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1972/73 Season

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Manager: B. R. LEE, J. P. Asst. Manager: J. REARDON

Groundsman: J. SHEPPARD

Honours List

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From the Chairman

Into another season with supporters asking the usual questions —"Our season for the Cup?" "should win the league again shouldn't we?"

One of our objects, as a Committee, is to try to eliminate as far as we can, the possibility of failure (even in our thinking). The close season, which these days is almost non-existent, has got to see the ground cleaned, painted and repaired and the pitch re-seeded and presented as new. Meetings and discussions take place and players are rounded up and brought to peak fitness. The club-room, shop, tea bars and other amenities on the ground are cleaned, prepared and stocked. The volunteer helpers present themselves for another season of sustained effort. We hope we are preparing for an invasion.

I am sorry to have to say that the answer to the question posed at the beginning of this small piece is "I don't know." We have prepared and planned and perspired. We are geared for success but cannot guarantee it. We have tried to play our part, we now rely on you to help the players to play theirs.

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Secretary's Report

Once again we have cause to be proud of the efforts of our players in retaining the Isthmian League Championship in so convincing a manner. Unfortunately the Amateur Cup eluded us, although we were able to progress one round farther than the previous season, i.e. to the semi-final. Considering the pressures which were constantly upon us as existing champions, this must surely be counted as a very creditable performance. Financially we were not so successful, due principally to an early exit from the F.A. Cup, and to the fact of some of our more attractive home league fixtures falling on unfortunate dates. As a result of this we were obliged to require the assistance of the Supporters' Club who most readily obliged with suitable donations, which are gratefully acknowledged. With the appointment of a full-time organiser, the Development Fund is now showing a handsome return, and we look forward to using a large part of this money during the coming season for necessary improvements to our amenities.

In the F.A. Challenge Cup we received an early blow to our hopes of emulating our efforts of the previous two seasons which took us to the fourth qualifying round and the first round proper respectively. We can have no quarrel with the result and our opponents (Maidenhead United) subsequently proved their ability by progressing to the first round proper.

Our opening game at Aveley in the Amateur Cup was notable for our recovery from an early two-goal deficit, to force a replay in which we were comfortable winners 5-1. Our visitors in the second round, Spennymoor United, came with the most convincing record of being the premier northern club of the season and provided one of the best games seen at Loakes Park before going down 2-1. The next two games against Walton and Hayes respectively, as might be expected at this stage of the competition, provided ties which were only resolved after dour struggles. The semi-final at Brentford must have been a great disappointment to the large number of our supporters present, but we must concede that the better team on the day, won, and furthermore went on to lift the trophy. Due to amateur international calls it will be noted that the last three ties were played on consecutive Saturdays, which must have brought a continuous pressure on all the players involved.

Our first game in the Berks. & Bucks. Senior Cup gave us the opportunity to avenge an earlier defeat in the F.A. Cup, in beating Maidenhead at home 3-1. Our visitors from Abingdon in the semi-final were not overcome without some difficulty, and it was only in the closing stages that we were able to assert any superiority After our efforts in the final we must surely be considering that Maidenhead is not one of our happier hunting grounds. The game against Slough Town looked to be a stalemate, until those three goals came in the last ten minutes.

There is no doubt that our record in the Isthmian League, even surpassed that of the previous season. A goal record of 102 for and 20 against, speaks for itself. When one considers that clubs of the calibre of Walton, Hayes and Bishops Stortford have joined the League, then this must surely be considered no mean performance. With plans afoot to merge even more of the leading southern amateur clubs, we can expect that the League will become even more competitive.

Although we managed to obtain one more point than last season in the Premier Midweek Floodlight League, we had to be content with the runners-up position in our section. Although these games might have been generally considered of inferior quality, they did in fact prove to be quite interesting, mainly due to the local opposition.

Eleven friendly matches were played during the season of which we won 8 and drew 3. Included were two games whilst on tour, and one against a Mike Keen XI, specially staged for the benefit of Wycombe Minor football at which a sum of over £400 was raised.

For our players the season commenced on the 14th August with six newcomers to the club, viz : Chris Austin, Paul Birdseye, Mick Holifield, Julian Lailey, Bob Marcham and Rob Williams. During the course of the season seven players left to join other clubs, and as replacements we were pleased to welcome Derek Gamblin, Mick Mellows, and Dave Bullock. Keith Searle although not commencing the season with us, returned to the club on 24th August and soon made his presence felt. It is also worth noting that Ted Powell despite international calls played in all forty Isthmian League games. We must also mention such long-serving players as Tony Horseman, John Maskell and Ian Rundle, who must all have enjoyed one of their best seasons ever.

Ted Powell and John Delaney played for England on seven occasions, as did Larry Pritchard on six and Derek Gamblin on five. Paul Birdseye, Rob Williams, Mick Holifield and Chris Austin were also selected for F.A. Amateur XI's. We were once again well represented in the Berks. & Bucks. F.A. XI, which won the Southern Counties Championship, and a presentation was made to John Delaney on his twenty-fifth appearance for the county XI. It is perhaps appropriate to record at this time, that Ted Powell is taking an appointment with Kingstonian F.C. as player coach this coming season. We shall miss his commanding presence on the field, but wish him well, and look forward to his return visits to Loakes Park. During the season we once again had the honour of staging the England amateur international with Eire. Unfortunately this came at the time of the fuel power crisis and was in fact played on a Friday afternoon with the attendance suffering as a consequence.

Our tour to Greece during the Spring Holiday, was once again a great success. Two matches were played, the first against the Greek National Youth XI at the Aik Stadium (reputed to have the best playing surface in Greece) which we won 1-0. The second against a Panathanaikos under-23 XI was a curtain-raiser to the Greek Under-23 international against Czechoslovakia. The kick-off was at 2.30 p.m., the temperature in the 80's and by the end of the game which we won 3-1 there was an attendance of 30,000.

In recent years, by our performance, we have established ourselves as one of the leading amateur clubs. To maintain this position will undoubtedly prove to be as difficult as reaching it. There is no room for complacency, and we shall need to utilise our resources to the full if we are to continue successfully.

