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Vol. 4 No. 15

30 September 1969

WALSALL

v

LUTON TOWN

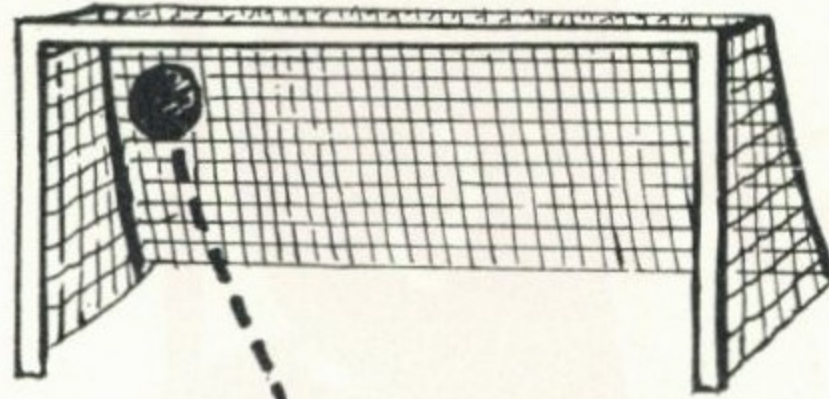
Football League Div. III

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Vol. 4 No. 15

TUESDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 1969

1/-

from the press box

Watching Walsall reserves trying hard but unsuccessfully to score against Fulham in a Football Combination match at Fellows Park, I began to think about some of the strikers who have made a name for themselves here.

At the start of the second half, one of them stepped unexpectedly into the Press Box . . . none other than that much-travelled centre-forward George Kirby, who made quite an impression with the Saddlers between May, 1965, and May, 1967.

NEXT VISITORS

George is now coach to Halifax, the next visitors to this ground in the Third Division, so I expect he will be along again with them.

Everybody loves a goal-scorer, and, let's face it, unless you have somebody with the ability to put the ball in the net regularly the chances of success are remote, however pretty the play may look in midfield.

So far this season most of Walsall's problems have stemmed from the fact that they have not been able to finish, that's why manager Bill Moore fetched Colin Taylor back from Crystal Palace.

He believes, and I agree, that "Red" will get a lot more of those fantastic goals he seems to specialise in.

SWITCHED ON

Remarkable, isn't it, how successful Mr. Moore has been in picking out reserve players, switching their positions, and making them first team regulars. He did it with Trevor Meath who has done a good job leading the attack after moving up from wing half; he found that Colin Harrison's best position was full back, and more recently he switched Derek Trevis to centre-half when Stan Jones was struggling to find his form.

It was good to see how well Derek played at Torquay, for he is a fine club man and he has not enjoyed the best of luck since moving to Fellows Park.

SWEEPING UP

Another switch has seen Nick Atthey

go back to his old defensive role, and what a good job he does at the back. I have always thought his ability to tidy up in the penalty box was an asset the team could not afford to waste, and he underlined that fact with a great show in his 200th game for the club at Torquay.



by **Paul Marston**
Birmingham Post & Mail

Tonight's visitors, Luton, have made a most impressive start with that famous soccer character Alec Stock driving them on. If Walsall can topple the "Hatters" as they did last season, we shall know a revival really is on the way.

EXPRESS & STAR

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Football League

3rd DIVISION

Teams subject to alteration

Walsall v. Luton Town

White shirts

Red shirts

	No.	
Parkes	1	Davie
Gregg	2	Dougan
Harrison	3	Bannister
Crowe	4	Keen
Trevis	5	Nicholl
Atthey	6	Slough
Watson	7	Collins
Meath	8	Macdonald
Woodward	9	Tees
Bennett	10	Allen
Taylor	11	French
To be named	12	To be named

Referee
Mr. M. Kerkhof
Bicester

Linesmen
Mr. E. Yeomans Red flag
Mr. R. G. Boyles Yellow flag

SPORTING STAR

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forthcoming attractions

SATURDAY
11 October

Halifax Town

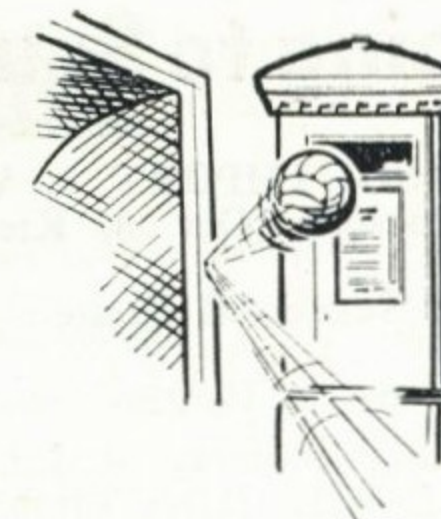
FOOTBALL LEAGUE
Kick-off 3.00

SATURDAY
18 October

Bournemouth

FOOTBALL LEAGUE
Kick-off 3.00

in off the post



Over the past few years with the trend for away teams to be more defensively minded, home wins by a margin of 1—0 have become more frequent.

Not so at Walsall, however! In fact, when we beat Barrow 1—0 a fortnight ago, it was the sixtieth home league game since we last won by that score. The previous "victims" were Grimsby Town on December 31, 1966. By a remarkable coincidence that game was also decided by a penalty, taken incidentally by Gerry Summers, now Manager of Oxford United.

During the same period there have been two 1—0 wins in friendly games, against Leicester last season and Bolton this season.

J. R. ASTON,
93 Gainsborough Crescent,
Great Barr, Birmingham, 22A.

A most interesting statistical point, Mr. Aston.

what the papers say

"butter" line. There has been an example overnight of the cost of winning promotion with the selling by Halifax Town of centre half Nichol to Luton Town for £34,000.

BRADFORD TELEGRAPH & ARGUS:

While there is joy at Valley Parade following Bradford City's wonderful start to Third Division football, club officials did not hide their disappointment at the size of last night's crowd of 7,586, which saw the Paraders beat Walsall 3—0.

