

THUNDERSLEY & HADLEIGH FOOTBALL CLUB.

Annual Report for season 1957-58.

Generally:

This season has been brighter than the last, although our expectation that both teams would do a lot better was not fully realised.

Included in the ten newcomers was a former player, M. Beck, recently released from H.M. Forces, and in February George Leggett re-signed (after 5 years), following his sojourn abroad with the R.A.F.

Although the 1st team's goal record improved, over-dribbling and lack of shooting when there was a chance lost us points, whilst the reserves passed the century mark mainly by direct methods. These methods regularly keep Stambridge and Wakering at the top, and whilst we have a yearly moan about these two Clubs always winning honours, we could usefully model our play on their styles as we have the talent but lack the forceful thrust which gets goals.

The final placings of both teams were as follows:-

<u>Division I</u> (the last 4)	P	W	D	L	F	A	Points
Gt. Wakering Rovers	20	15	2	3	71	24	32
Stambridge	20	13	4	3	73	36	30
Battlesbridge	20	12	3	5	61	34	27
Rochford Athletic	20	11	4	5	64	42	26
Rayleigh Town	20	10	4	6	70	42	24
Armada	20	10	4	6	53	32	24
Benfleet United	20	8	3	9	48	44	19
THUNDERSLEY & HADLEIGH	20	7	2	11	60	63	16
Victory Athletic	20	7	1	12	38	57	15
Hockley & Hawkwell	20	3	1	16	29	61	7
Hadleigh Athletic	20	0	0	20	15	147	0

Division III (the first 4)

Fryerns Area	22	19	2	1	125	22	40
Essex Carriers	22	19	2	1	106	24	40
THUNDERSLEY & HADLEIGH	22	14	3	5	112	38	31
Rayleigh Town	22	14	3	5	107	40	31
Battlesbridge	22	13	2	7	98	43	28
Basildon Nalco	22	10	1	11	52	76	21
Victory Athletic	22	8	3	11	57	61	19
Hockley & Hawkwell	22	8	1	13	62	95	17
Shelford Rangers	22	5	3	14	55	79	13
Rayleigh United	22	6	1	15	40	118	13
Woodham Ferrers	22	4	1	17	48	119	9
Hadleigh Athletic	22	1	0	21	23	174	2

1st Team:

With Chatwin not re-signing and Morgan not available for the first six weeks we had to play the Captain at back. During that period we met and lost by narrow margins to three tough teams, Stambridge, Thorpe Athletic and Wakering. Although we won an occasional match, our record was of fairly regular defeats, but we finished one position higher than last year. Those who watched the Cup Final will no doubt have noticed that Manchester United made the same mistakes we made.

In the Charity Cup we lost 3-1 to Thorpe who were the better side, while in the French Cup Rayleigh Town reversed their Intermediate Cup defeat by winning 2-1 (with Donovan and Morgan both unfit though playing).

We did very well in the Intermediate Cup. After beating Benfleet at home and the then powerful Rayleigh Town side away, we met the redoubtable Dagenham Res. at home on 4th January, and must be considered the unluckiest side of that day to lose 3-1. We had as much of the play and scored first. They equalised while Donovan was off. With the score still 1-1 at full time we started at 3.55 the extra half-hour with the light fading fast. There was no score in the 1st period but in the second they netted twice with shots our 'keeper could not see because it was so dark. Considering Dagenham's reputation we did well and thoroughly deserved their Captain's congratulations afterwards.

2nd Team:

As the reserves' programme developed so they began to develop a complex; that of being a first-half team only. Whilst we finished pretty strongly and by superior goal average climbed to third from the top, we could have won the league if our play had been a little consistent. Second half lapses against Essex Carriers (twice), Fryerns Area (twice) and Rayleigh Town, with indifferent displays against some of the lower placed teams, lost valuable points.

In the Junior Cup away to Fryerns which we lost 3-1, 'flu caused three players to drop out and we played with 10 men, several of whom were suffering from its after effects. With a full side we would have won.

We did well in the Shaw Cup. After a good 3-1 away win v. Shelford, we were drawn away to Essex Carriers, then top of the league. As their ground was unfit they were glad to come to us. At half-time we were losing 2-1 and they quickly made it 4-1, but we pulled up to 4-3 and with half-a-minute left equalised. Right from the kick-off in extra time we got the decider. Then followed tremendous pressure, but by hard tackling and 1st-time clearances we held out. This was our best game. In the semi-final we beat Rayleigh Town 2-1 after extra time, but in the final on our ground Fryerns had no difficulty in winning 3-0. We hit the wood-work twice and missed other chances.

We had the satisfaction of recording the highest scores in post-war games, viz.:-

18-0 v. Hadleigh Athletic (Bunn 8)
14-1 v. do.

