

Sheffield United



FOOTBALL LEAGUE, DIVISION II.

KICK-OFF 3.0 p.m.

VERSUS

LUTON TOWN

SATURDAY, 7th MARCH, 1953, BRAMALL LANE GROUND

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Manager: R. V. Freeman.

Secretary: A. Newton.

LINES FROM THE PAVILION

OVER a month has elapsed since last our League team played at Bramall Lane; the occasion being the fourth round Cup-tie with Birmingham City, which we drew 1—1, passing out by 3—1 in the replay. After that replay there were forebodings of difficulties ahead. There were those who suggested that a slump was likely to occur to jeopardise the club's chances of a return to the First Division.

Quite an attack of jitters followed the succeeding defeat at Lincoln. In view of past disappointments when the outlook had been bright this fretfulness was understandable. Football is apt to make merry with the nerves of dyed-in-the-wool Unitedites, just as it does with devoted followers of other clubs.

However, the team went to Blackburn and won worthily. Then last Saturday they conquered Leeds United at Elland Road to complete two doubles and keep us high and dry at the top of the table. So we lead with 46 points from 32 matches; three ahead of Huddersfield, who have a match in hand and eight points ahead of Luton, who have two matches in hand.

Luton were the team whom everybody held up as likely to overhaul us, so well were they playing. But the "Hatters" lost unexpectedly at home to Southampton and last Saturday were again beaten at home by Huddersfield Town; so that the threat is not so menacing as it was.

Today's match with Dally Duncan's men is the key to the promotion situation. If we can avenge the heavy defeat we received at Kenilworth Road on October 18th—we lost 4-1—the outlook will be fair. If we lose, it will remain cloudy to some extent, making the remaining programme sterner.

Our remaining fixtures are—

HOME

Bury	West Ham United
Notts. County	Hull City

AWAY	Nottingham Forest
Birmingham City	Leicester City
Southampton	Fulham

We have set as our minimum objective 58 points, which means that from the last ten matches we must get 12 points. Can we do it? Can we reckon on winning all our home matches? Luton, who are playing well away, might hit us today and don't overlook the fact that Bury, Notts. County and Hull City will be desperate seeing that they are in the relegation danger zone.

Away, the visits to Birmingham, Nottingham Forest and Leicester will be severe and Fulham don't give much away. Southampton are battling to escape relegation.

So we mustn't become too confident. There may be pitfalls ahead. We must be on our toes to the last. By the way we have arranged to play Hull City here on Wednesday evening, 29th April.

We are glad to say that Howard Johnson, who has been off with a fractured collar bone, has made such good progress that this week he was able to resume training and in a fortnight he should be fighting fit and become available again.

Geoffrey Denial has been called up and is serving with the Royal Corps of Signals with Albert Quixall and Alan Finney (Sheffield Wednesday), at Catterick. Dennis Gratton, 18-year-old wing half-back who has shown great promise, also went to fulfil his National Service period this week and he, too, is with the Signals. These call-ups do upset things. Still, all clubs are in the same boat.

We won our Central League match with Chesterfield Reserves last Saturday by 2—0, and while we are not safe from having to seek re-election the position is a little easier. We are fourth from the bottom with 22 points.

LUTON WILL BE HARD TO BEAT

WE make no bones about the fact that our visitors today, Luton Town, will be hard to beat. They may be eight points in arrear, but they still have two matches in hand and while they have lost their last two home matches, they are a side that play very well away. In fact, they have won six away matches and drawn three and they are bound to set out their stall against United.

Managed by the one-time famous Scotland and Derby County outside-left, Dally Duncan, who has given more than one good display on this ground, Luton can be formidable. They have at centre-forward Jesse Pye, who before the war was on our books for a time, but subsequently joined the Forces and when demobbed threw in his lot with the Wolves.

Jesse used to live at nearby Treeton and there's no denying his value. Luton did a good stroke of business when they got him from the Wolves, though they had to pay a hefty transfer fee. He has scored 22 League goals and four in Cup-ties and a bag of 26 goals is something to note. He's dangerous.

