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ARSENAL FOOTBALL CLUB LTD

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OUR EDITORIAL NOTE

By "THE GUNNERS' MATE."

Welcome, Luton.

No matter what our League fortunes may have been or what the position we hold on the League table, there is always something that sets the nerves a tingling about a Cup-tie and as the hour of the big struggle approaches our appetite is the keener.

To-day we have a little account to settle with our good friends.

I almost said "The Strawplaiters," but the straw hats of summer do not seem to synchronise with six inches of fleecy snow—before we can conjure up visions of a trip to the great Stadium at Wembley Park next April. We assure our Luton friends that we welcome them heartily and we have the highest respect for their ability as a first-class football team. From the moment we knew the luck of the draw, we had no false ideas of the magnitude of the task before us. Luton have not made Cup history but they have a fine side and in their last 15 matches they have only once suffered defeat. This is a magnificent record and they will play to-day with the invaluable confidence which success gives to all teams. Their centre-forward, A. Kerr, is a great marksman and he has already scored 16 goals in League football. He is a product of the Scottish school and is a very fine shot. Our defence will have to keep a watchful eye upon this young fellow, who is flanked by clever, thrustful, henchmen in Butchers and Green. Their middle line is solid and I notice that the critics at Southend last week unanimously voted Anderson the best back seen at The Kursaal this season. At the moment of writing I cannot say what the conditions will be like underfoot but I hope they will be favourable to the fine, fast and sporting encounter we so keenly anticipate.

Our Likely Eleven.

Provided that illness takes no further toll on our players we are likely to have our best available strength on duty, though our injured players are making only slow progress. Indeed it will be almost another month before Butler, Kennedy, John and Whitaker will be really fighting fit. Rutherford, is not yet well enough to play so Dr. "Pat" will continue his brilliant exploits on the extreme right. Young has been progressing towards fitness this week and if he is well enough to-day he will return to the left half position with the versatile and talented Alf Baker retaining his place at left back. I need hardly add that I am very hopeful that the victory will be ours but whichever way the result goes I feel sure the football played will be worthy of the occasion and will give real enjoyment to our loyal followers and the distinguished City guests, who are honouring us to-day.

Another Point.

Our visit to Stamford Bridge last week brought us another valuable point that may be very helpful in the final reckoning. It was a result that many of us received with mixed emotions, for we sincerely hope that our good friends at Chelsea will be able to extricate themselves from the dangerous position in which they are now placed. They played football that was good enough to carry them out of the relegation zone, but they were not lucky. They had the better of the first half but our obvious superiority in the second portion quite levelled matters, and the fact that Andrew Wilson played a brilliant game and yet could not pierce our defence is in itself a

tribute to the excellent work of our rear-guard.⁶ It was a game in which there was much good football, and Chelsea gave of their best before the interval, when Wilson was spoon-feeding his wing men in brilliant style. He is still easily Scotland's greatest forward leader. In the second half there was more snap about our display, and the Chelsea goal had several narrow escapes. The point we won, added to those garnered during the holidays has given us a welcome lift in the table, and a continuance of our recent form should carry us further up the ladder. It was rather singular that we usually do well at the expense of our Chelsea friends and I think it will interest our readers if I quote the post-war results of our meetings with the Chelsea team. Here are the results and the goal scores — 1919-20. At Highbury, Arsenal 1 (Toner), Chelsea 1 (Cock). At Stamford Bridge, Chelsea 3 (Cock, McNeil, Ford), Arsenal 1 (White). 1920-21. At Highbury, Arsenal 1 (Blyth), Chelsea 1 (Ferris). At Stamford Bridge, Arsenal 2 (Pagnam 2), Chelsea 1 (Cock). 1921-22. At Highbury, Arsenal 1 (Boreham), Chelsea 0. At Stamford Bridge, Arsenal 2 (White, Boreham), Chelsea 0. 1922-23. At Stamford Bridge, Chelsea 0, Arsenal 0. At Highbury, Arsenal 3 (Baker, Blyth 2), Chelsea 1 (Ford). 1923-4. At Highbury, Arsenal 1 (Turnbull), Chelsea 0. At Stamford Bridge, Chelsea 0, Arsenal 0.

While the seniors were acquitting themselves so well, the juniors were collecting London Combination points at Highbury, where Fulham were vanquished by three clear goals, in a game in which the result was never in doubt. This victory keeps us well in the running for the championship, which we now hold. We are only five points behind West Ham and have two games in hand. A continuance of our present form should soon carry us to the head of affairs again.

I would remind you that on Saturday next we are to have another football treat in the visit of Cardiff City, the present League leaders and one of the most brilliant teams of recent years. The Welshmen have played brilliantly all the season and I have no doubt that they will give us a sample of the form that has made them famous for it is generally agreed that the better the opposition the better our boys invariably play.

"THE GUNNERS' MATE."

BOARD-ROOM NOTES.

