



THE
STAG

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME
OF THE MANSFIELD TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

including

FOOTBALL LEAGUE REVIEW

SEASON 1968-9 MONDAY 7th APRIL 1969

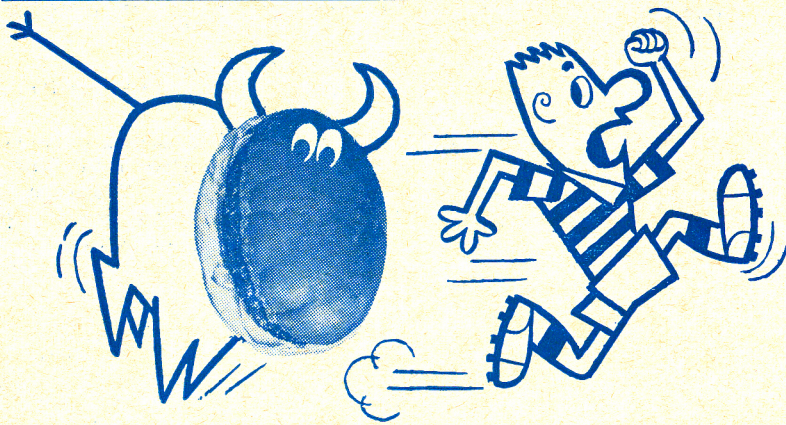
3 p.m.

versus

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NEWS AND VIEWS

OUR Easter Monday visitors from Luton, to whom we give a cordial welcome, are engaged in a promotion campaign for the second season running. Last time they came up from the Fourth Division, and now they are intent on stepping up from the Third, under the direction of someone who must know just about all there is to know about winning a promotion race. The name is Alec Stock, the man who engineered Queens Park Rangers' swift rise from the Third to the First Division before starting another venture with Luton. This match, by the way, is the first of three we still have to play against the chief runners, the others being Watford (home) and Swindon (away).

As the Stags have interests at the other end of the table, this afternoons game is an important one for both clubs. It is also a holiday attraction which deserves a bumper attendance, not only because it will surely be worth watching, but also because the team's brilliant exploits in the F.A. Cup entitles them to maximum support for their struggle in the League.

At the end of that wonderful Cup run, we suggested that this was the best way for people to show their appreciation of what had been accomplished. We must say that the first response to the appeal was anything but encouraging, because only 5,460 spectators turned up for the following League match with Orient. It was bitterly disappointing.

Let us hope that this was not the true measure of the public's loyalty, and that there will be much bigger crowds for the remaining home games, of which there are quite a few yet.

Better Support Needed

No-one should imagine, because this season's Cup campaign was such a money-spinner, that the club are rolling in it. Not by a long way. The Cup revenue is a big help, of course, but anyone reading the figures of the match receipts should remember first of all that the net takings, after the payment of expenses are split three ways. They should remember, too, that in the earlier part of the season, when gates were pitifully low, the club were not paying their way. So there is a lot of financial leeway to make up before the situation is at all comfortable, and better support from the public is as necessary now as ever it was.

We have said that there are still quite a few matches still to come. Elsewhere in the programme is a revised list of fixtures for the first team and the reserves. From this it will be seen that after so many postponements there are an awful lot of fixtures to pull in before the finish. So far as the first team are concerned, the match arrears make the League position look worse than it really is. Nevertheless, if matches in hand are to be of any use, they still have to be won (or drawn), and

continued over . .

News and Views continued . . .

the fixture rush means a big strain on our none-too-numerous players, even when they are all fit, which has not been the case lately. However, there are hopes that we are now over the worst with injuries and illness so that the team will be back as much as possible to full strength for the last lap. We shall go into it a little stronger now that Desmond Finch and John Saunders have signed as full-time professionals.

The Busy B's

Now a word on a really bright topic—the B team. Up to now, these 16 and 17 year olds have had a wonderful season. Not only top of Division I of the Mansfield Youth League, they have also reached the semi-finals of the Knockout Cup and the Benevolent Cup, and are thus in line for honours in their first season in the competition. The lads have responded magnificently to all the demands made on them, and are improving all the time. Well done the B's!

