

# BLUES *News*

SEASON 1951-52



*The official Programme of*

BIRMINGHAM CITY



FOOTBALL CLUB

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**THE OFFICIAL PROGRAMME OF THE  
BIRMINGHAM CITY FOOTBALL CLUB**

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Team Manager—A. E. BROCKLEBANK

Hon. Medical Officer—Dr. E. GREGORY

Secretary—W. H. GRADY

Registered Offices—

St. Andrew's Ground, Birmingham 9

Telephone:

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Telegraphic Address:

"Heathen Birmingham"

SATURDAY, APRIL 26th, 1952

## THE PROMOTION STORY

**G**OOD AFTERNOON—On this page last August you may remember that we made a simple and realistic assessment of what we regarded as the things to come. No flamboyant threats, no arrogant challenge; just a promise of hard work and a repetition of the spirit that took us to the 1950 Cup semi-final and kept us in that season's promotion race. Well, that promise has been fulfilled.

In one of the most intriguing Second Division struggles for many years Blues have kept up with the chase, and this afternoon we wind up an eventful season with the pendulum still swinging with tantalising uncertainty. Congratulations to Sheffield Wednesday with whom we have been jostling for so long. Their worries are over—for a while. And history-maker Dooley who scored both goals against Coventry City to assure Wednesday of promotion, can take a bow after a personal triumph which brought his goals total to 46.

Who accompanies Wednesday? Naturally you have worked it all out from all angles. One thing is certain. A Birmingham victory today is vital. Luton, you may remember, held Cardiff to a 2-2 draw last week-end.

It would not be accurate to describe the past campaign as one with never a dull moment. It would be too easy to recall the off days following that 2-1 home win over Bury which gave us such an encouraging start to season 1951-52. Two victories, three defeats and five draws from our first ten games did not set the town alight.



**Mr. Brocklebank**

Our appearance in the transfer market caused something of a sensation in September, when Johnny Berry signed for Manchester United. Then came the signing of Billy Wardle from Blackpool on September 5th; and then, on September 21st, Tommy Briggs joined us from Coventry City. At Everton on the following day Tommy made his debut and marked it with a goal. In this match Bill Wardle scored his first goal for Blues—a penalty.





**Gil Merrick**

BLUES FOURTH ENGLAND GOALKEEPER

**Tommy  
Trump  
says:-**



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## HIGHLIGHTS OF 1951 - 52

ON October 6th Ray Ferris was in Ireland's team against Scotland at Belfast, and on October 24th Len Boyd played for the F.A. team against the R.A.F. at Stamford Bridge. By the end of October we had won only three out of 15 games, had collected 14 points (eight matches had been drawn), and were seventh from the foot of the table.

On October 30th, Gilbert Merrick kept goal for the Football League against the Scottish League at Hillsborough, Sheffield, and convinced the selectors that Bert Williams' successor was only waiting for his chance.

Two successive victories, over Barnsley and Hull City, raised Blues hopes, and then the announcement that Gil Merrick had been selected to play for England against Ireland at Villa Park in November was a real tonic for Blues supporters. Gilbert's cap meant that we had provided England with four goalkeepers—Chris Charsley, Dan Tremelling and Harry Hibbs had been previously honoured.

When bottom-of-the-table Blackburn Rovers came to St. Andrew's and carried off both points with a goal by Quigley on November 17th it was indeed a bitter pill. Almost as disappointing at the news that Mr. W. A. Camkin had decided to retire from the board of directors after 13 years.

But three successive away wins, and eight points from the Christmas matches set the town talking, and Bill Smith's hat-trick against Rotherham was a personal triumph. The New Year opened with Blues runners-up to Sheffield Wednesday with a record reading:—

26 12 6 8 37 30 32

On December 29th against Nottingham Forest Len Boyd fractured a leg and was absent for several games. Our skipper's injury was the start of an epidemic in which Arthur Atkins and Roy Warhurst were involved. For a spell our half-back line was a matter of conjecture.

A goal by Tommy Briggs saw us through the third round of the F.A. Cup competition, and then we hit the headlines in a big way on January 19th with that 5-0 win at Doncaster where Peter Murphy, who had joined us from Tottenham only two days earlier jumped into the picture with a hat trick. This was our fourth successive away win, a post-war club record. We took over the League leadership but held it for only one week.