Luton have other men of merit. Take Owen their centre half-back. Originally a left-half with Birmingham, he joined Luton in 1947 and must rank among the best centre half-backs in the Second Division; indeed, in the League as a whole. He's tall and made the more conspicuous because of his ruddy hair. He made the trip to Australia with the F.A. party in 1951.

Then in goal there is Bernard Streten, who has gained several representative honours. He's an international for whom Luton could have commanded a big fee more than once. He used to be with Shrewsbury Town.

Streten may be spectacular but he doesn't let much go past him!

Backs Dunne and Jones are pretty sound. Seamus Dunne was obtained from the Eire League club, Shelbourne and made his debut in Second Division football during last season. He's a native of Wicklow. They also have another stout Irish defender in Bud Aherne, who was obtained from Linfield in 1949. He has played both for Eire and Ireland and got his first Irish cap in 1946.

Bob Morton, a very efficient right-half, is a local find. Before going to Luton he played for Eaton Bray and Waterlows. Left-half is the reliable and experienced Watkins.

Davies, the outside-right, was formerly with Clyde and he knows his job. He has speed and uses the ball usually to advantage. Outside-left Pemberton is also a shrewd and skilful winger and requires close watching.

Bernard Moore, the inside-right is a thrustful type who played centre-forward with Brighton Boys and Brighton and Hove Juniors. Called up for the R.A.F. after the war, he faded somewhat and moved to Hastings United when he was demobbed. With them he was a big success and Luton secured him in 1951. Big and strong, he also has speed.

Inside-left Sexton is also a forward who has craft and has good constructive ability.

Luton, founded in 1885, were pioneers of professionalism in the south, though this distinction is often credited to Arsenal. Actually, Luton, in 1891, paid their players half-a-crown for a home match and three shillings for an away fixture. They have travelled a long way since then. So has football generally.

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Linesmen :

Mr. J. R. DUNBAR, Stapleford, Notts. (Red Flag); Mr. K. C. HESKETH, Manchester (Yellow Flag).

11 Mitchell

9 Pye

7 Davies

10 Watkins

8 Moore

6 Owen

5 Hall

4 Morton

3 Aherne

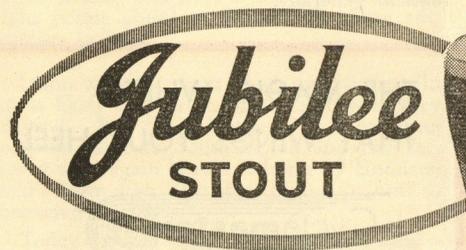
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Baynham

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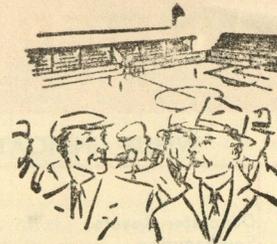
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SUPPORTERS' CLUB NOTES

The Club Officials are on duty after every Home match in the Pavilion for enrolments, old members' subscriptions, and all enquiries.

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RED INDICATOR			WHITE INDICATOR			
		Half Time	Final		Half Time	Final
A	Arsenal			A	Doncaster Rovers	
	Cardiff City				Southampton	
B	Aston Villa			B	Everton	
	Liverpool				Leicester City	
C	Blackpool			C	Huddersfield Town	
	Tottenham Hotspur				Birmingham City	
D	Bolton Wanderers			D	Hull City	
	Manchester City				Rotherham United	
E	Charlton Athletic			E	Lincoln City	
	Newcastle United				Plymouth Argyle	
F	Chelsea			F	Nottingham Forest	
	Burnley				West Ham United	
G	Manchester United			G	Swansea Town	
	Preston North End				Bury	
H	Portsmouth			H	Bradford City	
	Stoke City				Grimsby Town	
I	Sunderland			I	Carlisle United	
	Middlesbrough				Mansfield Town	
J	Wolverhampton W.			J	Chester	
	West Bromwich Albion				Chesterfield	
K	Barnsley			K	Gateshead	
	Leeds United				Bradford	
L	Blackburn Rovers			L	Hartlepool United	
	Fulham				Oldham Athletic	
M	Brentford			M	Scunthorpe United	
	Notts. County				Tranmere Rovers	
N	Derby County			N	Stoke City Reserves	
	WEDNESDAY				UNITED RESERVES	

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LINES FROM THE PAVILION—continued.

