

# The CHELSEA F.C. Chronicle

OFFICIAL  
PROGRAMME

of  
The Chelsea Football & Athletic Company, Limited.

MEMBERS OF THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE (Second Division).

The London Football Combination.

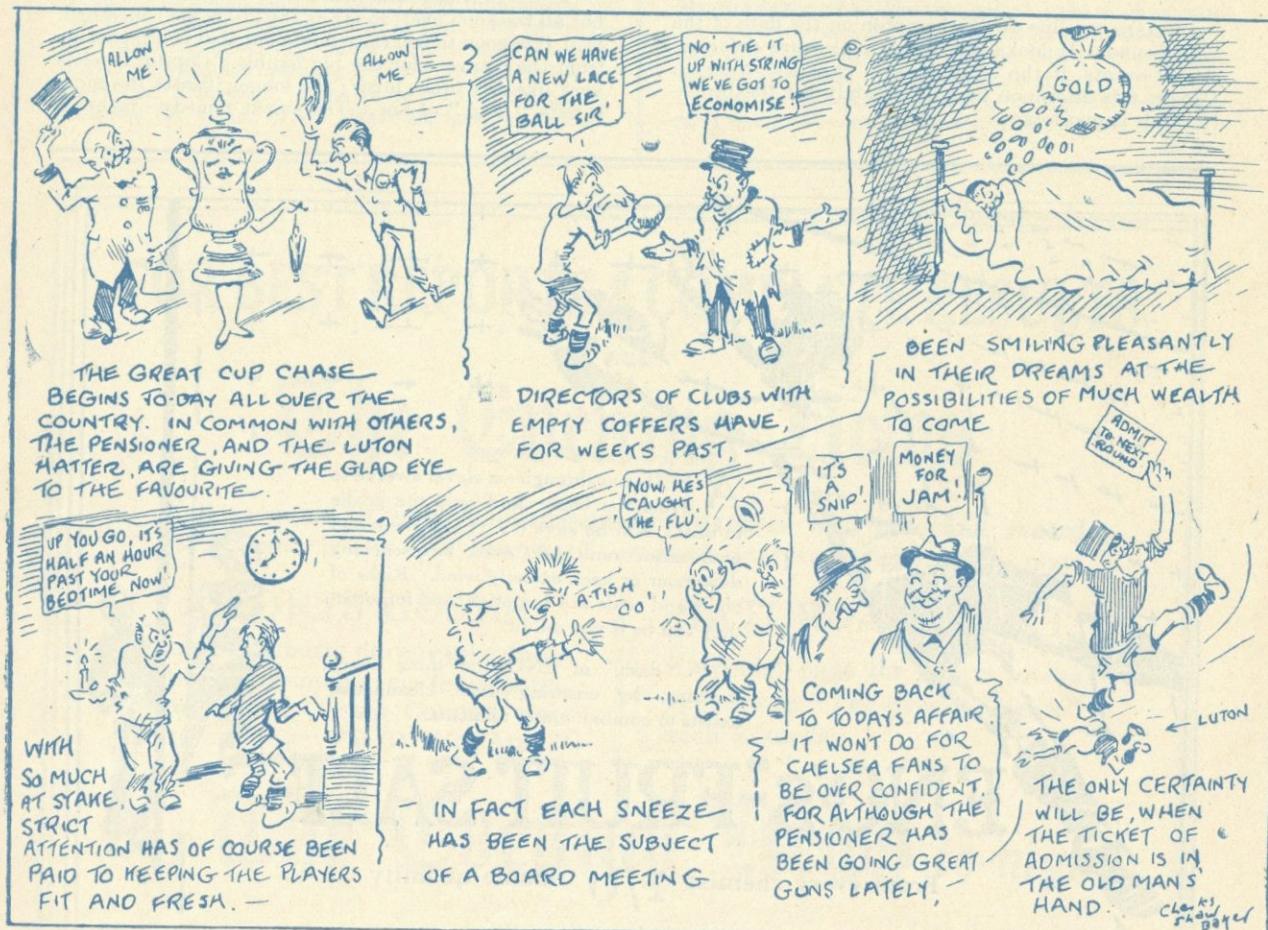
Runners-up—FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION CUP 1914—1915.

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Saturday, 8th January, 1927.

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## COURTING THE CUP.



**"POT" SHOTS.**

THE Cup "Round"? Yes, of course it is; with handles on it.

RESULT of the "ties": the winners will make their "bow" in the next round, while the losers simply will knot.

THE Strawhatters are said to be "brim"-ful of confidence of at least making a draw.

