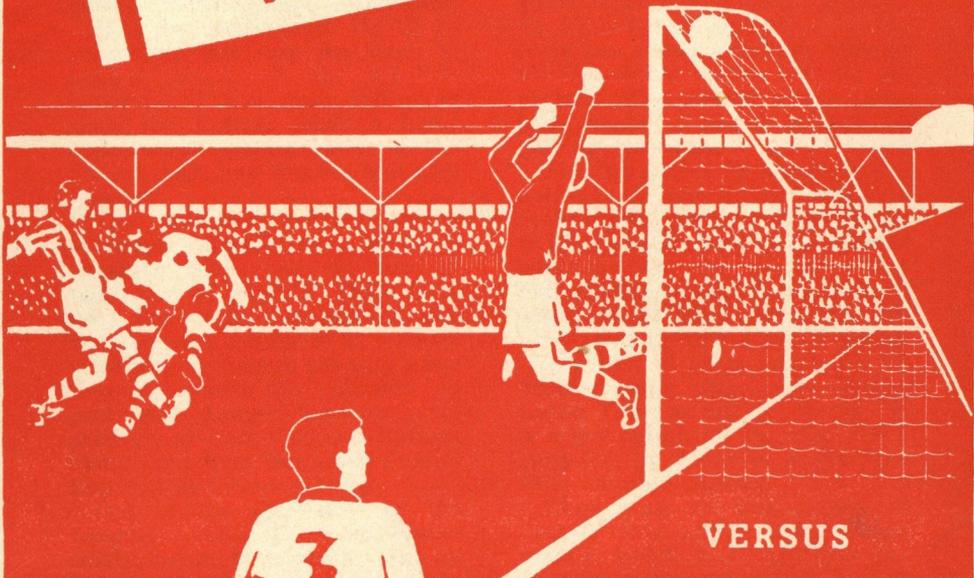


OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

3<sup>D</sup>

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Secretary: W. C. Williams

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Telegrams: "Football, Stoke-on-Trent."

Saturday, 5th February, 1955

Kick-off 3.15 p.m.

## Spotlight

STOKE CITY renew their League programme this afternoon in almost a "welcome home" atmosphere

It is five weeks since the City's supporters last saw the team in League action at the Victoria Ground, and three-and-a-half weeks since the Potters made a home appearance—against Bury in the first of those now famous four Cup replays.

The crowded, stirring events between, however, have made it anything but a case of "out of sight, out of mind." There have been those epic Cup replays with Bury—giving a 9 hours 22 minutes total playing time to the City's five Cup clashes with the "Shakers"—postponed League matches successively at Port Vale and Rotherham; and then last week Stoke's Cup exit at Swansea Town.

Out of the Cup—out for the League. This perennial soccer smoke screen, so hopefully sent up by so many Cup vanquished clubs at this stage of the season, spreads once more over the promotion-bidding scene. For the Potters, however, it has a realistic basis. It also

has a call for action and urgency.

Over the City's Cup farewell, there is disappointment, perhaps. Certainly not recrimination, for the team has added a notable chapter to the club's soccer history, especially when sizable injury problems made a heavy impact on playing resources.

The Cup games, by and large, did nothing to lessen confidence in Stoke's competence and constancy to issue a solid challenge for League honours. On the contrary, they indicated an up-and-doing attitude which could yield consistent advancement in testing games ahead.

The first of these comes up for decision today, with League leaders Luton Town as our opponents. It is a key match for the City and a yardstick by which to assess their First Division chances.

Time, none the less, is not on Stoke's side. The five points' margin which now separates the Potters from the head of the League table must be narrowed—and soon at that—if they are to keep squarely in the promotion picture. "Argus"

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## Our Opponents

Luton Town, who we welcome to the Victoria Ground this afternoon, are a club with a long and notable soccer career. The "Hatters" were founded in 1885 as an amateur club, and took up professional status in 1891, being pioneers in this respect in the South of England.

