

LEEDS UNITED A.F.C.



**SEASON
1954-1955**

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 3d.



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Best*

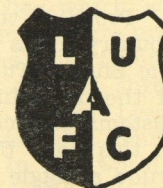
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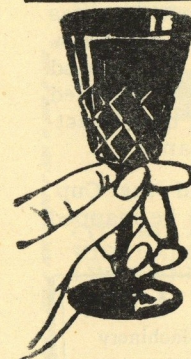
Easter Monday, April 11th, 1955.

NEWS AND VIEWS

THE GREEKS HAD A NAME FOR IT . . .

As we had to go to press before the holidays, we cannot give our usual resume of the games played by our teams on Good Friday and Saturday. Consequently it may be of interest to many of our readers to learn how the Association game originated.

While both the Romans and the Greeks had a name for the game, it has been convincingly proved that a form of football existed in China in the third and fourth centuries B.C. In that period, the game formed a part of the military training. Of course it was a far different affair than appertains to-day, for there have been a number of revolutionary changes even in our rules.



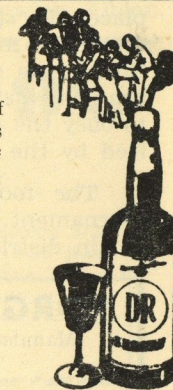
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FIRST FOOTBALL MATCH.

Probably the first real Football match to be played in this Country (rules were then unknown), was on the Roodee at Chester one Shrove Tuesday some 700 years ago. From then on it was of the makeshift variety, no doubt the forerunner of those old customs still carried on in some of our old towns and villages to this day. Up to about the year 1860 the game had been a crude struggle with no rules or regulations with which to contend.

A few years previously several of our Public Schools became interested in the so called sport, and when many of the boys went on to the Universities they introduced the game among their sporting activities.

Indisputably Cambridge was the starting point of attempts to bring a universal set of laws that could unite footballers under one banner. So the "Cambridge Rules" came into existence, and a printed copy was posted up on "Parker's Piece" in the city of colleges.

The oldest organised football club to be formed was the Sheffield Club, and this was largely achieved by the influence of certain "Old Boys" of Harrow School. Two years later, in 1857, their neighbours, the Hallam Club came into being, to be followed by the Forest Club (Nottingham), in 1859.

Rapidly other centres took an interest in the sport, and clubs were formed in London, Birmingham, Manchester, Newcastle and a few other towns.

FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION.

Then the most important and far reaching decision was taken to form the Football Association, in October, 1863. A new set of Rules was drawn up, but only so called friendly matches took place. To stimulate interest a Challenge Cup Competition was established in 1871, open to all clubs belonging to the Association. No scheme could have done more for the game at that period than the institution of this competition. All teams were compelled to obey the same laws, and the recreation which had been practiced by the few, speedily became the sport of thousands.

The football fever captured the provinces, and the Cup tournament became so large that the country had to be mapped out in districts.

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Ordinary club fixtures lost their attractiveness, and something was required to galvanise into life matches which were not Cup ties. Enthusiastic supporters of the game strongly urged the foundation of a League, embracing the leading clubs throughout the country. Largely due to the advocacy of that shrewd gentleman, Mr. W. McGregor, of Aston Villa, the Football League was formed in the summer of 1888. For a quarter of a century Mr. McGregor was the outstanding personality in the world of soccer, and the success of the League in those early days was largely due to his guidance and influence. The game prospered so rapidly that it practically became unmanageable, and all kinds of evils corrupted the sport.

Open professionalism had to be legalised, and this undoubtedly brought a higher standard of play. The game was fast growing up after surviving many teething troubles, and was now regarded as the National Sport.

Every year has brought about some improvement, though the general outline has changed little in the past fifty years. True, the game has learned by its own mistakes, but then, as now, eleven men form a team, a goalkeeper is distinguished from the rest of the players, the goals are still placed on the centre of each goal line, the ball is still spherical, and the referee is now, as then, appointed to officiate at each game.

Certainly it has been speeded up, streamlined, and playing outfits modernised. Shin guards are carried inside, not outside the stocking, and abbreviated pants take the place of drain pipe trousers.

ORIGINAL TWELVE.

The twelve clubs who originally formed the League were: Preston North End, Aston Villa, Wolverhampton Wanderers, Blackburn Rovers, Bolton Wanderers, West Bromwich Albion,

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for UNITED'S MATCH on

SATURDAY, 16th APRIL, 1955

CITY STATION dep. 11-40 a.m.	LIVERPOOL EX. depart 5-20 p.m.
KIRKDALE arrive 2 p.m.	KIRKDALE depart 5-33 p.m.
LIVERPOOL EX. arrive 2-13 p.m.	CITY STATION arrive 7-49 p.m.

Light Refreshments will be available

BRITISH RAILWAYS

Accrington, Everton, Burnley, Derby County, Notts County and Stoke. Here we can see the background of Lancashire and the Midlands, for at the start Yorkshire was missing, while in the South, the amateurs held sway. A few years later both Sheffield Wednesday and Sheffield United were elected to the League, followed by clubs from other centres. So from small beginnings the game has grown beyond all expectations.