Finance is a big strain at City and crowds are well below the "bread and

Something like this could happen at Valley Parade unless attendances improve, although it's the last thing the directors and manager want.

Despite our low gates, how few players have been sold from Fellows Park in the last few years. In fact, in three seasons, only Colin Taylor, Derek Clarke and Dave Wilson of our first team and of these Colin has now been bought back.

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Going to Southport? Going to Reading?

SOUTHPORT v. WALSALL
Wednesday, Oct. 8, Kick-off 7.30 p.m.

A.A. Suggested Route :—

Join M6 at Bentley
Leave Motorway at Junction 23 HAY-
DOCK JUNCTION
Follow signs "LIVERPOOL A580"
At Windle turn rt A570 (SP SOUTH-
PORT)
Pass through Ormskirk, Pinfold, Scaris-
brick
Enter Southport by Scarisbrick New Rd.
Haig Avenue is on r.h.s. before town
centre.

Total mileage — 96½.

READING v. WALSALL
Saturday, October 4th, Kick-off 3 p.m.

A.A. Suggested Route :—

A452 to Stonebridge and Kenilworth
A46 to Leek Wootton
A41 to Banbury
A423 to Oxford
Take Ring Road, rejoining A423 (SP
"The South")
At Shillingford turn rt A329
Enter Reading by Oxford Road
Turn rt at Kennington Road
Elm Park is on the right

Total mileage — 105¾.

I'M IN CHARGE

Referee: Sgt. Major M. KERKHOF
C.S.M.I. MIKE KERKHOF is a Sgt.
Major Physical Training Instructor in
the Army. He took up refereeing after
an injury had forced him out of the
playing side of the game.

Starting in Warrington, Lancashire,
he has now officiated in no fewer than
eight countries and graduated to the
football League list via the Football
Combination.

He has coaching qualifications in
Soccer, Basketball, Volleyball, Boxing

and Athletics and has numerous swim-
ming and life-saving qualifications. He
has received offers of coaching appoint-
ments in Greece and Australia but has
no intention of moving while he is on
the Football League list.

Married, with five children, all of
whom are outstanding at sport, Mr.
Kerkhof spends three hours per day
training his nine-years-old son. Even at
this tender age this boy has gained six
swimming awards this summer.

As one who spends all his spare time
coaching young children to play all games
to the best of their ability, Mr. Kerkhof
has this to say: "There is no disgrace
in losing, provided you play all games
to the best of your ability. No one can
ask for more."

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First XI fixtures and results

FOOTBALL LEAGUE 3rd DIVISION

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Matches are played on Saturdays unless otherwise stated.

1969	Opponents	Ground	Result	Gate	Goalscorers
July					
26	(Friendly) BOLTON	H	1 0	3,649	Wilson
28	(Friendly) Hartlepool	A	1 0	284	Baker
30	(Friendly) Darlington	A	2 2	1,365	Morris, Woodward
August					
5	(Friendly) SHEFF. UTD.	Tues. H	1 1	4,293	Woodward
9	Brighton	A	1 1	11,250	Wilson
13	Shrewsbury (L.C. 1)	Wed. A	0 1	6,971	
16	SOUTHPORT	H	4 0	5,989	Jones, Harrison (2), Meath
23	Mansfield	A	0 0	6,696	
27	Bradford City	Wed. A	0 3	7,586	
30	ROCHDALE	H	1 4	6,666	Woodward
September					
6	Barnsley	A	0 1	9,500	
13	ROTHERHAM	H	0 2	4,862	
16	BARROW	Tues. H	1 0	5,031	Train (pen.).
20	Torquay	A	0 0	7,547	
27	TRANMERE	H	0 0	5,533	
30	LUTON	Tues. H			
October					
4	Reading	A			
8	Southport	Wed. A			
11	HALIFAX	H			
18	BOURNEMOUTH	H			
25	Plymouth	A			
November					
1	DONCASTER	H			
8	Gillingham	A			
15	F.A. Cup 1				
22	Bury	A			
24	Orient	Mon. A			
29	SHREWSBURY	H			
December					
6	F.A. Cup 2				
13	Rotherham	A			
20	BARNSELY	H			
26	MANSFIELD	Fri. H			
27	Rochdale	A			
1970					
January					
3	Luton Town (3)	A			
10	TORQUAY	H			
17	Tranmere	A			
24	FULHAM (4)	H			
31	READING	H			
February					
7	Halifax (5)	A			
14	BRIGHTON	H			
21	PLYMOUTH (6)	H			
28	Doncaster	A			
March					
3	Bristol Rovers	Tues. A			
7	BURY (L.C.F.)	H			
10	STOCKPORT	Tues. H			
14	Shrewsbury (S.F.)	A			
18	Fulham	Wed. A			
21	BRISTOL ROV.	H			
27	Bournemouth	Fri. A			
28	Stockport	A			
31	GILLINGHAM	Tues. H			
April					
4	BRADFORD CITY	H			
7	ORIENT	Tues. H			
11	F.A. Cup Final	A			
13	Barrow	A			

COMPETITION QUIZ

Our supporters seem to have been
finding the Quiz pictures rather difficult
recently, so this week two stand tickets
for a subsequent match will be sent to
the first person to send a list of 12
players Walsall have signed direct from
Aston Villa.

Address entries to :—

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LUTON TOWN, 1969/70

By courtesy of "Luton Evening Post."

Front row (l. to r.): Brian Lewis, Alan Slough, John Moore, Jack Bannister, Mike Harrison, Bruce Rioch (now A. Villa), Laurie Sheffield.

Middle row (l. to r.): John Ryan, Alan Guild, Neil Rioch (now A. Villa), Sandy Davie, Tony Read, Max Dougan, Terry Branston, Robin Wainwright.

