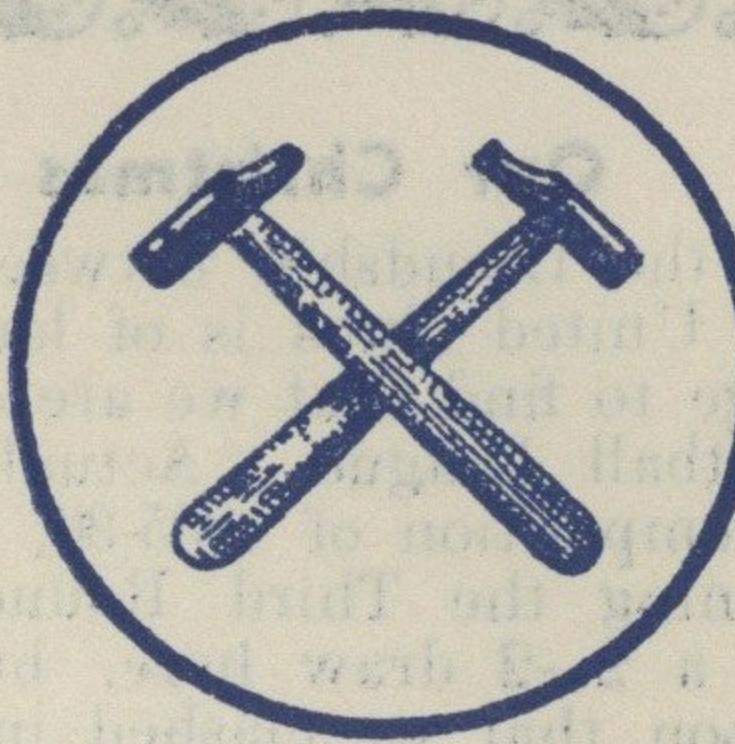


THE
OFFICIAL
PROGRAMME

OF THE



WEST HAM UNITED
FOOTBALL COMPANY LIMITED

BOLEYN GROUND, GREEN STREET, UPTON PARK, LONDON, E.13

R. H. PRATT, J.P. (Chairman)

L. C. CEARNS (Vice-Chairman)

Dr. O. THOMAS

W. F. CEARNS

Manager : E. B. A. FENTON

Secretary : F. H. CEARNS

SEASON 1951-52

No. 32

Price : THREEPENCE

WEST HAM UNITED

VERSUS

LUTON TOWN

FOOTBALL LEAGUE — Division II

TUESDAY, 25th DECEMBER, 1951

Kick-off 11 a.m.

The Directors, Staff and Players of the

West Ham United Football Company Ltd.

extend Hearty Christmas Greetings and

Best Wishes for the New Year, 1952, to

all their Friends in the Realm of Soccer

Our Christmas Visitors

Although the friendship between the Luton Town and West Ham United clubs is of long standing, it is somewhat strange to find that we are comparatively new rivals in the Football League. Actually we had met in the F.A. Cup competition of 1935-36, when the Hatters shook us by winning the Third Round replay by four clear goals after a 2-2 draw here, but it was not until the 1937-38 season that we clashed in Division II.

The Hatters entered the League as founder-members of Division III (South), but their earlier attempts did not meet with a great deal of success, and it was not until the 1935-36 campaign that they came into the League lime-light by finishing as runners-up to Coventry City, following this by going one better in 1936-37.

It is, however, rather interesting to look back over the comparatively short spell to March 5th, 1938, and note the teams which appeared in the programme of the Bedfordshire club's first League visit to Upton Park. They were: *West Ham United*: Conway; Bicknell, Walker (C.); Fenton (E.), Walker (R.), Cockroft; Kirkaldie, Macaulay, Foxall, Goulden, J. Wood. *Luton Town*: Coen; Smith, Lutterloch; Finlayson, Lewis, Loughran; Ferguson, Payne, Vinall, Roberts, Stephenson. The result was a goalless draw—a not uncommon result in our subsequent meetings, as the following table of League results will show (the Hammers' score is given first in each case):

	At Upton Park	At Luton
1937-38	... 0-0	... 2-2
1938-39	... 0-1	... 2-1
1946-47	... 2-1	... 1-2
1947-48	... 0-0	... 0-0
1948-49	... 0-1	... 1-0
1949-50	... 0-0	... 2-2
1950-51	... 2-1	... 1-1

Our Upton Park meetings have brought two successes to each club with three drawn games, and at Kenilworth Road we have two wins to Luton's one and four games tied. It is a most noticeable fact, however, that neither team has ever succeeded in netting more than twice in these encounters.

