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PROGRAMME

3d



Nottingham Forest v. Luton Town

Wednesday, September 2nd



Sooner or later

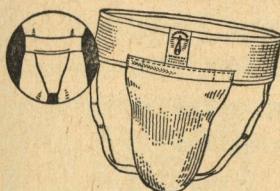
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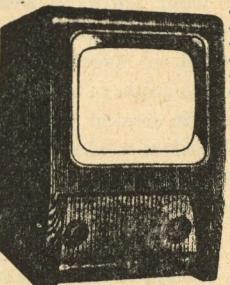
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Volume 3, No. 3 (New Series)

Wednesday, September 2nd, 1953

—THE MANAGER'S REVIEW—

To get off to a good start is always a stimulant at the beginning of the season, and this we have managed to do. This is certainly a grand achievement, especially in view of the fact that we suffered a big disappointment on the eve of the new season when we learned that Wally Ardron would be unable to assist us in the early games.

All of our supporters will, of course, know now that what we had feared turned out to be true—that Wally had suffered a cartilage injury in a very simple pre-season accident in one of the practice games. However, I am pleased to say that he has now had his operation and should be out of hospital at the end of the week, and resuming training in some six to eight weeks' time.

After a much-improved forward display against Plymouth Argyle at the City Ground on the initial Saturday of the season, we travelled to Luton with the feeling that a similar display might easily earn us one or both of the points.

In our previous meetings with Luton at Kenilworth Road we have never enjoyed much good fortune, but I am pleased to say that our lads played well enough to break the unlucky spell and annex two good and valuable points as a result of that solitary goal by Tom Capel.

Our defence again played quite well after several shaky moments, and our forwards always looked more dangerous than the Luton quintette, with Colin

Collardridge much in evidence on the left wing, but suffering a rather bad knock towards the end of the game.

Incidentally, we made one of our longest trips for some time by travelling straight to Porthcawl after the Luton game in preparation for the Swansea match. We left Nottingham at mid-day on Wednesday, played at Luton in the evening, and then proceeded to Oxford, where we stayed the night. On Thursday we journeyed on to Porthcawl to spend the whole of Friday and Saturday morning relaxing by the sea.

On to Swansea on Saturday and a return to Porthcawl in the evening, where we remained until early Sunday morning before setting out on our return journey to Nottingham, arriving back at the City Ground on Sunday evening after a round trip of over 500 miles!

To-night sees us once more in opposition to Luton Town, and those who had the pleasure of seeing our win at their ground last week are naturally hoping for a repeat performance from our lads. In any case, if to-day's encounter is anything approaching the corresponding one of last season when, after one of the best games seen at the City Ground, we triumphed by four goals to three, then our supporters are in for a treat.

The "Hatters" play brilliant football, and if they have found their shooting boots a really good match can be expected.



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News and Views from the City Ground

WE only just failed to preserve our unbeaten record at Swansea, where our lads put up a fight that had to be admired against the young Welsh side, who have made amends for their early season lapses.

It really does look as if it is to be an extremely open race this season. Everton looked really impressive when they were at the City Ground, while it is no secret that Derby County hope to get back to the higher circle at the first time of asking.

Few could have expected Peter Doherty's Doncaster Rovers to hit the high notes thus early in the season, but three away wins is indeed impressive. Birmingham should be "thereabouts," and we may see a few more surprises from newly promoted Bristol Rovers, the "no buy, no sell" club.

We ourselves feel what might be termed "quietly confident." Opposition this season appears likely to prove more keen than it has been for some time. Our big fault in the last two Second Division campaigns has been inconsistency, and if we can overcome this then surely we must have a big chance of finishing well up.

Clubs are going through a trying period, and, like ourselves, many have been affected by early injuries. When a big early season programme has to be faced, it usually tests resources to the full—as some have already found.

But by the end of this month mid-week games will cease for a spell, and teams will be able to concentrate on the one-a-week match schedule.

By that time things should have sorted themselves out, and should provide supporters with more "clues" as to what the future holds than is the position at the moment.

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Naturally, we at the City Ground hope to find ourselves then positioned among the top clubs, and about that time Wally Ardron's services may again be available.

Our lads have got the fighting spirit and the skill necessary to ensure this, and with normal luck, good team spirit, and, above all, a run of the ball (far more important than many supporters imagine), we should more than hold our own in what shows every possible promise of becoming a grand and thrilling season—especially when the top 'uns begin to carve one another about.