Young Johnny Watts made his debut at Swansea on February 16th, and Johnny Newman was called in for the home match with Coventry City on March 1st. Dennis Hill had his first senior game in the friendly match at Villa Park. Victories over Coventry, West Ham, Leeds United and Barnsley kept us among the promotion favourites, and we regained the League leadership on March 22nd by virtue of a better goal average than Nottingham Forest. The Barnsley victory was costly. Jackie Stewart suffered a cheek bone fracture which kept him out of action for three games.

With Cyril Trigg also a casualty a successful attacking blend had to be re-organised, but Bill Smith and Jim Dailey standing in for the centre-forward and winger, fitted well into the scheme of things. Within a week of his return to the side Len Boyd played for England's "B" team at Amsterdam.

Following the 1-0 win at West Ham we forfeited another home point to lowly Hull City. Then came that grand 4-1 win at Blackburn—and so our away form continued to outshine home displays.

The League leadership continued, and Sheffield Wednesday again came onto the scene with a superior goal average, and the Easter programme assumed even greater importance than we earlier imagined. Blues' 3-2 win over Cardiff on Good Friday increased the tempo, and the following day Wednesday were held to a draw while Cyril Trigg's goal gave us the edge over Queen's Park Rangers. We were leaders again. But not for long. On



**Len Boyd**

SKIPPER IN A MEMORABLE SEASON

Easter Monday the Sheffielders won again while we were beaten at Ninian Park.

By winning 2-0 at Coventry the Hillsborough club made certain of promotion while we were experiencing a most disastrous 90 minutes at Meadow Lane. The 5-0 defeat was Blues' worst eclipse of the season, and fortunately for us, Nottingham Forest failed at Blackburn, Leicester were beaten at Queen's Park and Cardiff could manage only one point at Luton while Leeds were beaten 4-1 at Swansea. A lucky turn of events if you like, but in keeping with the see-saw scramble that has been the general trend for so long in the top half of the table.

### BOYS BIG DAY

The England v. Wales schoolboys international on this ground on Cup Final day, May 3rd, promises to be the outstanding boys match of the season. At least two Midland players are expected in the England line-up and if the match reaches the standard of the recent England-Scotland game at Wembley, a big Birmingham crowd will certainly have something to remember. Kick-off will be at 3-0 p.m. and tickets are available from Mr. A. S. Blades, 124 Stechford Road, Birmingham 8.



## A BUSY CONTINENTAL TOUR

**N**EXT MONTH will see two parties of Birmingham City players undertake one of the busiest and most extensive of Continental tours. On May 2nd, the seniors will leave Harwich for Holland en route to Germany where they will play matches on May 4th and 5th. On the 9th and 11th two games will be played in Denmark, and then the party will return to Germany for another match at Hanover on the 14th. Four days later the team will meet a Dutch team at Breda, and on the following day the party will leave for home. Directors accompanying the team will be Mr. Harry Morris and Mr. W. H. Dare in addition to the team manager, Mr. Brocklebank.

A party of Blues juniors have a most interesting schedule planned for Switzerland. On May 19th they will travel by air to Zurich where they will take part in an international youth tournament promoted by the Blue Star F.C. This competition, starting on the 22nd, is for 19-year-old players. Other games arranged are at Berne on the 24th and at Lucerne on the 25th. Highlight of the tour will be the prelude game to the International match between Switzerland and England. The Birmingham team will meet a selected Swiss youth side. On the 29th the party will make the return flight.

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(2) GREEN  
(3) ~~BADHAM~~ MARTIN  
(4) BOYD  
(5) FERRIS  
(6) WARHURST O.G.  
(7) STEWART ✓  
(8) SMITH  
(9) BRIGGS ✓  
(10) PURDON ✓  
(11) MURPHY

Referee:  
MR. W. J. EDWARDS  
(Yeovil)



Linesmen:  
Mr. R. S. LLOYD (Red flag)  
Mr. C. H. SANT (Yellow flag)

MITCHELL (11)  
SHANKS (6)  
AHEARNE (3)  
STRETEN (1)  
McJARRAW (10)  
SEXTON (10)  
OWEN (5)  
JONES (2)  
MOORE (9)  
STOBART (8)  
MORTON (4)  
CULLEN (7)  
STOBART (7)

**LUTON TOWN 1**

Kick-Off 3 p.m.

