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Frank Adams, Patron of Wycombe Wanderers, one of the great personalities in Amateur Football during the present century. Played for the Wanderers from 1911 to 1928. Elected Captain in 1913-14. After the termination of hostilities he captained the side to win the Spartan League two years running and entering the Quarter-finals of the Amateur Cup, losing to Loftus Albion, North of England side, 2-0. Then the Wanderers were elected to the Isthmian League and Frank continued to lead the side until 1928. He gained all the honours the game could give with the exception of International. He has given full service in the administrative sphere of the game and he has been honoured to take International teams to many countries. In 1947 he gave the ground free of all encumbrances to be used for the game of football, a most generous gift. Mr. Adams is on the Council of the Football Association and is the Chairman of the Under 23 International Selection Committee.

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INTRODUCTION

by the

HON. GENERAL SECRETARY

IT gives me much pleasure to introduce to you, on behalf of my Club, the Wycombe Wanderers Football Club's Official Handbook, which we hope will be of interest.

Naturally, in compiling a history of Wycombe Wanderers it has not been possible to mention the great number of players, officials, etc., who, since the Club's formation, have done so much to establish the Club in the proud position in Amateur football it now holds.

We are indeed very proud of the achievements of present and bygone days which are presented to you in the history of the Club, and not least among these is the improvement over many years of the accommodation, both for players and spectators, which has been made, and which now ranks Loakes Park as one of the best Amateur grounds in the country.

We are happy to have the opportunity of saying here how much our thanks are due to the Patron, President, Chairman, Officers and Committee of the present time for their untiring zeal and endeavours for the furtherance of the prosperity of the Club at all times.

Finally our thanks must be given to the Supporters Club for their extremely valuable assistance to the Club, and particularly for the efficient way in which they have ensured the arrival and safe return of supporters in away matches. We thank all their hard-working officials for all the help they render to the parent Club.

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WYCOMBE WANDERERS FOOTBALL CLUB

1884—1957

by E. ROLPH

WYCOMBE WANDERERS FOOTBALL CLUB is one of the oldest established Amateur Football Clubs in the South of England, having been founded in the year 1884, in the days when Leagues were unknown and when there were very few cup competitions.

The beginning was very modest when, in the early 1880's, a number of young men, endowed by the spirit of adventure, got together one evening under a street gas lamp, near "The Compasses," Saffron Platt, to talk about the prospects of forming a football club. Interest in the idea soon developed and a number of men-folk living in the Wheelers Field district of High Wycombe, namely Duke Street, Slater Street and Totteridge Road, gave them their support.

People at the present time have difficulty in visualising the smallness of the town in the early 1880's. The area of the town in that year was 126 acres, increased to 686 in 1884, and now the area of High Wycombe is 7,091 acres. One, therefore, must realise the many difficulties which had to be overcome before a football club could begin. Young men worked long hours, from early morning until late at night and on Saturdays as well. Organised football was almost non-existent. The English Cup had not reached popularity and the system of playing home and away games in competitive arrangement was in its infancy. In actual fact, very little notice was taken of the first English Cup Finals by the press. Playing facilities were almost unobtainable, means of travel were very few and often players walked several miles to play and they had to meet their own expenses. Yet the Wanderers survived.

Several efforts had been made previously to establish a football club for High Wycombe; all had been short lived. The young men who formed the meeting in Saffron Platt thought in terms of having a game or two in the district to satisfy their own inclinations. The playing field was The Rye—not the Rye as we know it today by any means. When the Wanderers played there it was boggy and there was mud in plenty. Cows belonging to the dairymen of the town grazed upon it. These animals made the entrance deep in mud where they entered the Rye in the morning and left in the afternoon to return, for milking and feeding, to the cowsheds situated in the different parts of the borough. So bad was the western end of the Rye that it was called the "Dead Dyke" because of its marshy state—Still they played!

Playing space was limited on the Rye because of the conditions prevailing and there was keen competition to obtain a pitch. An unwritten law prevailed in those days governing the right to a pitch. It was required that the goalposts should be put up immediately after the Wycombe Parish Church clock had chimed midnight on the Friday prior to the game. As in present days, there were people who did not respect the rules and it was a common occurrence to find the goalposts thrown into the middle of the Dyke. Rivalry was most intense and to uproot goalposts was a favourite way of expressing it.

FINDING A NAME

The first decision made by these early football pioneers, which was not an easy one, was to agree upon a name for the team. These lads looking for excitement in a drab world, at a time when there was always a large movement among people going to distant parts, hit upon the name Wycombe Wanderers.