We have some very intriguing games ahead, and there seems no reason that, given normal luck, we should not do well in all of them, whatever the opposition.

Jack Harrow played full back for Chelsea under a great handicap. He had only one eye.

Aston Villa won the First Division championship five times in the seven seasons commencing 1893-4.

While You Wait!

1—Syd Owen followed him in his role of Luton Town's regular centre-half. He was —?

2—In 1952/3 season a First Division club played eight consecutive games without scoring a goal, and then won 6—0. They were?

3—A centre-forward once set up a scoring record for a Third Division club. Who was he?

4—A well-known forward has played in four positions for England. Who is he?

5—Not long before the war Leyton Orient were named —?

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TALKING SOCCER

By DENNIS M. FRANCES.

(It should be borne in mind that the views and statements contained in these articles are not necessarily those of the Nottingham Forest Football Club.)

SOCER is here again! Or has it been far away at all? Not really, because the fashion these days seems to be for Club and International tours to be undertaken well into the summer months, and before we have time to think football is back with all its thrills, spills and goals.

Will season 1953/4 bring any sensational developments in the way of styles and types of play adopted by the leading clubs? Or shall we see things going along very much as before? It should be interesting to note because there is no

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doubt that Football League Clubs are more than a little concerned about gates decreasing in such an alarming fashion last season. All of the Clubs will keep a wary eye on YOU, the public, this season, to see if the level is maintained, lowered or whether interest will increase.

Gross attendances at all League games last season amounted to 37,149,966 as against 39,015,866 in the previous season—a decline of some 1,379,535 spectators.

Quite naturally one finds on examining the figures more closely that the opening day of last season—August 23rd—saw the largest attendances on one day, 1,158,828; whilst the lowest was on Cup Final day—534,846 only attending the League games played on that Saturday (although it has to be admitted that most League games had been brought forward).

Where, then, can the League Clubs hope to find the solution to this position? Is it to be floodlighting? Or is it to be in the action of some daring Club adopting a purely attacking role and dispensing with its defensive centre half?

Will Clubs not only go all out to provide more attractive soccer with plenty of goals but add some pre-match entertainment in the shape of massed physical training displays, military bands and the like, in an effort to win back the "lost legion" of fans?

Mr. "Billy" Walker has rightly said this 1953/4 season is the most important in post-war soccer because any further lowering in attendances is going to force some of the larger clubs to take severe steps to prune their heavy expenses in these days of high finance, and some of the smaller Clubs will be regrettably going out of business altogether.

Is football at the cross-roads? Do spectators value the game less and expect more from their 90 minutes' worth of soccer? It's a difficult problem. But I feel the game is going to win back many of those "lost" fans once more and that all who attend matches up and down the country are going to get their money's worth. What do you think?

That's all for to-day and I hope to be back again shortly . . . "Talking Soccer."



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INTRODUCING OUR VISITORS

GENERALLY expected to be well among the leading clubs at the end of this season, manager Dally Duncan's Luton Town contingent, almost certainly because of an unlucky crop of injuries to players, have not made the strong start to the new campaign that many imagined would prove the case.

But when key men are out of a team—as we ourselves know only too well—expected form often goes with the winds, and we can be very sure that our visitors to-night will give their usual good account of themselves.

With a full strength side available—and maybe it will be to-night—the "Hatters" must have a great chance of proving a really formidable combination, and, like ourselves, Division I is certainly their "number one" objective.

At full strength, indeed, they should be the equal of any side in the Second Division.

Do we see Jesse Pye in Luton's line-up? An injury kept him out of early games, but if he is in Town's attack, he will surely be one of the major problems for Forest's defence, and those who saw him play against us last season will need no reminding.

Luton newcomers this season are Johnny Downie and Cummins, and this pair cost about £20,000, but although the former has shaped well, the visiting attack has not been quite so forceful as it was on occasions last term.

The injury bogey at Kenilworth Road has also struck at such established

players as Syd Owen, Leslie Jones and Buddy Aherne, while Bert Mitchell has unfortunately been bereaved.

It is useless trying to conjecture as to what Luton's team will be, but in defence we are again likely to see the spectacular double England International 'keeper Bernard Streten, who at one time assisted Notts. County, and the "old firm" of Dunne and Aherne at full back (assuming the latter is fit).