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## SCORE BOARD

<b>A</b> CARDIFF CITY BURY	<b>G</b> MIDDLESBROUGH WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS
<b>B</b> LEEDS UNITED COVENTRY CITY	<b>H</b> MANCHESTER UNITED ARSENAL
<b>C</b> NOTTINGHAM FOREST QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS	<b>I</b> DONCASTER ROVERS HULL CITY
<b>D</b> WEST BROMWICH ALBION SUNDERLAND	<b>J</b> STOKE CITY MANCHESTER CITY
<b>E</b> NEWCASTLE UNITED ASTON VILLA	<b>K</b> FULHAM HUDDERSFIELD TOWN
<b>F</b> SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY WEST HAM UNITED	<b>L</b> WALSALL READING

## FIXTURES 1951-52

### SECOND DIVISION

Result	Home Date	Opponents	Away Date	Result
2-1	Aug. 18 Sat	BURY	Dec. 15 Sat	0-3
1-1	Aug. 22 Wed	LEEDS UNITED	Aug. 29 Wed	1-1
0-2	Sept. 1 Sat	NOTTINGHAM FOREST	Dec. 29 Sat	1-0
0-0	Sept. 12 Wed	SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY	Sept. 3 Mon	1-1
2-2	Sept. 15 Sat	DONCASTER ROVERS	Jan. 19 Sat	5-0
1-1	Sept. 29 Sat	SOUTHAMPTON	Feb. 9 Sat	0-2
1-1	Oct. 6 Sat	SWANSEA TOWN	Feb. 16 Sat	0-4
2-1	Oct. 20 Sat	WEST HAM UNITED	Mar. 8 Sat	1-0
2-1	Nov. 3 Sat	BARNLEY	Mar. 22 Sat	2-1
0-1	Nov. 17 Sat	BLACKBURN ROVERS	April 5 Sat	4-1
2-0	Dec. 1 Sat	NOTT'S COUNTY	April 19 Sat	0-5
2-0	Dec. 22 Sat	LEICESTER CITY	Aug. 25 Sat	0-4
4-0	Dec. 25 Tues	ROTHERHAM UNITED	Dec. 26 Wed	2-1
1-2	Jan. 5 Sat	BRENTFORD	Sept. 8 Sat	0-1
1-2	Jan. 26 Sat	FULHAM. F.A. CUP—3rd Round	Jan. 12 Sat	1-6
0-1	Feb. 2 Sat	EVERTON	Sept. 22 Sat	3-1
3-1	Mar. 1 Sat	LEYTON O. F.A. CUP—4th Round	Feb. 23 Sat	2-3
3-0	Mar. 15 Sat	ASTON VILLA Friendly	Oct. 13 Sat	1-1
2-2	Mar. 29 Sat	COVENTRY CITY	Oct. 27 Sat	2-4
3-2	April 11 Fri	SHEFFIELD UNITED	Nov. 10 Sat	1-0
1-0	April 12 Sat	HULL CITY	April 14 Mon	1-3
—	April 26 Sat	CARDIFF CITY	Nov. 24 Sat	2-0
		QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS	Dec. 8 Sat	4-2
		LUTON TOWN		