Back row (l. to r.): Morris Stevenson, Fred Jardine, Graham French, Mike Keen, Keith Allen, Peter Phillips.

introducing our visitors

By the Editor.

"What goes down must come back up again" is a variant on a well-known proverb that might well be the watchword of tonight's visitors the "Hatters," from Luton. For although they are one of the four clubs to have slipped from Division I to Division IV (Grimsby, Brentford and Northampton are the others) they are the only one to have looked like ultimately climbing right back again.

In the space of five seasons (1960-65) they slipped from the top to the bottom division (taking us with them on the way from Division 2 to Division 3 in 1963), but with Allan Brown at the helm they climbed straight back out of Division IV in 1968 and only just missed going up again last season, finishing just three points behind Watford and Swindon.

MANAGER WITH A RECORD

In the meantime, Allan Brown had moved on to Torquay (where he is providing a counter-threat to Luton's promotion chances) and Alec Stock had taken over at Kenilworth Road. Alec, of course, is one of the most famous Managers in the game, having been the brains behind those fantastic Cup runs of Yeovil Town in the 50's and then taken Queens Park Rangers from Division III to Division I between 1966 and 1968. This season he has shown every symptom of having another promotion side on his hands, for at the time of writing the "Hatters" have not been beaten in the League and have won three out of their five away matches.

TEAM STRENGTH

Despite the transfer of the Rioch brothers, Bruce and Neil, to Villa Park during the close season, Luton still appear to have the best team to wear their colours since they reached the Cup Final in 1959 under Syd Owen's captaincy and went down 2-1 to Nottingham Forest. Although they made an excellent start to the season, they have in the past month strengthened their first team pool still further by signing centre-half CHRIS NICOLL from Halifax Town and striker MATT TEES from Charlton.

During the close season Luton were also active in the transfer market. A rare bargain seems to have been MALCOLM McDONALD, the 19-year-old striker from Fulham, who between August 16 and September 2 scored in no fewer than seven consecutive games. A most unusual feature of these transfer activities is that whilst one player named JOHN RYAN was sold to Notts County,



another John Ryan, a fullback, was signed from Fulham. Other "exports" include Bill McDerment, and Ian Buxton to Notts County, George Potter to Torquay and Ray Whittaker to Colchester.

THAT "ACADEMIC" TOUCH

Quite apart from the cultured football that they play, Luton must be one of the most "academic" teams, for PETER PHILLIPS, the centre forward, who came from Bishops Cleeve during the close season, is a B.A. and ALAN GUILD, a defender who played as an amateur with East Fife last season, is an M.A.

Goalkeeper SANDY DAVIE, a Scottish Under-23 International, came from

(continued on page 11)

PROMOTION EXPERT



Photo: "Luton Evening Post."

TERRY BRANSTON

INTRODUCING OUR VISITORS— (continued)

Dundee United just before the game here last season. Back row men, JACK BANNISTER and MAX DOUGAN were signed from Crystal Palace and Leicester respectively. Jack's early days in the game were spent at The Hawthorns.

TERRY BRANSTON was expected to spend most of his time as player/coach to the reserves this season, but has had several games as pivot, from which position he captained them to promotion two seasons ago. When with Northampton he helped them throughout their rise from Division IV to Division I.

Strong man in midfield is MIKE KEEN, who for ten years was with Manager Stock at Q.P.R. and was a major factor in their rise to League Cup success in 1967 and their meteoric rise from Division III to Division I in consecutive seasons. Giving able support, ALAN SLOUGH is a local boy who played in every game last season and is on a six-year contract.

In the front line, JOHN COLLINS has come into the side in the last few weeks and has already scored four times. KEITH ALLEN, who came from Stockport a few years ago in exchange for Derek Kevan, has moved back to the front line again after a spell in the half-back line, whilst GRAHAM FRENCH is, of course, the former star of the England Youth team, who, although only in his early 20's has already seen service with Shrewsbury, Swindon, Watford and Wellington. Another much-travelled player is LAURIE SHEFFIELD, who has previously scored goals for Newport, Doncaster, Norwich, Rotherham and Oldham.

PREVIOUS GAMES

We have met Luton 20 times since they were elected to Division III in 1920, and although the teams have scored 24 goals each, Luton have won 10 games to our 7 with 3 drawn.

Notable games in recent years include that relegation-haunted duel here in 1963, when with the wind playing queer tricks a Bob Morton long shot found the net and Granville Palin equalised from a penalty. Then there was that runaway 4-0 win the next year which helped to push Town into Division IV, our goals coming from Ray Wiggin (2), Fincham (own goal) and Trevor Foster with a splendid header.

STAR GAME

For sheer good football, however, not

many of our games with Luton have bettered the one last November, when people who came to Fellows Park instead of attending a bonfire, found plenty of thrills. Although our visitors were in the top three and we were midway in the table, we rose to the occasion nobly. Dave Wilson backheeled what looked a good goal from Geoff Morris's centre, but the referee did not agree and a few minutes later Dave had more disappointment when after rounding goalkeeper Davie he was dispossessed by Slough when a goal seemed certain.

Then 10 minutes before half-time Jim Murray headed home after Derek Trevis had helped a Baker free-kick into the goalmouth. Bruce Rioch twice flashed shots perilously close, but as the game progressed Nick Atthey got the measure of him. (continued on page 12)

BUSY FORWARD



GRAHAM FRENCH

Photo: "Luton Evening Post."