There was a slight exception to this rule in the Football League South competition which occupied the transitional period between war-time soccer and the resumption of "full combat" in the League, when in 1945-46 we lost here on Christmas Day by the odd goal in seven, but gained ample revenge on the Boxing Day by a 4-1 margin in the return; and the Hatters' 3-1 F.A. Cup win three seasons ago made a break in the usual run in the series of low scoring. But in the main our duels have usually been dour struggles with little to choose between the sides.

However, Christmas has a reputation for football surprises, and we are hoping that today we shall make it a notable one for the Hammers by making the most of our scoring chances. Undoubtedly our visitors will endeavour to do the same, for their position in the table is a good one and reflects well the high standard they have set this season, so we can be fairly certain that this morning's tussle will provide you with plenty to talk about for the rest of the festive period.

SOCcer QUIZ

1. Which is the oldest Association football club in the country?
2. Which are the three oldest clubs in the Football League?

Answers on page 3.

HANDOUTS ON THE HAMMERS : Steve Forde



Steve Forde's birthplace was South Kirkby, near Pontefract, but he has lost most of his native Yorkshire accent through being at Upton Park since 1937.

Although captaining his school team from the right-back position, Steve found mining left little time for football after he had ended his schooldays. However, he later played for Comar Road Old Boys in a junior league, and whilst there was spotted by Sheffield Wednesday.

The Wednesday converted Steve into a centre-half before transferring him to Wolverhampton Wanderers, from whom he went to Rotherham United. At Rotherham his displays as a full-back attracted the Hammers, and he joined us in January, 1937.

After a few games at centre-half in the Reserves, Steve became one of the second string's regular full-backs, and many will recall his partnership there with Alf Chalkley.

When Steve made his First Team debut in April, 1938 (against the Spurs), he soon showed that he was likely to become a regular in the League side, but the outbreak of war cut down his hopes, and Army service soon claimed him. However, he was able to play for the Hammers in the semi-final of the War-Time Cup at Stamford Bridge in 1940, and helped us to a 4-3 win over Fulham that put us in the Final against Blackburn Rovers at Wembley.

Steve played for several teams during the war, including Sunderland, Hartlepools United and Swindon Town. Among his soccer feats in the Army was the scoring of eight goals in one game whilst playing for his unit team at centre-forward.

Steve returned to us in 1945 and as a member of our First Team gained an Essex Professional Cup Final medal last season to add to the two Sheffield County Cup runners-up medals he gained whilst in the north.

During the summer Steve's main occupation is cricket. He plays for East Ham Borough Officers, and in his appearances for our own cricket team during the early days of the present soccer season amply demonstrated why he is always selected as an opening bat. He is no mean exponent on the bowling-green, and in keeping with his quiet nature likes nothing better than to sit down with a good book to pass away a few hours.

WEST HAM UNITED 3

Colours : Claret Shirts with Light Blue Sleeves and Collars, White Shorts

RIGHT	2	WRIGHT
4	PARKER	
7	WOODGATE	
8	WILLIAMS /	
9	GREGORY, J.	
10	TAYLOR	
11	METCALFE /	
12	MITCHELL	
13	WATKINS	
14	OWEN	
15	AHERNE	
16	STOBART	
17	TURNER	
18	COOKE	
19	DAVIES	
20	HAVENGA	
21	MORTON	
22	RIGHT	

LUTON TOWN 0

Colours : White Shirts, Black Shorts

Teams are correct at time of going to press. Any changes will be announced through the public address system

A Memory of the 'Eighties

It took one who was associated with the Hammers for a very long while to recall the first visit of Arsenal F.C. to West Ham, for it took place a little over 60 years ago.

At the time the Gunners were known as Woolwich Arsenal F.C. and their opponents were "Old St. Luke's F.C." Old St. Luke's and Castle Swifts F.C. were the forerunners of the Thames Ironworks F.C. which was formed in the early 1890's and later became West Ham United.

The match in question was played on a ground near the present West Ham Stadium, and later became part of Beckton Road Park. In the West Ham goal was Mr. J. W. Y. Cearns (grandfather of two of our present Directors), who later became one of the first Directors of the club; whilst a member of the forward-line was Mr. W. F. White, who later became our President and Chairman.

The result and other details of the game are not known, but it is interesting to recall these known facts and to reflect upon the beginnings of two of London's league sides.

Answers to Soccer Quiz

1. Sheffield F.C. This club was formed in 1855, and the Minute Book for 1857 is still in existence. The Sheffield club had a very good run in last season's Amateur Cup competition, and are exempted till this season's First Round Proper. They beat Ealing by 3-1 in the 1903-4 Final.