They then decided to make a collection among their neighbours and sufficient money was obtained to enable them to purchase a roll of calico from which one of the mothers made the shirts to play in. Their football gear was improvised. There were no colourful shirts and shorts as we see today, shirts were of calico and shorts were usually cut-down trousers and black stockings were worn. The goalposts were cut at Stone's Sawmills, London Road, between Harlow Road and the Nags Head. Pieces of rope were used as crossbars. The football was the biggest headache, for when it was purchased it had to be blown up; there were no cycle-pumps then; a kind of bellows was used. Nevertheless, the boys slowly overcame all obstacles.

THE FIRST OFFICERS ELECTED

The first real meeting was held at the rear of 29 Duke Street. (This street runs north from Wycombe Railway Station on the east side.) The tenant was Mr. Webb, a caneseat framer. He was the father of Datchet Webb, the first captain. Datchet Webb was full of energy and enthusiasm and possessed a dominating personality. He seemed to extract the best out of everybody, inspiring the team almost to desperation in difficult circumstances to overcome strong opposition. He was also a great leader and certainly played a big part in the consolidation of the Club. The Secretary was Jim Ray, who also played for years. He was a glutton for work, indefatigable in his efforts to further interests of the Club. He tramped all over the place for players; his was the task of arranging for the horse and wagonette and many other services for the well being of the Club. These two

men played a big part in the early Wanderers. For some unknown reason the meeting decided to elect an older man for chairman, non-playing. He was Mr. Billy Dimmock and a great character in his day ; he was a brewer's drayman and he was able to keep these tough youngsters in check and did much for the Club in its early days.

THE WANDERERS BEGIN TO GROW

The " Steam Engine " P.H. at the top of Railway Place was adopted as the headquarters and for dressing accommodation, being within easy reach of the Rye. There being no bath, the lads had to wash down in the yard, using a wooden tub with cold water. They played friendly matches. In the second year they played their first game in the Wycombe Cup, losing by 15 goals to nil. Here we should refer to the goalkeeper, Mr. " Cack " Randell, who still lives in Duke Street. After a year at the " Steamer " the Club moved to the " Masons' Arms," Saffron Platt, following which they were enticed down to the " Nags Head," London Road, where Bill Pearce was the landlord. He became the first real treasurer of the Club and gave all possible assistance. With improved facilities for changing and only a few steps across to the Rye, support for the Club began to increase, other townsmen, such as Charley Deacon, Alderman, County Councillor, J.P. and afterwards Mayor ; Alderman R. S. Wood, Solicitor (afterwards Mayor) ; R. J. Howland, Chair Manufacturer ; George T. Miles, Agent to Lord Carrington, and others became attached.

MOVE TO SPRING GARDENS

Later it was decided to apply for a playing pitch at Spring Gardens, situated where Messrs. Furniture Industries Ltd. is now. There was, of course, no railway then. The first match played there was interrupted by an agitation against the Wanderers playing, because it closed up a footpath that had been used for many years from London Road to Tylers Green. It was impossible to enclose the field, but a small charge was made to see the game. Children, of course, broke in over the hedge. Consequently when special cup ties had to be played, the Wycombe Cricket Club very generously allowed the use of the cricket ground to the Wanderers.

The skill of the team improved, for six years after they had been formed, they reached the final of the Berks & Bucks Junior Cup in 1890-91. After a terrific drawn game at Maidenhead, they lost the replay to Reading Albion by 5 goals to 3. It should be interesting to publish that side :—

J. Ball, goal ; G. Becket, O. Ball, backs (O. Ball is the oldest Wycombe Wanderer now alive, we wish him good health) ; C. Nash, J. Putman and G. Bowles, half-backs ; Sonnie Lane, Datchet Webb, S. Morris, T. Jennings, Jim Ray, forwards. Sam Morris was hurt in the first game and Jack Corby took his place in the replay.

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TO BE OR NOT TO BE—SENIORS ?

The considerable improvement in the standard of play eventually brought about this question and a special meeting to discuss the advisability of moving up into Senior football was held in 1894—just ten years after the formation of the Club. It was a spirited meeting, held at the “Nag’s Head,” the room being full of players and supporters. Mr. C. W. Deacon was the chairman. The proposal put to the meeting “that this Club become a Senior Club,” soon met with strong opposition, in which several of the players expressed the view that the Junior Cup should be won first. The chairman, replying to the opposition to the motion, made special reference to those players who had participated in the discussion against going senior, stated with emphasis : “That should any of the players be against it, he would remind them that there were as good fish in the sea as ever came out of it.” That brought forth a retort from Bunny Stevens, a great player and one of the first to play for the Berks & Bucks County side, a wag amongst the players : “Yes, Mr. Chairman, but they want a lot of catching.” After further discussion the proposal was carried almost unanimously.

MOVE TO LOAKES PARK

The Wanderers having taken the initial step to become Seniors, entered the Berks & Bucks County Cup. They were drawn against Slough on the Dolphin ground and won the game.