STAGS WIN A CUP

THE Stags may be out of the F.A. Cup, but they will still have a trophy to show. This is the Sunday Mirror's Giant Killers' Cup, which, as its name implies, has been awarded to the club for their magnificent run in the F.A. competition for 1968-69. The trophy will be presented on May 5th when the Stags are at home to Watford.

Pen Pictures Luton Town

ALLEN, Keith (Centre Forward). At the moment it is difficult to forecast exactly where Allen will settle

down this season. Originally he began at inside right, but spent the bulk of last season in the middle; in the pre-season practice matches, he has been playing at right-half, where he turned in some superlative performances in emergency during last season. This is a position for which competition is likely to be particularly brisk. Was signed from Stockport County in exchange for Derek Keaven and has previous spells with Portsmouth and Grimsby Town.

BRANSTON, Terry (Centre-Half). For him last season was a personal triumph because, not only was he a member of a promotion team for the fourth time during his career, but he fulfilled his ambition of making the full quota of League appearances. Born at Rugby where he still lives, Branston spent nine seasons with Northampton Town, accompanying them in their rise from Division IV to Division I.

BROWN, Mickey (Centre Forward). Goes down officially as a leader but, in point of fact, was seldom in that position last season. Appeared in the First Team on the wings, at inside forward and also at wing half, so it is difficult to see what is destined for him this time. However, wherever he is asked to play he puts up a whole-hearted 100 per cent performance. A Londoner, he was previously with Fulham and Millwall.

BUXTON, Ian (Inside-Right). When Rodney Green went down with cartilage trouble early last season, there had to be an immediate search for another striker, and Buxton was signed from Derby County for about £11,000. Will miss the beginning of the season because of his commitments with Derbyshire for whom he is a very useful all-rounder.

Our Visitors continued . . .

DENTON, Peter (Outside-Right). Cost quite a substantial fee from Coventry City shortly before the deadline date for transfers when the Town were looking for extra cover on the wing. Apart from the Town, Workington and Brentford were in the negotiations. In the event, he did not receive many chances in the First Team, mostly because French recovered his best form.

DOUGAN, Max (Right-Back). First signing made by Allan Brown shortly after he rejoined the Club. A fee of about £7,000 changed hands when this ex-Scottish amateur International left Leicester City, his caps having been earned with Queen's Park. With the arrival of Terry Branston, the idea was to convert Dougan into a right-half, but he finally settled in at right-back where he was a regular for the greater part of last season.

FRENCH, Graham (Outside-Right). Born at Wolverhampton. Has previously played for Shrewsbury, Swindon, Watford and Wellington before joining Luton in October 1965. Has several Youth International Caps for England.

HARRISON, Mike (Outside-Left). During the latter part of last season, several favourable reports were submitted on this player, who was then with Plymouth Argyle. These induced the Town Manager to make a £7,000 offer to his former Luton right-wing partner, Billy Bingham, who is now in charge at Home Park. Born at Ilford, Harrison began his first-class career with Chelsea, from which club he moved on to Blackburn Rovers where he established a first-team place.

SHEFFIELD, Laurie (Centre-for'd). One of the Town's big close season signings from Oldham Athletic. Born in Swansea has previously been with five League clubs.