We are privileged to-day to extend a very cordial welcome to the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor of London and The Lady Mayoress, the Sheriffs and their Ladies. We appreciate the honour they have bestowed upon us and we are sure that the realms of football will rejoice in this signal mark of approval of the great winter sport of the people, shown by our distinguished guests. Sir Louis Newton is a sportsman of the best type and we only hope he will not let this be the last time he honours us with his presence, both during his year of office and afterwards.

It is tolerably certain that our guests and our thousands of supporters will see a game that will abound in thrills and earnest football for Luton Town are foemen worthy of the steel of any club in England. League distinctions count for little in Cup-ties and we have every confidence in anticipating a very fine match and, let us express the pious hope, a victory for our team over a gallant opposition.

The general proceedings will be rendered more interesting by the presence of the Luton Red Cross Silver Prize Band, which recently won the great national band contest at the Crystal Palace. We will all be delighted to hear them and to give them a cordial welcome and no doubt the Luton players will gain inspiration from the music rendered by their talented fellow townsmen.

Our recent progress has been particularly gratifying and the three points which came from our games with Chelsea has helped materially to strengthen our League position. It will be a thousand pities if our gains should mean any serious and undesirable developments in the fortunes of the Chelsea club for we cherish the highest regard for our neighbours whom we know to be fine sportsmen and who play the game in the real sporting spirit. We wish them a happy issue out of their present troubles.

Equally pleasing has been the progress made by our reserves, whose latest success over Fulham was all-deserved and if we can steer clear of injuries, of which we have already had a more than average share, there is no reason why the championship of the London Combination should depart from Highbury.

RANDOM JOTTINGS

By C. D. CRISP, O.B.E., J.P.

To-day we meet old friends from Luton in the F.A. Cup Competition. If I were asked to name the most epoch-marking period of the governing body of our game, I should unhesitatingly mention 20th June, 1871 when the following resolution was passed:—"That it is desirable that a Challenge Cup should be established in connection with the Association, for which all clubs should be invited to compete." This was done and a cup value £50 was purchased by subscription. That cup was burgled from a tradesman's window in Birmingham and we are engaged in a stern battle for another trophy.

The Luton F.C. made history by signing on the first professional player in the South of England and his weekly wage would not cause any present day pro. to turn green with envy.

In the early days of Luton's history much excellent spade work was accomplished by Mr. Gilbert Barford (the present Mayor of Bedford) who acted as hon. sec. and Mr. H. Arnold (who has been Mayor of Luton on several occasions) proved to be a very capable chairman.

The present secretary, Mr. Charles Green, and the trainer, Mr. W. Lawson, have been connected with the organisation for nearly thirty years.

About that distance of time I remember journeying from the Isle of Wight to referee Luton v. Middlesbrough in a holiday fixture. Luton had a very fine side ten of whose names I can recall to this day:—Williams (goal); McEwen and McCartney (backs); Stewart, Docherty, and Gallagher (half-backs); Ekins, Coupar, Galbraith, McInnes and another (forwards). McEwen is our "Mac." He was then known as the india rubber man and was a fearless, fearsome, tackler. His partner McCartney will be recognised as the present manager of Portsmouth F.C.

"The two Macs" in those days were a most redoubtable pair.

The present Lutonians are a well-balanced side and have performed exceptionally well this season.

One of my friends who has seen them play recently tells me they have a very good forward line indeed.

We welcome our old friends from Strawopolis and I know our crowd will give them a lusty greeting and also appreciate the efforts of their splendid band who will accompany the visiting eleven.

C.D.C.

Football League, Div. 1

	Pld.	Won	Lost	Drn.	For	Agst.	Pts.
Cardiff City.....	25	14	3	8	42	23	36
Bolton Wanderers.....	27	11	4	12	43	22	34
Sunderland.....	25	14	6	5	46	32	33
Huddersfield.....	24	14	5	4	39	21	32
Newcastle Utd.....	26	13	8	5	43	28	31
Aston Villa.....	27	10	6	11	32	24	31
Blackburn R.....	25	12	8	5	41	30	29
Sheffield United.....	25	10	7	8	36	30	28
Everton.....	26	10	9	7	36	37	27
Tottenham H.....	25	9	8	8	27	25	26
West Ham.....	25	9	8	8	22	24	26
Notts County.....	25	7	8	10	23	31	24
Manchester C.....	24	9	9	6	30	41	24
W Bromwich A.....	24	7	9	8	32	40	22
Arsenal.....	24	7	10	7	21	34	21
Liverpool.....	25	8	13	4	29	32	20
Burnley.....	24	6	10	8	31	37	20
Birmingham.....	25	5	10	10	22	34	20
Notts Forest.....	24	6	12	6	27	40	18
Chelsea.....	26	4	13	9	15	33	17
Middlesbrough.....	25	6	15	4	23	32	16
Preston Nth End.....	24	5	14	5	30	45	15

SELECTIONS

BY THE

LUTON RED CROSS SILVER PRIZE BAND

(Winners of the THOUSAND GUINEA CHALLENGE TROPHY, National Band Festival, Crystal Palace, September, 1923.)