Meanwhile arrangements had been made to lease Loakes Park for the use of the Club, largely due to the efforts of Charley Deacon and George Miles, from Lord Carrington, who granted the lease for 14 years at £30 per annum. Mr. George Miles was Treasurer, President and Chairman of the Club covering many years. Loakes Park was beautifully situated behind the Wycombe Abbey gardens, on the south side of the Borough, within easy reach of the centre of the town, edged with decorative trees, on the Chiltern Hills, with its grassy slopes and grand views. This, with its invigorating clean air, made it one of the most attractive playing arenas in the country.

It was then a rough pitch, actually on the slope, with no stand, no terracing and no shelter from the elements. The entrance was from the Marlow Hill, where the gates opened on to the field upon which the Hospital now stands, and the spectators walked across the field to the Park.

The players at first changed and used the “Red Lion” Hotel for the headquarters. Afterwards they moved to “The Swan,” Paul’s Row. Both teams used the big room for changing into football gear, and they then walked along St. Mary’s Street, up Marlow Hill to the ground.

EARLY SUCCESS

The Wanderers' first side to play at Loakes Park was :—

J. Ball, goal ; H. Turner, A. W. Keen (still with us), backs ; F. C. Keen, R. Collier, G. Stevens, half-backs ; F. Abbott (afterwards Assistant Commissioner Metropolitan Police), W. Buchanan, F. Jennings, C. Buchanan (killed in First World War), R. Green, forwards. C. Harper was the Secretary.

They reached the final of the Berks & Bucks County Cup the first year playing there, when Marlow beat Wycombe 2 goals to 1. Marlow was a great side in those distant days, for they had played in the semi-final of the English Cup in 1881-82, losing to the Old Etonians 1 goal to nil. During this season, two players were selected to play for the County side, namely F. W. Abbott and F. C. Keen.

In 1898-99 the Berks & Herts Contiguous League was entered with teams consisting of Chesham Generals, Watford, Chesham Town, Aylesbury and Wolverton. Ten games were played, 3 won, 6 lost and 1 drawn, with goals for 20 and goals against 30.

The Southern League, Division 2, was also joined, the teams being, Chesham Town, Maidenhead Town, Southall, Brentford, Wolverton, Iron Works, St. Albans, Uxbridge, Fulham and Shepherds Bush. Twenty-two games were played, 10 won, 10 lost and 2 drawn, goals for 55, against 57. Quite a fair season.

Meanwhile the Wanderers had been in the final of the Berks & Bucks Senior Cup in the seasons 1898-99, 1899-1900, losing on each occasion to the formidable Marlow Club.

In 1900-01 the Wanderers did not enter for the Senior Cup. This caused the Berks & Bucks Football Association to bring in a rule (Rule 5, page 33, B. & B. Handbook) that all affiliated clubs must enter for the County Cup competitions.

At this time it became obvious that the development of Soccer had caused a great increase in the interest of the game and in fact it now was being played in many parts of the world.

It is now that we feel that some notes in retrospect would be interesting. For example, each club was required to provide its own referee and one linesman when playing at home. The Wycombe officials at the time when we entered Senior football were Steb Evans, referee, and George Becket, linesman. Both were great sportsmen and participated in organized games until a great age.

The Amateur Cup match *v* Casuals was played on January 30th, 1897, at Loakes Park, when the verdict was awarded to the Casuals by 5 goals to 3, after extra time. The Wanderers team was :—

J. Ball, goal ; A. W. Keen, Rev. A. G. P. Baines (afterwards President of the B. & B. F.A.), backs ; F. C. Keen, R. Collier, G. Stevens, half-backs ; A. Green, J. H. Davies, F. G. Jennings, W. Buchanan and F. W. Abbott, forwards.

F. C. Keen, a great ball-player, was adjudged the best man of the match in a competition arranged by the London "Evening Sun," by 152 votes, and he was awarded the medal.

Wycombe Wanderers won the Wycombe Cup in 1893-94 and again in 1894-95, but after that year ceased to enter this competition.

Charley Harper, the General Secretary from the Seniors, was a good player, when we played at Spring Gardens. He was a teacher at Priory Road School and a well-known character in the locality. He was a dapper man, slightly bald on top, with a nicely waxed moustache fiercely stretched to a fine point at both sides. He was full of energy and self-confidence in the great task of reorganizing the Club and ground at Loakes Park, and established the foundation to the high road of success.

LOAKES PARK DEVELOPMENT

The officials and committee began to plan in 1898 the ground levelling scheme. This was a big job and took a long time to do. The actual work commenced in 1899 and Bossy Lee was the contractor. No mechanical devices, such as bulldozers, excavators and the like were available, all the earth had to be dug out with pick and shovel and wheeled away in hand barrows, across planks laid down over the chalky soil, the distance daily increasing as the workmen dug further into the hillside. Work could not proceed in bad weather, especially during the winter months. Consequently a couple of seasons were lost to Loakes Park.

