



BLUES

News

THE OFFICIAL
PROGRAMME OF

BIRMINGHAM CITY FOOTBALL CLUB

SEASON 1956-57

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THE FINEST BICYCLE BUILT TO-DAY

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Telephone : VICTORIA 0101 *Telegrams :* "Heathen, Birmingham"

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20th, 1956

CAPABLE YOUTH

WHILE we are still searching for the blend that brought so many goals during the first seven games of the season, we can look with no little satisfaction on the performances of our young players who have made their First Division bow in recent weeks. and feel a trifle more than gratified that there are so many capable youngsters ready and waiting to snatch at the chance of proving themselves in the top class.

It was a tough assignment for Bernard Larkin and Brian Orritt at Leeds last week-end, but they took up the challenge with a zest that matched their ability, and Larkin's goal crowned a really steady debut. Few teams return from Leeds with anything but memories of a hard struggle, and United supporters are not slow to express their feelings when they see their favourites on the receiving end.

A solid Blues defence had all the answers for the lively Leeds attack, but with John Charles' activities so restricted, a Birmingham victory was always on the cards, and when Bernard Larkin scored his first League goal (as neat a header as you could wish to see) in the 54th minute, the home men were really disturbed.

They could see the points disappearing, a most unusual experience for Leeds fans, hut Ripley's equaliser in 74 minutes, with Gilbert Merrick on the ground after having been charged by Charles, saved the situation.

And so to Luton Town who are here this afternoon with a record exactly similar (apart from goal average) to Blues. While we were bringing a point from Leeds the Hatters were recording their sixth victory with a 2-0 home win over Sheffield Wednesday. Of course Luton will remember their last visit to St. Andrew's last September when the players were involved in a coach mishap, with, fortunately on serious injuries, and then they took back a point from a goalless draw.

TALKING POINTS

by the Editor

OUR 100 per cent. home record is no more, but with a slice of luck we might well have kept it intact against Bolton.

With three reserves in our ranks, we didn't do so badly to hold Wanderers to a goalless draw. With Jeff Hall on international duty in Ireland, Alex Govan and Peter Murphy on the injured list, it was no easy task, particularly when you are temporarily off the goal standard, to find a line capable of recapturing lost form.

Making his First Division debut, Brian Farmer will look back on the game with pride, and although Peter Warmington and Geoff Cox could not get among the goals, they put in a deal of hard work on a day in which defenders held a firm grip.

What a contrast, from a goal scoring aspect, was the latest visit of Bolton

Wanderers. In the corresponding match last season seven goals were scored (Peter Warmington got two of Blues five remember), and a fortnight ago the nearest either side got to finding the net were half a dozen near misses.

Nat Lofthouse will remember his recent tour of the Midlands. In four successive games (against Wolves, Villa, Birmingham and Albion) he failed to score. Trevor Smith, back at his best, gave Nat no rope at all in their last set-to.

While we were disputing the points with Bolton, Luton Town were engaged in a rare battle at Newcastle and came away with a hard won point, Gordon Turner scoring both goals in the 2-2 draw.

Incidentally Trevor Smith has come through a severe test with honours in recent weeks. You don't need reminding that clubs like Cardiff, Wolves, Bolton and Leeds are renowned for their down-the-middle power.

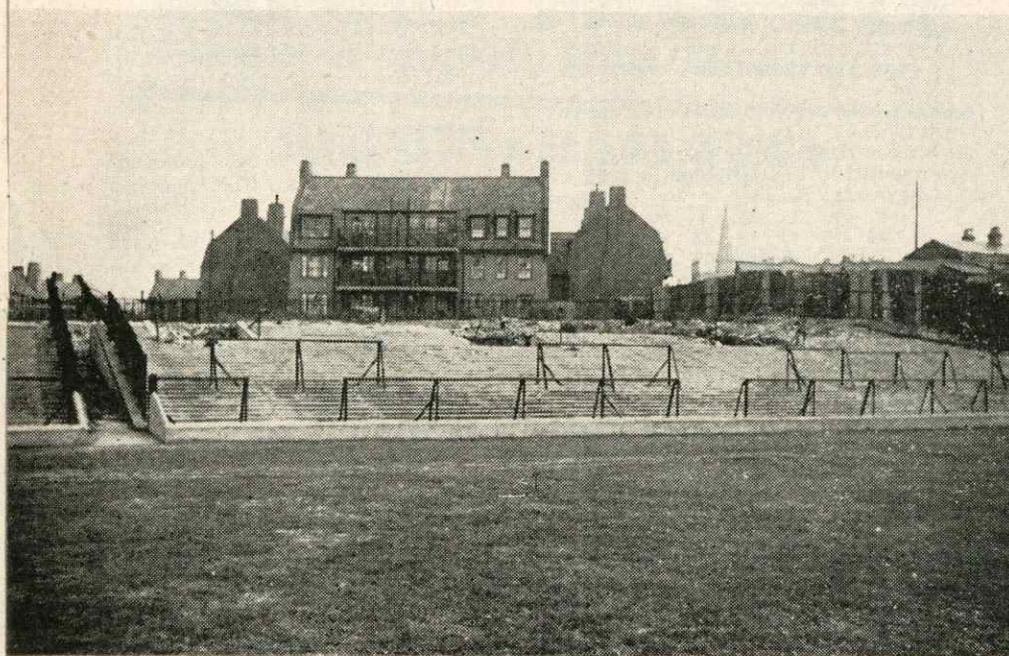
Luton have figured in some heavy scoring thrillers this term. Remember they began the season by overrunning Sunderland 6-2 at Kenilworth Road. Then they put up a great fight at Molineux where they were beaten 4-5 on August 29th.

