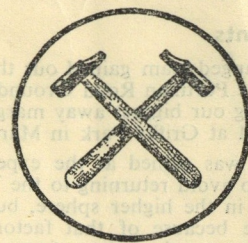


THE OFFICIAL PROGRAMME



OF THE

WEST HAM UNITED

FOOTBALL COMPANY LIMITED

BOLEYN GROUND, GREEN STREET, UPTON PARK, LONDON, E.13

Directors: R. H. PRATT, J.P. (Chairman) L. C. CEARNS, (Vice-Chairman) Dr. O. THOMAS, J.P. W. F. CEARNS
Manager: E. B. A. FENTON Secretary: F. H. CEARNS

SEASON 1954-55

No. 27

Price : THREEPENCE

WEST HAM UNITED v. LUTON TOWN

FOOTBALL LEAGUE — Division II

SATURDAY, 20th NOVEMBER, 1954

Kick-off 2.30 p.m.

Club Notes

Attractive Guests

The continued interest of Luton Town in the "promotion stakes" has been a feature of post-war Second Division soccer, and in welcoming them again today we naturally expect to see some attractive play from what are "local derby rivals." The comparatively short distance between our respective headquarters always ensures the presence of a large number of supporters from the visiting club—be it at Upton Park or Kenilworth Road—and today is not likely to prove an exception. Indeed, now that the Town find themselves in such a challenging position the interest among their supporters is more keen than ever, and we shall undoubtedly hear a big shout when the visiting team takes the field.

Whether or not this contingent will be reinforced by the presence of manager Dally Duncan is another matter, for Dally has spent most of his Saturday afternoons of late "scouting" in various parts with the obvious objective of strengthening his club's ability to maintain their challenge; among other places that he has recently visited is Upton Park, but whether he came to watch Cardiff City Reserves or our own second-string that day is something which we don't expect him to disclose! However, it does appear that in his temporary absence some of his problems have been solved, and the success of centre-forward Morton since he was moved from a defensive position has been a big factor in gaining Luton the following record:

Home ... played 9, won 8, drawn 0, lost 1, goals 21 - 9
Away ... played 8, won 2, drawn 1, lost 5, goals 12 - 17

In the immediate post-war seasons Luton Town had the reputation of being a "bogy team" for the Hammers at Upton Park, but this has to a great extent been dispelled by our last four meetings here. True enough the visitors took both points from us on one of these occasions, but on the other three days we gained good victories to earn the points.

Last season's fixtures took place during the Christmas holidays; a solitary goal sufficed to keep the points at Upton Park on the Christmas Day morning, but on Boxing Day afternoon a 3—1 victory found Luton securing their revenge.

Half-Time Score-Board

A	BLACKBURN ROVERS	HULL CITY
B	BRISTOL ROVERS	IPSWICH TOWN
C	DERBY COUNTY	ROTHERHAM UNITED
D	FULHAM	LINCOLN CITY
E	LIVERPOOL	NOTTINGHAM FOREST
F	NOTTS COUNTY	LEEDS UNITED
G	PLYMOUTH ARGYLE	BIRMINGHAM CITY
H	PORT VALE	MIDDLESBROUGH
I	SWANSEA TOWN	BURY
J	CHARLTON ATHLETIC	EVERTON
K	MANCHESTER UNITED	ARSENAL
L	SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY	CHELSEA
M	TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR	LEICESTER CITY
N	BRENTFORD	NUNEATON BOROUGH
O	FROME	LEYTON ORIENT
P	HOUNSLOW TOWN	HASTINGS UNITED
Q	MILLWALL	EXETER CITY
R	QUEENS PARK RANGERS	WALTHAMSTOW AVE.
S	SWINDON TOWN	CRYSTAL PALACE

Away Points

An unchanged team gained our third away victory of the season at the Portman Road Ground last Saturday, the 3—0 success being our biggest away margin since we beat Brentford by 4—1 at Griffin Park in March, 1953.