Syd Owen, successor to our Horace Gager, is expected to be at centre-half, with Watkins and Shanks on either flank, and if Pye is still an absentee, McJarrow may lead the attack.

But whatever Luton's strength, we can anticipate a really hard tussle of the type which invariably characterises the close meetings between the clubs.

President's Death— A Great Loss to the Club

When on Monday, June 28th last, Mr. Robert George Hogarth died, the Forest Club lost its very distinguished president and the club is poorer for his passing.

Mr. Hogarth became president in 1947 but his association with the club dated as far back as 1899, and even before then he was a first-class player with Wolverhampton Wanderers and Corinthians.

Although he had been ill for a long, long time he still took a very active interest in the affairs of the club.

City Ground Matches :

Saturday, Sept. 5th

SECOND DIVISION

Kick-off 3 p.m.

ROOTHERHAM UNITED

Thursday, Sept. 10th

MIDLAND LEAGUE

Kick-off 3 p.m.

SCARBOROUGH TOWN

Saturday, Sept. 12th

MIDLAND LEAGUE

Kick-off 3 p.m.

WISBECH TOWN

Football Really Is Big Business

THE whistle blows and the game is on. Once more "Mr. Fan" can settle down and enjoy his ninety minutes of soccer, but of all the hundreds of thousands of people who pass through the turnstiles of the Football League Clubs, how many are aware of the complex organisation that is needed to ensure a smooth-running season of League games?

Not many of us do, so let's take a glance at some of the activities necessitated by the Clubs in providing us with soccer.

First of all a Club is run by a Board of Directors or by a Committee of Management and under their jurisdiction is the Club Manager and the Club Secretary (occasionally one man combines both duties). These two officials are together responsible for seeing that the various duties of the staff under their control are carried out.

The Secretary, for instance, has under him the Office Staff and their job is of a complex nature with many different tasks to fulfil—Accounts, Wages, Company work, Auditing, Banking, Insurance, Season Tickets, Gatemen, Stewards, Police, Programmes, Referees and Officials, etc.

The Manager is responsible for the supervision of the Playing Staff, Training Staff and Ground Staff. To the Training Staff falls the task of supervising daily, weekly, and monthly training schedules, medical facilities, evening training, kit, dressing rooms, and other duties, whilst the Ground Staff are dealing with Ground maintenance and improvements and keeping the approaches to the Ground in good order.

The Playing Staff consists of professionals and amateurs who require lodgings, houses, welfare, social activities, post-football employment, part-time employment and a thousand and one other things are needed to keep them fit in mind and body.

An adequate scouting system is needed by the Club and this is undertaken by a team of experts (full-time, part-time and voluntary) selected by the Manager.

Team selection of the teams operated by the Club (and this sometimes involves four or more) is required from the Manager, who must not only be fully conversant with his own Club's players but of those of his fellow-clubs throughout the country.

Travel to all the away fixtures is arranged by the Manager and this includes the booking of accommodation and meals at specially selected hotels. Not least of a Manager's many duties is that of knowing how much gross income his Club is likely to reap during the course of a season so that his Directors can be kept fully aware of team building plans and of any financial commitments in the way of players.

Meanwhile, the Secretary is busily engaged seeing that the F.A. and Football League are kept in constant touch with events taking place in the Club, the County F.A., the local football bodies, the various leagues in which the Club is competing, charity and cup competitions, etc.

Obvious, in one short article it is not possible to fully cover all the activities that have to be organised for your enjoyment of a League game, but the foregoing is a rough outline of what has to be done in the way of organisation.

So when we open our programme to-day and look at the teams printed there, let's spare a thought for the men who have put a lot of work, thought and preparation into ensuring that we get our soccer as we like it—the "back-room" boys of the Football Club.



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LEFT

Hutchinson

3

Walker

1

Whare

2

Burkitt

6

Gager

5

French

4

Wednesday, Sept. 2nd, 1953

Collingridge

11

Capel

10

Leverton

9

Martin

8

Moore

7

Cullen

7

Turner

8

Moore

9

Downie

10

Watkins

6

Taylor

11

LUTON TOWN

WHITE SHIRTS, BLACK KNICKERS

RIGHT

Dunne

2

Streten

1

Jones

3

LEFT



Referee—Mr. R. J. BURGESS (Reading)

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With the Midland Leaguers

WITH everyone of last season's championship team available, it is only natural that some measure of confidence is held at the City Ground that the feat can be repeated; but this season, more than any other, some setbacks may be expected.