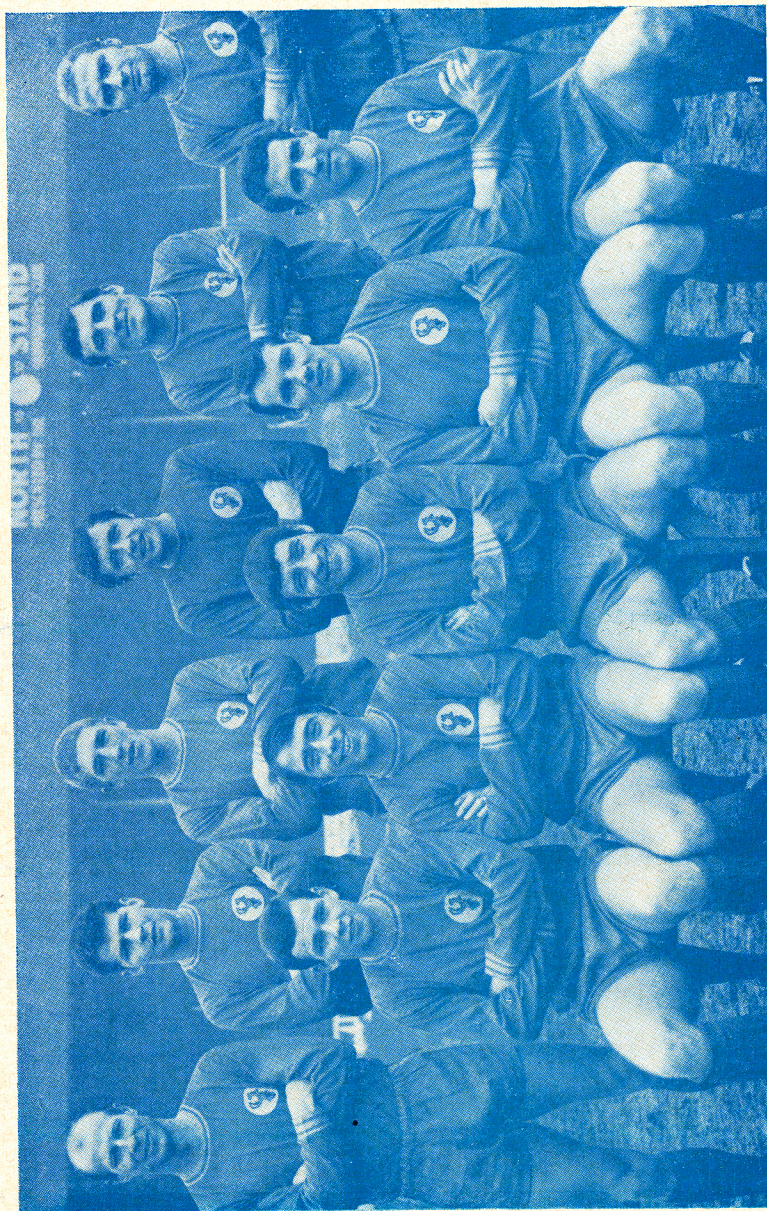
JARDINE, Freddie (Left-Back). The promotion success must have held particular satisfaction for this player because he, more than any other on the books, experienced things when the Town were at their lowest ebb. He is now beginning his eighth season, having come to Kenilworth Road as an outside-left when Sam Bartram was in charge. He was given a free transfer by Dundee and it was after showing his paces in practice matches that he was finally converted into a highly useful defender.

LEWIS, Brian (Right-Half). At the moment, it is by no means clear where the Town's most expensive signing for years—from Coventry City—will finally play. In the temporary absence of Ian Buxton, Lewis is destined to start at inside-right where he had considerable experience at Portsmouth and Coventry. However, most of his 20 First Division games last season were in the half-back line.

READ, Tony (Goalkeeper). Begins the season, as he did last time, when he missed only three matches, as the first choice goalkeeper. Yet there was a time when it looked possible as if he would make a name for himself in the forward line. Probably holds the distinction of being the only goalkeeper to have scored a hat-trick in League football. Was born at Haydock and began his career with Sheffield Wednesday before moving to Peterborough United. Joined Luton 3½ years ago.

RIOCH, Bruce (Inside-Left). Without doubt the Town's biggest asset as a player and he will not be 21 until September. Is a natural footballer whose skill developed quickly last season, when he was easily the Club's leading scorer even though he was used as the midfield link. Was born in Aldershot, but spent most of his schooldays in Luton and has been with the Town since he was 15.

continued over . . .



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QUIZ CORNER

Poser No. 22. Is it true that during his distinguished career Sir Stanley Matthews once played for Mansfield Town? (Answer in next issue).

Answer to Poser No. 22. Yes, Sir Stanley turned out for the Stags once, as a guest player. That was in a match with Notts County on April 28th, 1954, for the benefit of Eddie Barks and Syd Watson.

Matthews also played at Field Mill for Stoke City in wartime football, but that was before he reached the height of his fame.

Poser No. 23. Most people know, or have heard, that a former Mansfield Town centre-forward named Teddy Harston set up a wonderful scoring record in pre-war days. Do you know what it was, and the season when he did it? (Answer in next issue).