The win was gained at the expense of a side which is struggling to avoid returning to the Third Division after but one season in the higher sphere, but the success lost none of its value because of that factor. One report actually said that we were the better of two poor sides—would it be that we could play as “poorly” as that on every occasion, for three clear goals is not a bad margin for a “poor side”! But seriously, we do consider that such a report did not do justice to our XI's performance, and can only hope that the commentator was having an “off day” such as sometimes befalls many of the teams he watches!

The indisputable facts about the game were the three goals, all of which were fine efforts. The first tally four minutes after the start certainly shook the opposition, Andrews hitting the ball home from ten yards' range with a left-foot volley following Hooper's cross-pass over the entire Ipswich defence; the second came from Andrews' corner after constant pressure by our forwards, Dick “climbing” to meet the ball in the 55th minute with a header that left the ‘keeper helpless; and the third was the culmination of a glorious 70-yard run by Hooper, who beat several men in his dash down field before squaring the ball from the bye-line for Sexton to run it into the net.

Meanwhile our defence was playing coolly, keeping the homesters well subdued and blotting out the threat of Garneys (whose dozen goals this season stamp him as the Town's main attacking threat) and altogether it could be summed up as a display of all-round solidarity that showed team-work to full advantage.

The 18,650 attendance was only a couple of thousand below Ipswich's best for the season, but it was pleasing to see that at least 1,000 of them were Hammers' followers. This did much to encourage our lads and, on their behalf, we sincerely thank all those who made the journey.

In conclusion, we do congratulate the Ipswich supporters on their keenness, for the game does have a big hold in the locality, local pride being strong for their team. Likewise, the playing-surface was of a quality that Wembley might well envy, and the claim that it is one of the best in the country is indeed well founded.

Goalscorers

	F. League	Combn.	ECL	MWL	Cups	F'dly	Total
Allison	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Andrews	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Arnott	—	4	1	3	—	—	8
Barrett	—	9	—	—	6	—	15
Bing	—	2	—	—	1	—	3
Blackburn	—	9	—	—	3	—	12
Bond	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Chapman	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Dick	10	—	—	—	—	—	10
Dixon	—	2	3	2	2	—	9
Foan	1	3	—	—	—	2	6
Hooper	6	—	—	—	—	1	7
Johnston	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
Matthews	—	2	—	1	—	—	3
Musgrove	—	5	1	—	4	—	10
Noakes	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
O'Farrell	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Parker	—	2	—	—	1	—	3
Sexton	9	—	—	—	—	4	13
Southren	—	6	—	—	1	2	9
Stroud	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
Tucker	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
Walker	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Wragg	—	—	1	1	—	—	2
Amateurs	—	—	1	6	—	—	7

Essex Professional Cup

We played our Semi-Final tie in the Essex Professional Cup on November 11th against Colchester United on the Layer Road Ground. The homesters fielded half-a-dozen of their First XI regulars against this Hammers' line-up: Gregory; Wright, Cantwell; Bing, Nelson (A), Noakes; Wragg, Barrett, Dixon, Parker, Tucker.

Rather against the run of the play Colchester were the first to score, but Dixon restored us to equality with a good goal before half-time. Gaining the upper hand in the second half we forged ahead when Parker went through on his own to net after a fine run, but shortly before the 90 minutes were up a defensive error allowed our opponents to make it 2—2. This necessitated 10 minutes each way extra time, but in this final spell the Hammers proved to have the better stamina and, following a pass from Wragg, Dixon made it 3—2 in our favour at the final whistle.

Our opponents in the Final are not yet known, and it is likely that the final tie will not take place until the latter part of the season.

Combination Victory

Before an attendance of nearly 5,000 our Reserves gained a couple of points in Division I of the Combination last Saturday, defeating Luton Town Reserves by the only goal of a match in which the Hammers held the advantage for most of the time. That the margin was not greater was largely due to the efforts of goalkeeper Bernard Streten, who once more showed his abilities to advantage before an Upton Park audience. As so often in the past, Streten foiled our forwards time and time again, and it was only in a second-half goalmouth melee that he finally succumbed; this performance followed his being dropped from the First XI after 50 successive first-string appearances.