During this period of levelling the Wanderers first played on the Barracks Meadow, situated where the entrance now is and where Suffield Road and part of the Gasworks are. The military used it for training purposes. There was open fencing at both ends of the field and people looked on without payment.

So the Club moved to Daws Hill Park, across the Dyke from the Rye, over which a flimsy bridge was built, about half way between Wendover Way and the present Bathing Pool. There was one turnstile on the Park side, through which all spectators passed.

Some exceedingly thrilling games were played there. One of the greatest games was with Reading in the English Cup. The visitors were a powerful side and included J. Holt, the great International centre-half, and Herbert Smith, one of the best amateur backs of all time. The records give the result as a win for Reading by 7 goals to 1.

BERKS & BUCKS CUP, 1901-02

At last the Wanderers won the Berks & Bucks Senior Cup at Maidenhead, against Slough, by 3 goals to nil. All the goals were scored by Sonny Rouse, who was the first player to go from the Club as a professional. His first club was Grimsby Town, afterwards he went to Stoke, Division I. Stoke brought a full team down to Loakes Park after the alterations had been completed and gave a wonderful

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exhibition of football. Their goalkeeper was L. R. Roose, Welsh International, and he gave a great display. Sonny Rouse used to drive the horse bus from High Street to Loudwater. He also played for Chelsea, Everton and West Bromwich Albion.

To return to winning the Cup. Crowds of people went from Wycombe, by horse and cart, some walked (a common thing in those days). With the hotels open all day from 6 a.m., the lads called at most of them on the way for refreshment, to keep fresh and vigorous and enthusiastic for the match.

So there was a good crowd. The Wanderers supporters were made up in fantastic costume, comic, serious, but in two blues. Rattles, bells and anything that could exaggerate the ordinary noise of shouting were used to cheer on the Chairboys, as they were then called. Many Wanderers people had beautiful miniature chairs attached to their lapels, absolutely made to scale and in the true classic design.

At the end of the game the enthusiasm was tremendous, because the winning of the B. & B., as the trophy was affectionately called, was at that time a means of bringing fame and prestige to the winners.

THE HOMECOMING WITH THE CUP

The return of the players was a thrilling moment. The train was met at Loudwater railway station by thousands of people, most of whom had walked from Wycombe. A horse and wagonette was waiting, into which all the players tumbled, together with the officials. The horse was taken out of the shafts and ropes were attached, and willing supporters dragged the team all the way to "The Swan," Pauls Row, through vast crowds of cheering people lining both sides of the street.

It is worth recording the first instance of winning this cup, the games played and who played. 1st round at Maidenhead, won 4—1 ; 2nd round away to Aylesbury United, won 2—1 ; semi-final at Marlow against Chesham Generals, won 2—1. The Final was at Maidenhead against Slough, won 3—0, on the 31st March, 1902.

The team was :—

E. Reynolds (killed in First World War) (who broke his leg playing against Brentford in the English Cup, 1902—03), goal ; A. W. Keen, C. Tilbury, backs ; Bunny Stevens, B. C. Hooper (one of the few Royal Grammar School boys to play, and afterwards Secretary of the Club), Fred Keen, half-backs ; Tom Barlow, Steb Hearne, Sonny Rouse, Bill Buchanan and Jim Aldridge, forwards.

What heroes these men were. When Lord George Sanger's circus came to Wycombe, Bill Buchanan played the elephant at football, a gigantic ball, and people came from all parts to see the spectacle, staged in the Fair Meadow, West Wycombe Road—now Pugh's garage.

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All this time the Wanderers had been playing on Daws Hill Park. The ground at Loakes Park having been levelled, had to be left to allow the grass to grow and the soil to settle, therefore it was not until the season of 1902-03 that they were able to return to play there. The entrance to the ground was from the western side and the players now walked along Lily's Walk from "The Swan" Hotel. But the youngsters and enthusiasts continued to follow.

LEAN PLAYING PERIOD

The Wanderers after this success struck a bad patch, failing in cups and holding very low positions in the Southern League. Journeys began to lengthen as the popularity of professional football developed and more clubs joined the league.

Clubs were Portsmouth, Southampton, Swindon, Salisbury City, Hastings & St. Leonards, Brighton & Hove, Fulham, Watford, Millwall, Grays United, Reading, and our great rivals, Chesham Town, Southall, etc.

Great tussles ensued and famous players were to be seen from time to time—

Lock, goalkeeper, Southampton, afterwards Glasgow Rangers ; Scottish International, Charley Wallace, C. Buchan, Harold Halse, Fatty Wedlock (played for Bristol City when he was the regular centre-half for England).