A. J. (BERT) CRUMP (Hon. Sec.).

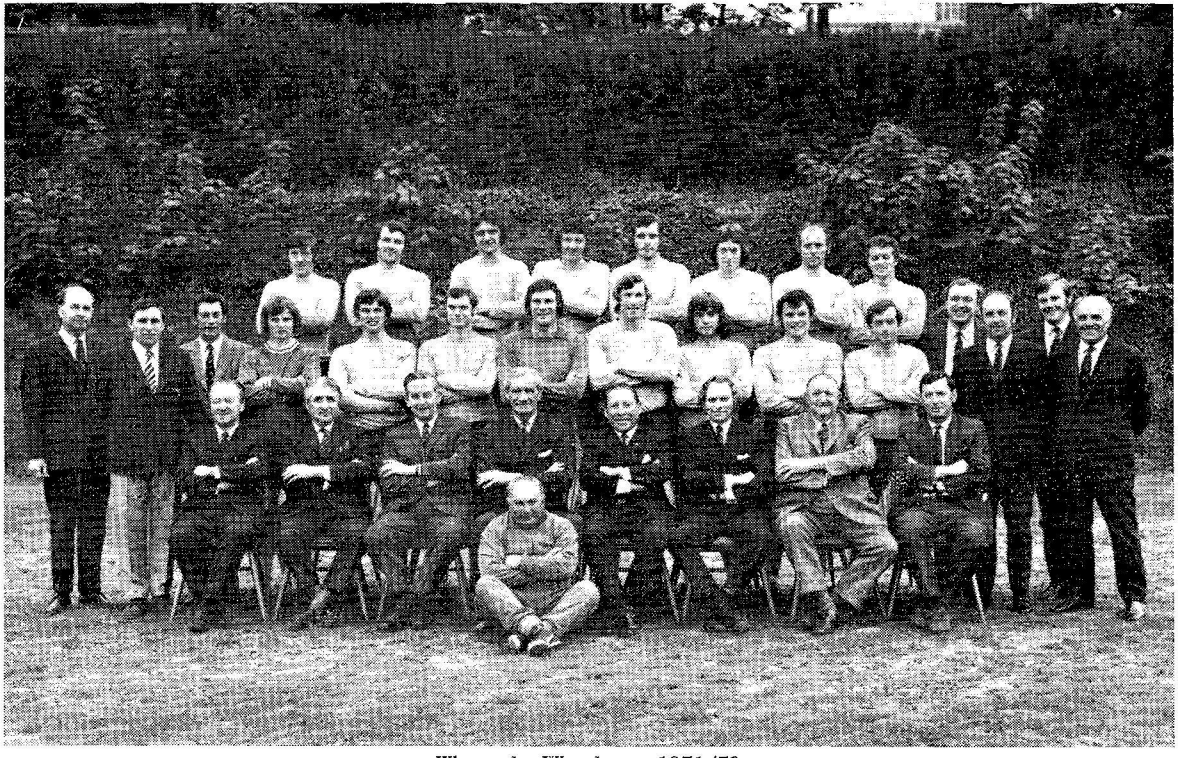
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Football Finance

by ROGER LEE, Treasurer

In winning what is considered to be the premier Amateur League in the Country for the past two seasons, we are all justifiably proud to be associated with this Club. But what is the price of success ? the financial results are tinged with a measure of disappointment.

Senior Amateur soccer is a highly competitive " business " and the source of any Club's income is important to its survival. Normally success encourages increased support, but the past season has indicated an exception, gate receipts have fallen.

The statistics reflect the importance of winning when playing in Cup Competitions and the part the " floating ' supporter plays in our fortunes.

No amateur club in this country can boast the support that is evident when Wycombe Wanderers are playing, indeed many professional clubs within the lower Divisions of the Football League are envious of our record, but it is a fact that few Clubs in the Country are self-supporting from gate receipts alone.

Extreme care is taken at our Committee Meetings to ensure that good value is obtained on all materials and purchases made by the Club. Crowd safety is of primary importance and concern to us all, and with building costs rising there is the need of the continuing support of the Club's Development Fund, used to provide and improve existing facilities.

This fund was set up as its name suggests for development purposes, and we have avoided erosion of this capital awaiting the opportunity to make purchases for the benefit of all Club Members. It could be considered that if the every day maintenance expenses of the ground were met from this fund, when considering the high costs involved, then a trading credit would have been achieved this past season. It is a credit to all who contribute and work hard in this fund-raising activity that cash is available for the benefit of all members, and we are all aware of the measure of support this money makes to the Club.

Inclement weather can have a bad effect upon our gate receipts, and indeed this was one factor for the decline in revenue this season. The Club records need only to be examined to see that our F.A. Amateur Challenge Cup Quarter Final Tie against Hayes, was not nearly as well supported as in previous years when we played St. Albans (1969/70) and Skelmersdale (1970/71). On the day our match was due to be played, umbrellas and raincoats were the order of the day, and gate receipts suffered accordingly; our floating supporter failed to appear and receipts were approximately 50% of the previous year's gate.

When considering our Cup Ties, one should also realise that the match expenses are extremely high, these games are attractive matches in terms of receipts. Our visitors share the nett gate, but before these figures are computed match expenses must be deducted. These are bona-fide costs incurred in staging the match; our visitors' travel expenses, Hotel expenses, printing and advertising, hire of Police, and additional Stewards and Gatekeepers, and also the increased fees and expenses of the Referee and Linesmen. A percentage payment is also made from each game within a Cup Competition to the official organising bodies, The Football Association, the Berks. & Bucks. County Football Association, for their "Pool" which is distributed at the end of each season to all participating Clubs within the Competition. The "jam" is therefore not too rich. To the uninitiated although they would appear to be lucrative, unless the attendance figures are extremely high, as I have mentioned previously, they are merely another attractive fixture.

We have at Loakes Park used imagination and effort in order to produce a worthwhile programme, many will remember the excellent results for the England v. Republic of Ireland game. Criticism is heard regarding the availability of programmes for a particular match, but in mitigation one should examine the difficulties. Without the revenue the Club receives from advertisements our programmes throughout the season would show a considerable loss. Experience is the only yardstick which the club can use in estimating the number of programmes which should be printed for any particular match, but attendance is so difficult to estimate, hence at the end of many games where our natural enthusiasm has motivated an order being placed for programmes considerably more than the actual attendance, a deficit on the day is incurred. Equally the reverse in a smaller degree occurs where the Club has underestimated the attendance; we consider a good programme to

be a service to the Supporter and although if we persistently underestimated to ensure all programmes were sold, then a larger financial gain would be made.