The last highest score at home was in 1954-55 when the 1st team beat Gt. Wakering Legion 15-0. These players have also scored 8:-

Shearing (D)	1951-2 v. Rochford Athletic	12-0
Schooling	1952-3 v. Had. Athletic (Ramuz Cup)	12-1
Donovan	1953-4 v. Shoebury Town (Charity Cup)	9-4

Goal scorers:

Inwood	28	Whiting	14	Pickering	2
Smith (B)	28	Bunn (B)	11	Shearing (J)	2
Beck	17	Heward	8	Carter	1
Upton	17	Jackson (B)	6	Cornwell	1
Shearing (D)	15	Jackson (P)	5	Leggett	1
Harding	14	Cook (D)	4	Quinlan	1
Sussex	14	Baker	3	Webster	1

Club appearances:

Evans (D)	29	Jackson (B)	25	Morgan	18
Smith (B)	29	Beck	24	Harding	17
Bunn (B)	28	Donovan	23	Heward	17
Jackson (P)	28	Inwood	22	Carter	14
Cook (P)	27	Shearing (D)	22	Cornwell	9
Shearing (J)	27	Howard	21	Leonard	6
Upton	27	Sussex	21	Turpitt	6
Cook (D)	26	Whiting	20	Woodwards	6
Pickering	26	Quinlan	19	Leggett	3
Baker	25	Webster	19	Schooling	3

Inter-League Competitions:

(a) Senior side: both Messrs. Donovan (Capt.) and Howard were selected for the games v. Wednesday League and the Borough Combination, our League winning 2-0 and 1-0 and winning the Cup called "The Corporation Trophy."

P. Cook was selected by the Wednesday League, and our three players gave a very good all-round display.

(b) Junior side: in the first match v. Borough Combination which we won 2-1 B. Smith was selected with Evans(R) and Pickering as reserves. None was selected for the match v. the Wednesday League which the latter won by 3-1.

Committee meetings:

(a) League and Charity Competition: we have been represented at all meetings.

(b) Selection Committee: 32 meetings were held, members attending as follows:-

Bainbridge	28	Smith (O)	30
Blackler	30	Donovan	32
Gayes	11	Smith (B)	27 (out of 28)
Giles	29		

(in the case of Mr. Gayes, illness cut down his usual regular attendance).

Supporters - deaths:

The Club has lost the following:-

(a) Mr. A. E. Bulley - a regular and generous supporter for many years - died during August.

(b) Mrs. E. Bashford (wife of the former groundsman) - in hospital on 29th November. She will be remembered for her regular serving of teas and provision of hot water at the house "Solbys" for many years, and for her washing and care of the shirts (without charge).

(c) Vice-President S. Spittle on 2nd January after a short illness. He will be remembered for his generous yearly donation and his gift of a silver cup (The Trevard Cup) which up to now we have awarded annually to the Sportsman of the Year, together with a silver medal.

Trainers' course:

Messrs. Blackler and Giles attended a 6-weeks' course under the Southend Trainer, and the instruction has been of great benefit and their services invaluable each week. In the Shaw Cup away v. Shelford Mr. Giles attended to players on both sides and used up a good bit of his stock, while Mr. Blackler had a busy time at Benfleet. Finally, when Cornwell broke his nose on 29th April he had two skilled men to attend to him.

Incidentally, a member of the local branch of the St. John Ambulance Brigade has been present, in addition, at most of our home matches.

Injuries, sickness and insurance:

The policy covering both teams was again renewed with a firm of London Brokers, and I am happy to report that, for the second season in succession, it was not necessary for any claim to be made.

Bryan Cornwell was unfortunate to sustain a broken nose in the last match of the season, and while this did not interfere with his work he had a very painful time while it was being set.

Outing:

This was held on 29th March and again was not such a success even as last year, only 28 attending. Seats were first booked at The Adelphi, and when that show unexpectedly ceased, we had the tickets transferred to a new show at The Princes. This lasted a fortnight, and we managed to transfer to The Coliseum. Many of those attending watched a very good match Spurs v. Villa. This year the number of last-minute withdrawals was considerably reduced, and the loss borne by the Club was £2. 4. 0d.

Goodwill gestures:

- (a) President & Vice-Presidents: to whom we offer our thanks for their regular support each season, both financially and at matches.
- (b) Wives, relatives and friends: for the many ways they have assisted in keeping up the Club's good name (which are too numerous to mention).
- (c) Players with cars: a substantial saving in coach fees has been effected through those players with cars and/or motor-cycles taking their colleagues to away matches.
- (d) Cornwell, B. A.: who once again had the care of all footballs, keeping them greased and repaired; and seeing that the required numbers were ready for both teams.
- (e) Gayes, A. A.: for his regular taking round of the box during home matches until late season illness prevented his attendance.
- (f) Giles, W. W.: who presented the Club with three strips of carpet for use in our dressing-room.
- (g) Schooling, J. R.: who, after working all night and with very little sleep, travelled to Hockley with the reserves on 22nd February to make sure they had a full team.
- (h) Woodwards, B. J.: for coming in as goalkeeper for 6 matches when P. Howard was injured, and then withdrew to let Peter return; incidentally giving a very good account of himself.

Washing shirts:

The decision to continue the arrangement of asking each player to wash his shirt was well justified and all have fully co-operated.