They were foundation members of the Southern League in 1894 and in 1889 Luton became members of the Football League. After two seasons in the Second Division, however, the "Hatters" returned to the Southern League where they remained until joining the Third Division (Southern Section) on its formation in 1920. In season 1936-37 Luton gained promotion to the Second Division and have since held this status without a break.

Luton, whose Manager is Mr. "Dally" Duncan, finished in the sixth League position last season with a total of 48 points.

In the League meetings of the two clubs last season Stoke drew 1-1 at home and won 1-0 at Luton.

Pen pictures of the Luton Town players are appended:—

**R. Baynham** (goalkeeper).—In his fourth season with the Club. Secured from the Southern League club Worcester City. After a series of brilliant displays in the Reserves this season was promoted to the League side on 13th November.

**S. Dunne** (right back).—Hails from County Wicklow, Eire. Joined Luton from Shelbourne in May, 1950. Has played for his country on several occasions and forms an all-Eire full-back partnership with Bud Aherne.

**T. Aherne** (left back).—Born in Limerick, Eire. Came to Luton from Belfast Celtic in March, 1949 and has already played in 22 International matches for his country. He is a stylish back and a favourite of the crowd.

**J. Pemberton** (right half).—Was chosen for the right half berth vacated by Morton and is filling the bill admirably. Is a most useful utility player and since he

joined Luton in 1947 has played in every position, except goal and outside right.

**S. Owen** (centre half).—Captain of the side today. Previously with Birmingham City. Toured Australia with the F.A. three years ago, was a member of the football league team which played in Copenhagen in May, 1953, and was in the England party in Switzerland for the World Cup games this summer.

**W. Shanks** (left half).—Born in Malta. In his eighth season with the Club. Was signed as an outside right but was successfully converted to a wing half. Tireless worker.

**R. Davies** (outside right).—A South African signed by Clyde during their tour of South Africa in 1948, and later transferred to Luton in May, 1951. He is a go-ahead type of wing man.

**G. Turner** (inside right).—A Doncaster boy recommended to Luton whilst playing in Navy football

and signed forms upon demob. in March, 1950. Was top club scorer last season with 16 goals, and is again the club leading marksman, with a hat-trick to his credit against Blackburn.

**R. Morton** (centre forward).—Local boy who signed professional forms in February, 1946. Usually a brilliant wing half and frequently tipped for honours in this position, but since transfer of Jesse Pye to Derby County has taken over the centre forward role with equalled success.

**G. Cummins** (inside left).—Another Irishman secured by Luton for a five figure fee from Everton in August, 1953. A brilliant ball player and has already played for Eire versus Norway this season.

**J. Adam** (outside left).—Signed by Luton from the northern Club, Spennymoor United in June, 1953. Has been a regular choice this season and a consistent goal-getter. Possesses a strong, accurate shot.

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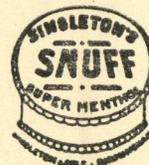
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<b>MOUNTFORD (4)</b>	<b>THOMSON (5)</b>
<b>COLEMAN (7)</b>	<b>CAIRNS (6)</b>
<b>BOWYER (8)</b>	<b>KING (9)</b>
<b>HUTTON (10)</b>	<b>MALKIN (11)</b>

Referee:—  
J. W. MALCOLM  
(Leicester)

Linesmen:—  
F. R. WARD (Red Flag)  
F. PRUCE (Yellow Flag)



<b>CULLEN (11)</b>	<b>CUMMINS (10)</b>	<b>MORTON (9)</b>	<b>TURNER (8)</b>	<b>DAVIES (7)</b>
<b>SHANKS (6)</b>	<b>OWEN (5)</b>	<b>PEMBERTON (4)</b>		
<b>AHERNE (3)</b>	<b>DUNNE (2)</b>			

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Stoke City Supporters' Club, with a membership now exceeding 1,100, is to have its own official badge. The badge, neat and attractive in design and decoration, will shortly be on sale, price 2s.