The cost of staging any match at Loakes Park is high, and perhaps to some degree lack of interest shown in our Premier Midweek League Competition and Friendly matches reflect within our Income and Expenditure. Many of these games played under Floodlights at Loakes Park are interesting and exciting and if they were better attended, this would help to keep our charges at a minimum.

Senior Amateur Football is very expensive to stage at our level of competition; increased costs of equipment and essential requirements for our Groundsman are ever rising, and although our Team's success has been a credit to the Club, it in no way guarantees our financial success.

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Hendon v. Wycombe — John Maskell relieves the pressure.

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The Manager Reflects — Again!

Last year at this time I wrote of the diffiffculties of maintaining a standard set in the two previous seasons and expected life to be tough in the following months. Success breeds its own problems and therefore the players achieved a considerable amount of success last year in retaining the Isthmian League Championship and progressing a stage further in the F.A. Amateur Cup. If the pressures were on last season with a standard to live up to and an "expectant" group of supporters, then the ensuing season will be even more difficult.

If we are to sustain the pressures and aim for the title again, dedication and confidence will play an important part in the players' make up. The word "dedication" in our modern society has become an absurd hackneyed phrase in describing someone's attitude to a job or passionate interest in some facet of of their life. To use the word in conjunction with the amateur footballers attitude to the game, to certain people, would seem an exaggeration. If, however, you think of certain Wycombe Players over recent years, I think the use of the word is perfectly applicable. It applies not only to the players who have reached the heights as amateur players but also to many players who have not inherited the natural instincts and talents of a top class player. On the other hand they reach a fairly high standard by sheer hard work and mental application to their game.

Dedicated and thinking players are a football Manager's dream. Thought in the game is vital, not merely tactical thought but a growing confidence within oneself to succeed. For if you think you will lose then you are lost, it's an established fact that success starts with the players will, it's all in the state of mind. The prizes in the game don't always go to the stronger and quicker man but sooner or later the man who wins is the man who THINKS he can.

The rewards for reaching the top in football are higher than ever before, England Caps, Middlesex Wanderers tour, or an entry into the lucrative professional ranks. I think players should give serious thought and concentrate their efforts in relation to the prizes offered at the end. The prizes for amateur players seem at present to be worth a little dedication .

At this stage though, it is only right to point out the inherent danger of complacency because we are the Champions. There is no place for anyone in this game to rest and sit back on his laurels, to repeat the old idiom, "you are as good as your last game." Everybody in the Club from the Chairman through the Manager and Players to the Gatemen should realise the difficulties that lie ahead, to maintain, never mind improve upon the past two or three seasons results. The challenge is there, the standard has been set — what does the year hold for Wycombe Wanderers ?

Finally a word of thanks to our loyal supporters, their encouragement is so important to the players and it often helps them play above themselves. There was an excellent example of spectator involvement in the second match in Athens against Young Greece, where the clapping of hands and joyous chorus of "Bravo" echoed around the Stadium at John Maskell's saves ! Noise, encouragement, involvement and appreciative intelligent watching is a contributory factor in lifting the performance on the field, but it is not only your own supporters that are heard. If the Greeks nearly gave Maskell the Acropolis, what would Wycombe give Keith Searle — The Gas Holder !

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From Our Sports Editor

Mike Whitesman (Bucks. Free Press)

Full of East-ern promise

Amateur football has long since reached the crossroads of its future in the ultra-commercialised space age. It had to sell itself to the public somehow to stop the financial rot by creating renewed interest.

Through several seasons and various ill-fated attempts to inject a more competitive outlook at the top, officials turned North, South, East and West wondering just which direction to choose for the best.

Finally, the decision is made. Inevitably, we head East — at least, with Barry East, new tycoon Chairman of the Isthmian League. His much publicised "Four Year Plan" seems almost certain to provide the blueprint from now on.

And all those with even half an eye on the late 1970's and early '80's must welcome the fact as the lifeline it is to a sport slowly submerging under a wave of rising costs and increased expenditure.

The East Plan suggests in effect very little that realists haven't been advocating for years. However, backed by the promise of sponsorship, it hit the headlines with enough impact to break down almost all walls of opposition.

In a nutshell the Chairman's scheme provides a degree of linkage between the two top Southern competitions (Isthmian and Athenian) establishes a promotion and relegation interest into the Isthmian League and introduces an award to allow champion clubs something tangible to show for a season's triumphant toil.

All that, plus the strong possibility of a national play-off involving the leading teams from each region, is about as much as anyone could reasonably ask for in the immediate future.

It has taken quite a while for such thinking to become accepted. Now it should be given a chance to succeed — and that means patience over a number of years — before any more ambitious ventures are undertaken.

But Barry East has opened the doorway for amateur soccer to start progressing once again. Mr. D. Norman Chester, B.E. was Chairman of the committee appointed by government in June 1966 to look into Association Football at all levels.

As he says: "It is about time somebody paid some attention to the top amateur clubs instead of all this concentration on the Football League."

His sentiments could be echoed by each amateur outfit struggling to boost its gates to survival level. Mr. Chester, Warden of Nuffield College, Oxford, also claims "the authorities have never shown sufficient interest in amateur football compared with the professional game."

Important as the professional sphere is — and few would deny it should take preference — let no one forget that all the country's top players, from Bobby Charlton to Peter Suddaby, must develop through schoolboy, and the majority also through amateur ranks.

For the sake of soccer at all levels, amateur standards must be safeguarded — if possible, even bettered. The whole question calls for a sense of proportion. It needs a directing hand.

Somehow, I have a suspicion Barry East knows exactly which way he is heading.

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The Tour

On arriving back at Gatwick Airport on June 3rd, the Committee, Staff and Players of the Wanderers expressed their satisfaction on a highly successful tour. Winning both matches and being well received by our opponents and the Greek people in general all helped to make an enjoyable eight days.