third division scene

LEADING GOALSCORERS

JIM CONWAY (Fulham)	12	ALLAN GILLIVER (Brighton)	5
GEORGE YARDLEY (Tranmere) 10		BOBBY HAM (Bradford City)	4
REG JENKINS (Rochdale)	8	ROBIN STUBBS (Bristol Rovers) 4	
MALCOLM McDONALD (Luton) 7		TED MacDOUGALL (Bournemouth) 4	
STEVE EARLE (Fulham)	7	ALEC DAWSON (Brighton)	4
JOHN REGAN (Doncaster)	6	KEITH ALLEN (Luton)	4
LES CHAPPELL (Reading)	6	JOHN COLLINS (Luton)	4
GEORGE JONES (Bury)	5	FRED BINNEY (Torquay)	4
JOHN EVANS (Barnsley)	5	MICHAEL CAVE (Torquay)	4
JOHN HOLD (Bournemouth)	5	DEREK SMITH (Tranmere)	3
		BOB LEDGER (Mansfield)	3
		MIKE BULLOCK (Orient)	3
		MIKE BICKLE (Plymouth)	3
		ALF WOOD (Shrewsbury)	3
		DAVE ROBERTS (Shrewsbury)	3
		TONY BUCK (Rochdale)	3
		GEORGE ANDREWS (Southport) 3	

Help Us Reach the Top Ten

1969/70 HOME CROWDS TO DATE

	Highest	Lowest	Average
BRIGHTON	21,190	11,250	16,787
LUTON TOWN	17,372	12,800	14,881
DONCASTER	16,671	9,977	12,071
FULHAM	20,446	8,648	11,631
PLYMOUTH	15,199	9,070	11,067
BRISTOL ROVERS	11,562	7,548	9,641
BARNSELY	11,467	7,651	9,388
TORQUAY	20,946	6,697	8,513
READING	11,065	6,489	8,325
BRADFORD CITY	10,851	6,449	8,159
ROTHERHAM	13,801	6,266	7,988
ROCHDALE	9,702	6,562	7,864
ORIENT	8,876	6,018	7,265
BOURNEMOUTH	8,868	5,368	7,005
MANSFIELD	9,759	6,034	6,794
HALIFAX	10,274	4,927	6,562
GILLINGHAM	7,792	4,364	5,837
BARROW	8,919	4,715	5,733
WALSALL	6,666	4,862	5,637
TRANMERE	6,720	4,033	5,483
BURY	5,634	4,863	5,204
SHREWSBURY	6,971	3,470	4,820
SOUTHPORT	11,215	2,873	4,576
STOCKPORT	5,925	3,057	4,378

INTRODUCING OUR VISITORS—continued.

The game was clinched in the 70th minute when Geoff Morris was sent clear by Allan Baker and surviving several tackles as he made for the laundry end goal he hammered in a splendid left foot shot.

Just to refresh your memories the teams were:

WALSALL: Wesson; Harrison, Harris; Trevis, Jones, Atthey; Murray,

Baker, Wilson, Bennett, Morris.
LUTON: Davie; Dougan, Mc-Derment; Allen, Slough, Bannister; Denton, Lewis, Sheffield, Rioch, Whittaker.

In the return match in January, a first-half goal by Bruce Rioch gave the home team the points, when he took full advantage of an attempted clearance by Bennett which rebounded off him.

Happy Midweek Returns

A local philosopher once said, "There's no such thing as bad beer, but some is better than other." Similarly does not the football addict find some enjoyment in all matches, but draws far more inspiration from some games than others.

If we look back at games at Fellows Park these last three seasons, which league games live most vividly in our memories? For many of us, last season's convincing win over Luton looms perhaps a little larger than our two 4-goal victories over the relatively weaker opposition provided by Brighton and Southport. The hard-fought rearguard action with Watford when we held on for a draw despite being outplayed territorially probably looms larger than the brave display against Swindon Town when we slumped to defeat after a serious injury to Trevor Meath in the first half.

Significantly perhaps, both the Luton and the Watford games were played in midweek and as we look back to the previous season, we may recall most vividly those early season beatings we handed out to Orient and Tranmere, scoring 5 goals each time, or the snowy evening in April, 1968, when Geoff Morris can be said really to have "arrived," as he sped through to score two brilliant goals worthy of Colin Taylor at his best. All these three games were midweek ones. The only Saturday match that rivalled these for crowd appeal was that sensational 2-1 win over Bury when Harry Middleton and Stan Bennett both scored in the last 90 seconds.

Going back to 1966/7, we probably recall that late-season win we had on a May Tuesday evening against Queens Park Rangers. Rangers won the League that season by a 12 point margin, losing only four games all season, yet they were very lucky to escape with only a 2-goal margin against them that evening. In the same season, the only time we scored four goals was in the Easter Monday game against Doncaster Rovers.

These are, of course, merely random impressions, but the following table of our results at Fellows Park after the past three seasons shows clearly that the "Saddlers" seem to have a partiality for midweek matches.

		P	W	D	L	For	Ag.		P	W	D	L	For	Ag.
1966/7	Midweek	7	6	1	0	16	3	Saturdays	16	6	7	3	21	14
1967/8	Midweek	9	6	1	2	19	5	Saturdays	14	6	6	2	28	17
1968/9	Midweek	12	6	5	1	13	8	Saturdays	11	4	4	3	21	10
TOTAL	Midweek	28	18	7	3	48	16	Saturdays	41	16	17	8	70	41

Thus midweek games have yielded us 43 points out of a possible 56, in other words 77% of the total possible. Saturday games have yielded us 49 points out of a possible 82, namely 60%.

Is it something in the temperament of our players that enables them to bring out their best in an evening rather than a Saturday afternoon? Or is it the spectators, who can do so much to create the right atmosphere for the home team? Maybe our menfolk are in a happier mood for watching a game after the satisfaction of a good day's work than they are after, in some cases, a Saturday morning at home getting under the wife's feet, particularly if she complains that he ought to be in the garden or helping her with the shopping in the afternoon.

Be that as it may, there will be no complaints if the second midweek victory of the season is chalked up tonight.

Help your Club by becoming a Pool's Agent

where are they now?

No. 6—TONY RICHARDS

The return of Colin Taylor to Fellows Park has set supporters talking again of what may be termed the golden age of Saddlers' goalscoring, when in two seasons 1959/60/61 they netted almost 200, above half of which came from the prolific feet (with the occasional header) of Colin Taylor and Tony Richards.