They came under the Blackpool hammer at Blackpool where they were beaten 4-0, and then at White Hart Lane the Hatters sustained a 5-0 upset.

Against Sheffield Wednesday last week Luton introduced 17-year-old Roland Legate to First Division football. Roland, who comes from Arlessy, near Luton, had only four games with Luton's reserve team before getting his big chance. Tony Gregory, who was recalled to the Town attack against Wednesday, is a 19-year-old.

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FROM THIS WRECKAGE



You wouldn't recognise the old place these days, but this was a familiar and sore sight in the war years when fire destroyed the old stand on 21st January, 1942, after bomb damage had already badly scarred St. Andrew's.

At the time of the Great Fire which destroyed the players dressing rooms, other buildings and valuable record books, part of the ground floor portion of the stand had been converted into an auxiliary fire station.

Now, after many years of hard work, we again have one of the finest stands in the country, with nearly 3,000 seats and 6,000 also under cover.

LUTON TOWN'S RECORD

Aug. 18 (H) Sunderland ..	6-2	8 (A) Blackpool ..	0-4
22 (H) Wolves ..	1-0	15 (H) Everton ..	2-0
25 (A) Charlton ..	2-1	22 (A) Spurs ..	0-5
29 (A) Wolves ..	4-5	29 (H) Leeds United ..	2-2
Sept. 1 (H) Manchester C. ..	3-2	Oct. 6 (A) Newcastle ..	2-2
5 (H) Aston Villa ..	0-0	13 (H) Sheffield W. ..	2-0

FOOTBALL AT ST. ANDREW'S

FOOTBALL COMBINATION

SATURDAY, 27th OCTOBER, 1956

SWANSEA TOWN RESERVES

KICK-OFF 3.0 P.M.



OUR VISITORS

LUTON TOWN

Ground: Kenilworth Road.

Manager: Mr. D. Duncan.

Colours: Shirts, white; knickers, black; stockings black with white tops.

Attendance Record: 28,433 (v. Arsenal in 1952).

Division III (South) Winners, 1937.

Promoted to First Division in 1955.

Last season's Record:

P. W. L. D. F. A. Pts.

42 17 17 8 66 64 42

Goal-scorers: Turner 19, Morton 10,

McEwan 8, Adam 5, Cullen 5, Davies

5, Pearce 4, Cummins 2, Gregory 2,

Groves 1, opponents 5.

SUPPORTERS' CLUB NOTES

A new branch of the Supporters' Club is officially opening on Tuesday, October 23rd at the College Arms, Hall Green. People wishing to enrol should contact Mr. Griffiths, 20 Sarehole Road, Hall Green.

A DANCE will take place at the Berkswell Hotel, Coventry, on the 31st October, given by Small Heath Branch.

A CONCERT will be held at the New Inns, Moseley Road, by Moseley and Balsall Heath Branch on November 17th.

MANCHESTER CITY

v

BIRMINGHAM CITY

CHEAP TRIP

To

MANCHESTER

SATURDAY, 10th NOV.

Return 11/- Fare

Birmingham New Street depart 11.0 a.m.

MANCHESTER Mayfield arrive 1.25 p.m.

Passengers Return same day at 5.40 p.m.

Light refreshments available in each direction

Full details from Stations and Official Railway Agents

BRITISH RAILWAYS

MATCH v. BOLTON WANDERERS

Saturday, October 6th, 1956.

The Referee reported to the F.A. that empty tea cartons were thrown at the visiting Goalkeeper, during the above Match, by one or two irresponsible spectators.

