

The Reading F.C. Record

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No. 1.

AUGUST 29th, 1931.

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Week commencing Sept. 7th—

Lew Lake presents Full Variety Programme.

FOOTBALL LEAGUE III.

Date	Opponents.	Ground	Result
Aug. 29	Luton Town	home	.....
Sept. 2	Gillingham	away	.....
" 5	Cardiff City	away	.....
" 9	Brentford	home	.....
" 12	Northampton T.	home	.....
" 19	Swindon Town	away	.....
" 24	Brentford	away	.....
" 26	Southend United	away	.....
Oct. 3	Fulham	home	.....
" 10	Thames	home	.....
" 17	Norwich City	home	.....
" 24	Brighton & Hove A.	away	.....
" 31	Mansfield Town	home	.....
Nov. 7	Watford	away	.....
" 14	Crystal Palace	home	.....
" 21	Bournemouth	away	.....
" 28	F.A. Cup Tie	.....	.....
Dec. 5	Bristol Rovers	away	.....
" 12	Torquay United	home	.....
" 19	Clapton Orient	away	.....
" 25	Coventry City	away	.....
" 26	Coventry City	home	.....
Jan. 2	Luton Town	away	.....
" 9	Queen's Park Rangers	home	.....
" 16	Cardiff City	home	.....
" 23	Northampton Town	away	.....
" 30	Swindon Town	home	.....
Feb. 6	Southend United	home	.....

Date	Opponents.	Ground	Result
" 13	Fulham	away	.....
" 20	Thames	home	.....
" 27	Norwich	away	.....
Mar. 5	Brighton & Hove A.	home	.....
" 12	Mansfield Town	away	.....
" 19	Watford	home	.....
" 25	Exeter City	home	.....
" 26	Crystal Palace	away	.....
" 28	Exeter City	away	.....
April 2	Bournemouth	home	.....
" 9	Queen's Park Rangers	away	.....
" 16	Bristol Rovers	home	.....
" 23	Torquay United	away	.....
" 30	Clapton Orient	home	.....
May 7	Gillingham	home	.....

LONDON COMBINATION—DIV. 1.

Date	Opponents.	Ground	Result
Aug. 29	Luton Town	away	.....
Sept. 2	Millwall Athletic	home	.....
" 5	Cardiff City	home	.....
" 9	Brentford	away	.....
" 12	Swansea Town	away	.....
" 16	Brentford	home	.....
" 19	Tottenham Hotspur	home	.....
" 26	Southend United	home	.....
Oct. 3	Arsenal	away	.....
" 10	Fulham	home	.....
" 17	Clapton Orient	away	.....
" 24	Chelsea	home	.....

Date	Opponents.	Ground	Result
" 31	West Ham United	away	.....
Nov. 7	Queen's Park Rangers	home	.....
" 14	Southampton	away	.....
" 21	Crystal Palace	home	.....
" 28	Charlton Athletic	away	.....
Dec. 5	Watford	home	.....
" 12	Brighton & Hove A.	away	.....
" 19	Leicester City	home	.....
" 25	Portsmouth	home	.....
" 28	Portsmouth	away	.....
Jan. 2	Luton Town	home	.....
" 16	Cardiff City	away	.....
" 23	Swansea Town	home	.....
" 30	Tottenham Hotspur	away	.....
Feb. 6	Southend United	away	.....
" 13	Arsenal	home	.....
" 20	Fulham	away	.....
" 27	Clapton Orient	home	.....
Mar. 5	Chelsea	away	.....
" 12	West Ham United	home	.....
" 19	Queen's Park Rangers	away	.....
" 25	Coventry City	away	.....
" 26	Southampton	home	.....
" 28	Coventry City	home	.....
April 2	Crystal Palace	away	.....
" 9	Charlton Athletic	home	.....
" 16	Watford	away	.....
" 23	Brighton & Hove A.	home	.....
" 30	Leicester City	away	.....
May 7	Millwall Athletic	away	.....



Topical Items.

It is always well to start in optimistic vein, and I honestly think the old Club is in for a successful season, and there is reason for optimism.

* * * *

We have the same men who did so well last season from Christmas to Easter, and what they accomplished then they can do again if the team spirit exists. The team has also been strengthened by the engagement of additional players, who all come with excellent reputations.

* * * *

Mr. Harston, Bruce, Venner and Hampshire have if they have won favourable notice, and as the last two are local amateurs they will receive every encouragement.

On * * * *

Our Young Dutton, the schoolboy from Farnham, who showed good form in the trial match last week, is not yet 17 years old. He has a fine physique and fears nothing, and it is whispered Joe Smith is very pleased with him. He has been chosen for the Reserves in their Combination match at Luton to-day, and his progress will be watched with much interest.

* * * *

Another real good lad on the Club books is Simmons, a local who kept goal for Oxford City last season, and also represented the Isthmian League in two matches. He will probably have an early trial in the Combination side, his display in a try out being very encouraging.

* * * *

I am warned by an excellent judge of the game that our visitors from Luton to-day will field one of the strongest teams in the Third Division, and that they will take a lot of beating. The addition of Kean, Tait and Miller from Bolton Wanderers has stiffened their side immensely, and which ever side gains the points will have to play hard for them.

* * * *

At the time of writing there is no hope of either Allan or Barley being fit to play to-day. Allan has tonsillitis, and Barley a strained tendon. Rough luck this for a start, when so much depends on the early fixtures.