To speed the plans for providing a broadcast relay to local hospitals of commentaries on home matches of the Potteries' senior clubs, and also to raise the £5,000 cost of the scheme, a Six Towns' Committee, representative of both the Stoke City and Port Vale clubs and other supporting interests, has been formed.

Its chief officials are Ald. A. E. Bennett, Deputy Lord Mayor of Stoke-on-Trent (Chairman); Mr. F. W. Burgess, Chairman, Port Vale F.C. (Vice-Chairman), Mr. A. Gallacher, Stoke Supporters' Club (Secretary) and Mr. E. Pepper, Stoke Supporters' Club (Treasurer).

Collections on behalf of the Broadcast Fund are to be made at Stoke

City and Port Vale home matches.

Consequent on Mr. Jack Marshall, Stoke City trainer, joining Sheffield Wednesday in a similar official capacity, Mr. Norman Tapken has been appointed the City's chief trainer, with Mr. Tony Waddington as assistant trainer. Ex-Stoke player Frank Baker has taken over charge of the City's "B" team.

Stoke City's goal-scorers:—

First team:—League: Oscroft (11) King (11), Bowyer (5), Hutton (5), Short (2), Bevans, Malkin, McCue (one each), and Harris (o.g.).

F.A. Cup:—King (3), Bowyer (2), Ratcliffe (2), Coleman (2), Thomson and Malkin (one each).

Second team:—Finney (10), Lawton (5), Coleman (5), Malkin (4), King (4), Hutchinson (4), Ward (3), Ratcliffe (3), Bevans (3), Whiston, Hutton, Kirkby (one each), J. Kelly (o.g.) and Butler (o.g.).

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## DIVISION II

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Goals		
					F.	A.	Pts.
Luton T.	26	16	7	3	60	36	35
Blackburn	27	16	9	2	85	55	34
Notts C.	26	14	8	4	49	42	32
Leeds U.	27	14	9	4	43	41	32
Roth'ham	26	14	9	3	59	47	31
<b>Stoke C.</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>30</b>
Fulham	25	12	7	6	54	48	30
West Ham	26	11	8	7	50	50	29
Swansea	26	11	9	6	55	50	28
B'm'gham	24	11	8	5	48	26	27
Midd'bro	27	12	12	3	43	51	27
Bristol R.	26	11	11	4	52	47	26
Bury	26	9	9	8	49	46	26
Liverpool	26	11	11	4	57	58	26
Hull C.	25	8	10	7	29	34	23
Lincoln	26	9	12	5	44	52	23
Nottm. F.	26	9	13	4	33	39	22
Port Vale	26	6	11	9	29	45	21
Doncaster	25	9	13	3	37	60	21
Plymouth	27	5	15	7	38	56	17
Derby C.	26	5	15	6	36	53	16
Ipswich	26	6	18	2	40	64	14

## Key to Scoreboard

- A**— Birmingham v. Lincoln .....
- B**— Blackburn v. Bristol R.....
- C**— Derby v. Port Vale.....
- D**— Doncaster v. Rotherham ....
- E**— Fulham v. Liverpool .....
- F**— Ipswich v. Bury .....
- G**— Middlesbrough v. Hull C ....
- H**— Notts. F. v. Leeds .....
- J**— Swansea v. Notts. C. ....
- K**— West Ham v. Plymouth ....
- L**— Crewe A. v. Accrington.....