The Football Association and the Football League we know to be the controlling bodies of football within their own spheres in England, just as the Association of Scotland and Wales are masters in their own domains. In 1904 there rose a new force intent on gathering, as it were under one umbrella, all the football playing nations of the world. This was the Federation Internationale de Football Association, better known to us as the F.I.B.A., comprising France, Netherlands, Belgium, Switzerland and Denmark. Now it has grown to world-wide organisation embracing the affiliation of more than eighty nations.

From a humble start the F.I.B.A. wield to-day an immense power and influence in global affairs. It reflects also the remarkable spread of the game, the first seeds of which were sown in various lands by the soldiers, sailors and emigrants from the home of organised football, the British Isles.

OUR VISITORS.

It gives us great pleasure to welcome Luton Town to Elland Road this afternoon. During the present season they have proved themselves a most workmanlike combination. For some time they have been generally regarded as favourites for promotion.

With such worthy opponents our boys can expect a hard game, but we hope they will rise to the occasion with one of their best exhibitions.

In earlier days Luton Town were popularly known as the "Strawhatters", but this industry has had to take a secondary place in the Bedfordshire town, and with the advent of the internal combustion engine a large majority of the club's supporters are now engaged in the manufacture of motor vehicles.

After being one of the leading towns in the Southern League, Luton had the courage to enter the English League. This ambitious step has never been regretted, and their present position is some compensation to the club officials who have put in a tremendous amount of work to raise the club to the high esteem in which it is now held. The success on the field undoubtedly has been largely due to the leadership of their Manager, Mr. Dally Duncan, who has always insisted upon his boys playing the game in its truest sense.

With vital points at stake our opponents will, of course, be on their mettle, so the match should prove a splendid holiday attraction.

PEN PICTURES

LUTON TOWN

R. BAYNHAM (Goal). In his fourth season with the Club. Secured from Southern League Club Worcester City. After a series of brilliant displays in the Reserves this season was promoted to the League side on November 13th.

S. DUNNE (Right-back). Hails from County Wicklow, Eire. Joined Luton from Shelbourne in May, 1950. Has played for his Country on several occasions and forms an all-Eire full-back partnership with Bud Aherne.

T. AHERNE (Left-back). Born in Limerick, Eire. Went to Luton from Belfast Celtic in March, 1949, and has already played in 22 International matches for his country.

J. PEMBERTON (Right-half). Was chosen for the right-half berth vacated by Morton, and is filling the bill admirably. Is a most useful utility player, and since he joined Luton in 1947 has played in every position, except goal and outside-right.

S. OWEN (Centre-half). Captain of the side to-day. Previously with Birmingham City. Toured Australia with the F.A. three years ago, was a member of the Football League team which played in Copenhagen in May, 1953, and was in the England party in Switzerland for the World Cup games last summer. Also selected to Captain the F.A. Touring team to the West Indies this close season.

W. SHANKS (Left-half). Born in Malta. In his eighth season with the club. Was signed as an outside-right, but was successfully converted to a wing-half. Is a tireless worker.

R. DAVIES (Outside-right). A South African signed by Clyde during their tour of South Africa in 1948, and later transferred to Luton in May, 1951.

G. TURNER (Inside-right). A Doncaster boy, recommended to Luton whilst playing in Navy football, and signed forms upon demob in March, 1950. Scored 16 goals last season, and his total to date for this season is 30 (up to Saturday, March 26th), including a hat-trick against Blackburn on November 27th.

R. MORTON (Centre-forward). Local boy, who signed professional forms in February, 1946. Usually a brilliant wing-half and frequently tipped for honours in this position, but since transfer of Jesse Pye to Derby County has taken over the centre-forward role with equal success.

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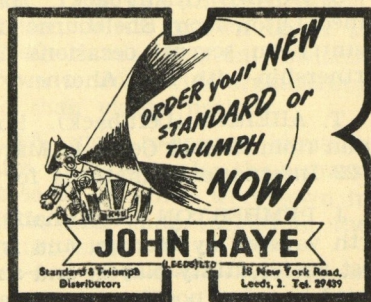
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Right

LEEDS UNITED

WOOD

2—DUNN

4—GIBSON

7—NIGHTINGALE

5—CHARLES

9—BROOK

8—RIPLEY

6—KERFOOT

10—HENDERSON

11—MEEK

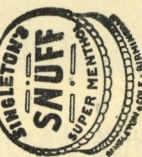
Blue and Old Gold

3—HAIR

Left

Referee:

Mr. J. G. WILLIAMS
(Woodthorpe)



Linesmen:

Mr. J. W. HUNT (Yellow)
Mr. R. PARKER (Red)

SHANKS
11—ADAM

10—CUMMINS

6—SHANKS

GROVES
9—MORTON

5—OWEN

8—TURNER

7—DAVIES

4—PEMBERTON

2—DUNNE

3—AHEARNE

BAYNHAM

LUTON TOWN White

Left

Right

Result of corresponding game last season: LEEDS UNITED 2 — LUTON TOWN 1.