J. McNEIL.

Anticipating the usual queries about old players of the Club, let me hasten to say that Gillespie is with Mansfield Town, Martin with Doncaster Rovers, Pickering with Bristol Rovers, and Oakley with Northampton. No news of Chandler, Douglas, Green or Williams.

* * * *

The playing strength is so slender that the signing on of new players is certain, and already several men are under observation. Good men naturally cost money to secure, and if the gate receipts are encouraging the Manager will not hesitate to sign the men he wants.

NEXT MATCH—Wed., Sept. 2nd.

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CLUB GOSSIP

(by *Wanderer*).

To-day's opening of the football season will be welcomed with enthusiasm all over the country. Bad weather has played havoc with outdoor sports during the Summer months, but football has the advantage in this direction and will be more than usually welcome for this reason.

Most of the League Clubs have played one or more practice games and much has been written concerning their prospects for the coming season. A feature of professional football is the optimistic way in which the smaller clubs come up smiling at the beginning of each season, in spite of many difficulties which handicap them in competition with the bigger clubs.

Although Reading football suffered a big disappointment by suffering relegation last season, we come up smiling again to-day, determined to make a big effort to win back our lost position and, if the lesson of last season has been profitted by, there is no reason why we should not succeed.

On numerous occasions during the last campaign our players demonstrated that the talent was there, but the will-to-win spirit was lacking and if this fault is remedied the team should do well.

During the "close season" several changes have taken place in the management of the Club, chief of which is the appointment of Mr. Joe Smith, the ex-international and Bolton Wanderers' forward as team manager. With his practical knowledge of the playing side of the game, coupled with his strong personality, we confidently anticipate a successful career for Mr. Smith and wish him every success in his new role. Most of the players who figured in the League team last season were resigned and five new players have joined our ranks. Limited resources have compelled us to go very steady in securing new players, but further signatures may be expected almost immediately.

We have a stiff programme for the opening month of the season, with eight first team matches to play, three at home and five away, against what are considered some of the strongest sides in the competition. The value of a good start and its influence on both players and officials cannot be over-estimated and we expect to open the season in a far different manner to last year.

Our opening fixture is at Elm Park with Luton providing the opposition. The Bedfordshire club generally gather together a useful combination of players and the game should furnish us with a fair test of the standard of Third Division football. During the close season Luton secured three players

from Bolton Wanderers, Kean and Miller, and Tait and the former is the international half-back previously with Sheffield Wednesday.

The second team will travel to Luton for the opening match in their London Combination fixtures.

Prior to this afternoon's game the new terracing at the town end of Elm Park will be officially opened and should be a boon to all who patronize the popular side of the ground. For this excellent work the club is deeply indebted to the Reading Supporters Club and the Board of Directors take this early opportunity of publicly expressing their grateful thanks to the Supporters Club and especially those members who have been actively engaged in carrying out the work.

In conclusion the club management appeals for the loyal support of all lovers of football in the town and neighbourhood in its endeavour to win back a place in the Second Division. Your regular attendance at Elm Park both at Third Division and London Combination matches will encourage both players and officials and prove that you are doing your bit to help.

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Referee— A. J. Spittle.



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 Red Stripe— W. Radley.
 Blue Stripe— F. W. Higgins.

12—Slicer 13—Rennie 14—Tait 15—McNestry 16—Heslop

17—Fraser 18—Miller 19—Kean

20—Hodgson 21—Kingham

Left Wing 22—Harford *Right Wing*

[22—Harford]

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SUPPORTERS' CLUB NOTES.

(By D.W.J.)

Greetings! And may the successes of this Season compensate for the disappointments of last.

The Supporters' Club has been fortunate enough to arrange with the Proprietors of the "Daily Express" for Community Singing at to-day's match and this will doubtless result in a very enjoyable half-hour being spent. The installation of the Public Address Apparatus is being carried out by The Mullard Wireless Service Co., Ltd., in conjunction with Mr. H. J. Hunt, Radio Dealer, of 25 London Street (formerly of 13 Duke Street) Reading.

It is hoped that Supporters will appreciate the new terracing which has been provided by the Supporters' Club. There is still an opportunity to subscribe to the Shilling Appeal Fund which

has been inaugurated to raise funds in connection with the Ground Improvement Scheme.

The sale of Penny Tickets has been a valuable source of income and we appeal to all to purchase at least one Ticket each week.

The sale of the R.F.C. Official Programme is now being organised by the Supporters' Club.

Please book the following dates:—

23rd September.

Royal Berkshire Hospital Challenge Cup Match. Reading Old Players v. Swindon Old Players, at Elm Park, kick-off 6-15 p.m. Arranged by the Reading and Swindon Supporters' Clubs. Tickets on sale shortly.

5th October.

Grand Dance at Olympia at 8 p.m.

Lady Members and Committee Meeting at Headquarters at 8 p.m. on Monday next, 31st inst.

Next Monthly General Meeting at Headquarters at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, 6th October, 1931.

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KEY OF THE BOARD. TO-DAY'S MATCHES.

		Half Time			Half Time
A	Middlesbro'		G	Plymouth A.	
B	Chelsea		H	Port Vale	
	Sheffield U.			So'thampton	
	Portsmouth			Burnley	
C	Barnsley		J	Bournem'th	
	Bradford C.			Bristol Rov's	
D	Bradford		K	Mansfield	
	M'chester U.			Swindon T.	
E	Notts Co'nty		L	N'rthampton	
	Millwall Ath.			Cardiff City	
F	Oldham Ath.		M	Watford	
	Preston N.E.			Clapton O.	

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