2. Notts County F.C. was formed in 1862; Nottingham Forest in 1865; Sheffield Wednesday in 1866. The County were one of the original twelve that formed the League in 1888.

F.A. Cup

We have decided to reserve the whole of our seating accommodation for our F.A. Cup Tie v. Blackpool on January 12th.

Prices will be: C Block, 5s. 6d.; B, D and E Blocks, 4s. 6d. The remainder of the ground will be unreserved, and prices will be as those for League matches.

All applications for tickets must be accompanied by remittance and stamped addressed envelope with 2½d. stamp. APPLICANTS NOT CONFORMING WITH THIS CANNOT BE CONSIDERED.

SEASON TICKET HOLDERS may reserve their normal seats by making application as above, clearly stating that they hold a Season Ticket. All such applications to be made before 29th December. Applicants not applying before this date cannot be considered.

Will all patrons who have already applied for tickets and have sent insufficient money please forward the balance?

Tomorrow, Boxing Day, at 2.15 p.m.

NORWICH CITY Reserves **Combination**

Next Saturday at 2.15 p.m.

HULL CITY **Football League — Div. II**

LUTON TOWN v WEST HAM UNITED

at Luton TOMORROW

TRAVEL DETAILS

By Motor Coach (West Ham [Football] Supporters Club) Depart 12.0 mid-day approx. Fare 5s. 6d. return

By British Railways By any train from St. Pancras to Luton Fare 6s. 6d. return

FOOTBALL LEAGUE—Div. II

Date	Opponents	G'd	R'slt
Aug. 18	Queens Park Rangers	...	A 0-2
23	Bury	H	1-1
25	Blackburn Rovers	H	3-1
29	Bury	A	0-4
Sept. 1	Hull City	A	1-1
6	Swansea Town	H	2-2
8	Barnsley	H	2-1
13	Swansea Town	A	1-2
15	Sheffield United	A	1-6
22	Leeds United	H	2-0
29	Coventry City	H	3-1
Oct. 6	Rotherham United	A	1-2
13	Cardiff City	H	1-1
20	Birmingham City	A	1-2
27	Leicester City	H	2-3
Nov. 3	Nottingham Forest	A	0-0
10	Brentford	H	1-0
17	Doncaster Rovers	A	1-4
24	Everton	H	3-3
Dec. 1	Southampton	A	2-1
8	Sheffield Wednesday	H	0-6
15	Queens Park Rangers	H	4-2
22	Blackburn Rovers	A	...
25	Luton Town	H	...
26	Luton Town	A	...
29	Hull City	H	...
Jan. 5	Barnsley	A	...
19	Sheffield United	H	...
26	Leeds United	A	...
Feb. 9	Coventry City	A	...
16	Rotherham United	H	...
Mar. 1	Cardiff City	A	...
8	Birmingham City	H	...
15	Leicester City	A	...
22	Nottingham Forest	H	...
29	Brentford	A	...
April 5	Doncaster Rovers	H	...
11	Notts County	A	...
12	Everton	A	...
14	Notts County	A	...
19	Southampton	H	...
26	Sheffield Wednesday	A	...

F.A. CUP

Jan. 12	Blackpool	...	H
	(Third Round)		
Feb. 2	(Fourth Round)		
23	(Fifth Round)		
Mar. 8	(Sixth Round)		

EASTERN COUNTIES LG. CUP

Sept. 8	Wisbech Tn.	(Second Rd)	A 2-1
Nov. 10	Clacton Town	(Third Rd)	A 3-1

COMBINATION — Section B

Date	Opponents	G'd	R'slt
Aug. 18	Ipswich Town	H	3-1
22	Luton Town	A	2-3
25	Arsenal	A	0-5
30	Luton Town	H	5-1
Sept. 1	Bournemouth & Bosc.	A	1-2
8	Bristol City	A	2-0
13	Charlton Athletic	H	4-0
15	Bristol City	H	2-2
20	Portsmouth	H	6-2
22	Portsmouth	A	1-2
26	Plymouth Argyle	A	3-6
29	Charlton Athletic	A	1-1
Oct. 3	Brighton & Hove Albion	A	0-2
6	Watford	H	1-0
13	Swindon Town	A	5-3
18	Bournemouth & Bosc.	H	1-0
20	Tottenham Hotspur	H	0-1
27	Bristol Rovers	A	1-1
Nov. 3	Southampton	H	6-2
10	Watford	A	1-0
17	Swindon Town	H	2-0
24	Tottenham Hotspur	A	1-3
Dec. 1	Bristol Rovers	H	3-1
8	Southampton	A	2-1
22	Arsenal	H	...
25	Norwich City	A	...
26	Norwich City	H	...
Jan. 5	Brighton & Hove Albion	H	...
	Plymouth Argyle	H	...
	Ipswich Town	A	...