The party was due to leave Gatwick on Friday, May 26th at 11.00 p.m. We boarded the aircraft on time but unfortunately were still sitting there at 12.30 a.m. The stewardesses who were entertaining the players (or vice-versa, I'm not sure !) informed us that there was aileron trouble which was proving difficult to locate. Apart from the frustration of just sitting there, John Maskell seemed most put out. Unfortunately, John was rather ill during a tour flight to Jersey a couple of seasons ago on an aircraft which was reputed to have been flown by Jack Smethurst in World War I. We eventually took off at 12.50 a.m. and after a pleasantly uneventful flight arrived in Athens $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours later.

The tour matches were arranged for us through the Greek F.A. by Billy Bingham their National Coach. Both matches were against the Greek Under 20's prior to their Mini-World Cup series in Rumania. Billy soon realised that we were not there for merely a holiday when we asked him to provide us with training facilities on the evening of our arrival. The players were quickly indoctrinated to conditions ahead by working for an hour in a temperature of 86 degrees.

On Monday we travelled to Aik for our first match and on arrival were greeted by enough police or " militia " to cope with a Rangers v. Celtic clash ! Fortunately, they were not needed in an all-seated stadium complete with fabulous playing surface as only about 2,000 people attended the game. The match itself was good without reaching our own high standard and we won with a single goal late in the first half by Terry Reardon who, along with fellow club players Ray Eaton and Keith Mead, guested for us to make up the playing squad to 17. Much of the two following rest days were spent on Astir beach where there are bars and eating facilities and a fair number of good looking girls from most other European countries. Incidentally, our hotel manager and his brother were former crack Greek Internationals which added to a footballing atmosphere in the hotel.

Our second game played on Parathanicos Stadium was, to coin a pun, played as a " warm-up " prior to a full Under-23 International against Czechoslovakia. The temperature at 3.00 p.m. (kick-off time) was 86° with an initial 8,000 spectators that had swelled to 30,000 plus, long before our 90 minutes had ended. It was a particularly good game from our point of view winning as we did 3-1; goalscorers Terry Reardon, Mick Holifield and Keith Searle. Outstanding features of the game were a brilliant goal by Mick Holifield and some really first class saves by John Maskell who received a terrific ovation from the crowd behind his goal on the resumption of the second half. At full time both sides acknowledged the crowd on all four sides in true European fashion, an apt finalé to a most enjoyable tour.

JOHN E. REARDON.

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Ted's Tips

by E. W. Powell

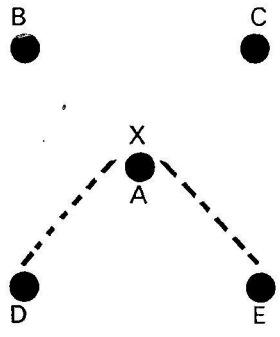
(England and Great Britain Olympic XI)

Extracted from 1971/72 Programme

No. 1 (Passing and Supporting)

Last year's two encounters with St. Albans provided the spectators with some entertaining football. You will remember the match at Loakes Park which the Blues won 3-2, with a spectacular 40-yd. goal. What will tonight's game bring ?

Soccer is a passing game, and each player tries to find a colleague with the ball whenever he is in possession. Against Hendon we did not pass the ball accurately and we did not play well as a result. Hendon put us under pressure and we did things in a hurry and so we were inaccurate. If players make us do things in a hurry, we must help each other more quickly. It is therefore important to support the player in possession. If **A** has the ball and **X** is preventing him playing the ball forward to **B** or **C**, two players must come quickly from behind to **D** and **E**. This is so that possession can be retained by playing the ball back to either of these two players. The angles vary depending on opponents, but should be around 45°, so that **D** or **E** have good passing angles for the next forward pass. The distance for support from behind should be 10 to 15 yards, so that **D** or **E** have time to make an accurate pass. and so that the attack maintains its momentum. Obviously the deeper the support the longer it takes a play the next ball forward and the more time defenders have to regroup.



St. Albans usually support each other well. Can we put them under pressure and make them inaccurate, and can we build up our attacks more accurately by better supporting ?

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No. 2 (Passing)

Everyone who goes to watch soccer likes to see defence-splitting passes, with a player sprinting clear to shoot or centre the ball. In last Saturday's ' Match of the Day ' Kindon of Burnley raced clear on several occasions and on one of these occasions he scored a spectacular goal. This is an example of support ahead of the ball and is essential if forward passes are to be made, and goals are to be scored. But passes which split defences are not often on, yet are tried fairly frequently and the opposition gains possession. Whatever ' system ' a team plays, all players must accept a certain responsibility for supporting ahead of the ball, although those players playing as forwards must make themselves available most often to receive forward passes.

Passing requires accuracy, yet when the ball goes to the opposition, it has often gone where the kicker intended it to go. Something else has therefore contributed to the pass being a bad one.

1) The speed of the pass must be correct. If it is too soft it may not reach its target, for it may be intercepted. If it is too hard, the player may not have had time to ' create space ' away from the defenders to meet the ball, or he may have difficulty in controlling it.

(2) The pass must be released at the correct time. If it goes too early the player may not be in a good receiving position. If it goes too late it may be cut out, sooner or later.

(3) The player must be able to disguise his intentions, so giving defences less time to adjust. Billy Bremner and Johnny Giles are very good at disguising who their passes are intended for.

(4) You must have often watched matches and wondered how a certain player knew that a colleague was available to receive a pass. Good players play ' with their heads up ' and have good vision. They can select the best pass from several which are available to them. The best pass is the one which goes beyond the highest number of defenders and retains possession.

No. 3 (Penalties)

The results of many European cup matches in recent months has been decided by penalties. This method seems fairer than the toss of a coin, but many people are still not satisfied. The Watney Cup was won this year by Colchester, penalties deciding the final result. These penalties caused a lot of discussion, particularly the referee's split second decisions concerning the movement of the goalkeeper.

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In the recent St. Albans match there was again a lot to stimulate discussion and argument, not least the fact that four penalty shots were taken by John Delaney and Tony Horseman, and only one goal was scored. The first misses certainly stirred us to action ! You will remember last year's cup match against Enfield when John Maskell saved a penalty kick, with the score 0-0, and we went on to win the match 2-1. What would the result have been if Duggan had scored ?