Naturally our chaps were disappointed at not gaining a bigger victory, but they proved that they are again strong contenders for the Combination championship, and by this win improved their position in the table. Nevertheless they will face a stiff task at Highbury this afternoon.

Our team for last Saturday's match was: Gregory; Nelson (W), Cantwell; Parker, Nelson (A), Allison; Southren, Barrett, Dixon, Matthews, Musgrove. Our scorer was Dixon.

“A” Team Summary

Saturday, 13th Nov. v Stowmarket (Eastern Counties League), away. The Hammers' line-up for this game was: Clish; Cooper, Hallas; Johnstone, Walker, Noakes; Wragg, Chapman, Arnott, J. Smith, Haley.

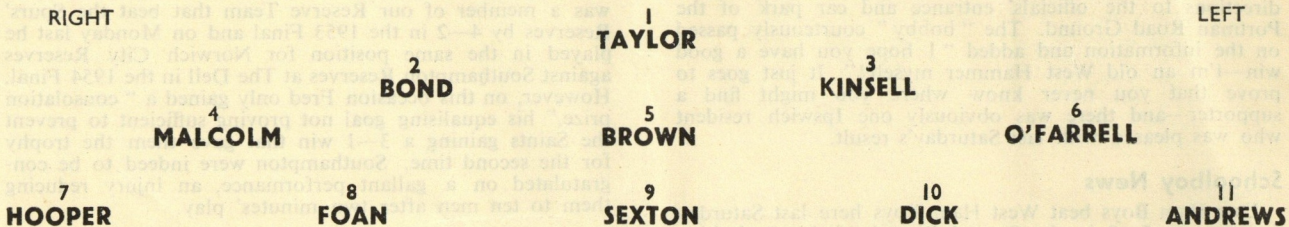
For the first ten minutes it was practically “shooting in” as far as our forwards were concerned, and there were visions of a heavy win for our third-string. However, desperate defence enabled the homesters to survive the onslaught and in one of their rare breakaways Stowmarket gained a 1—0 half-time lead. After the interval this was increased with another tally—only for our opponents to be once more forced to defensive tactics. Shots by Haley and Chapman both hit the woodwork to deny us even one counter, and when the final whistle blew it was a battered but happy home side that had gained the points by 2—0.

Monday, 15th Nov. v Q.P.R. “A” (Mid-Week League) at Spotted Dog Ground. Our team was: B. Rhodes; Chapman, Hallas; Johnstone, W. Lansdowne, Noakes; A. Crawford, G. Fenn, Arnott, Matthews, Haley.

A penalty-kick converted by Matthews before the interval was the only score in a dour tussle in which there was little between the sides. However, our youngsters showed up well to maintain their run of success in this competition, and with 12 points from their seven games are still firmly established at the head of the table.

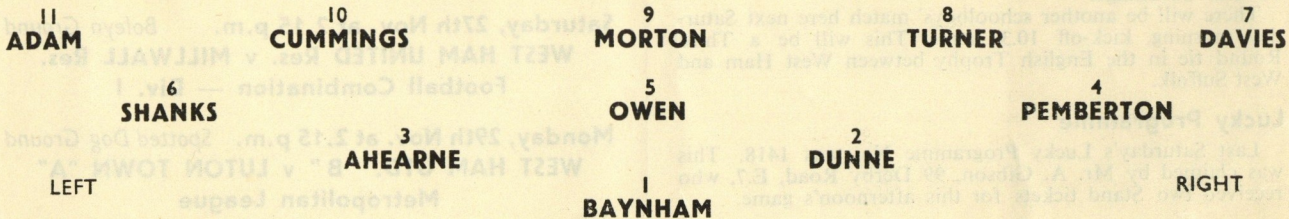
WEST HAM UNITED

Colours: Claret Shirts with Light Blue Sleeves and Collars, White Shorts



Referee: Mr. L. CALLAGHAN (Merthyr Tydfil)