We ask the one or two youngsters in question to refrain from repeating this foolish behaviour.

Serious consequences could result from such irresponsible action in the future.

THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

v.

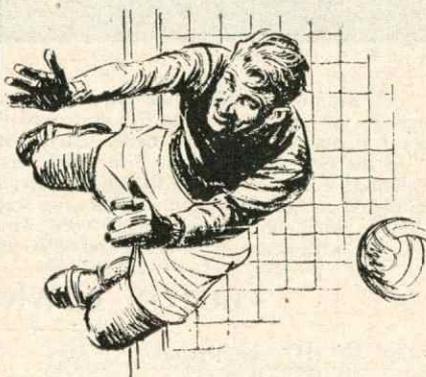
THE IRISH FOOTBALL LEAGUE

at St. James' Park, Newcastle-on-Tyne on Wednesday, 31st October, 1956.

Kick-off 7.15 p.m.

Prices of admission: 2/-, 2/6, 3/-, 4/6, 7/6 and Reserved Seats 10/-

Application for 10/- Tickets should be made to Newcastle United F.C. Ltd.



Keeps on Scoring

Whatever your choice of sport, be it soccer, rugby, hockey or any other indoor or outdoor game, you can be sure of a first-hand report of events of local interest in the "Sports Final," The Midlands' leading sports paper.

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MERRICK

HALL
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GREEN
3

WATTS
4

SMITH
5

WARHURST
6

ASTALL
7

ORRITT
8

LARKIN
10

GOVAN
11

BROWN
9



GREGORY
9

Referee:
Mr. J. KELLY
(Chorley)

Linesmen:
Mr. G. WALKER (Red Flag)
Mr. G. C. PALMER (Yellow Flag)

LEGATE
11

CUMMINS
10

TURNER
8

DAVIES
7

SHANKS
6

OWEN
5

MORTON
4

JONES
3

DUNNE
2

BAYNHAM

LUTON TOWN

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CAPE HILL BREWERY, BIRMINGHAM



Who's Who at Luton Town

WITH skipper SYD OWEN and goalkeeper RON BAYNHAM in their ranks, there's more than a tinge of Birmingham atmosphere in the Luton ranks. Syd, remember, was signed by Luton from St. Andrew's as a wing half, but quickly established himself as a first class centre half. Was capped against Hungary, Yugoslavia and Belgium in 1954.

RON BAYNHAM, Birmingham born, was signed from Worcester City and made his first team debut in 1952-53 season. Last season he kept goal for England against Denmark, Spain and Ireland.

Lofty LESLIE JONES is a Welshman and versatile full back who could not find a regular place last season owing to the consistency of Dunne and Aherne.

An Eire international, SEAMUS DUNNE joined Luton in 1950. Seamus made 40 first team appearances last season. Another Irish international defender is Thomas Aherne who was with Belfast Celtic before joining Luton in 1949.

Yet another with Midland connections is right half JIM PEMBERTON, signed from Stourbridge in 1949 as an inside forward but is a versatile half back. Another player with 40 appearances last season is Valetta born WALLY SHANKS who joined the club as a right winger.

MICHAEL CULLEN, the nippy Scottish winger can play on either flank. He gained his first cap last term against Austria, while leading marksman

GORDON TURNER has played for the Football League and was reserve for England "B." Was formerly on Hull City's books.

With ten goals, BOB MORTON was runner-up to Turner last campaign. Bob is a genuine utility man who has played at centre forward, centre half and wing half. He has appeared for England "B."

In 19 games last season REG PEARCE occupied every forward position, and also appeared at wing half, while GEORGE CUMMINS an Eire cap, was signed from Everton in 1953.

Outside left JIMMY ADAM, is a Scot, signed from Spennymoor United three years ago.

THE SHIRLEY SILVER BAND PROGRAMME OF MUSIC

1. MARCH—"Brass Buttons" P. Lambrecht
2. WALTZ MEDLEY
"Ancliffe in the Ball Room" arr F. Wright
3. SELECTION
"Souvenirs of Song" .. H. Nicholls
4. GALOP. "Leaps and Bounds" S. Brianne

PRE-MATCH SELECTION.