COMBINATION CUP

Jan. 26	Portsmouth	...	H
Feb. 2	Reading	...	H
9	Portsmouth	A	...
16	Aldershot	A	...
23	Reading	A	...
Mar. 1	Fulham	H	...
8	Leyton Orient	A	...
15	Charlton Athletic	H	...
29	Aldershot	H	...
April 5	Fulham	A	...
12	Leyton Orient	H	...
14	Millwall	A	...
19	Charlton Athletic	A	...
26	Millwall	H	...

L.F.A. CUP

Oct. 8	Chelsea	1 (First Round)	H 2-0
22	Hendon	(Second Round)	H 0-1

ESSEX PROFESSIONAL CUP

Southend United	...	H
	(First Round)	

EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE

Date	Opponents	G'd	R'slt
Aug. 18	Wisbech Town	A	3-1
25	Newmarket Town	A	4-1
Sept. 1	Clacton Town	A	1-2
5	Arsenal "A"	A	1-3
15	Norwich City "A"	A	3-4
22	Cambridge United	A	0-0
Oct. 1	Chelsea "A"	H	6-4
6	Gillingham Reserves	A	1-0
13	Colchester United Reserves	A	1-2
	Tottenham Hotspur "A"	H	3-1
	Harwich & Parkstone	A	2-0
27	Cambridge United	A	0-1
Nov. 17	Yarmouth Town	A	1-0
24	Gillingham Reserves	A	0-2
Dec. 1	Lowestoft Town	A	1-0
8	Chelmsford City Reserves	A	1-3
15	Gorleston	A	2-2
22	Kings Lynn	A	...
29	Yarmouth Town	A	...
Jan. 5	Kings Lynn	A	...
12	Colchester United Reserves	A	...
19	Chelmsford City Reserves	A	...
Feb. 2	Newmarket Town	A	...
16	Bury Town	A	...
23	Gorleston	A	...
Mar. 1	Chelsea "A"	A	...
8	Wisbech Town	A	...
22	Clacton Town	A	...
29	Lowestoft Town	A	...
April 5	Tottenham Hotspur "A"	A	...
21	Norwich City "A"	H	...
	Arsenal "A"	A	...
	Bury Town	A	...
	Harwich & Parkstone	A	...

LONDON MID-WEEK LEAGUE

Sept. 13	Southend United	A	0-2
Oct. 10	Queens Park Rangers	A	1-2
Nov. 14	Arsenal	A	3-1
22	Fulham	A	2-0
Dec. 5	Charlton Athletic	A	0-0
12	Portsmouth	A	4-2
Jan. 9	Watford	A	...
14	Queens Park Rangers	H	...
16	Fulham	A	...
Feb. 6	Crystal Palace	A	...
11	Brentford	A	...
14	Charlton Athletic	H	...
25	Tottenham Hotspur	A	...
Mar. 3	Crystal Palace	A	...
10	Arsenal	A	...
17	Brentford	A	...
24	Tottenham Hotspur	A	...
31	Southend United	A	...
	Watford	A	...
	Portsmouth	A	...

A Referee's Christmas

The Christmas soccer programme usually provides many surprises and strange happenings, and during the final holiday of the year many memories are recalled.

One which had a somewhat humorous twist is a recollection by our Secretary, Mr. Frank Cearns, who was in his younger days a Football League referee.

It was in the early 1920's that we met Bristol City here in a Division II match on Christmas Day. Mr. Cearns, who had no refereeing appointment that day decided to visit the Boleyn Ground to see the match, but upon arriving just before the kick-off found himself literally "grabbed by the scruff of the neck" by one of our officials and asked to act as linesman in the game due to the illness of the appointed referee. Protests that he was in his best attire and therefore not dressed to act as linesman were speedily overcome by the "scrouning" of the necessary equipment, and Mr. Cearns found himself "running the line" with the senior appointed linesman acting as "ref." But the advent of rain during the match naturally damped his ardour to some further extent.

The same officials had also been appointed for the return fixture and the problem thus arose—who would fill the vacancy at Ashton Gate on the Boxing Day (Friday)? After further persuasion by our officials (backed by the City's chairman), Mr. Cearns again agreed to stand in,

and he thus entrained for Bristol with our team the next morning.

Although more suitably attired for the occasion it was no joke to the willing (!) substitute to find that rain was again falling, and with the downpour continuing unabated throughout the match he became thoroughly damp in company with the players and other officials. In fact, they were all so saturated that it