Many people have said that no one should miss a penalty, shooting from 12 yards and only the goalkeeper to beat is easy. Yet penalties are missed at all levels of play, even in International matches, as Francis Lee and Geoff Hurst will testify. Why do players miss ? Let me make one thing clear straight away, there is no right or wrong way to take a penalty. All I will say is that some coaches believe that a controlled approach run at the ball, the ball gaining pace from the speed of the run rather than the swing of the leg, assists in successful penalty taking.

Basically there are three reasons why penalties are missed :—

(1) The pressure on the person taking the kick. The bigger the occasion the more tension there is on the player taking the kick, although it is often easier to take the kick if you are already in the lead. Many players can score in practice, yet fewer are successful with a crowd looking on.

(2) Lack of practice. Penalties should be practised regularly with as real a situation as possible.

(3) Confidence. Usually there is one player in a side who enjoys taking penalties, and is confident he will score. We at Wycombe used to have two, but I am not sure how many we have now !

No. 4 (Shooting)

How many times have you watched players at different levels of football kicking stationary balls into a goal ?

Rarely in a game does one have this situation, and it is pretty useless practice if that is what it is intended for. Usually the ball is rolling or bouncing, and those of you who watched the recent 'Match of the Day' (Palace v. United) will have seen a great Denis Law goal, hit with great power whilst the ball was moving quickly away to his left. Bobby Charlton's shots at goal are usually hit whilst he is moving at speed, with great power and with either foot.

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To practise shooting then, the ball should be rolling or bouncing in any direction between 20-30 yards from goal. A simple practice is this one. Two posts set 8 yards apart with a goalkeeper in the middle, and two players 30 yards either side of the goal. The players can serve the ball for themselves, or another player can serve it for them, at various heights and speeds to shoot at goal. Each player takes it in turn to shoot.

The shots should be hit very hard, without shooting wildly. The knee should be over the ball, and the non-kicking foot should be close to the ball, usually about level with it. The eyes should be looking at the ball and the head should be kept down even after contact. If the knee is not over the ball, or if the head is lifted too early or too quickly the ball will be lifted usually high and wide over the goal. These are the usual reasons for the shots being off target, besides the opposition's presence causing inaccuracy.

No. 5 (Systems)

Have you ever fancied yourself as a coach ?

How would you go about coaching your team ?

A coach's job is to harness the talents of eleven or more players into a unit, a team. He must assess the strengths and weaknesses of the individuals, and decide best how to use the players at his disposal. This means that he must decide how many players he is going to put in different areas of the field. For example, how many players are to be played in the middle of the pitch — two, three or four — because that will then determine the number of players who are played well forward. The 'System,' or method of play, should depend on the players available, and not the other way round. It may take time for the team to settle, or certain players may be injured or playing below their best, and so your method of play may vary slightly. The coach has then the task of improving the individual players to make them perform their jobs better, hence making the team improve its performances !

Probably the most difficult part of the coach's job is to select the correct way to get the best out of certain players. Do you, for example, play Pele in the role he played in the World Cup in 1966, as one of your principal strikers, and make it easy for opponents to make contact with him. Or do you play him in the role he played in 1970 where he is coming forward from deeper positions to support the principal striker Tostao. Do you play George Best in mid-field, on the wing, or well forward ?

Often in football at lower levels, and in schoolboy football, boys or players are asked to play in a way which it not suited to

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them or to the team. Because England won the World Cup with at least three players in the mid-field, coaches began to think that this was the ' magic formula.' The important point to bear in mind here is that if you can gain control in mid-field with three players, then that may be the means whereby you win the match. Coaches believe that the mid-field is the most important area of the field in which to gain control, and most teams find it difficult with only two players.

What is your best Wycombe team ?

What method of play would you adopt ?

No. 6 (Work-rate)

In an even game of soccer, each side has possession of the ball for approximately 30 minutes. (The ball is in play for about an hour in a match lasting one-and-a-half hours). If we divide this 30 minutes by eleven players, then each player will have possession of the ball for about three minutes. What is he doing in the other 57 minutes of the game ? Whilst his side is in possession he should be supporting in an attempt to help put the ball in the opponents' goal. This leaves 30 minutes when the opposition is in possession. Obviously all the players should assist in trying to take the ball from their opponents. A player with a high work-rate is one who runs in an attempt to help his team gain possession of the ball, and runs to assist in the scoring of goals, throughout the duration of the game.

Peter Osgood was recently accused by his Manager of ' lack of effort,' and was put on the transfer list. In the 1966 World Cup Jimmy Greaves was excluded and preference given to Roger Hunt, in the England team, partly because the latter had a much higher ' work rate ' than Greaves.

We are playing in a period of ' Method ' football, where players are being encouraged to work hard in order to help each other. Just because one or two players have skill in dribbling, etc., this should not mean that their team will only defend with ten or nine players. All players should defend when the ball is lost, and today there is a greater emphasis put on the defending of the forward players for three main reasons. Firstly the opportunities for goal attempts should be better if the ball is won earlier. Secondly, if defence-minded players are put under pressure they may pass the ball inacurately to their forward players, and make it easier for the opposing defenders to win possession. Thirdly, if the attacking side is encouraged to play more passes in order to make progress forward, this should give your defence more time to organise itself against attacks.



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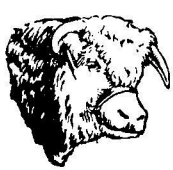
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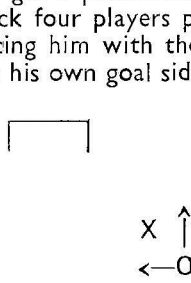
No. 7 (Defending)

If you were playing against George Best, who is one of the cleverest and quickest players in the Football League, how would you defend against him ? Some people would argue that on his day, no one can stop him. In that case can we make it difficult for him to perform his skills ?

One would normally associate the forwards with attacking and the defenders with defending. But surely if the attack breaks down and the opposition gains possession, the team without the ball is now defending, all eleven players. Many players' skills break down under pressure, so can we put pressure on the players we play against. We mean by pressure, reducing the space they work in. If any of the opposition players receive the ball we should try and do one of four things :—

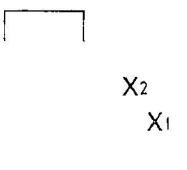
(1) Win the ball by tackling successfully. This requires timing, speed, determination and strength.