INTERVAL

- "Old Comrades" .. C. Teike
"Machine Gun Guards" .. F. Marechal

CONCLUSION

- "The Cossack" .. W. Rimmer
"Le-Rève-Passé" .. Helmer



win draw or lose...
they cheer
THE BLUES

...and
Ansell's
The Better Beer

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LEAGUE TABLES

DIVISION I							DIVISION II								
	Goals							Goals							
	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.	
Manchester U.	12	10	0	2	32	14	22	Stoke City	14	8	3	3	34	19	19
Tottenham H.	12	9	2	1	39	16	19	Leicester C.	13	8	2	3	34	23	19
Blackpool	12	8	3	1	36	23	17	Nottingham F.	12	7	2	3	33	16	17
Burnley	13	6	2	5	23	15	17	Bristol R.	13	8	4	1	31	18	17
Leeds United	13	7	3	3	24	18	17	Sheffield U.	12	7	3	2	32	19	16
Birmingham City	12	6	3	3	25	17	15	Huddersfield	13	7	4	2	21	20	16
Luton Town	12	6	3	3	24	23	15	Doncaster R.	13	5	3	5	27	21	15
Wolves	12	6	4	2	31	19	14	Middlesbrough	13	5	3	5	25	21	15
Bolton W.	13	5	4	4	17	16	14	Fulham	13	7	6	0	26	23	14
Arsenal	13	6	6	1	28	24	13	West Ham	12	5	4	3	16	12	13
Sheffield W.	13	5	6	2	30	30	12	Lincoln C.	12	5	4	3	18	18	13
Aston Villa	12	4	4	4	17	17	12	Bristol City	13	4	5	4	21	25	12
Preston N.E.	13	5	6	2	21	23	12	Swansea T.	12	6	6	0	29	34	12
W.B. Albion	12	3	4	5	17	20	11	Liverpool	12	3	4	5	19	19	11
Newcastle U.	12	4	5	3	14	25	11	Blackburn	12	4	6	2	24	30	10
Chelsea	12	3	5	4	13	18	10	Grimsby T.	13	4	8	1	19	18	9
Cardiff City	13	3	6	4	19	29	10	Port Vale	12	3	6	3	18	26	9
Everton	13	3	8	2	14	30	8	Barnsley	12	3	6	3	20	30	9
Sunderland	12	3	8	1	27	28	7	Leyton O.	12	2	5	5	18	29	9
Portsmouth	12	2	7	3	22	31	7	Bury	13	2	8	3	21	36	7
Manchester C.	13	2	9	2	15	31	6	Rotherham	11	2	7	2	15	26	6
Charlton A.	13	2	10	1	17	38	5	Notts County	12	1	7	4	16	34	6

LAST WEEK'S LINE-UP

FIRST DIVISION

Leeds United 1, Birmingham City 1

Leeds United: Wood; Dunn, Hair; Gibson, Marsden, Kerfoot; Meek, Charles, Forrest, Ripley, Overfield.

Birmingham City: Merrick; Hall, Green; Watts, Smith, Warhurst; Astall, Orritt, Brown, Larkin, Govan.

Scorers: Larkin for Birmingham City, Ripley for Leeds United.

FOOTBALL COMBINATION

Birmingham City Reserves 1, Norwich City Reserves 2

Birmingham City Reserves: Schofield; Farmer, Badham; Sissons, Newman, Warmington; Metcalfe, Harper, Bettany, Linnecor, Hill.

Norwich City Reserves: Nethercott; Thurlow, Englefield; Bannister, Billington, Rule; Spelman, Laskey, Chung, Coxon and Stenner.

Scorers: Spelman (2) for Norwich City, and Linnecor for Birmingham City.

F.A. YOUTH CUP COMPETITION, ROUND 1

Shrewsbury Town 3, Birmingham City 3

Birmingham City: Smith; Burke, Gill; Hanford, Pritchard, Hutchins; Short, Hinton, Talbot, Bird, Allen.

Scorers: Short, Hinton and Bird.

WARWICKSHIRE COMBINATION

Birmingham City "A" 3, Rugby Town Reserves 2

Birmingham City "A": Green; Smith, Rees; Allen, Davis, Neale; Jones, Boyd, Purvis, Cochrane, Hoderne.

Scorers: Purvis 2, Cochrane 1.

WEST MIDLAND ALLIANCE

Castle Rovers 3, Birmingham City Colts 2.

Birmingham City Colts: Gilmour; Cheshire, Pugh; Punt, O'Toole, Langdell; Lyndon, Tedder, Kyle, Reading, Dawkins.

Scorers: Tedder 1, Kyle 1.

WEST MIDLAND ALLIANCE (Birmingham Section)

Birmingham City "B" 3, Hay Green 2

Birmingham City "B": Morris; Wharton, Roach; Burden, Cox, Evans; Clover, Hemming, Grogan, Shufflebottom, Cooper.

Scorer: Grogan 3.