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8 SHARKEY JONES

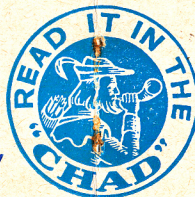
9 PARTRIDGE SHARKEY

10 ROBERTS

11 KEELEY COOFELOW

Sub.: Jones
FRUDE

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Mr. K. Styles
Barnsley



Inesmen
Mr. M. Lowe
Red Flag

Mr. T. M. Bond
Orange Flag

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DOUGAN 2

JARDINE BANNISTER 3

KEEN 4

SLOUGH 5

MOORE 6

FRENCH 7

LEWIS ALLEN 8

ALLEN LEWIS 9

RIOCH 10

McDERMOTT JARDINE 11

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HARRISON

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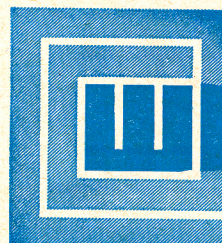
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HOW THEY STAND

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts
WATFORD	37	22	9	6	60	24	53
LUTON TOWN	38	21	8	9	62	34	50
SWINDON TOWN	37	21	7	9	56	30	49
PLYMOUTH ARGYLE	39	17	11	11	47	40	45
BOURNEMOUTH	37	18	6	13	55	37	42
TORQUAY UNITED	37	16	9	12	47	35	41
STOCKPORT COUNTY	37	14	13	10	61	54	41
TRANMERE ROVERS	39	16	9	14	56	58	41
BRIGHTON & HOVE	41	14	12	15	64	57	40
WALSALL	39	13	13	13	45	41	39
READING	39	13	12	14	58	56	38
NORTHAMPTON TOWN	38	14	10	14	47	46	38
ROTHERHAM UNITED	38	13	11	14	45	43	37
SOUTHPORT	36	14	7	15	57	51	35
BRISTOL ROVERS	38	13	9	16	54	58	35
ORIENT	37	12	11	14	43	49	35
BARNESLEY	37	11	12	14	46	54	34
GILLINGHAM	37	10	12	15	45	55	32
BARROW	36	12	8	16	44	62	32
HARTLEPOOLS UNITED	37	8	14	15	33	63	30
CREWE ALEXANDRA	36	11	7	18	42	57	29
MANSFIELD TOWN	34	9	10	14	42	48	28
OLDHAM ATHLETIC	39	10	8	21	40	69	28
SHREWSBURY TOWN	35	9	8	18	29	52	26

Jackpot Announcements

AWAY TRIPS

v. Barnsley

Tuesday, 8th April, 7-30 p.m.
Fare 8/- Depart 5-30 p.m.

v. Rotherham United

Saturday, 12th April, 3-00 p.m.
Fare 6/6. Depart 1 p.m.