Tony, who ranks with Gilbert Alsop as the finest centre forward to have worn our colours, was born in Smethwick and played for Hopes' Works team in the Birmingham A.F.A. when he was training as a toolmaker. Birmingham City spotted him and he joined them as an amateur in October, 1950, signing professional 14 months later.

LUCKY LETTER

Bob Brocklebank was Manager of Blues at the time and must have later rued the day when he did not retain Tony at the end of season 1951/52. Con-scription was the rule of the day for 18-year-olds at that time and Tony then spent two years in the Royal Artillery. He played a fair amount of Services football and netted a double hat-trick in one game.

After demobilisation, he had trials with both Tottenham and Wolves, but was not retained and was actually on the point of giving up serious soccer when his father wrote to Major Buckley, then Manager at Fellows Park, and requested a trial. After a most impressive Fellows Park debut in the reserve game against Halesowen on September 18, 1954, he was given a chance in the first team at home to Bristol City 12 days later and again at Brentford the following Saturday.

IMMEDIATE SUCCESS

Although up to that time Walsall had obtained only three points from 12 games, they won 2—0 at Griffin Park and Tony netted one of the goals. A few weeks later he netted twice in the 3—1 home win over Colchester and earned this comment from the late Bill Pemberton who was writing our programme notes at that time: "Apart from scoring our two first-half goals, Tony Richards delighted us all with his wise distribution of the ball. When there was a chance of shooting he shot, but when others were better placed, he promptly and properly gave them the chance." A fortnight later he got two more as Bournemouth bit the dust to the tune of



6—1, and by the end of the season he had totted up no fewer than 26 goals in 35 appearances.

AMAZING CONSISTENCY

Only the very greatest "strickers" of any generation have matched Tony's consistent scoring and certainly here at Fellows Park only Gilbert Alsop and Colin Taylor have rivalled Tony's ability to net the goals season after season. In 1955/6 he scored 16 in 35 games, the year after 17 in 36, the year after that 20 in 42 and it must be remembered that at this time we were usually struggling in the lower half of the old Third (South). 1958/9 saw the formation of Division IV and immediately Tony improved on his own fine goals output. In the first season he netted 28 in 44 games and we just missed promotion. In 1959/60 he got 26 in 48 games and we galloped away with the championship. 1960-61, however, must rate as Tony's greatest season for his 36 in 46 games was the major factor in our going up to Division II. Even in the tougher opposition of Division 2 he netted 20 in 42 games the next year and in his final season here he got 7 in 23 games.

ANOTHER BARGAIN

It was soon after the ice-bound spell in 1963 that Tony was transferred to

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

continued

Port Vale and even though he was troubled with a cartilage injury for most of his time at Vale Park they too had a splendid bargain. By 1966 he had netted 30 goals in 60 games. Since then he has had three more prolific seasons with Nuneaton in the Southern League and this season has linked up with Dudley Town, although injury has limited his activities at the Sports Centre up to now.

FAVOURITE MEMORIES

Now manager of a Service Station at Hill Top, Tony, who gave us supporters so many happy memories, recalls the splendid team-spirit of the Walsall side of the late 50's and early 60's, but will never speak of his own achievements without prompting. He smiles happily about that remarkable day at Swindon in 1959 when our goalkeeper John Savage was ordered off with the score 2—2. Tony went in goal and immediately had to face a penalty. It was the first time since his days with Birmingham Reserves that he had worn the green jersey, yet he brought off a great diving

save. To make the story complete Brian Taylor netted the winner a few minutes later. Then there were his 4 goals against Port Vale in December, 1960, the winner he scored against Hull, who were then managed by Bob Brocklebank, the man who had not retained him when at Birmingham. There was that vital penalty with which he beat Malcolm White, then in the Grimsby goal, that gave us two vital points in our last home game of 1960-61, the promotion year from Division III. Then, of course, there was the opening game in Division II (an all-ticket match incidentally) when in August, 1961, Tony netted a hat-trick in the 4—3 win over Sunderland and proved that both he and the Walsall team had "arrived" in the higher league.

SUPPORTERS' VIEW

Although he is now 35, there are still numerous supporters who feel that a fit Tony Richards could still net us a few goals at Fellows Park. It is certainly a fair bet that the next centre-forward who scores 36 in a season or who nets as many as 196 in 354 games will carry us at least as high as Division II. Tony does have a nine year old son, who is football mad at the moment. Who knows?

with the anglers

"UGGH"! was the only way to describe the weather that was prevailing for our latest contest on Sunday, 14th September, at Pool Quay, located on the upper reaches of the River Severn. From the onset fine drizzle came down and there was no let up throughout. Umbrellas were prominent at this beautiful venue, the river not much wider than the average canal ran through the Welsh border countryside scribing at the point of the contest, almost a complete circle, the neck of which was only feet wide, and one wondered how long it would be before an erosion caused by the swirling water would eat it through and create an inland island. Round the arc which measured about half a mile, the river varied from fast gravelly swims to deep meandering runs creating such contrast-

ing styles in such a short stretch. As soon as the whistle for the off went small plummets of water erupted all along, as ground bait was thrown in, in the hope of attracting large Chub or Barbel, but it was soon evident from the curses that floated along the banks, that this was out, and minnow and gudgeon were the prevalent species caught.

The winner of the contest was Brian Grice, with a mixed bag catch of 3 lb. 0 oz. 0 drms. which was a marvellous achievement under the conditions. Luckily, he picked one of the fairly shallow weedy swims. This weight also puts him in the lead for the heaviest catch trophy.

Second place went to John Partridge, who suffered agonies with a broken toe, with a good catch of 1 lb. 12 oz. 0 drms.

Third place went to myself, Gordon Perry, with a catch of 1 lb. 9 oz. 0 drms.

Our next contest will be at Shelford on the River Trent, on October 5th.