Linesmen: Mr. J. R. BICKMORE (Red Flag) and Mr. A. C. F. GISBORNE (Yellow Flag)



LUTON TOWN

Colours: White Shirts, Black Shorts

TEAMS ARE CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. ANY CHANGES WILL BE ANNOUNCED THROUGH THE PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM

Metropolitan League Survey

The Hammers' side for last Saturday's Metropolitan League fixture against Headington United Reserves was: S. Hough; T. Hayward, K. Marshall; S. Smith, R. Swan, W. Lansdowne; S. Foreman, S. Baron, G. Fenn, J. Berry, R. Colfar.

Although only one goal down at half-time our defence came under so much pressure in the second-half that we finally lost by 4—0. Nevertheless Hough gave a very creditable performance “between the sticks” and could not be blamed for our defeat, which arose largely because our forwards could make little headway against a home side whose wing-halves were thus able to make what amounted to a seven-man attack.

Greater experience is, of course, a decisive factor in this League, but our amateurs are proving that they will “make the grade” as time progresses, and the very youthful side is by no means discouraged. Their record to date is: won 3, lost 9, goals 15—36.

Today's “B” Team match is against Guildford City Reserves away.

Colts

Our Colts' XI had no match last Saturday but meets Brentford Juniors at the Green, Silley Weir Ground (Wanstead) in the South Eastern Counties League today.

Juniors

The Juniors' match against Hornchurch and Upminster Juniors in the Pelly Cup last Saturday was postponed owing to our opponents' ground being unfit. This Essex Junior Championship match has therefore been re-arranged for this afternoon.

L.F.A. Cup Final

The Final of the London F.A. Cup between Arsenal and ourselves will be played at Highbury on Monday, 6th December, by floodlight, kick-off being at 6.30 p.m. We tossed for the choice of ground—and the Gunners correctly called “heads,” so our luck was out as far as that was concerned; here's hoping, however, that the result of the game is better to our liking! Incidentally we were under the impression that this match would take place on the first Wednesday in December, but it will now be played on the first Monday in December as originally planned.

Floodlight Date with Milan

Our floodlight friendly against A.C. Milan has now been provisionally arranged for Monday, 13th December. We have had to put this back a week from the original date owing to the Italy v Argentine international match which takes place on December 5th; five of the Milan team have been selected for Italy on that occasion, including Nordahl and Schiaffino who have become naturalised Italians, and it was impracticable for Milan to play here on the following day for that would have meant the exclusion of these players from their team. It is obvious, however, that against a side of such strength we shall have to be right on our toes to maintain our unbeaten “floodlight record” at Upton Park, but having beaten off foreign competition in the past we feel sure that our chaps can do it again against the Italian champions.

The only seats reserved for this game will be those held by Season Ticket Holders, and it is useless to make application for other bookings. However, there will be plenty of accommodation available, and we anticipate at least a 30,000 attendance. Tickets will be sent to Season Ticket holders as soon as possible.

Unexpected Support!

One of our Directors went to Ipswich last Saturday by car, and on arriving in the town asked a policeman for directions to the officials' entrance and car park of the Portman Road Ground. The "bobby" courteously passed on the information and added "I hope you have a good win—I'm an old West Hammer myself!" It just goes to prove that you never know where you might find a supporter—and there was obviously one Ipswich resident who was pleased with last Saturday's result.

Schoolboy News

East Ham Boys beat West Ham Boys here last Saturday morning by 3—2 in the Second Round of the Corinthian Shield, and now visit South London in the next stage of the London Schools' senior championship. East Ham went ahead before the interval and were at one time three up, a late rally by their opponents proving insufficient to wipe out this advantage.