KEY TO SCORE BOARD

A	ARSENAL v. TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR		
B	BURNLEY v. LEEDS UNITED		
C	WALES v. SCOTLAND		
D	WEST BROMWICH ALBION v. SUNDERLAND		
E	CHELSEA v. WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS		
F	MANCHESTER UNITED v. EVERTON		
G	NEWCASTLE UNITED v. MANCHESTER CITY		
H	PORTSMOUTH v. CHARLTON ATHLETIC		
I	SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY v. BLACKPOOL		
J	PRESTON NORTH END v. BOLTON WANDERERS		
K	STOKE CITY v. SHEFFIELD UNITED		
L	NORTHAMPTON TOWN v. BIRMINGHAM CITY RESERVES		
M	NOTTS COUNTY v. NOTTINGHAM FOREST		
N	LIVERPOOL v. FULHAM		
O	LEICESTER CITY v. BLACKBURN ROVERS		
P	GILLINGHAM v. SOUTHAMPTON		
R	BRIGHTON AND HOVE v. COVENTRY CITY		
S	WALSALL v. PLYMOUTH ARGYLE		

FIXTURE LIST, 1956-57

FIRST DIVISION					FOOTBALL COMBINATION				
Date	Name of Club	Gr.	F.	A.	Date	Name of Club	Gr.	F.	A.
1956									
Aug. 18	Manchester United	A	2	2	Aug. 18	Leicester City	H	1	2
22	Portsmouth	H	3	1	25	Bristol Rovers	A	0	4
25	Arsenal	H	4	2	29	Coventry City	H	1	2
29	Portsmouth	A	4	3	Sept. 1	Brentford	H	0	0
Sept. 1	Burnley	A	0	2	3	Coventry City	A	2	0
5	Newcastle United	H	6	1	8	Swindon Town	A	3	0
8	Preston North End	H	3	0	15	Arsenal	H	4	1
15	Chelsea	A	0	1	22	Brighton and Hove A.	A	2	4
22	Cardiff City	H	2	1	29	Watford	H	0	2
29	Wolverhampton W.	A	0	3	Oct. 6	Bristol City	A	1	1
Oct. 6	Bolton Wanderers	H	0	0	13	Norwich City	H	1	2
13	Leeds United	A	1	1	20	Northampton Town	A	A	A
20	Luton Town	H			27	Swansea Town	H		
27	Aston Villa	A			Nov. 3	Charlton Athletic	A	A	A
Nov. 3	Blackpool	H			10	Reading	H	A	A
10	Manchester City	A			17	Crystal Palace	A	A	A
17	Charlton Athletic	H			24	Fulham	H	A	A
24	Sunderland	A			Dec. 1	Southend United	A	A	A
Dec. 1	Tottenham Hotspur	H			8	Tottenham Hotspur	H	A	A
8	Everton	A			15	Leicester City	A	A	A
15	Manchester United	H			22	Bristol Rovers	H	A	A
22	Arsenal	A			25	Luton Town	A	A	A
25	Sheffield Wednesday	H			26	Luton Town	H	A	A
26	Sheffield Wednesday	A			29	Brentford	H	A	A
29	Burnley	H			1957				
1957									
Jan. 1	Newcastle United	A			Jan. 5	Chelsea	A		
5		(3)			12	Swindon Town	H		
12	Preston North End	A			19	Arsenal	A		
19	Chelsea	H			26	Chelsea	H		
26		(4)			Feb. 2	Brighton and Hove A.	H		
Feb. 2	Cardiff City	A			9	Southampton	A		
9	Wolverhampton Wand.	H			16	Bristol City	H		
16	Bolton Wanderers	(5)			23	Norwich City	A		
23	Aston Villa	H			Mar. 2	Northampton Town	H		
Mar. 2	Luton Town	(6)			9	Swansea Town	A		
9	Everton	H			16	Charlton Athletic	H		
16	Blackpool	A			23	Reading	H		
23	Manchester City (SF)	(1)			30	Crystal Palace	A		
30	Charlton Athletic	A			April 6	Fulham	A		
April 6	Sunderland	H			13	Southend United	H		
13	Tottenham Hotspur	A			19	Cardiff City	A		
20	Leeds United	H			20	Tottenham Hotspur	A		
22	West Bromw. Albion	A			22	Cardiff City	H		
23	West Bromw. Albion	H			27	H		

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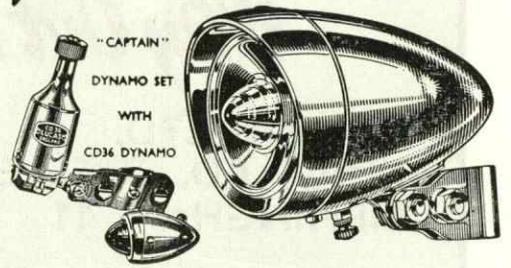


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