The reason is two-fold. Mr. Walker is determined to introduce some of the lesser-experienced youngsters into the side in an effort to see if they can not only hold their own in this football, but that they may show their possibilities of making the higher grade.

It is with this prospect in mind that Fred Scott has been seen only in the Midland League side so far this season, because our manager is convinced that if there is any latent football ability in these younger members of the staff, only Fred can bring it out.

There is no better ball player in the Club than Fred and no one better able to coach the youngsters along the right lines; his wisdom and knowledge of the game over many years of actual playing experience will be a valuable asset not only to the team but to the Club as a whole.

Already Syd Thompson and Alan Holder have created favourable impressions in their "new" positions in the Midland League side. Syd has played many games for the Club at full-back and wing-half—indeed he made his Football League debut as a wing-half at the beginning of last season—but this is his first really long spell at inside-forward, and he has shaped very well indeed.

Alan Holder came to the Club as a wing-half from the R.A.O.C. (Chilwell), but because of his success in private pre-season trial games at inside-forward, it was decided that he and Syd would

commence in these positions in the Midland League side.

That this confidence has not been misplaced is borne out by the fact that in the first two engagements—Corby Town and Frickley Colliery—with Fred Scott prompting them, they did so well as to indicate that a first-team place will probably soon be found for one or both of them.

The other and chief reason why the Reserves are going to find it difficult to achieve an all-time record by winning the championship for the fifth successive season is the strength of several other teams in the League, particularly the non-League combinations.

Such teams as Corby, Worksop, Peterborough, Grantham, Goole, Boston and Gainsborough are able to attract some really good league players into their ranks by means of high wages and jobs outside football, and so, naturally, their strength is increased.

The early games have proved this—Grantham defeating Corby at Corby, Peterborough's big win over Scarborough and the home defeat of Bradford Reserves by Worksop are an indication of things to come.

Just how long our Reserves can maintain their record of never having lost a home engagement at the City Ground for three seasons remains to be seen. To be entering their fourth season in succession without a home defeat is an achievement without equal in the annals of the Midland League (and other competitions).

Still, the material is in the Reserve side. There are some young players and some not so young, some experienced and some not so experienced, and an effort will certainly be made to retain both records.

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Second Division

Date Opponents Gr.F.A.

AUGUST, 1953

19 W Everton ... h 3—3
22 S Plymouth A. ... h 3—0
26 W Luton T. ... a 1—0
29 S Swansea T. ... a 1—2

SEPTEMBER

2 W Luton T. ... h
5 S Rotherham U. ... h
7 M Hull City ... a
12 S Leicester C. ... a
16 W Hull City ... h
19 S Stoke City ... h
26 S Fulham ... a

OCTOBER

3 S West Ham U. h
10 S Notts. Co. ... h
17 S Lincoln C. ... a
24 S Bristol Rov. ... h
31 S Brentford ... a

NOVEMBER

7 S Derby Co. ... h
14 S Blackburn R. ... a
21 S (1) Doncaster ... h
28 S Bury ... a

DECEMBER

5 S Oldham A. ... h
12 S (2) Everton ... a
19 S Plymouth A. ... a
25 F Leeds Utd. ... h
26 S Leeds Utd. ... a

JANUARY, 1954

2 S Swansea T. ... h
9 S (3)
16 S Rotherham U. a
23 S Leicester C. ... h
30 S (4)

FEBRUARY

6 S Stoke City ... a
13 S Fulham ... h
20 S (5) West Ham a
27 S Notts. Co. ... a

MARCH

6 S Lincoln C. ... h
13 S (6) Bristol R. a
20 S Brentford ... h
27 S Doncaster R. a

APRIL

3 S Bury ... a
10 S Derby Co. ... a
16 F Birmingham C. h
17 S Blackburn R. ... h
19 M Birmingham C. a
24 S Oldham A. ... a

MAY

1 S (Final)

Midland League

Date Opponents Gr.F.A.