There will be another schoolboys' match here next Saturday morning, kick-off 10.30 a.m. This will be a Third Round tie in the English Trophy between West Ham and West Suffolk.

Lucky Programme

Last Saturday's Lucky Programme No. was 1418. This was claimed by Mr. A. Gibson, 99 Derby Road, E.7, who received two Stand tickets for this afternoon's game.

Fred Kearns' "Double"

For the second successive season Fred Kearns has gained a Combination Cup medal. As a Hammer last season he was a member of our Reserve Team that beat the Spurs' Reserves by 4—2 in the 1953 Final and on Monday last he played in the same position for Norwich City Reserves against Southampton Reserves at The Dell in the 1954 Final. However, on this occasion Fred only gained a "consolation prize," his equalising goal not proving sufficient to prevent the Saints gaining a 3—1 win that gave them the trophy for the second time. Southampton were indeed to be congratulated on a gallant performance, an injury reducing them to ten men after two minutes' play.

Saturday, 27th Nov. at 10.30 a.m. Boleyn Ground
WEST HAM BOYS v WEST SUFFOLK BOYS
English Trophy — Third Round

Saturday, 27th Nov. at 2.15 p.m. Boleyn Ground
WEST HAM UNITED Res. v MILLWALL Res.
Football Combination — Div. I

Monday, 29th Nov. at 2.15 p.m. Spotted Dog Ground
WEST HAM UTD. "B" v LUTON TOWN "A"
Metropolitan League

FOOTBALL LEAGUE—Div. II

Date	Opponents	Gnd	R	A	alt
Aug. 21	Swansea Town	...	A	2—5	
23	Blackburn Rovers	...	A	2—5	
28	Notts County	...	H	3—0	
30	Blackburn Rovers	...	H	2—5	
Sept. 4	Liverpool	...	A	2—1	
6	Hull City	...	A	1—1	
11	Bristol Rovers	...	H	5—2	
13	Hull City	...	A	1—0	
18	Plymouth Argyle	...	A	1—1	
25	Port Vale	...	H	2—0	
Oct. 2	Doncaster Rovers	...	A	1—2	
9	Nottingham Forest	...	H	2—0	
16	Leeds United	...	A	1—2	
23	Stoke City	...	H	3—0	
30	Middlesbrough	...	A	0—6	
Nov. 6	Birmingham City	...	H	2—2	
13	Ipswich Town	...	A	3—0	
20	Luton Town	...	H		
27	Rotherham United	...	A		
Dec. 4	Bury	...	H		
11	Lincoln City	...	A		
18	Swansea Town	...	H		
25	Derby County	...	H		
27	Derby County	...	A		
Jan. 1	Notts County	...	A		
15	Liverpool	...	H		
Feb. 5	Plymouth Argyle	...	A		
12	Port Vale	...	A		
19	Doncaster Rovers	...	H		
26	Notts Forest	...	A		
Mar. 5	Leeds United	...	H		
12	Stoke City	...	A		
19	Middlesbrough	...	H		
26	Birmingham City	...	A		
April 2	Ipswich Town	...	H		
8	Fulham	...	H		
9	Luton Town	...	A		
11	Fulham	...	A		
16	Rotherham United	...	H		
23	Bury	...	A		
30	Lincoln City	...	H		

COMBINATION—Division I

Oct. 16	Leicester City	...	H	1—0
23	Birmingham City	...	A	2—5
30	Cardiff City	...	H	1—1
Nov. 6	Coventry City	...	A	1—1
13	Luton Town	...	H	1—0
20	Arsenal	...	A	
27	Millwall	...	A	
Dec. 4	Brighton & Hove Albion	...	A	
11	Bristol City	...	H	
18	Norwich City	...	A	
27	Cardiff City	...	A	
Jan. 1	Tottenham Hotspur	...	H	
8	Portsmouth	...	A	
15	Chelsea	...	A	
22	Norwich City	...	H	
29	Tottenham Hotspur	...	A	
Feb. 5	Luton Town	...	A	
12	Chelsea	...	H	
19	Leicester City	...	A	
26	Birmingham City	...	H	
Mar. 5	Millwall	...	A	
12	Arsenal	...	H	
19	Bristol City	...	A	
26	Brighton & Hove Albion	...	H	
April 8	Bournemouth & Boscombe	...	A	
9	Coventry City	...	H	
11	Charlton Athletic	...	A	
20	Charlton Athletic	...	H	
23	Portsmouth	...	H	
May 7	Bournemouth & Boscombe	...	H	