WELL, straws are fine things to "draw" with, out of any cup.

THE only difference between losing and winning to-day is merely that of getting the "sack," or going into the "bag"—on Monday.

CHELSEA are due at Southampton on the date of the next round. It looks like being a pleasure deferred. At all events, if the Saint fails to cage the Norwich Canary this afternoon he will certainly get the bird—from his supporters.

THE Chelsea-Clapton Orient game on New Year's Day was a spirited one. The Pensioner had a couple of "spots" during the afternoon, and the Orient had a "drop," too.

THIS afternoon the Oriental is resolved to say "Vale!" to his Port for the remainder of the season. Success to temperance!

THE Cottager is expected to take matters easily this afternoon, "sitting on" a Chesterfield.

PENSIONERS' proficient "penalty" performer—Priestley.

**CHELSEA CHATTER.**

FOOTBALL'S FITFUL "FEVER."—Cup-ties are something like Christmas; long looked forward to, but all too soon over, so far as the losers are concerned. Still, it is good to feel the excitement that is inseparable from the contests for the big bauble. Cup-tie fever is very like any other fever; the longer it lasts the more it gets "hold" of one. The surest remedy—rather a

A FINE run through—a clever swerve to avoid the back—and only the goalie to beat. Will he save it? Excitement and enthusiasm run high even in drenching downpour or keen easterly wind. Risks of chills and colds are forgotten, and forgotten they can be if you are fit.

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drastic one—is to receive a knock-out. That reduces the temperature to a little below normal without loss of time. But it usually leaves the financial pulse beating more strongly, and the excitement is pleasurable while it lasts. So, jolly good luck to every lad who loves a Cup-tie!

**NEW VISITORS.**—The luck of the draw has given us a home game, and entirely "new" opponents. Luton Town may not be a club with great Cup-tie traditions, but they are a good team, and are by no means to be underrated. Undefeated at home this season—where they beat Millwall by six clear goals on Christmas Day—they began the season like potential champions, capturing eleven out of the first twelve points played for, including two away victories. They drew at Brentford last Saturday, and were unfortunate in losing the services of Clarke, their outside-right, who was badly hurt during the game. Luton are seventh in the League table, with 24 points for 21 games.

**"STRAW-HATTERS."**—Their old nickname of the Straw-hatters will probably always cling to them, although, unfortunately, the inhabitants of the Bedfordshire town have had to turn their industry into other channels. The utter extinction of the once universally popular headgear is one of the unfathomable mysteries of fashion. Even those who would gladly welcome the return of the straw headgear in the hot

summer days can scarcely summon up the pluck to be the first to draw from the London urchins some such remark as "Yah! who pinched the donkey's dinner?" Yet, if our sportsman Prince were to be once seen walking down Pall Mall wearing a straw hat the whole of the Luton factories would be working overtime within a week in order to cope with the rush of orders. Yes, fashion is a funny "game," even funnier than football is said to be.

**ORIENT OUTPOINTED.**—It was hard, perhaps, to have to administer a body blow to fellow Londoners in Clapton Orient last week-end, but they will have opportunity for turning the tables when we visit Homerton at the end of April, and the Orientals may be relied upon to do their utmost to score their maiden victory over Chelsea on the Homerton enclosure. After the succession of failures to score from penalty kicks it was a little remarkable that both of the Chelsea goals were scored from spot-kicks, and in Priestley we seem to have found a reliable executant from the twelve-yards mark.

**MIDDLESBROUGH!**—The two points were a clear gain as compared with last season, and we are now just that couple "up" on the balance in the table of gains and losses, but it will need a great effort, indeed, to preserve that advantage when visiting Middlesbrough next week. We won at Tees-side last season, it will be

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remembered. In the present irresistible form of the home team it looks rather like "cheek" to expect to complete the double at the expense of the leaders; still, having performed a similar feat against the then leaders a fortnight ago, it is far from being a forlorn hope, especially as the Middlesbrough ground is one on which Chelsea has done very well more than once or twice in the past. There is nothing in the way of "tradition" to overcome.

\* \* \*

THRILLING!—"Only eighth" on the table, it is true—but what an eighth—two points only behind the second on the list. Granted that the present leaders look fairly "set" for promotion, there is going to be a terrific struggle for the honour and glory of being runners-up. It is interesting to note that our present tally, 28 points for 23 games played, is identical with the figures at the corresponding date last year. Then we were in the fourth place—but were seven points behind the leaders. This year the leeway to be made up is reduced by nearly half, although we are four places lower at present. These facts show at a glance how very much more open is the question of promotion than was the case a season ago.