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## SECOND DIVISION      FIXTURE LISTS 1954-55      CENTRAL LEAGUE

Date	Club	Goals F. A.	Date	Club	Goals F. A.
Aug. 21	Birmingham City .....H	2 1	Aug. 21	West Bromwich Albion ...A	1 2
" 25	Nottingham Forest .....A	3 0	" 23	Manchester City .....H	2 1
" 28	Middlesbrough .....A	2 1	" 28	Everton .....H	2 0
" 30	Nottingham Forest .....H	2 0	Sept. 1	Manchester City .....A	1 0
Sept. 4	Port Vale .....H	0 0	" 4	Chesterfield.....A	2 0
" 8	Leeds United .....A	1 0	" 6	Leeds United .....H	3 1
" 11	Rotherham United .....H	1 2	" 11	Sheffield United .....A	0 0
" 13	Leeds United .....H	0 1	" 15	Leeds United .....A	2 0
" 18	Luton Town .....A	1 3	" 18	Barnsley .....H	0 3
" 22	Ipswich Town .....A	1 0	" 25	Burnley .....A	0 2
" 25	Hull City .....H	0 0	Oct. 2	Preston North End .....H	0 2
Oct. 2	Lincoln City .....A	4 1	" 9	Wolverhampton W. ....H	0 1
" 9	Notts County .....A	0 1	" 16	Aston Villa .....A	3 1
" 16	Liverpool .....H	2 0	" 23	Liverpool .....H	2 2
" 23	West Ham United .....A	0 3	" 30	Manchester United .....A	0 2
" 30	Blackburn Rovers .....H	1 1	Nov. 6	Huddersfield Town .....H	8 5
Nov. 6	Fulham .....A	2 2	" 13	Bolton Wanderers .....A	1 6
" 13	Swansea Town .....H	4 1	" 20	Blackburn Rovers .....H	4 1
" 20	(1)	- -	" 27	Blackpool .....A	3 2
" 27	Derby County.....H	3 1	Dec. 4	Derby County.....H	1 1
Dec. 4	Bristol Rovers .....A	1 1	" 11	Sheffield Wednesday ...A	2 1
" 11	(2) Plymouth Argyle .....H	3 1	" 18	West Bromwich Albion ...H	0 1
" 18	Birmingham City .....A	0 2	" 25	Bury .....A	3 0
" 25	Bury .....H	3 2	" 27	Bury .....H	2 1
" 27	Bury .....A	1 1	Jan. 1	Everton .....A	0 1
Jan. 1	Middlesbrough .....H	1 2	" 8	Newcastle United .....H	1 1
" 8	(3) Bury .....A	3 2	" 15	Chesterfield.....H	3 2
" 15	Port Vale .....A	- -†	" 22	Sheffield United .....H	2 1
" 22	Rotherham United .....A	- -†	" 29		- -
" 29	(4) Swansea T. ....A	1 3	Feb. 5	Barnsley .....A	
Feb. 5	Luton Town .....H		" 12	Burnley .....H	
" 12	Hull City .....A		" 19	Preston North End .....A	
" 19	(5) Lincoln City .....H		" 26	Wolverhampton W. ....A	
" 26	Notts County .....H		Mar. 5	Aston Villa .....H	
Mar. 5	Liverpool .....A		" 12	Liverpool .....A	
" 12	(6) West Ham United ...H		" 19	Manchester United .....H	
" 19	Blackburn Rovers .....A		" 26	Huddersfield Town .....A	
" 26	Fulham .....H		April 2	Bolton Wanderers .....H	
April 2	Swansea Town .....A		" 8	Newcastle United .....A	
" 9	Doncaster Rovers .....H		" 9	Blackburn Rovers .....A	
" 11	Ipswich Town .....H		" 16	Blackpool .....H	
" 16	Derby County.....A		" 23	Derby County.....A	
" 20	Doncaster Rovers .....A		" 30	Sheffield Wednesday ...H	
" 23	Bristol Rovers .....H				
" 30	Plymouth Argyle .....A				

† Match postponed

\* Match abandoned

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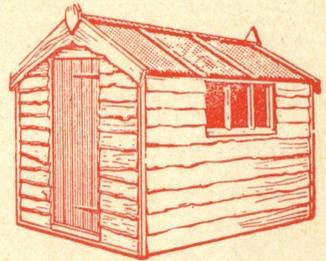


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