Junior Supporters' Meeting
arranged 8th April cancelled—
Next Meeting 15th April

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FIXTURES SEASON 1968-69

DIV. III.					
Aug. 10	S	Brighton & H.	..	A	2 1
14	W	L.Cup Lincoln C	..	A	1 2
17	S	Torquay Utd.	..	H	2 1
24	S	Orient	..	A	0 1
26	M	Southport	..	H	3 1
31	S	Tranmere R.	..	H	1 1
Sep. 4	W	League Cup 2			
7	S	Oldham Ath.	....	H	4 0
14	S	Barrow	..	A	0 3
18	W	Luton Town	..	A	2 4
21	S	Rotherham Utd.	..	H	0 1
25	W	League Cup 3			
28	S	Gillingham	..	A	1 1
Oct. 4	F	Hartlepoons Utd.	..	A	1 1
7	M	Southport	..	A	2 3
12	W	Bournemouth	..	H	3 1
16	W	League Cup 4			
18	F	Crewe Alex.	..	A	1 2
26	S	Bristol Rovers	..	H	0 0
30	W	League Cup			
Nov. 2	S	Reading	..	A	1 2
6	W	Plymouth A.	..	A	0 1
9	S	Northampton T.	..	H	0 2
16	S	F.A. Cup 1 Tow Law	4 1		
20	W	League Cup S.F.			
23	S	Swindon T.	..	H	2 0
30	S	Shrewsbury T.	..	A	1 1
Dec. 4	W	League Cup S.F.			
7	S	F.A. Cup 2	2 2 1 0		
14	S	Bournemouth	..	A	1 2
21	S	Crewe Alex.	..	H	2 1
26	BD	Hartlepoons Utd.	..	H	2 0
28	S	Bristol Rovers	..	A	2 6
1969					
Jan. 4	S	Shef. U. FA Cup	H 2 1		
11	S	Reading	..	H	1 1
18	S	Northampton T.	..	A	0 0
25	S	Southend (F:A 4)	H 2 1		
Feb. 1	S	Stockport C.	..	H	0 0
15	S	Shrewsbury T.	..	H	....
22	S	Watford	..	A	1 2
26	W	West Ham (FA 5)	H 3 0		
Mar. 1	S	Brighton	..	H	3 2
3	M	Walsall	..	H	....
7	F	Torquay Utd.	..	A	....
8	S	Leicester (FA 6)	..	H	0 1
10	M	Stockport C.	..	A	1 1
15	S	Orient	..	H	0 2
17	M	Watford	..	H	....
21	F	Tranmere R.	..	A	1 2
22	S	FA. Cup S.F.			
28	F	Oldham A.	..	A	2 2
Apr. 5	S	Gillingham	..	H	....
7	EM	Luton T.	..	H	....
8	ET	Barnsley	..	A	....
12	S	Rotherham Utd.	..	A	....
14	M	Barnsley	..	H	....
19	S	Barrow	..	H	....
RESERVES					
Cup Competition					
Aug. 13	Tu	Rotherham Utd.	..	A	0 2
21	W	Rotherham Utd.	..	H	0 1
27	Tu	Doncaster R.	..	A	0 2
Sep. 4	W	Notts C.	..	H	0 1
11	W	Notts C.	..	A	0 5
18	W	Doncaster R.	..	H	0 1
League Competition					
Sep. 25	W	Barnsley	..	H	1 9
Oct. 2	W	Notts C.	..	A	0 1
9	W	Halifax T.	..	H	1 3
16	W	Lincoln C.	..	H	0 4
23	W	Grimsby T.	..	A	3 0
30	W	Bradford C.	..	A	0 4
Nov. 6	W	Doncaster R.	..	H	1 0
13	W	Chesterfield	..	A	0 3
20	W	Middlesbro	..	H	2 3
30	S	Hull C.	..	A	0 4
Dec. 4	W	Scunthorpe Utd.	..	H	....
11	W	Rotherham Utd.	..	H	1 1
18	W	Bradford	..	A	....
1969					
Jan. 1	W	Notts C.	..	H	....
8	W	Halifax T.	..	A	1 2
15	W	Lincoln C.	..	A	0 3
22	W	Grimsby T.	..	H	1 0
29	W	Bradford C.	..	H	....
Feb. 4	Tu	Doncaster R.	..	A	....
12	W	Chesterfield	..	H	....
18	Tu	Middlesbro	..	A	....
26	W	Hull C.	..	H	....
Mar. 4	Tu	Scunthorpe Utd.	..	A	....
11	Tu	Rotherham Utd.	..	A	....
19	W	Bradford	..	H	....
26	W	Barnsley	..	A	....

Next Home Matches . . .

DIVISION III

NORTH MIDLAND LEAGUE

WEDNESDAY APRIL 9th 7 30 p.m.

NOTTS. COUNTY

DIVISION III

MONDAY 14th APRIL 7.30 p.m.

BARNSELY

SATURDAY 19th APRIL 3 p.m.

BARROW

Re-arranged Fixtures

DIVISION III

April 22nd	SWINDON TOWN	Away
„ 25th	WALSALL	Home
„ 28th	PLYMOUTH	Home
„ 30th	TORQUAY	Away
May 5th	WATFORD	Home
„ 9th	SHREWSBURY	Home

RESERVES

April 9th	NOTTS. COUNTY	Home
„ 16th	HULL CITY	Home
„ 22nd	MIDDLESBOROUGH	Away
„ 24th	DONCASTER	Away
„ 29th	CHESTERFIELD	Home