G. CUMMINS (Inside-left), Another Irishman secured by Luton for a five figure fee from Everton in August, 1953. A brilliant ball player, and has already played for Eire versus Norway, this season.

J. ADAM (Outside-left). Recommended to Luton by their North Eastern Scout, and signed from the Northern Club, Spenny-moor United in June, 1953.

L. JONES (Full-back). A young Welshman. Played for local schoolboy and Junior sides before signing Amateur forms for Luton. Within one month had signed professional. and very quickly made the grade.

C. WATKINS (Half-back). Was with Glasgow Rangers and played for them against the Moscow Dynamos before joining Luton in 1948. Has also made several appearances at inside-forward in the league side this season.

J. GROVES (Inside-forward). Joined Luton in October, 1950, one month after his 17th birthday. Is the son of Arthur Groves, former Derby County inside-forward and club-mate of the Luton Manager, Dally Duncan.

SUPPORTERS' CLUB NOTES

CROSSGATES

We much regret to announce the passing of Mr. J. Peacock, the Branch Chairman, on the 24th March.

The Executive Committee join the Branch in sending condolences to Mrs. Peacock in her sad bereavement.

HARROGATE BRANCH

The Branch Annual Outing this year will be to Liverpool on the 16th April (the occasion of United's match with Liverpool). The Party is travelling by coach, and will spend the evening in Liverpool.

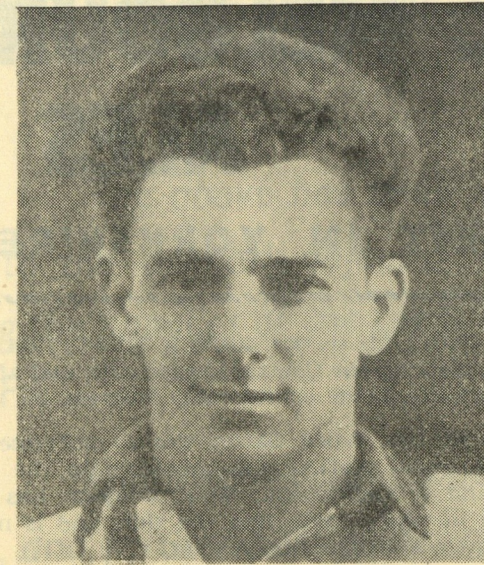
PONTEFRAC T BRANCH.

On Monday last the Branch held their Annual Dinner and Dance at Wordsworth's Cafe. The function was exceptionally well attended, Executive officials being amongst the guests. An excellent meal was followed by dancing and a variety of games, into which the company entered most heartily.

A most enjoyable evening terminated at 11-30 p.m. and the responsible officials are to be congratulated on a most admirably organised function.

An appeal was made for the members to utilise more fully the travelling facilities provided by the Branch for home and away matches.

OUR OWN "WHO'S WHO"



ARCHIE GIBSON

One of the most promising Scottish players on our staff, was born at Dally, a village near Girvan in Ayrshire.

From his early days was taking part in football matches, playing for his village school team. Going on to Girvan High School, he was immediately included in the school eleven as an inside-forward. When his schooldays came to a close he was apprenticed to the joinery trade, but found time to play for Coylton, a prominent Ayrshire juvenile team. He appeared in a Scottish Juvenile Cup Semi-Final at Falkirk, where he was spotted by one of our scouts. After trial games at Elland Road, he became a professional on our staff in May, 1951. Without pulling up any trees, he gave many promising displays with our junior sides, and it was generally agreed he was a player with a distinct future. However, before he could come into prominence he was called up for National Service, being posted to the Royal Armoured Corps at Catterick. In addition to playing for his unit was selected to represent the Northern Command in Inter-Command games.

Photograph by kind permission of "The Yorkshire Evening News"



MELBOURNE ALES

BEST IN YORKSHIRE

Upon completing his service duties in March, 1954, he immediately found a place in our Central League side, and after settling down to civilian life, made considerable progress.

Our Manager, Mr. Raich Carter was so impressed with his displays at wing-half that he was promoted to the senior side towards the end of last season. This optimism has been fully justified since he again came into the side, and is now rapidly staking a claim as a regular first teamer.

Apart from football his favourite sporting activities include Badminton and Tennis, at which he is quite a useful exponent.

SATURDAY, 16th APRIL

Kick-Off 3 p.m.

Aston Villa Reserves

Central League

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Kick-Off 7-30 p.m.

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in
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D—Leicester C. v Preston N.E.....	O—Liverpool v Port Vale
E—Manchester U. v Sunderland.....	P—Notts County v Doncaster
F—Newcastle U. v Everton	Q—Plymouth A. v Bristol R.
G—Sheffield W. v Bolton W.	R—Rotherham v Nottingham F.
H—Tottenham v Huddersfield	S—Stoke City v Ipswich Town
I—West Brom v Manchester C.	T—Swansea T. v Derby County
J—Wolves v Aston Villa	U—Barnsley v Bradford City
K—Birmingham v Middlesbrough...	

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