L.F.A. CUP

Oct. 4	Leyton	...	A	4—0
	(First Round)			
18	Leyton Orient	...	A	4—2
	(Second Round)			
Nov. 1	Fulham	...	H	* 9—1
	(Semi-Final)			
Dec. 1	Arsenal	...	A	*
	(Final)			

LONDON MID-WEEK LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
West Ham United	7	5	2	0	15	5	12
Crystal Palace	5	4	1	0	12	7	9
Arsenal	5	3	2	0	13	3	8
Charlton Athletic	5	3	1	1	11	5	7
Chelsea	4	1	3	0	4	3	5
Tottenham Hot'r.	4	2	0	2	8	6	4
Watford	6	2	0	4	7	12	4
Portsmouth	6	1	0	5	8	14	2
Queens Park Rang.	5	1	0	4	4	15	2
Fulham	3	0	1	2	5	7	1
Southend United	4	0	0	4	5	15	0

FOOTBALL LEAGUE—Div. II

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Blackburn Rovers	17	11	2	4	55	29	24
Stoke City	18	9	4	5	26	17	22
Fulham	17	10	2	5	45	36	22
Luton Town	17	10	1	6	33	26	21
Rotherham United	17	10	1	6	41	30	21
Bristol Rovers	17	9	3	5	43	33	21
Leeds United	17	10	1	6	31	30	21
Hull City	17	8	3	6	23	16	19
West Ham United	17	8	3	6	33	32	18
Bury	17	7	4	6	36	38	17
Birmingham City	16	6	5	5	24	18	17
Lincoln City	17	7	3	7	32	33	17
Swansea Town	17	8	1	8	33	36	17
Notts County	17	7	3	7	25	30	17
Liverpool	17	6	3	8	37	37	15
Doncaster Rovers	16	7	1	8	23	37	15
Nottingham Forest	17	6	1	10	25	27	13
Port Vale	17	4	5	8	18	29	13
Middlesbrough	17	6	1	10	24	40	13
Derby County	17	4	3	10	27	41	11
Ipswich Town	18	4	1	13	29	41	9
Plymouth Argyle	17	2	5	10	25	37	9

COMBINATION—Division I

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Tottenham Hot's ur	6	4	2	0	16	3	10
Portsmouth	6	3	2	1	10	5	8
Arsenal	4	3	1	0	13	5	7
Brighton & Hove...	4	3	1	0	7	3	7
Birmingham City	3	3	0	0	11	4	6
West Ham United	5	2	2	1	6	7	6
Chelsea	3	2	1	0	9	4	5
Luton Town	5	2	1	2	12	9	5
Coventry City	5	2	1	2	7	12	5
Bristol City	5	1	2	2	8	8	4
Charlton Athletic	5	1	2	2	9	9	4
Norwich City	5	2	0	3	10	10	4
Cardiff City	4	0	1	3	5	12	1
Millwall	5	0	1	4	3	12	1
Bournemouth & B.	5	0	1	4	4	15	1
Leicester City	4	0	0	4	1	13	0

FRIENDLY MATCHES

Sept. 20	Penzance	...	A	2—1
Oct. 5	VFB Stuttgart (Germany)	...	H*	4—0
19	Wacker (Austria)	...	H*	3—1
Dec. 13	A.C. Milan (Italy)	...	H*	

* Floodlight Match

LUCKY PROGRAMME

No 07222