Canteen:

Complete control was continued by our Club, with Mrs. P. Howard in charge, ably assisted by her sister, Mrs. M. Howard, and they started right from the first match on 7th September. Despite her new baby, Mrs. Woodward assisted at times, and throughout the season our staff had a busy time, particularly on 19th April. On that day we were engaged in the Shaw Cup Final; Battlesbridge were playing Stambridge in the French Cup Final, and Hadleigh Athletic also had a game.

It has meant a lot of hard work, planning, and book-keeping, but the facilities have been very much appreciated, not only by our supporters but also by visiting Clubs and League officials. Instances of this are that our last 3 games in the Shaw Cup were played on our ground, our opponents being glad to play there.

Selection Committee meetings:

With the A.G.M. decision not to include Vice-Captains on the Committee this has resulted in meetings being held alternately at the homes of Messrs. Blackler and Donovan. This has not given the two wives much rest, but their hospitality has remained unchanged, despite the late hours.

Sportsman of the Year Cup:

Members will have noticed from an earlier paragraph that our donor, Mr. Spittle, died in January. No approach to the relatives has been made from the Club nor has any communication been received from them. No award can, therefore, be made in respect of last season.

The Committee have been very concerned, since the trophy was presented, at the great difficulty which has confronted them in deciding who is worthy of the cup and medal, and the question of the future use of the cup will be considered at the A.G.M.

Next season:

Our rental of a pitch on every Saturday has been renewed at the same fee of £17. 6. 6d., plus 2/6d. a match for lighting and heating the bath. The season will commence on 6th September with the usual two or three friendlies.

Conclusion:

Our support to the League, through the attendance of our representatives, together with full co-operation with their officers throughout the season, has maintained our very high standing in official circles. This has entailed a lot of hard work by members of the Committee, foremost of whom is your Chairman whose spare time, car and telephone have been constantly in demand and use.

We have shown that we can hold our own against 1st-class teams such as Dagenham and Thorpe, and that our reserves, with a little more effort, could have been promoted to Division II and also won their Division Cup.

After several indifferent seasons, it looks as if the pendulum of success is swinging round, and that next season we shall push still higher in our leagues as we have the talent to beat any team in either of them.

In 1948 we were Champions of Division I. Let us make 1958 our Champions Year for both teams.

A. H. BAINBRIDGE,

Hon. Secretary - on behalf

6th June, 1958.

of the General Committee.

SPECIAL ADDITIONAL NOTE.

At the Trophies Meeting on 30th May, our Capt. (J. O. Donovan), in the presence of a record crowd, was presented with a special plaque for his NINE appearances in representative matches. Only two other players have reached this total in the League's history.

Season 1957-1958.

<u>Receipts</u>	£ s. d.	<u>Payments</u>	£ s. d.
Balance from season 1956-57	86 0 4	Ground rent	18 7 6
Donations:		League & cup entrance fees	7 5 6
President	1 1 0	Players' insurance prem.	11 1 0
Vice-Presidents	8 5 0	Equipment - 3 footballs	11 12 5
Others	1 1 0	Oranges for 2 teams	3 6 10
Players' subscriptions	10 7 0	Hire of coaches	19 15 0
Players' insurance	25 15 6	Printing & stationery	11 12 2
Ground collections	12 16 6	First aid supplies	9 9 10½
Coach fares	13 12 11	Cup Final tickets & cover charge, etc.	8 3
Cup Final tickets (2 @ 3/6)	4 10 0	Referees fees	11 19 6
Sale of fixture cards	7 0	Southend Charity Compt.: Ground colln. 1 8 8 Donation 10 0	1 18 8 1 16 8½
Southend Charity Compt. - ground collection	13 0 1 8 8	Gratuities	
Supporters' Club: Compt. cards	27 0 0 130 11 0	Donations:	
Less printing	103 11 0	F.A. Ben. Fund	10 6
Canteen Account:		St. John Amb. Brigade	1 1 0
Profit on sale of teas	17 15 9½	J.T.Clark Pres. Fund	10 6
Less insurance on equipment	8 6	Postages, etc	15 11 4½
Amounts owing from last season now paid:-		Heating water in dressing rooms	3 7 6
Dinner-dance	6 0	Advertising:	
Players' subs.	1 10 0	For players	2 8 0
		Matches	4 2 0
		Lottery registration fee	1 0 0
		Club outing to London:	
		Theatre tkts.	24 15 0
		Coach hire	9 0 0
		Gratuity to driver	1 0 0
		Less amount paid by members	34 15 0
		Sundry expenses	3 15 0
		BALANCE	134 18 11
Amounts owing to Club:-			
Players' subs for			
1956-57	1 10 0		
1957-58	16 0		
Compt. cards for			
1956-57	2 18 0		
Club outing for			
1956-57	12 6		
	£5 16 6		
	£278 5 2½		£278 5 2½

AUDITED & CERTIFIED CORRECT.

(Sgd.) L. B. SMITH,

4th June, 1958.

J. A. SHEARING,

Hon. Treasurer.