#### "Pot" Pairings—and Parings.

ONCE again we are in the thick of the fray for the greatest of all football trophies. Before the month is

out we shall know the draw for the eight games to be played on 19th February, and most of those setting out with high hopes this afternoon will have lost interest in the Cup—until next season.

The fortune of the draw has not been very kind to those who may without offence be termed the lesser fry. The Third Division has sixteen representatives in to-day's contests. In addition there are three "outside" clubs in Carlisle United, Rhyl and Poole, but in only one case do any of these nineteen meet one in their own sphere, and that is Exeter City v. Accrington Stanley. London certainly cannot complain. Seldom, if ever, has the Metropolis had such a plethora of Cup-ties, and by common consent the biggest "plums" are the West Ham-Tottenham Hotspur and Millwall-Huddersfield encounters. The one unlucky London club is Arsenal, for they would probably have wished for any other draw in preference to the one which sends them to Bramall Lane, a venue which has always proved a bogey ground to the Gunners of Highbury. On League form, the match between Middlesbrough and Leicester City should prove prolific in goals. Bradford City v. Derby County suggests a very "typical cup-tie" struggle without any fancy "frilling." The pairing of the rival Magpies, Newcastle and Notts County is a coincidence, and the matching of the Hull Tiger against the West Bromwich Throstle affords an interesting natural history study. Although the Homerton Oriental spilled both "goes" of Port at Christmas he is confidently expected to get it well down this afternoon.

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#### Pot Luck—and otherwise.

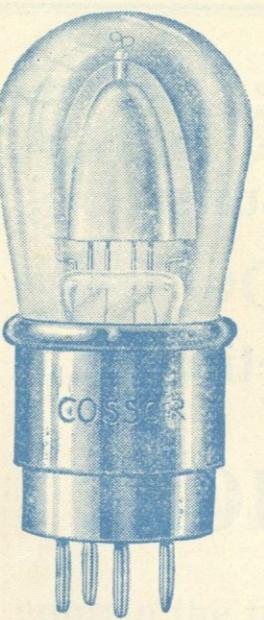
FORTUNE's favourites, so far as the January Cup-ties are concerned, are Everton, Hull City, and Newcastle United. It was the seventh year in succession that each of the first-named pair had come first out of the bag, and Newcastle have been drawn at home seven years out of the last eight. Manchester United, away to Reading, reached the semi-final last season after being drawn away at Port Vale, Tottenham, Sunderland and Fulham in successive rounds. The previous year they were again away—to Sheffield Wednesday—and lost—six times "away" off the reel, or seven if we include the semi-final.

#### OUR VISITORS : Luton Town, The (Southern) League Founders.

SEVEN clubs founded the Southern League—which afterwards became so powerful a rival to the older organisation, the Football League—and one of the seven was Luton Town. The other six were Millwall, Clapton (the amateur club, not the Orient), Reading, Ilford, Chatham, and the 2nd Scots Guards. The historic meeting was held on 12th January, 1894, almost exactly thirty-three years ago.

Luton were runners-up for the championship in both of the two first seasons, 1894-5 and 1895-6, but even with such excellent performances found their expenses so far outweigh the receipts that they voluntarily dropped out of League football until 1900. Then they rejoined the Southern League and maintained their position with varying fortunes until 1912, when, in company with Leyton, they had to make way for Merthyr Town and Portsmouth, for automatic promotion and relegation had then come into force. Two seasons later (1913-14) Luton turned the tables by earning promotion at the expense of Merthyr Town. With the formation of Division III of the Football League, in 1920, Luton became members of the newly-formed Southern Section. They have more than once made strong running for promotion, and this season are one of the very few clubs to have preserved an unbeaten certificate at home until the present time.

In the Cup, they have reached the third stage by defeating London Caledonians (4-2), and Northfleet (6-2), both games being played at Luton. Last season they went out in the second round at Aberdare, losing by a bare goal. This was very hard luck, as they shared a gate of no more than £260, whereas success would have earned participation in ten times that amount at Newcastle, where some 40,000 spectators assembled to witness the defeat of the Welshmen in Round Three.



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**The "Straw-Hatter" Stalwarts.**

W. HARPER made his first appearance for Luton as recently as 1st November. He was last season with Crystal Palace, and was obtained by Luton owing to loss of form by their regular custodian, Mingay. Harper was born at Wishaw, in the Lanarkshire coal district, one which has proved almost as prolific in the production of class footballers as of fuel for the home fires.