## FOOTBALL COMBINATION

Result	Home Date	Opponents	Away Date	Result
0-1	Aug. 25 Sat	BRENTFORD	Sept. 15 Sat	1-1
3-0	Aug. 29 Wed	LEYTON ORIENT	Aug. 22 Wed	1-2
3-1	Dec. 5 Wed	MILLWALL	Oct. 3 Wed	0-3
2-2	Sept. 8 Sat	CRYSTAL PALACE	Jan. 5 Sat	0-1
2-2	Sept. 22 Sat	FULHAM	Sept. 29 Sat	0-2
2-3	Oct. 13 Sat	SWANSEA TOWN	Nov. 17 Sat	2-1
2-2	Oct. 27 Sat	SOUTHEND UNITED	Dec. 1 Sat	2-1
2-3	Nov. 10 Sat	READING	Oct. 6 Sat	3-2
3-0	Nov. 24 Sat	NORTHAMPTON TOWN	Oct. 20 Sat	1-0
2-2	Dec. 8 Sat	COVENTRY CITY	Nov. 3 Sat	2-1
2-1	Dec. 15 Sat	CHELSEA	Aug. 18 Sat	1-1
2-0	Dec. 26 Wed	QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS	Dec. 25 Tues	1-2
1-0	Dec. 29 Sat	ALDRSHOT	Sept. 1 Sat	1-1
1-0	Jan. 12 Sat	CARDIFF CITY	Sept. 24 Mon	1-1
2-0	Jan. 19 Sat	LEICESTER CITY	Sept. 10 Mon	0-5
5-0	Feb. 16 Sat	COVENTRY CITY	*Mar. 29 Sat	0-4
4-0	Feb. 23 Sat	WATFORD	*Feb. 9 Sat	1-1
3-3	Mar. 8 Sat	LUTON TOWN	*April 12 Sat	3-3
2-1	Mar. 12 Wed	NORWICH CITY	*Jan. 26 Sat	1-0
0-0	April 5 Sat	IPSWICH TOWN	*Mar. 1 Sat	1-1
1-1	April 14 Mon	LEICESTER CITY	*Mar. 22 Sat	2-3
0-1	April 19 Sat	NORTHAMPTON TOWN	*Mar. 15 Sat	1-0

\* Cup Competition

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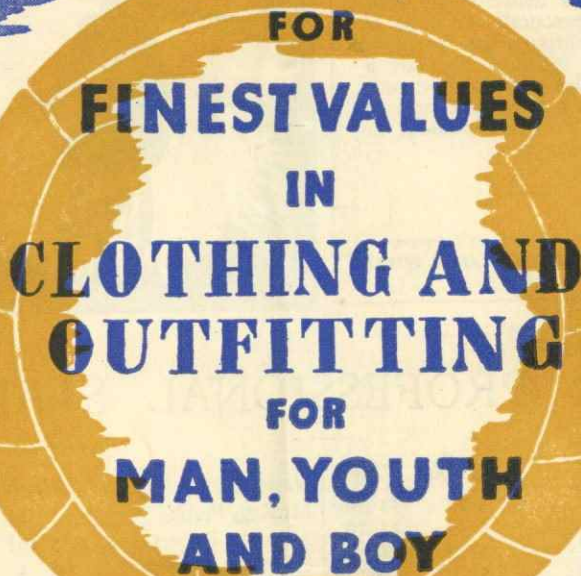
## OUR PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Name	Height	Weight	Name	Height	Weight
ATKINS, Arthur	5 11	11 6	McKEE, Frank	5 8½	10 10
BADHAM, John	5 10	11 10	MARTIN, Robert	5 10½	11 7
BANNISTER, Keith	5 9	11 3	MERRICK, Gilbert	6 1	13 1
BELCHER, Gerald	5 6½	9 10	MURPHY, Peter	5 11	11 8
BLAKE, Antony	5 11	11 12½	NEWMAN, John	5 9½	11 8½
BOYD, Leonard	6 0	11 12½	O'HARA, Edward	5 8½	10 10
BRAZIL, Bernard	5 10½	11 10	PURDON, Edward	5 10½	11 8
BRIGGS, Thomas	6 0	12 5½	RICHARDS, Anthony	5 9	11 2
CHARLTON, John	5 10½	11 1	ROBERTSON, William	6 1½	12 11
CHADBAND, Robert	5 9	10 8	ROWLEY, Kenneth	5 6½	11 3
CLARKE, John	5 7½	10 12	SCHOFIELD, John	6 0	11 4
COX, Geoffrey	5 7	9 7½	SMITH, William	5 10½	11 7
DAILEY, James	5 9½	11 11	STEWART, John	5 6½	11 2
FERRIS, Raymond	5 8	11 4	TRIGG, Cyril	5 10	12 5
GREEN, Kenneth	5 10	11 4½	WARDLE, William	5 8	11 0
HALL, Jeffrey	5 7½	11 7	WARHURST, Roy	5 8	11 5
HIGGINS, James	5 9½	11 2	WARMINGTON, Peter	5 8	10 13
HILL, Dennis	5 7½	10 5	WATTS, John	5 8½	11 5
JAMES, James	5 8½	10 2			
LANE, John	5 10½	12 2			



1250

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