Incidentally, the Wanderers played Bristol City (when they had been in the Final of the English Cup and were runners-up for the English League, Division I) and lost by 8 to 3. This was an exhibition match on a Fair Monday, which was generally looked upon by country people as a holiday. So from 1902 until 1908-09 the Wanderers were out of it as trophy winners.

THE FIRST STAND

Despite the misfortune in failing to get a winning side, the Club continued to plan for the future and the question of a Stand was raised. There were a number of reasons for this : (1) to satisfy supporters who desired to sit in shelter ; (2) to increase the revenue ; and (3) most of all in importance, to screen off the play from those who occupied positions on Tom Burt's Hill and the Barracks Road.

The late Harry Browning, owner of the Red Lion Hotel, called a meeting of interested people who might be prepared to put up the money to build a Stand. Very few stands were to be seen in those days, even in top class football. Agreement was reached and in 1904 the stand was put out to tender and the work completed in 1905. We pay tribute to those pioneers who made it possible for a stand to be erected on Loakes Park. It still stands today and is the centre third of the present stand. The crowds on the hill began to diminish. The first B. & B. Senior Cup Final was played there in 1903 and a big crowd of 7,000 attended, to witness Slough defeat Aylesbury 3—0.

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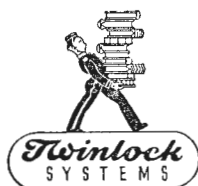
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WANDERERS' GREAT SIDE, 1908-10

In 1907, an ex-professional reinstated amateur, Tommy Gilson, came to live in High Wycombe. He had played for Aston Villa and other clubs. His application to play for the Wanderers was granted and he proceeded to play in league and English Cup games. Under his guidance the team developed into a truly great side. Meanwhile the Club had withdrawn from the Southern League and joined the Great Western Suburban League. They won the Berks & Bucks Senior Cup two years in succession without a goal being scored against them.

In the Final of the Berks & Bucks Cup in 1908-09 Chesham Town were beaten by 3 to 0. In the following year Wokingham Athletic were defeated 3-0 after a draw of 0-0. The teams in the Great Western Suburban League in 1909-10 were :—

Brentford Reserves, Reading Reserves, Windsor & Eton, Maidenhead, Hanwell, 2nd Scots Guards, Uxbridge, Southall, Slough, Staines, Maidenhead Norfolkians.

The Wanderers reached the quarter-finals of the Amateur Cup, being unfortunate to lose in the 4th round to the Coldstream Guards by the odd goal. The Guards were outplayed, but their goalkeeper, Cpl. Leese, international, played magnificently, saving shots fired in at all angles. Wanderers' side :—

Chic Vickers, goal ; Charley Tilbury, and George Holland (a schoolmaster at Spring Gardens School), backs ; George Buchanan (killed in the 1914-18 War), Bunny Hooper, Harry Gates, half-backs ; Fred Langley (killed in the first World War also), Bly Brion, Ralph Roberts, Fred Pheby and Dockie Payne, forwards. George Holland was a great sportsman and always played when Tommy Gilson was not qualified and at other times acted as the reserve. It was a Wycombe-born side with the exception of Gilson and Pheby (Chesham).

In the second round of the Amateur Cup against Luton Clarence on January 10th, 1910, Wycombe Wanderers had a tremendous game, Pheby scoring two grand goals to win 2-0. The gate was £30 and this was a large amount in those days.

Some well-known names now begin to appear :—

Billy O'Gorman is selected to play for the B. & B. Juniors in 1909-10, only the second Wanderers' player to be chosen ; the first was F. W. Rouse as far back as 1901-02. Billy is picked in 1910-11 to play for the County Seniors. A. Smith is selected for the County Juniors in 1912-13—the third Wanderers' player to be so chosen.

We cannot mention all those who have gained honours individually, but we publish the names of those players who have represented the Counties.

Caps awarded.

F. W. Abbott, F. C. Keen, 1896-97.
J. Aldridge, W. Buchanan, A. W.
Keen, G. Stevens, 1898-99.

Badges were awarded instead onwards
C. Buchanan, F. C. Keen, 1899-1900.
W. Buchanan, 1900-01.

E. Reynolds, F. W. Rouse, 1901-02.
F. Russell, C. Tilbury, 1902-03.
B. C. Hooper, 1903-04.
F. Langley, 1905-06.
R. Roberts, 1906-07.
G. Buchanan, 1907-08.
H. Gates, 1908-09.
W. O'Gorman, 1910-11.

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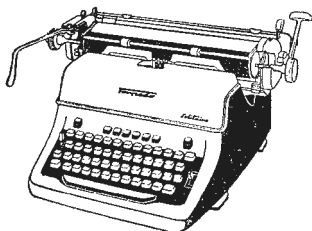
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After this date badges were awarded for years played.