Conductor: Mr. F. MORTIMER.

AND

ARSENAL BAND (Highgate Silver).

(Prize Winners, Junior Shield Section, Crystal Palace, September, 1923.)

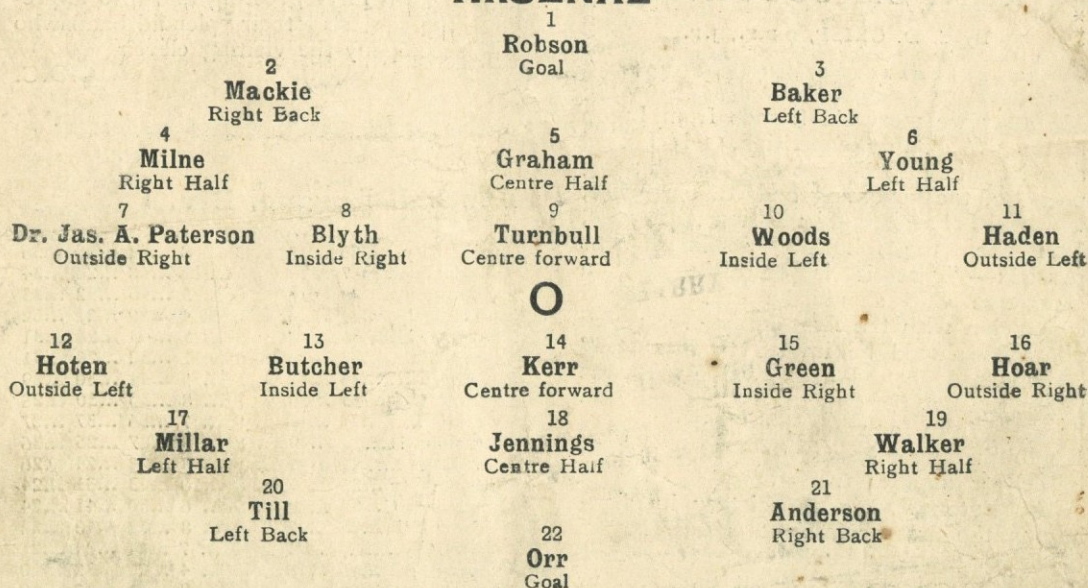
Conductor: Mr. J. H. KICHENSIDE.

SONGS BY BILLY MASON & EARL GILSON.

Shareholders wishing to dispose of their holding in the club are requested to communicate with the Secretary.

TEAMS FOR TO-DAY.

ARSENAL



LUTON

Referee—Mr. E. N. WATSON (West Bridgford).

Linesmen—No. 1—Mr. C. A. NEWMAN (Reading); No. 2—Mr. P. R. BLOYE (King's Lynn)

SATURDAY. JAN. 19th

CARDIFF CITY

Football League, Div. I.

Kick off 2.45 p.m.

Admission 1/-

Including Tax
Stands Extra.

Half-Time Scores To-day.

A Derby County	v. Bury
B Fulham	v. Llanelli
C Millwall	v. W. Bromwich
D Accrington S.	v. Charlton A.
E Swansea	v. Clapton O.
F Oldham A.	v. Sunderland
G West Ham	v. Aberdare
H Huddersfield	v. Birmingham
J Swindon	v. Bradford
K Portsmouth	v. Newcastle U.
L Middlesbro'	v. Watford
M Ashington	v. Aston Villa
N Hull City	v. Bolton W.
O Chelsea	v. Southampton
P Cardiff City	v. Gillingham
Q Q. P. Rangers	v. Notts County
R Crystal Palace	v. Tottenham H.
S Corinthians	v. Blackburn R.

Finsbury Park Empire,

6.50

Twice Nightly.

9.10

Managing Director Mr. R. H. GILLESPIE
Manager ... Mr. E. J. MACDERMOTT.MONDAY, JANUARY 14th, 1924
and during the week.

HARRY DAY presents

"MIRRORS"

BOOK YOUR SEATS

by Letter, Telegram or Phone (North 2317).
No 'phone booking accepted for Saturdays or Bank Holidays. Seats booked by 'phone must be claimed before 6.15 (for 1st perform.) and 8.15 (for 2nd perform.). Every seat in the Theatre can be booked in advance without extra charge.
Remember if you book your seat you can stroll in at any time during the performance, and it is there for you. Book by post, we send your tickets by return. Box Office open 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily.

NATIONAL SUNDAY LEAGUE CONCERT, SUNDAY,
JANUARY 13th at 7 o'clock.GRAND OPERATIC CONCERT, National Sunday
League Orchestra, Conductor, Frederick Stock.