AUGUST, 1953

22 S Frickley C. ... a 2—0
27 Th Scunthorpe R. s 4—0
29 S Rotherham U. h 3—1

SEPTEMBER

5 S Brad. C. Res. a
10 Th Scarborough ... h
12 S Wisbech T. ... h
16 W Scarborough ... a
19 S Mansfield T. ... a
24 Th Grantham T. ... h
26 S Corby Town ... h

OCTOBER

3 S Worksop T. ... a
10 S Hull City Res. a
17 S York City Res. h
24 S Goole Town ... a
31 S Denaby U. ... h

NOVEMBER

7 S Bradford Res. a
14 S Gainsboro' T. ... h
21 S Doncaster Res. a
28 S Peterboro' Utd. h

DECEMBER

5 S Boston Utd. ... a
12 S Lincoln C. Rs. h
19 S Frickley C. ... h
25 F Notts. C. Res. a
26 S Notts. C. Res. h

JANUARY, 1954

2 S Rotherham R. a
9 S Grimsby Res. ... h
16 S Brad. C. Res. h
23 S Wisbech T. ... a
30 S Grimsby Res. ... h

FEBRUARY

6 S Mansfield Res. h
13 S Corby Town ... a
20 S Worksop T. ... h
27 S Hull City Res. h

MARCH

6 S York City Res. a
13 S Goole Town ... h
20 S Denaby U. ... a
27 S Bradford Res. h

APRIL

3 S Gainsboro' T. ... a
10 S Doncaster Res. h
12 M Grantham T. ... a
15 Th Halifax Res. ... a
17 S Peterboro' Utd. a
19 M Halifax Res. ... h
24 S Boston Utd. ... h

MAY

1 S Lincoln C. Res. a

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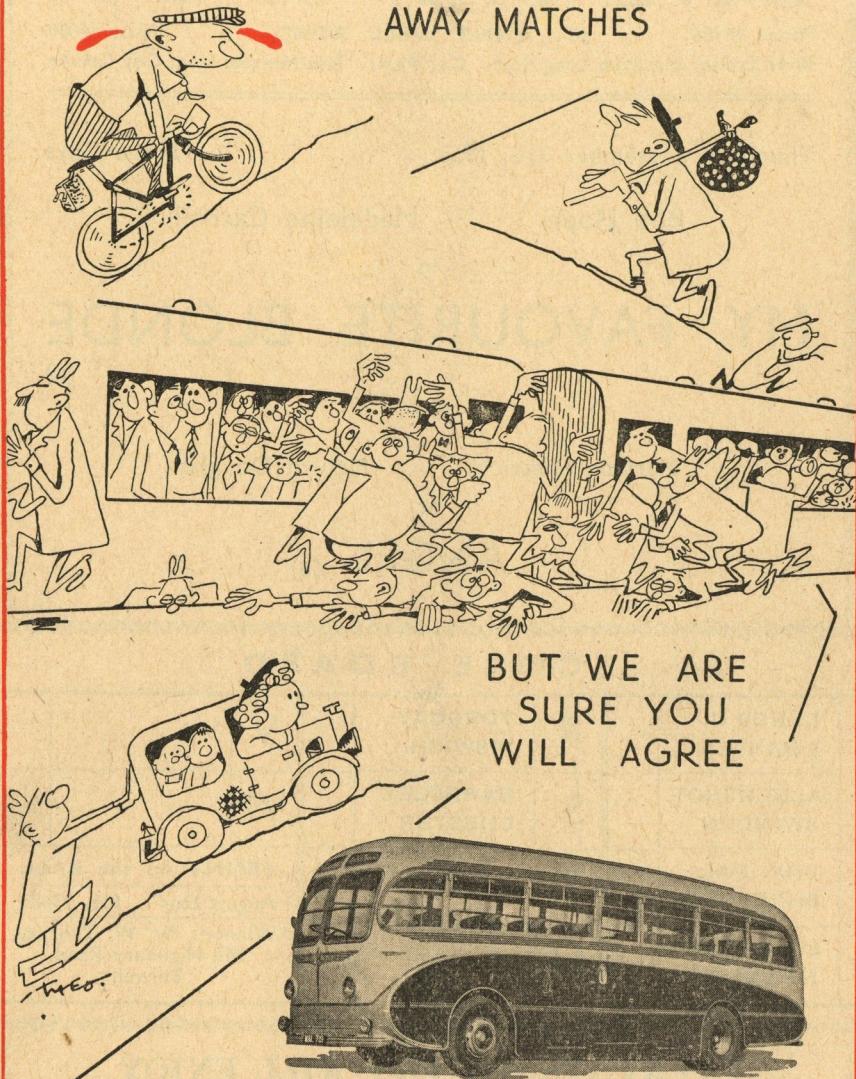
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