F. Adams, 1920-21, 1921-22, 1922-23, 1923-24, 1926-27.
 R. Borcham, 1920-21, 1921-22, 1922-23, 1923-24, 1924-25.
 T. Jackman, 1920-21, 1921-22, 1922-23.
 A. Grace, 1921-22, 1922-23, 1923-24, 1924-25.
 F. Gates, 1922-23, 1923-24.
 A. Smith, 1922-23.
 J. Kipping, 1923-24, 1924-25, 1926-27, 1927-28, 1928-29, 1929-30, 1931-32, 1932-33.
 A. E. Weaver, 1923-24.
 A. W. Fryer, 1924-25, 1925-26.
 W. Brown, 1928-29, 1929-30, 1930-31, 1932-33, 1933-34.
 T. J. Wells, 1928-29.
 S. Crump, 1929-30, 1930-31, 1932-33.
 F. C. Braisher, 1930-31, 1931-32, 1932-33.
 L. Badrick, 1932-33.
 R. S. Cox, 1935-36, 1936-37.
 P. Young, 1936-37.
 N. Turner, 1937-38, 1938-39.
 J. Gearing, 1938-39.
 N. Holliman, 1938-39.
 G. Jackson, 1947-48, 1948-49, 1950-51.
 E. Bunce, 1947-48.
 F. Gearing, 1947-48, 1948-49, 1949-50, 1950-51.
 S. F. Hobbs, 1950-51.
 C. Lodge, 1950-51, 1951-52.
 D. Atkins, 1951-52, 1952-53, 1953-54.
 J. Blizzard, 1951-52, 1952-53.
 K. Butler, 1951-52, 1953-54.
 M. Partridge, 1951-52, 1952-53, 1953-54.
 L. A. Perkins, 1951-52.
 R. D. Tunmer, 1951-52, 1952-53.
 C. Burgess, 1952-53, 1953-54.
 M. Hunt, 1953-54, 1954-55.
 J. Moring, 1952-53, 1953-54, 1954-

55, 1955-56, 1956-57.
 S. J. Tomlin, 1952-53.
 F. Westley, 1952-53, 1953-54, 1954-55, 1955-56, 1956-57.
 F. Lawson, 1954-55, 1955-56, 1956-57.
 C. Trott, 1954-55, 1955-56, 1956-57.
 M. Wicks, 1954-55, 1955-56, 1956-57.
 P. Bates, 1955-56, 1956-57.
 B. Darvill, 1955-56.
 D. Syrett, 1955-56, 1956-57.
 G. Truett, 1955-56.

JUNIORS

F. W. Rouse, 1901-02.
 W. O'Gorman, 1909-10.
 A. Smith, 1912-13.
 W. McDermott, 1920-21.
 R. G. Hinton, 1920-21, 1921-22.
 F. E. Crook, 1922-23.
 B. Newell, 1921-22, 1922-23.
 H. Phipps, 1923-24.
 J. Kipping, 1923-24.
 W. T. Keen, 1927-28.
 A. Jackman, 1929-30, 1932-33.
 A. Greenwell, 1930-31.
 G. M. Darvill, 1932-33.
 W. Youens, 1932-33.
 H. Timms, 1934-35.
 R. J. Meeks, 1936-37.
 A. Burgess, 1954-55.
 K. Crook, 1955-56, 1956-57.
 D. Worley, 1956-57.

BROTHERS WHO PLAYED FOR B. & B. AND W.W.F.C.

W. Buchanan, C. Buchanan, G. Buchanan.
 F. C. Keen, A. W. Keen.
 H. Gates, F. Gates.
 J. Gearing, F. Gearing.

SENIOR AND JUNIOR BADGES FOR B. & B.

F. W. Rouse, W. O'Gorman, A. Smith, J. Kipping.

In 1912-13 the Wanderers won the County Cup again, defeating Maidenhead Norfolksians 2-1, after a draw of 1-1.

THE FIRST WORLD WAR

Then in 1914 war broke out in Europe. All football was stopped and many of the Wanderers joined up immediately. The ground was commandeered by the military authorities for the Royal Field Artillery, who used it for many purposes. This district was a training area for instruction in riding and drill. The Wanderers ceased to function

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during this period. When hostilities ceased, however, some friendly games were played at the beginning of 1919, with the old centre half-back, B. C. Hooper, as the Club Secretary.

THE NEW LOOK, 1919-20-21

The first full season after the end of the war, 1919-20, was a great success. Although no cups were won, we were champions of the Spartan League and the second side performed most creditably in the Suburban League.