(2) Make the opponent play the ball towards his own goal. This means that the defender must be close to the opponent before he gains possession, and this should be one of the aims of the back four players particularly. He must try and stop the opponent facing him with the ball, keeping very close to him but remaining on his own goal side.



(3) If he is facing your goal force him away from it. This means that the opponent should be forced away from the defender's goal. If **X** is the defender, he should try and force **O** in the direction of the arrows.

(4) If we have lost possession and the attack is coming into our half of the field, we should try and ensure that any of our players who is challenging for possession, is supported. If **X1** is beaten than **X2** should be close enough to gain possession, provided **O** is forced in the direction of the arrow.



If all the players have a high 'work rate,' they should be able to harrass the attacking side for ninety minutes. Many balls should be won nearer the opponents' goal. The nearer the better, because this should then increase your chances of scoring more goals.

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No. 8 (Referees)

The subject of referees cropped up again in the dressing-room after last Saturday's match against Woking !

What is the referee's job ? The referee's job is to make sure that players who break the rules are penalised, and players who seek to gain unfair advantage from them are discouraged. ' The referees do not commit the offences, it is the players who break the rules.' This is something which is often quoted, and this is obviously true, but it is the referee's job to ensure that the game is played according to the laws which are laid down.

The laws have not changed this season but we have all heard about the ' hard line ' approach which the referees have been instructed to follow. They are told for what offences they should book players, and are told they should ' control the players ' !

Where are the difficulties ? The players have had to get accustomed to a different interpretation of some of the rules ' overnight ' e.g. ' No tackling through legs.' This is obviously an excellent change, and defenders have to be more careful because it is dangerous to tackle from behind. Fowards are encouraged to use more skill in other words.

A second difficulty comes with interpretation of the rules. As human beings are different so referees are different, and it is difficult to get consistency in interpretation, e.g. When do you give advantage and when not ?

Thirdly, some referees are what players and coaches call ' ball watchers.' They do not see incidents after the ball has gone, because their eyes have followed the path of the ball. An example of this from last Saturday was the injury to Paul Birdseye in the first ten minutes of the game.

Fourthly, some managers, I will not call them F.A. Coaches, condone misbehaviour and the players are subject to pressure from the men in charge.

I believe that a lot of good has and will come from the ' hard line.' As Brian Lee has often told us, you cannot do anything about the referee. You must accept all decisions, whether you agree with them or not, and at times this is extremely difficult, and carry on with your part in the team. This is extremely important for young players playing in school matches, etc., where standards of refereeing vary greatly. The referee's decisions are final and he will not change his mind in spite of anything you may say.

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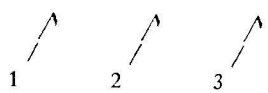
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No. 9 (Restarts)

You may have noticed that many goals come from restarts. We term restarts such things as corners, throw ins, and free kicks, when the game is started with a kick or a throw. It has been estimated that over 60% of goals scored come from restarts !

Why should this be so ? One of the reasons is that you can practice your restarts, and the more you practice, probably the more effective you will become. Most coaches believe that if you are well organised at restarts you will Score and Stop many goals. The ball must, sooner rather than later, come into the penalty area, and usually the more often it lands in front of the goal the more danger there is for the defence. What you have then to do is to encourage your attackers to attack the ball at the correct time. Usually this will entail several players attacking various routes to goal e.g. If the ball lands anywhere near the goal any one of three forwards may have a chance of making contact with it. It is a fact, that defenders cannot mark all players and spaces in front of the goal.



A second reason is undoubtedly the skill of players in the attacking team. The ball must be guaranteed to land in the danger area, and so a skilful player must take the restart. If you then have, some tall players who have skill in the air, such as John Delaney, then it is common sense to use this skill in attacking and defending. If you have Joe Adams in your team then it is reasonable to give him charge of your free kicks, because he has skill in bending the ball ! In other words you may use ploys to get maximum use from the players in your team. But you should not always play your aces, because variety can be effective. Attacking players have the element of surprise in knowing what sort of services are likely because they have practised these services. Defenders are at a disadvantage, because they can only react on players movements and the movement of the ball, and their movements may be too slow.

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No. 10 (Heading)

How many of us have watched young boys attempting to head a soccer ball ? The ball shoots off the head at some unintended angle, and they flinch and shut their eyes at the moment of impact.

One can overcome this fear of being hurt by using light balls and once they have confidence in heading, they can be taught the correct techniques.

The ball should be headed with the forehead for power and accuracy, and greater force can be exerted on the ball by the use of the neck muscles and trunk. The eyes must be kept on the ball as one is about to head it.

Unopposed practices are best for young players to learn the correct heading techniques. The skill is in applying the correct techniques under pressure, preferably in a game or game situation, certainly with opposition.

No doubt we can all mention some good players who are ' good in the air.' Let's take the 1st Division : England, Chivers, W. Davies, Osgood, Peters, R. Davies, J. Charlton . . . What makes them skilful in the air ? Height is an advantage, but the real answer is that they time everything so well. This means they assess the flight of the ball early, and move into that line, and perform the correct techniques at the right time.

When practising therefore, the ball should be thrown or kicked high so that the players can practice assessing the flight. Having assessed the flight of the ball, the players must move into the line of flight and jump high, preferably off one foot (to get more height), and head the ball. Targets can be made, but attacking heading requires different targets from defensive heading. Attacking heading requires a goal, for the ball should be headed down with power, for a low target such as a line. Defending heading requires height and distance for the ball has to be cleared well away from the danger area. The most competent thing here is height, for this gives defenders time to readjust to opposition players, and the ball. Most practices with opposition, targets and a good service are invaluable to improving this difficult skill.

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No. 11(a) (Goalkeeping)

Mistakes by many players such as poor positioning, mistimed tackles, poor clearances, poor selection of passes, tend to go unnoticed compared with those mistakes made by goalkeepers, which many people not only see but comment on. As the goalkeeper is the last line of defence his mistakes are more noticeable because they often lead to goalscoring opportunities and sometimes to goals.