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PEEKS INTO THE PAST

(Continued from Vol. 4 No. 14)

Instalment LXXV

SEASON 1938-39

Our league record has never been a reliable guide to what we are capable of accomplishing in the cup, but never has the position shown such a contradiction as it did in January, 1939. We were bottom of the Southern Section, yet the only team in that Division still in the cup. We now faced a fifth round contest with Huddersfield away from home and certainly our recent league form gave no encouragement. Queens Park Rangers had just beaten us 3-1; Southend 2-0; and we had drawn with Mansfield 0-0. Our team fought well at Huddersfield but were beaten 3-0 by a better side. If only they had shown such spirit in their League fixtures!

For four of the six Cup ties Walsall fielded the same team, namely: Tewkesbury; Harper, Male; Woodward, Morgan, Payne; Hancocks, Alsop, Bambrick, Simpson, Bulger. On two occasions Beeson stood in for Harper who was injured.

In five Cup ties we had scored more than half as many goals as in our 26 league matches and had conceded only two goals compared with an average of one and a half a game in League football.

Two weeks after our exit from the Cup we received a shock at Crystal Palace when three goals were scored against us in the first three minutes. The game was virtually over before several of our players had touched the ball. What an experience for young Bert

Williams making his first League appearance of the season. The first three times he handled the ball were taking it out of the net, but afterwards he distinguished himself and only once more was he beaten despite almost continuous pressure, the final score being 4-0.

The following week we reversed the score 4-0 in our favour, although the victory was slightly tempered by the fact that the opponents were Port Vale who were sharing bottom place in the table with us. Two games with Aldershot and Notts County ended in 3-3 draws, but on the whole our losing run continued.



by W. B. Rowlinson

Mr. Sam Longmore, our manager, made several efforts to obtain new players, but he was not able to obtain the talent he wanted. During the transfer season he refused several attractive offers for players and at that time he said: "During the last few months our financial position has improved considerably and I am confident

that we shall be in Division III next season."

In spite of this confident note, Walsall failed to keep clear of the bottom two positions and had to seek re-election. We wound up the season by beating Cardiff City 6-3, our scorers being Hancocks (2), Bambrick, Beeson, Bulger and Alsop and this saved us from being very bottom, for our goal average of 68 and 69 was superior to Bristol Rovers who like ourselves had 33 points.

(to be continued)

In a great burst after the restart we got three goals in 20 minutes. Chapman converted a centre from Gordon Medd, then Medd netted from a narrow angle, and after a fine run and centre by Eric Betts, Jim Whitehouse got his second goal of the game.

In the closing minutes our defence was under pressure, but Reg. Foulkes, "Nutty" Newman and Co. held out until the last minute when Brighton got a consolation goal.

That was the second successive week that our followers had seen 4 goals at Fellows Park, for the previous week our reserves had beaten Darlaston 4-0 in a Birmingham Combination match, Jock McShane getting a hat-trick and Phil Giles the other.

20 years ago

On October 1, 1949, 10,709 were at Fellows Park to see us beat Brighton 4-2. Up to then we had obtained only 5 points from our first 9 games (yes, a worse start than this season) and only goal average was keeping us off the bottom of the table.

Our visitors, who were midway in the league, took an early lead and for a time there seemed little hope of our recording our first win over them for 20 years, but close on half time a shot by Betts rebounded off the bar and Phil Chapman returned it to the goalmouth for Whitehouse to touch it home.

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SUPPORTERS' CLUB NOTES AND NEWS

It now seems many seasons ago since tonight's visitors from Bedfordshire slipped into Division Three along with the Saddlers. As we give a warm welcome to the "Hatters" this evening, it would be very pleasant to see both teams make the return journey in May. Our visitors have certainly made a good start to the season.

SADDLERS' CLUB ITEMS

Supporters who have made the journey this evening from Luton are cordially invited to visit the Saddlers' Social Club before turning homewards.

Tomorrow evening at the Club is Bingo night.

Thursday evening's entertainment for members is provided by a well-known local group.

Details will be announced at half-time. Membership of the club is again open. Application forms are available from the Doorman on duty.

FROM THE TRAVEL SECRETARY

Please note the change in the date of the mid-week fixture versus Southport at Haig Avenue. The match will now be played on Wednesday, October 8th (7.30 p.m.).

Provisional Transport Arrangements:—

Southport.
Fare for adults, 14/3; Juniors 9/6.
Depart from Pleck at 3.25 p.m.,
Walsall at 3.30 p.m., Bloxwich at 3.40 p.m.

Bookings for the above to either Hillary Street End Kiosk, or Bradford Street Office.

For your reference, I will also repeat the details of next Saturday's trip to Elm Park, Reading.

Distance, 104 miles.

Fare for Adults, 14/6; Juniors, 9/9.

Depart from Bloxwich at 9.50 a.m., Walsall at 10.0 a.m., Pleck at 10.05 a.m. Estimated return time in Walsall is 8.30 p.m.

MISSING FROM THE SCENE?

Many supporters have noted its absence at the last home matches.



by
R. E. SADLER

Perhaps some of the good luck has also been taken away with it! Although it did not arrive at Fellows Park with any good fortune for it only produced the sole home defeat of that season!

Please don't become confused the Supporters' Club Memorial Clock has only been removed for cleaning and overhaul. It will soon be returned in working order to its usual spot.

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Walsall F.C. Button Badge	1/-	Sandy Saddler Car Sticker	2/6
Car Stickers	2/-	Supporters' Club Pen	1/-
Leather Key Ring	1/6	Programme Binder	12/6
Walsall F.C. Pennant	3/-	Car Licence Holder	1/6
Assorted 1st Division Pennants	3/-	Duffle Bag	8/6
		Rosettes	1/6, 2/- and 2/6

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COMING SOON—

At Fellows Park, a new SOCCER BOUTIQUE at the side of the gymnasium at the Hillary Street entrances, and a large Sales Kiosk at the Railway end of the ground, enabling us to display many more

★ programmes and introduce new lines.