R. C. GRAHAM is also a Scotsman, from Muirkirk. He went to Luton from the Kilwinning Rangers in 1921.

JOSEPH TILL is English-born (Stoke-on-Trent), although he was obtained from a Scottish club, Paisley St. Mirren, three seasons ago.

J. R. BLACK was last season with Chesterfield. He is an attacking, as well as a defending half, and can score from fairly long range.

ROBERT MILLAR is another Scotsman—from Dalry, where he played for the local "Thistle" before going to Luton six seasons back.

JACK POINTON is a Welshman, and was playing for his local club, Leek National, when captured by Port Vale. After a couple of seasons in the Potteries he was transferred to Luton during the spring of last year.

NORMAN THOMSON—who is sometimes confused with Norman Thompson of South Shields, Middlesbrough, and now Barnsley—is yet another Scot. He was born at Glasgow, and came from the Hibernians at the beginning of last season.

SID REID is a native of Troedyrhiw (which sounds rather like Wales) and has been some six seasons with

Luton. He performed the hat-trick against Millwall at Christmas.

HARRY WOODS is a player of experience. Starting with the St. Helens Sunday School team, he had four seasons with Norwich City, followed by three with South Shields. Then he had eighteen months with Newcastle United, followed by three seasons with the Arsenal before joining Luton last summer.

J. W. THOMPSON is a West Ham product, and played for Millwall, Coventry City and Clapton Orient before going to Luton, eighteen months ago. Last season he was the only man in his team to turn out in every game, and easily headed the club list of goal-scorers with 23 goals in League games. He was then chiefly operating at centre-forward.

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**The Chelsea Fixture List:**

FIRST TEAM—FOOTBALL LEAGUE.

Saturday, January 15th *v.* Middlesbrough (Away).

Saturday, January 22nd *v.* PORT VALE (Home).

Kick-off 3 p.m.

Saturday, January 29th *v.* Southampton\* (Away).

\* Subject to either team being engaged in the Fourth Round of the F.A. Cup on this date.

CHELSEA RESERVES—LONDON COMBINATION.

Saturday, January 15th *v.* CLAPTON ORIENT (Home). Kick-off 2.45 p.m.

Saturday, January 22nd *v.* Cardiff City (Away).

Thursday, January 27th *v.* SOUTHAMPTON (Home).

Kick-off 3 p.m.

**Half-time Scores Indicator.**

**SATURDAY, 8th JANUARY, 1927.**

The Code Letters here given correspond with those exhibited on the Indicator. The scores of the respective home teams are given first in each instance:—

- A.—Fulham *v.* Chesterfield.
- B.—West Ham *v.* Tottenham Hotspur.
- C.—Clapton Orient *v.* Port Vale.
- D.—Millwall *v.* Huddersfield.
- E.—Southampton *v.* Norwich City.
- F.—Newcastle *v.* Notts County.
- G.—Birmingham *v.* Manchester City.
- H.—Cardiff City *v.* Aston Villa.
- J.—Middlesbrough *v.* Leicester City.

**Half-time Scores Indicator—continued.**

K.—Swansea Town *v.* Bury.

L.—Sheffield United *v.* Arsenal.

M.—Oldham *v.* Brentford.

**THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE.**

DIVISION II.

(Positions to date.)

Goals.

	Pld.	Won	Lost	Drn.	For.	Agst.	Pts.
Middlesbrough.....	22	15	5	2	69	39	32
Notts Forest .....	23	11	4	8	42	31	30
Hull City.....	23	13	7	3	33	28	29
Portsmouth .....	23	12	6	5	40	28	29
Preston North End .....	22	11	4	7	44	33	29
Swansea Town .....	23	11	5	7	43	35	29
Southampton .....	23	11	6	6	41	34	28
<b>Chelsea</b> .....	<b>23</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>28</b>
Manchester City.....	23	11	9	3	53	39	25
Port Vale .....	24	8	8	8	46	47	24
Oldham Athletic.....	23	10	9	4	34	37	24
Blackpool .....	23	9	10	4	50	43	22
Reading .....	22	8	9	5	34	35	21
South Shields .....	21	8	9	4	41	34	20
Fulham.....	23	7	11	5	31	48	19
Barnsley .....	22	7	11	4	38	56	18
Grimsby Town .....	21	5	9	7	31	41	17
Wolverhampton .....	22	5	11	6	39	40	16
Darlington .....	23	6	13	4	41	50	16
Notts County .....	22	7	13	2	36	52	16
Clapton Orient .....	22	5	13	4	30	52	14
Bradford City.....	23	2	15	6	24	48	10

**The Daily Telegraph****FOOTBALL REPORTS**

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