What qualities does one look for in a goalkeeper ?

1. Height

Many coaches have agreed that a 6 ft. goalkeeper is a useful acquisition to a playing staff. He may be able to cover more of the goal, and cut out high crosses a little easier. But agility and speed are not easily combined with height. Corrigan of Manchester City and Parkes of Q.P.R. might be exceptions. Gordon Banks (almost 6 ft.) and other England goalkeepers of recent years, Springett, Hopkinson and Hodkinson (5 ft. 7—5 ft. 8) might be compared. Height may not be so important, but certainly agility and speed are.

2. Agility

Ability to go down low to save shots, to dive, and to spring high to catch centres are obviously important.

3. Speed

You may have seen a goalkeeper moving quickly from his line to cut out a dangerous through ball, or moving quickly from his line to dive at an opponent's feet.

4. Concentration

Often a goalkeeper may be very inactive during a game. This isolation may lead to the goalkeeper having to do something physical to keep warm and concentrate, or may lead to a loss of concentration. When you are involved infrequently it is very easy not to concentrate. Bob Wilson of Arsenal has said that he comes off the pitch at the end of a game very, very tired. This is not so much through physical effort as through mental effort. The mental effort of concentrating throughout the duration of the match.

5. Courage

Is he brave ? The goalkeeper is probably in the most vulnerable of positions with regard to injury. The laws have been tightened up recently to protect goalkeepers, and you can no doubt think back and remember goalkeepers injured in F.A. Cup Finals. Wood of Manchester United and Trautmann of Manchester City. To dive at players' feet and go for high centres demands courage, great courage at times.

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No. 11(b) (Goalkeeping)

1. Shot Stopping

Many goalkeepers are good at making saves on the goal-line. They require agility, speed, a good pair of hands and good positional sense. This latter point is important. What is good positional sense ? When players are shooting at goal from up to 25 yards, the goalkeeper should be on the edge of his six-yard box. This enables him to narrow the angle, and also means he can cover more of his goal. There is less goal to shoot at. From distances beyond 25 yards he should be 2-3 yards off his line. He is more vulnerable to shots going over his head and should not be too far out of his goal. Narrowing angles is obviously less important the further out the shooter is.

'Besides stopping shots the goalkeeper can also act as a sweeper.' If he stands on the edge of the penalty area when the ball is in the opponents' half he may be able to remove the danger of many long balls hit through or over his own defence. Bob Wilson of Arsenal and Ray Clemence of Liverpool are very good at this.

2. The goalkeeper's positioning for **Crosses** is also of vital importance. One of the big differences between amateur and professional goalkeepers, is the ability to cut out high dangerous crosses. This demands great judgement and timing. One must remember that the goalkeeper has to have the near post and the far post covered. A classic example of this was Gordon Banks' positioning near the near post for a cross when he leaped to save Pele's header at the far post in the last World Cup series. This was a great example of thoughtful positional play by the goalkeeper.

3. Distribution

Besides saving shots he has an important part to play in promoting attacks. Having saved a shot he has to help his team keep possession with an accurate kick or throw. He can, of course, kick the ball long, in the hope that his forwards can force the opposition into error and gain possession in forward areas.

4. Kicking

It is important that the goalkeeper has a good kick. This can put the opposition under pressure, or relieve pressure on his own defence !

5. Instruction

The goalkeeper is in the best position to see everything which is happening in a game. Part of his job, and a very important one, is to keep his defenders on their toes if he spots errors in his own defender's positional play, and to warn his defence if he sights danger. If a defender under pressure from an opponent is given clear instructions from his goalkeeper as to what he should do, this also helps the defence as a whole. To do this job well the goalkeeper must have a good temperament. If he gets excited or panics, then this will lead to a lack of confidence in the goalkeeper by the defence as a whole.

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Wycombe v. Spennymoor — John Delaney rising to a corner kick.



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Wycombe v. Barking — Sandwich tactics in Barking goal.

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28. 8.71	Bromley	I.L.	H	3	0
30. 8.71	Barking	I.L.	A	1	2
4. 9.71	Dulwich Hamlet	I.L.	A	4	0
7. 9.71	Clapton	I.L.	H	8	0
11. 9.71	Enfield	I.L.	A	4	0
14. 9.71	Hitchin	I.L.	H	4	0
18. 9.71	Maidenhead	F.A.C.C.	A	0	2
20. 9.71	Hayes	I.L.	A	0	0
25. 9.71	Bishops Stortford	I.L.	A	1	0
28. 9.71	Oxford City	I.L.	H	6	2
2.10.71	Walton & Hersham	I.L.	H	2	0
5.10.71	Rest of League		H	2	3
7.10.71	Hillingdon Boro.	Friendly	H	2	1
9.10.71	Kingstonian	I.L.	A	1	0
12.10.71	Hitchin	I.L.	A	3	0
16.10.71	Walthamstow	I.L.	H	2	0
23.10.71	Tooting & Mitcham	I.L.	H	1	0
26.10.71	Woking	I.L.	A	4	0
30.10.71	Sutton United	I.L.	A	2	1
2.11.71	Slough Town	P.M.F.L.	H	1	2
6.11.71	Barking	I.L.	H	2	1
9.11.71	Banbury United	P.M.F.L.	A	2	4
13.11.71	Corinthian Casuals	I.L.	A	4	0
16.11.71	Maidenhead United	P.M.F.L.	H	1	1
20.11.71	Hayes	I.L.	H	0	1
22.11.71	Luton Town	Friendly	H	1	1
24.11.71	St. Albans	I.L.	A	0	1
27.11.71	Bromley	I.L.	A	2	1
29.11.71	Wokingham Town	P.M.F.L.	A	5	1
2.12.71	Cambridge University	Friendly	H	5	1
4.12.71	Stevenage	Friendly	H	1	0
7.12.71	Chesham United	P.M.F.L.	H	2	0
11.12.71	Woking	I.L.	H	1	0
14.12.71	Chesham United	P.M.F.L.	A	5	0