The Wanderers had an exciting time at Aylesbury against Chesham United in the Bucks Charity Cup Final, when the crowd got out of hand and stopped the game with Chesham leading by 1-0. Archie Gomm, centre-half, went to Millwall after this match. He was the very first stopper centre-half ever to play that type of game.

The 1920-21 side was really a great team, as follows :—



WINNERS BERKS & BUCKS SENIOR CUP. CHAMPIONS SPARTAN LEAGUE, 1920-21.

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Centre Row (L. to R.) : B. C. Hooper (Hon. Sec.), A. Grace, T. Jackman, R. Boreham, A. Smith, W. O'Gorman (Vice Capt.), G. Vickers.

Front Row (L. to R.) : G. Harris, W. J. Smith, F. Adams (Capt.), F. Gates.

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They won the Spartan League very easily and had a remarkable run in the English Cup, losing at Kettering by 2—1, the winning goal being scored in the last minute.

In the Amateur Cup the Wanderers gave us some thrilling encounters, and excitement was tremendous. We recall one game against Barnet in January, 1921. Barnet scored two quick goals before a big crowd. A slight mist enveloped the ground so that the spectators at the ends could not see the goal at the other end. About three minutes to half-time, a great shout went up from the Marlow Hill end—Tommy Jackman had scored. Immediately afterwards there was another roar and he had scored again. He scored a third goal, which gave us a win, 3—2, in the 2nd round.

For the 4th round the team had to travel up north to Loftus Albion. The journey was too far and we were defeated. What a wonderful season, we could have won the Amateur Cup with a little luck. However, the powers that be had recognised the beautiful football being played, fast, skilful and sporting. The forwards may have been the five best playing at that time. All could have gone to 1st Division clubs. Reggie Boreham was capped for England afterwards and Joe Grace for Wales. Many of the other players received recognition of some kind or another. Frank Adams played at centre-half and Captained the team. The B. & B. Cup was won, against Slough, 5—2.

INVITATION TO THE ISTHMIAN LEAGUE

The Wanderers received an invitation to play in the Isthmian League, a great honour in those days, for all the leading clubs were in this league. What beautiful football they played, it was a delight to watch and many exciting games were seen on Loakes Park.

The Wanderers had to play tremendously hard to hold their own, but they succeeded as the table hereunder shows.

Chesham United beat Wycombe in the Final of the B. & B. Cup, after a draw 1—1, by 2 goals to nil. It was the first game which gained a record crowd for a final in the Allied Counties, and we are of opinion it stands to this day. Two good sides, 1921—22.

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE 1921-22

SENIOR SECTION							RESERVES SECTION								
Goals							Goals								
	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.		P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
Ilford	26	17	4	5	66	34	38	Wimbledon ..	24	14	5	5	62	29	33
Dulwich Hamlet ..	26	14	8	4	65	24	36	Clapton ..	24	14	5	5	55	51	33
London Caledonians	26	16	4	6	41	21	36	Leytonstone ..	24	13	6	5	70	39	32
Nunhead	26	12	5	9	65	41	29	Dulwich Hamlet ..	24	11	9	4	58	33	31
Clapton	26	13	3	10	51	46	29	Ilford	24	12	4	8	57	38	28
Tufnell Park ..	26	10	7	9	44	39	27	Wycombe Wanderers	24	11	5	8	76	56	27
Oxford City ..	26	12	2	12	48	47	26	Oxford City ..	24	11	4	9	44	36	26
Wycombe Wanderers	26	12	2	12	61	64	26	Civil Service ..	24	8	7	9	29	33	23
Civil Service ..	26	9	9	8	40	48	26	Tufnell Park ..	24	8	4	12	35	56	20
Woking	26	10	6	10	39	49	26	Nunhead	24	6	4	14	30	61	16
Leytonstone ..	26	9	6	11	41	48	24	West Norwood ..	24	5	5	14	40	61	15
West Norwood ..	26	8	5	13	43	57	21	London Caledonians	24	4	6	14	24	50	14
Wimbledon ..	26	7	4	15	52	56	18	Woking	24	4	6	14	24	61	14
Casuals	26	0	2	24	25	107	2								

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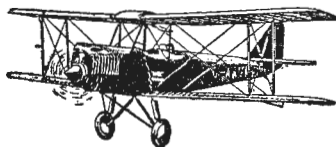
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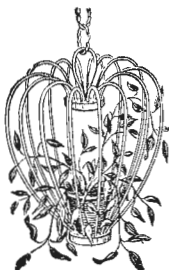
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The Berks & Bucks Senior Cup was won again in 1922-23, Maidenhead United being beaten by 4—0. In 1924-25 the Wanderers once again won, against Windsor & Eton, 2—0, after a draw of 0—0. In 1927-28 we were beaten by Maidenhead United in the Final by 1 nil.