Manchester United also have 22 points, but they have played two matches fewer than us. West Bromwich have 20 points from 30 matches played as against our 31 matches, while Manchester City have 20 points from 32 matches. Chesterfield have 18 points from 29 matches.

It is possible that the tension will continue to the last day of the season and our second string will have to strive might and main to rise out of the vortex.

We may mention that we are having installed a special floodlighting system where-

by next season it will be possible for our youngsters to play night matches. The installation should be complete by next October.

Since our last programme was issued a new director to the Board has been appointed to fill the vacancy created by the death of Alderman G. E. Marlow. He is Mr. Richard Wragg, who used to be well-known in Sheffield amateur football, being an old player of Fulwood and Casuals. He also had matches with United. An all-round sportsman we feel he will be an acquisition.

Preliminary Notice. Bramall Lane. Thursday, 23rd April, 3 p.m. YORKSHIRE POLICE v. LANCASHIRE POLICE

SATURDAY, 14th MARCH, 1953. CENTRAL LEAGUE. KICK-OFF 3 p.m.
SHEFFIELD UNITED RESERVES v. BURNLEY RESERVES

SATURDAY, 21st MARCH, 1953. LEAGUE, DIVISION II. KICK-OFF 3 p.m.
SHEFFIELD UNITED v. BURY

FOOTBALL LEAGUE—DIVISION II.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	Pts.
Sheffield United	32	20	6	6	79	42	46
Huddersfield Town	31	18	6	7	58	24	43
Luton Town	30	17	9	4	62	38	38
Plymouth Argyle	31	16	9	6	50	43	38
Leicester City	31	14	10	7	73	62	35
Fulham	32	14	11	7	60	53	35
Birmingham City	29	14	8	7	51	46	35
Nottm. Forest	31	14	11	6	63	50	34
Leeds United	31	11	9	11	54	44	33
Rotherham United	32	15	14	3	61	59	33
Blackburn Rovers	32	13	14	5	48	51	31
West Ham United	31	9	10	12	40	39	30
Everton	29	9	11	9	49	44	27
Doncaster Rovers	31	7	11	13	42	51	27
Brentford	30	10	13	7	41	54	27
Swansea Town	30	8	12	10	49	65	26
Bury	31	9	14	8	40	57	26
Notts. County	30	10	14	6	46	60	26
Lincoln City	30	6	10	14	42	58	26
Hull City	30	8	16	6	40	55	22
Southampton	31	6	15	10	49	64	22
Barnsley	31	5	20	6	39	77	16

CENTRAL LEAGUE.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	Pts.
Preston North End	31	19	6	6	68	31	44
Blackpool	30	17	8	5	58	36	39
Wolverhampton W.	29	15	5	9	57	39	39
Burnley	32	17	10	5	57	50	39
Huddersfield Town	31	15	8	8	59	51	38
Barnsley	30	15	8	7	53	35	37
Bolton Wanderers	33	13	12	8	51	36	34
Stoke City	31	14	11	6	54	46	34
Aston Villa	30	13	10	7	49	36	33
Everton	30	11	9	10	56	51	32
Blackburn Rovers	31	13	12	6	50	50	32
Sheffield Wednesday	30	12	12	6	50	47	30
Leeds United	31	9	10	12	37	43	30
Derby County	31	10	12	9	44	50	29
Liverpool	31	12	14	5	36	42	29
Bury	31	11	13	7	46	52	29
Newcastle United	31	7	14	10	46	59	24
Manchester United	29	7	14	8	29	42	22
Sheffield United	31	6	15	10	39	67	22
West Bromwich Albion	30	8	18	4	36	58	20
Manchester City	32	7	19	6	36	61	20
Chesterfield	29	6	17	6	31	60	18