Date	Opponents	Competition		Result	
18.12.71	Corinthian Casuals	I.L.	H	5	0
21.12.71	Marlow	P.M.F.L.	H	2	0
27.12.71	Oxford City	I.L.	A	4	1
1. 1.72	Dulwich Hamlet	I.L.	H	6	0
8. 1.72	Aveley	F.A.A.C.	A	2	2
11. 1.72	Banbury United	P.M.F.L.	H	3	0
15. 1.72	Aveley	F.A.A.C.	H	5	1
18. 1.72	Oxford City	P.M.F.L.	H	1	1
22. 1.72	Maidenhead United	B. & B.	H	3	1
29. 1.72	Spennymoor United	F.A.A.C.	H	2	1
2. 2.72	Metropolitan Police	Friendly	A	5	4
5. 2.72	Abingdon Town	B. & B.	H	3	1
8. 2.72	Marlow	P.M.F.L.	A	5	2
12. 2.72	Leytonstone	I.L.	H	3	1
19. 2.72	Clapton	I.L.	A	7	0
26. 2.72	Walthamstow	I.L.	A	1	1
4. 3.72	Walton & Hersham	F.A.A.C.	A	2	1
11. 3.72	Hayes	F.A.A.C.	H	1	0
14. 3.72	Wokingham Town	P.M.F.L.	H	6	1
18. 3.72	Hendon	Brentford		1	2
20. 3.72	Slough Town	P.M.F.L.	A	2	2
25. 3.72	Tooting & Mitcham	I.L.	A	4	0
28. 3.72	Cheltenham	Friendly	A	1	1
1. 4.72	Kingstonian	I.L.	H	2	0
3. 4.72	Slough Town	Maidenhead		0	3
8. 4.72	Ilford	I.L.	A	3	1
13. 4.72	Maidenhead	P.M.F.L.	A	1	0
14. 4.72	Jersey F.A. XI	Friendly	H	3	3
18. 4.72	British Universities	Friendly	H	4	0
21. 4.72	Walton & Hersham	I.L.	A	0	2
29. 4.72	Sutton United	I.L.	H	3	0
3. 5.72	Mike Keen's XI	Friendly	H	6	4
6. 5.72	Hendon	I.L.	A	1	0
10. 5.72	Combined Services	Friendly	H	4	1
13. 5.72	Bishops Stortford	I.L.	H	1	3
17. 5.72	Enfield	I.L.	H	0	1
18. 5.72	Oxford City	P.M.F.L.	A	3	1
29. 5.72	Greek National Youth XI	Athens		1	0
31. 5.72	Panathanaikos XI	Athens		3	1

APPEARANCES — MAXIMUM POSSIBLE 77

R. Williams 71: K. Searle 67: E. Powell 65: J. Hutchinson 64: A. Horseman 61: L. Pritchard 59: J. Delaney 56: I. Rundle 53: P. Birdseye 51: T. Waughman 51: J. Maskell 50: M. Holifield 39: M. Mellows 29: C. Austin 26: D. Gamblin 23: D. Bullock 22: B. Ede 15: J. Lailey 15: V. Faulkner 13: K. O'Brien 13: R. Marsham 9: N. Hanlon 7: B. Bremer 6: G. Anthony 3.

GOAL SCORERS

K. Searle 40: A. Horseman 35: L. Pritchard 22: T. Waughman 20: M. Holifield 18: J. Delaney 17: J. Hutchinson 9: R. Williams 8: P. Birdseye 6: M. Mellows 6: B. Bremer 2: N. Hanlon 2: E. Powell 2: I. Rundle 2: D. Bullock 1.

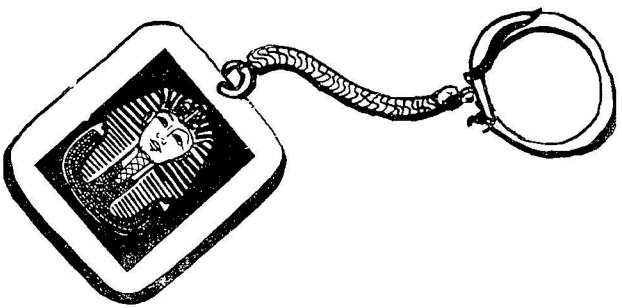
1971-72 F.A. CHALLENGE CUP

1st Q.R.	v. MAIDENHEAD UNITED	(away) lost 0-2

1971-72 F.A. AMATEUR CUP

1st R.P.	v. AVELEY A. Horseman, R. Williams	(away) draw 2-2 Attendance 1,600
1st R.P. (R)	v. AVELEY K. Searle 2, A. Horseman, M. Mellows, L. Pritchard	(home) won 5-1 Attendance 4,900
2nd R.P.	v. SPENNYMOOR UNITED M. Mellows, J. Delaney	(home) won 2-1 Attendance 5,600
3rd R.P.	v. WALTON & HERSHAM M. Mellows, A. Horseman	(away) won 2-1 Attendance 5,320
4th R.P.	v. HAYES K. Searle	(home) won 1-0 Attendance 5,270
Semi-final	v. HENDON J. Hutchinson	(Brentford) lost 1-2 Attendance 9,210

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Wycombe Wanderers	**40**	**31**	**3**	**6**	**102**	**20**	**65**
Enfield	40	26	8	6	90	41	60
Walton & Hersham	40	24	8	8	69	25	56
Hendon	40	23	10	7	78	35	56
Bishop's Stortford	40	24	5	11	61	37	53
Sutton United	40	21	10	9	77	43	52
St. Albans City	40	23	4	13	74	47	50
Ilford	40	17	11	12	62	52	45
Barking	40	20	4	16	65	61	44
Hitchin Town	40	17	10	13	68	66	44
Bromley	40	16	10	14	67	64	42
Hayes	40	14	12	14	50	48	40
Oxford City	40	13	9	18	67	74	35
Woking	40	11	10	19	52	58	32
Kingstonian	40	10	12	18	49	59	32
Walthamstow Avenue	40	12	8	20	58	70	32
Leytonstone	40	11	8	21	48	68	30
Tooting & Mitcham United	40	6	9	25	38	93	21
Clapton	40	7	7	26	45	118	21
Dulwich Hamlet	40	4	12	24	35	81	20
Corinthian Casuals	40	3	4	33	21	116	10

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