Third Team Notes

Since the last notes were written, our third team have given a very creditable performance at Shrewsbury, but unfortunately slumped the following week in the home match against Albion.

In the game at Shrewsbury we found ourselves in opposition to Jim McLaughlin, the Irish international winger who scored the goal that knocked our first team out of the League Cup earlier this season. Not surprisingly he was a thorn in our flesh again, but our lads did at least limit his effectiveness to a second-half goal and a made-to-measure centre in the first half from which Ricky Moir opened the scoring. Ricky was also in the first team at the beginning of the season, as was full-back Pat Loska and so our comparatively inexperienced team did very well to have a fair share of the play. Late in the game JOHN HAWKINS, on his first appearance for us, reduced the arrears and in the closing stages we might well have snatched a point.

Fellows Park seems to be a magnet for

first-class goalkeeping displays this season and in the visit of Albion we found ourselves up against Denis Nisbet, who has appeared in their first team this season and followed the tradition set by Birmingham's Peat and Villa's Crudington in our previous home games. Another impressive visiting defender was the younger of the Collard brothers, whilst their attack which contained two professionals, Dave Hogg and Hugh McLean, fired on all five cylinders.

JOHN BALDWIN, making his first appearance in our goal, played bravely after being given no chance with Albion's lightning start which brought them two goals in the first five minutes. GARY FLEET was again our most persistent forward and came near to reducing the arrears before Albion added two more goals in the second half. Gary did have some late compensation with a goal near the end of the game.

The young Sky Blues from Coventry are our visitors on Saturday next.

Teams and Scorers

August 16 v Albion (away) 0-2:

Edwards; Burns, Colebatch; P. Evans, Element, Hayward; J. D. Davis, Ainge, Williams, Roe, Jackson.

August 23 v Birmingham 0-3:

Edwards; Burns, Colebatch; D. W. Davis, Mighalls, Hayward; J. D. Davis, Gough, Fleet, Stringer, Jackson (Fisher).

August 30 v Coventry (away) 0-2:

Edwards; D. W. Davis, Colebatch; Kendall, Element (P. Evans), George; Onions, Gleeson, Roe, Gough, Marandola.

September 6 v Aston Villa 0-2:

Edwards; Burns, Colebatch; Gough, Element, George (P. Evans); Onions, Hayward, Storer, Fleet, Stringer.

September 13 v Shrewsbury (away) 1-2:

Edwards; Burns, Colebatch; Kendall (Hayward), Element, Mighalls; Storer, Gough, Gleeson, Fleet, Hawkins.

Scorer: Hawkins.

September 20 v Albion 1-4:

Baldwin; Baker, Colebatch; Hayward, Element, D. W. Davis; Storer, Gough, Gleeson, Mighalls, Fleet.

Scorer: Fleet.

combination chatter

Although our reserves have made what must surely be the worst start in their history, supporters who came along last Tuesday evening were full of praise for the display of almost non-stop attacking football that was served up against Fulham. Yet the visitors who did not progress into the Walsall half more than three or four times during the whole second half somehow managed to snatch the vital goal, when full-back Mike Pentecost followed up a breakaway raid to score an opportunist goal.

Our attack was full of dash and ideas and the number of shots that rained in upon Thomas's goal gave him as busy an evening as he is ever likely to have, but his coolness and anticipation never wavered. Only twice was he really beaten and on these occasions first Allan Baker's shot came back off a post and then Geoff Morris's follow-up shot was deflected over the bar by a defender.

It is not very often that one can say this of a team beaten at home, but

all of our lads played extremely well and none were more impressive than the one non-professional ROGER BAKER, who looks like developing into a most enterprising full-back. It was also good to see KEN STEPHENS moving so well in attack after coming on as substitute. The ball has not run very well for Ken since joining us and one hopes that now he might have the success that his ability merits.

One side-issue of Tuesday's match was the way Fulham maintained their low-scoring sequence. In six games they have now scored only three goals, conceded only six and yet taken 4 points. How different from their first team who in the space of a week in mid-September, scored 14 and conceded 7 goals.



KEN STEPHENS

The accompanying Football Combination table may prove to be of great historical interest by the end of the season, for if our lads can maintain their form of last Tuesday, they will not remain at that end of the league for much longer.

FOOTBALL COMBINATION

TO SEPTEMBER 23

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	Goals		P.
						A.	P.	
West Ham Utd.	7	6	0	1	17	5	12	
Ipswich Town	6	5	1	0	21	3	11	
Tottenham Hotspur	6	5	1	0	12	3	11	
Arsenal	7	3	3	1	13	8	9	
Birmingham City	7	3	3	1	14	9	9	
Swansea Town	5	3	2	0	3	0	8	
Cardiff City	7	4	0	3	14	12	8	
Leicester City	7	3	2	2	14	12	8	
Reading	4	3	1	0	8	4	7	
Bristol City	7	4	1	2	13	9	9	
Southampton	7	3	1	3	15	12	7	
Norwich City	7	3	1	3	9	7	7	
Q.P.R.	6	2	2	2	10	11	6	
Oxford United	7	3	0	4	9	11	6	
Plymouth Argyle	7	3	0	4	9	11	6	
Bournemouth	7	0	6	1	10	13	6	
Luton Town	5	1	3	1	11	10	5	
Chelsea	7	2	1	4	10	13	5	
Swindon Town	7	2	1	4	10	13	5	
Bristol Rovers	6	2	1	3	6	9	5	
Gillingham	7	1	2	4	7	14	4	
Crystal Palace	4	1	1	2	7	9	3	
Fulham	6	1	2	3	3	6	4	
Peterborough Utd.	7	0	1	6	4	21	1	
Walsall	6	0	0	6	4	17	0	
Northampton Town	3	0	0	3	1	12	0	

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Second XI fixtures and results

FOOTBALL COMBINATION
Matches are played on Saturdays unless otherwise stated.

