wednesday

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BEST FOR FOOTBALL NEWS AND FORECASTS

CLUB NOTES



Gilbert Williams, young right half-back who has been recalled to first team duty for the last two games has been singularly unlucky, having received an injury in each game which forced him to go on to the wing.

Norman Aldridge, young Coventry-born full back, has recently recovered from a badly bruised calf muscle and is once again playing in the Central League team at Stoke.

Many thousands of Albion supporters were bitterly disappointed last Saturday when they made the trip to Tottenham to watch the Fourth Round Cup Tie, only to see the team defeated by three goals to one.



N. H. ALDRIDGE

G. WILLIAMS

The unfortunate incident which culminated in Gilbert Williams' accident may have been a deciding factor in this game, for the heavy blow he received on the side of the face so affected one of the nerves in his body he was almost unable to stand. However Gilbert pluckily refused to come off the field, and did his best to help things along. It is very rare, however, that ten sound men can hold a full team—a fact we have learned to our cost only too often this season. Only on one occasion since October have we been able to say we have eleven sound men after the game. This was against Third Division side Reading, against whom we were forced to field a very strange-looking side. We must give every praise to the team to have put up such a plucky fight as they have in spite of the feeling that the luck is always against them. The run of the ball is the twelfth man for the side fortunate enough to have it.

Some of the personalities in the Luton Town team to-day will be well-known to Albion fans. Streten is their R.A.F. former Amateur International goalkeeper who has recently decided to become a professional. Left back Bill Hughes, formerly of

CLUB NOTES—continued

Birmingham, needs no introduction, especially to the Welsh contingent. Frank Soo, captain and right half-back, has played many fine games in the white England shirt. Ottewell was secured from Birmingham City, who took him from Chesterfield. Brennan, their recent Irish capture, is an old acquaintance of the Albion's Irishmen, and centre-forward Hugh Billington has made a name for himself with his opportunist goal scoring. We expect to see a good match.

Alex Ross, who has been on the sick list, has now returned to The Hawthorns after a period of recuperation in Scotland, where he formerly lived. He expects to be back in training next week.

Frank Hodgetts had a tryout in the Reserves last Saturday, but it was soon obvious he could feel his injured ankle. He continues to make progress, however, and hopes to be fit again shortly.

George Banks, ex-Throstle now with Mansfield, has soon established himself as a firm favourite with the Mansfield Town supporters, and he is doing extremely well with the team.

F.A. CUP, FOURTH ROUND—TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR v. ALBION

Played at Tottenham on Saturday, January 24th, 1948. Result: Tottenham Hotspur 3, Albion 1. Scorers: Albion—Rowley; Tottenham Hotspur—Cox, Duquemin (2).

Teams:
Albion—Sanders; Pemberton, Millard; Williams, Vernon, Ryan; Elliott, McKennan, Walsh, Drury, Rowley.
Tottenham Hotspur—Ditchburn; Tickridge, Buckingham; Nicholson, Woodward, Burgess; Cox, Bailey, Duquemin, Jordan, Stevens.

CENTRAL LEAGUE—ALBION RESERVES v. NEWCASTLE UNITED RESERVES

Played at The Hawthorns on Saturday, January 24th, 1948. Result: Newcastle United Res. 4, Albion Reserves 1.

Scorer: Morris.
Team: Grimley; Aldridge, Kinsell; Edwards, Gripton, Hood; Gordon, Finch, Morris, Evans, C. J., Hodgetts.

BIRMINGHAM COMBINATION—ALBION COLTS v. BIRMINGHAM CITY

TRANSPORT

Played at King's Heath on Saturday, January 24th, 1948. Result: Albion Colts 2, Birmingham City Transport 1.

Scorer: Jones (2).
Team—Tighe; Robinson, Bradley; Insley, Thacker, Clarke, R. W.; Morrow, Jones, Thomas, Richards, Russell.

HERE ARE THE ANSWERS

1—Ronald Starling, who, between the two wars, appeared in semi-finals with Hull City, Newcastle United, Sheffield Wednesday and Aston Villa.

2—Sunderland did so in Season 1937-38 for the transfers of James Clark (to Plymouth Argyle), Alexander McNab (West Bromwich Albion), and Leslie McDowall (Manchester City).

3—Aston Villa in Season 1935-36, the internationals being: Blair and Cummings (backs); Massie, Gibson, Allen, Griffiths, and McLuckie (half-backs); and Phillips, Hodgson, Waring, Astley, Cunliffe and Houghton (forwards).

4—Roy John, who, secured by Walsall from Swansea Town as a left-back in May, 1928, became the goalkeeper of Wales less than three years later.

5—In Seasons 1935-36 and 1936-37 Bournemouth had 15 players who had all been with Wolverhampton Wanderers, these being: Bellis, Bucknall and Marsden (backs); Smith, Pincott, Mordue, Wilson and Twiss (half-backs); and Whittam, Akers, Burns, Adkins, Burgin, Flaherty and Morgan (forwards).

6—Only once. In Season 1935-36 there were 259 home victories, 92 away wins, and 111 draws in each division.

CENTRAL LEAGUE

Match No. 30

PRESTON NORTH END RESERVES

SATURDAY NEXT, FEBRUARY 7th

Kick-off 3.0 p.m.

FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Match No. 31

LEICESTER CITY

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14th

Kick-off 3.0 p.m.

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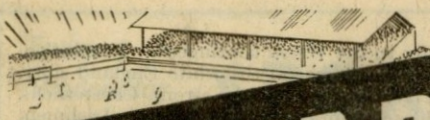
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TO-DAY'S RESULTS

THE SCORE OF THE HOME TEAM, WHOSE NAME IS GIVEN FIRST, IS TOP ON THE BOARD

A Everton v. Wolverhampton Wanderers	L Bradford v. Tottenham Hotspur ..
B Arsenal v. Preston North End.. ..	M Cardiff City v. Sheffield Wednesday ..
C Blackpool v. Aston Villa	N Coventry City v. Leeds United ..
D Charlton Athletic v. Stoke City	P Doncaster Rovers v. Chesterfield ..
E Liverpool v. Portsmouth	S Fulham v. Bury
F Manchester City v. Grimsby Town	T Newcastle United v. Leicester City ..
G Middlesbrough v. Burnley	V Nottingham Forest v. Millwall ..
H Sheffield United v. Manchester United ..	W Southampton v. West Ham United ..
J Barnsley v. Plymouth Argyle	X Walsall v. Notts County
K Birmingham City v. Brentford	Y Stoke City Res. v. Albion Res. ..