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1952-53		OPONENTS	G'D F.A.	1952-53		OPONENTS	G'D F.A.
Aug. 23	S	Swansea Town	a 1..1	Aug. 23	S	HUDDERSFIELD T.	h 2..2
25	M	EVERTON	h 1..6	27	W	Bolton Wanderers	a 0..2
30	M	HUDDERSFIELD T.	h 0..2	30	S	Aston Villa	a 2..2
Sept. 3	W	Everton	a 0..0	Sept. 1	M	BOLTON WAND	a 0..2
6	S	Plymouth Argyle	a 2..5	6	S	SHEFF. WEDNESDAY	h 1..3
8	M	BRENTFORD	h 3..2	10	W	Everton	h 1..2
13	S	Barnsley	a 3..1	13	S	BARNLSLEY	h 2..1
17	W	Brentford	a 0..0	15	M	EVERTON	h 1..1
20	S	LINCOLN CITY	h 6..1	20	S	Derby County	a 3..3
22	M	NOTTM. FOREST	h 2..0	27	S	BLACKPOOL	a 0..4
27	S	Hull City	a 0..4	Oct. 4	S	Blackburn Rovers	a 1..4
Oct. 4	S	BLACKBURN ROVERS	h 3..0	11	S	Chesterfield	a 4..1
11	S	LEEDS UNITED	h 2..1	18	S	STOKE CITY	h 3..3
18	S	Luton Town	a 1..4	25	S	Burnley	a 2..3
25	S	BIRMINGHAM CITY	h 2..2	Nov. 1	S	PRESTON N.E.	h 0..3
Nov. 1	S	Bury	a 4..0	8	S	Manchester City	a 0..2
8	S	SOUTHAMPTON	h 5..3	15	S	LIVERPOOL	h 4..3
15	S	Notts. County	a 3..0	22	S	Bury	h 1..1
22	S	LEICESTER CITY	h 7..2	29	S	WEST BROM. ALB.	h 1..0
29	S	West Ham United	a 1..1	Dec. 6	S	Leeds United	a 0..1
Dec. 6	S	FULHAM	h 2..1	19	S	NEWCASTLE UNITED	h 3..3
12	S	Rotherham United	a 2..0	20	S	Huddersfield Town	a 0..6
20	S	SWANSEA TOWN	h 7..1	25	Th		
25	Th	DONCASTER ROVERS	h 2..2	26	Fr	WOLVERHAMPTON W.	h 1..3
26	Fr	Doncaster Rovers	a 2..0	27	S	Wolverhampton W.	a 1..1
Jan. 1	Th	ROTHERHAM UTD.	h 1..4	Jan. 1	Th		
3	S	Huddersfield Town	a 1..1	1	S	ASTON VILLA	h 0 1
10	S	F.A. Cup—Newport City	a 4..7	10	S	Manchester United	a 1 2
17	S	PLYMOUTH ARGYLE	h 5 0	17	S	Sheffield Wednesday	a 1 0
24	S	BARNLSLEY	h 5 0	24	S	Barnsley	a 0 5
31	S	F.A. Cup—(4th Round)	h 1 1	31	S		
Feb. 7	S	v. BIRMINGHAM	a 1 3	Feb. 7	S	DERBY COUNTY	h 0 2
14	S	Lincoln City	a 2 3	14	S	Blackpool	a
21	S	F.A. Cup—(5th Round)		21	S	BLACKBURN ROVERS	h 2 1
28	S	Blackburn Rovers	a 2 1	28	S	CHESTERFIELD	h 2 0
28	S	Leeds United	a 3 0	Mar. 7	S	Stoke City	a
Mar. 7	S	F.A. Cup—(6th Round)		14	S	BURNLEY	h
14	S	LUTON TOWN	h	21	S	Preston North End	a
21	S	Birmingham City	a	28	S	MANCHESTER CITY	h
28	S	BURY	h	Apr. 3	Fr		
Apr. 4	S	Southampton	a	4	M	Liverpool	a
6	M	NOTTS. COUNTY	h	6	S	MANCHESTER UTD.	h
11	S	Nottingham Forest	a	11	S	BURY	h
18	S	Leicester City	a	18	S	West Bromwich Albion	a
25	S	WEST HAM UNITED	h	25	S	LEEDS UNITED	h
29	W	Fulham	a	May 2	S	Newcastle United	a
May 2	S	HULL CITY	h				

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