1969	Opponents	Ground			
August					
12	Q.P.R.	Tues.	H	2	3
16	Arsenal		A	0	4
18	(Friendly) Dudley	Mon.	A	2	0
21	(Friendly) Bedworth	Thurs.	A	2	0
26	CARDIFF CITY	Tues.	H	1	2
30	West Ham United		A	1	6
September					
9	IPSWICH TOWN	Tues.	H	0	1
23	FULHAM	Tues.	H	0	1
27	Southampton		A	0	0
October					
4	Norwich City		A		
11	Leicester City		A		
21	CRYSTAL P.	Tues.	H		
28	B'HAM CITY	Tues.	H		
November					
4	Northampton Town	Tues.	A		
11	BOURNEMOUTH	Tues.	H		
18	Luton Town (C.)	Tues.	A		
26	Tottenham H. (C.)	Wed.	A		
December					
2	LUTON TOWN	Tues.	H		
10	Reading	Wed.	A		
13	NORTHAMPTON T. (C.)		H		
20	Bristol City		A		
30	LUTON TOWN (C.)	Tues.	H		
1970					
January					
3	Northampton T. (C.)		A		
6	LEICESTER C. (C.)	Tues.	H		
14	Oxford United	Wed.	A		
17	Bristol Rovers		A		
20	Swansea Town	Tues.	A		
27	TOTTENHAM H. (C.)	Tues.	H		
February					
3	B'HAM CITY (C.)	Tues.	H		
7	Tottenham Hotspur		A		
10	B'ham City (C.)	Tues.	A		
17	SWINDON TOWN	Tues.	H		
24	GILLINGHAM	Tues.	H		
March					
3	PLYMOUTH A.	Tues.	H		
10	Leicester City (C.)	Tues.	A		
14	Chelsea		A		
17	PETERBOROUGH U.	Tues.	H		

Third XI fixtures and results

MIDLAND INTERMEDIATE LEAGUE
Matches are played on Saturdays unless otherwise stated.

1969	Opponents	Ground	Score
Cup Competition			
August			
16	West Bromwich Albion	A	0 2
23	B'HAM CITY	H	0 3
30	Coventry City	A	0 2
September			
6	ASTON VILLA	H	0 0
13	Shrewsbury Town	A	1 2
20	W. B. ALBION	H	1 4
27	Birmingham City	A	1 4
October			
4	COVENTRY CITY	H	
11	Aston Villa	A	
18	SHREWSBURY T. (Prov.)	H	
League Competition			
25 STOKE CITY			
November			
1			
8	NOTTINGHAM F.	H	
15	Shrewsbury Town	A	
22	W. B. ALBION	H	
29	Derby County	A	
December			
6	Coventry City	A	
13	B'HAM CITY	H	
20	Aston Villa	A	
1970			
January			
3	LEICESTER CITY	H	
10	Mansfield Town	A	
17	SHREWSBURY T.	H	
24	West Bromwich Albion	A	
31	Stoke City	A	
February			
7	MANSFIELD T.	H	
14	Birmingham City	A	
21	Nottingham Forest	A	
28	COVENTRY C.	H	
March			
7	Leicester City	A	
14	ASTON VILLA	H	
21			
28	DERBY COUNTY	H	

Stranger than fiction

In a year when a former player of ours has changed hands at a cost of £150,000 it is interesting to look back to 1913 when Spurs signed a player from Peterborough at a "fee" of several used turnstiles.

★ ★ ★

Playing at Highbury against Blackburn Rovers in 1955, Arsenal full-back Dennis Evans heard a whistle and thinking it signalled the end of the game playfully slammed the ball into his own net. He then heard another whistle—that of the referee blowing for a goal.

★ ★ ★

In a reserve game at Fellows Park in 1951 Walsall beat Darlaston 9-5. In

one Walsall attack Guy Wharton, the one-time Wolves and Portsmouth player, appeared to handle near his own goal and there was a loud appeal for a penalty. Darlaston's goalkeeper Bailey thought an award had been made and threw the ball down. Jack Winter, with great presence of mind, slammed it back into the net—and scored.

★ ★ ★

Fulham failed to score in any of their first three games this season yet netted 8 at Halifax on September 16. The last time an away side netted 8 in Division III was way back in 1946 when Walsall trounced Northampton 8-0 at the County Ground.

TAILPIECE

What's in a name? Have you noticed the duplication of names amongst our first team players of the last 25 years? It is perhaps not surprising that we have had five Smiths (Trevor, Roger, George, Allan and Jimmy); four Joneses (Stan, Sid, Brian and Gwyn); four Davieses (Ken, John, Reg and Cyril); four Evanses (Bill, Ken, Hugh and Mick); three Morrisses (Fred, John and Geoff.); two Edwardses (Pat and Tommy); two Harrises (Gerry and Johnny); two Lewises (Jack and Ken); two Watsons (Jim and Tommy); two Wrights (Geoff. and Allan); two Wilsons (Tommy and Dave); three Woodwardes (Peter, Horace and John) and three Taylors (Doug., Brian and Colin).

All of these are, of course, very common names and it is no surprise to find them cropping up more than once. But

what are the odds against having two players named Norman Rowe or two named Jimmy Murray? We have also had on our books two McMorrans (Bobby and Jimmy), two O'Neills (Jimmy and Liam), two Walshes (Wilf and Dave), two Vinalls (Jack and Albert), and two Kellys (Fred and Jim).

Yet we have had only one pair of brothers, Allan and Derek Clarke. We also had at one time Tom Clark (without the "e") who was better known as a Surrey cricketer and Len Davis (without the "e") in addition to the four Davieses. Others with similar sounding names have been Gilbert Alsop and Norman Allsopp, Jack Hadlington and Harry Haddington, Stan Fort and Clive Ford, George Meek and Trevor Meath, and Bobby Millard and Albert Mullard.

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