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D Sunderland v. Q.P.R.	P Walsall v. Plymouth
E West Brom v. Spurs	Q Watford v. Hartlepool
F Birmingham v. Charlton	R Bradford C. v. Exeter
G Blackburn v. Portsmouth	S Halifax v. Workington
H Blackpool v. Oxford	T Lincoln v. Bradford
J Derby v. Sheffield U.	U Notts. C. v. Grimsby
K Hull v. Fulham	V Rochdale v. Doncaster
L Norwich v. Huddersfield	W Southend v. Aldershot

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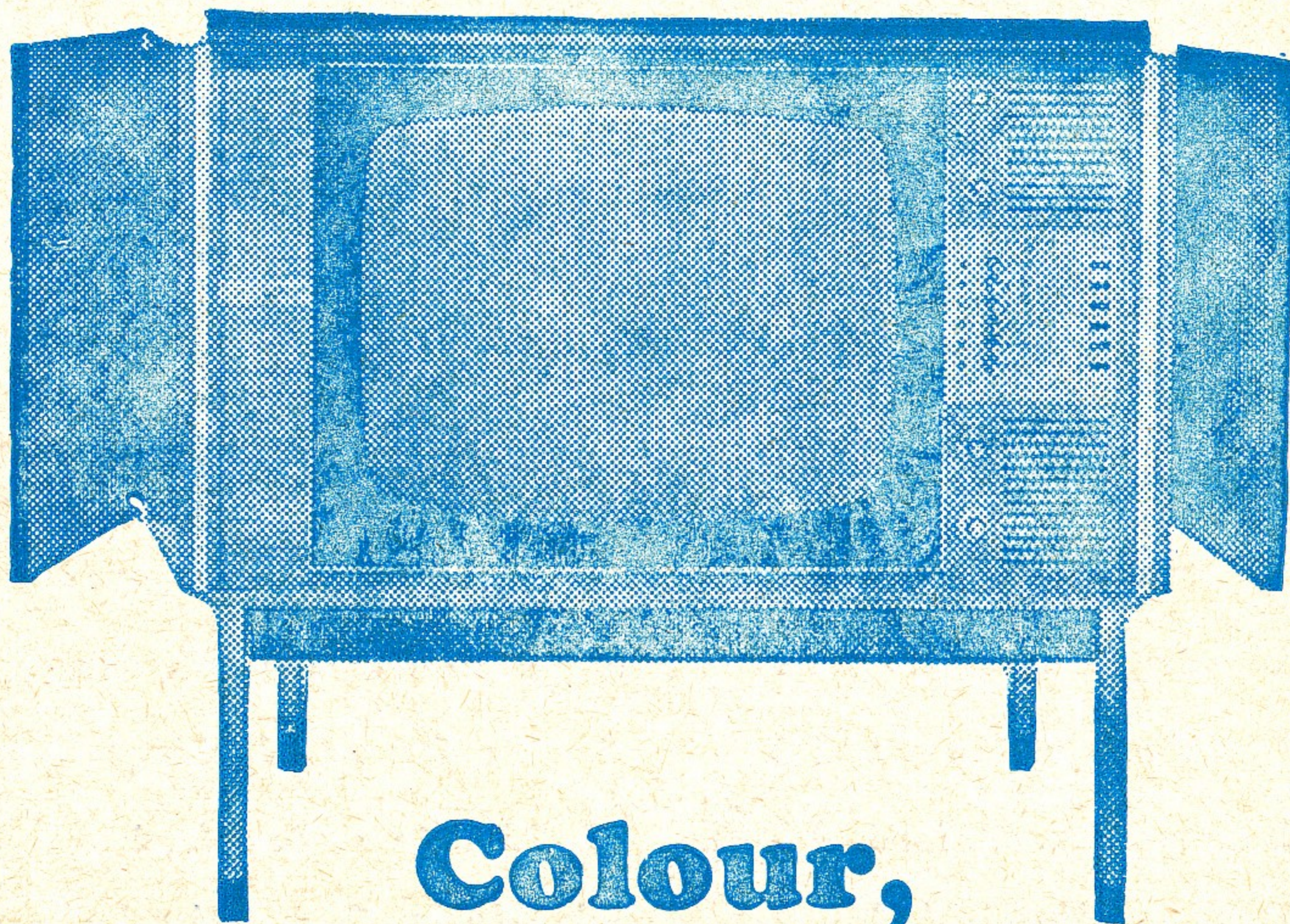
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