In the Isthmian League we held just about equal, generally about the middle of the League Table. Sometimes we brought off a sensational result. For example, when we played Gillingham in the English Cup, a draw at Gillingham, but losing the replay at home.

However, we had a splendid season in 1930-31, a great side that was. In the early stages of the Amateur Cup all opposition was overwhelmed by big scores. One of the difficult games was against the Metropolitan Police. We will give a little more detail of these games, because history was made and the Wanderers won the Amateur Cup after a sensational game at Highbury, by 1 goal to nil, against Hayes.

WANDERERS WIN AMATEUR CUP AT Highbury

On December 30th, 1930, at Tufnell Park, the Wanderers played the first of a series of games (which resulted in the winning of the F.A. Amateur Cup) against the London Caledonians, a formidable side and worthy opponents, by the fair margin of 4 goals to 1, goals being scored by Vernon 2, Brown 2. The London Caledonians won the Amateur Cup in 1922-23 by defeating Evesham Town, 2—1 after extra time, and were also Isthmian League champions several times.

The second round found us at home to Walthamstow Avenue, when goals by Brown (3) and Tapping (3) gave us the victory by 6—1. In the third round at Loakes Park, we beat Romford by 6—2 and a record crowd of 9,014 saw Vernon (2) Rance (2), Britnell (1) and Timberlake (1) score the goals.

There was great excitement in the town when it was known that in the 4th round we were drawn against the Metropolitan Police, away, at Imber Court, on February 21st, 1931. The game was a very even one which resulted in a 1—1 draw. Brown scored. The replay on the following Saturday at Loakes Park drew a great crowd and the Wanderers entered the semi-final for the first time after a terrific struggle, by 2 goals to 1. Goals scored by Braisher and Vernon.

The semi-final was played at Ilford on March 7th, 1931, against Woking and amidst unforgettable enthusiasm the Wanderers won by 3 goals to 0. Britnell (2) and Brown (1) scored the goals.

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The Final was played at Highbury on April 11th, 1931, against Hayes. This was a tense struggle and Britnell scored the goal to win from a rebound penalty kick. The team was a well-balanced one.



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Back Row (L. to R.) : G. Harris (Trainer-Coach), F. Rance, S. Crump, J. Kipping, R. Cox, J. Timberlake (Captain), R. G. Gardner (Hon. General Secretary).

Centre Row (L. to R.) : C. Simmons, W. Brown, D. Vernon, F. Braisher, A. Britnell.

Front Row (L. to R.) : L. Badrick, A. Greenwell.

Goals scored during the series : W. Brown 7, D. Vernon 5, A. Britnell 4, G. Tapping 3, A. Rance 2, R. Braisher 1 and J. Timberlake 1. Goals for 23, against 6, showing the strength of attack and defence. The above side played together in the replay v Metropolitan Police, in the semi-final and final ties. J. Timberlake played in 4 games and G. Tapping in 1.

ENTHUSIASTIC HOMECOMING

The home-coming with the Cup was a tremendous event, almost the whole of the population turning out to see them. There were not the cars and buses as there are today. Yet the High Street was packed with people. At Pauls Row, the headquarters was at "The Swan" Hotel, there were enormous crowds, densely packed. There

WYCOMBE WANDERERS F.C.

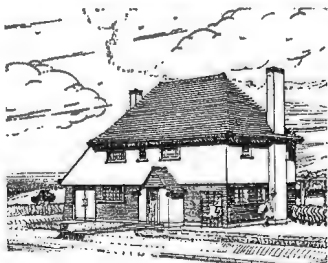
Finalists F. A. Amateur Cup, 1956-57. Champions Isthmian League, 1956-57.



Photo by K. Goodearl, High Wycombe

Back Row : S. Cann (Coach), G. Truett, F. Lawson, M. Wicks, D. Syrett, J. Truett, J. Moring (Vice-Capt.), F. Westley (Capt.), W. J. Hayter (Hon. Gen. Sec.)

Front Row : L. Worley, C. Trott, P. Bates, J. Tomlin, F. Smith, D. Atkins.



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were cheers for Pat Badrick and the Cup. It was said that "The Swan" was shaken to its foundations by the enthusiasm of the crowds. The Guildhall was eventually opened. Ralph Gardner was the General Secretary, one with long experience in football administration.

A special dinner was held in the Town Hall later, when all the old players that were known were invited, as were many of the football personalities of that period. Philip Rutland, a well-known solicitor and ex-Mayor, played a big part in this. The speeches were long and varied and all enjoyed a happy evening.

It is said that fact is stranger than fiction, perhaps it is in this instance. The match following the defeat of Woking in the semi-final F.A.A.C., the Wanderers played those redoubtable opponents Chesham at Maidenhead in the semi-final of the B. & B. Cup, and, believe it or not, lost by 4 goals to 2. Pat Badrick and Doug Vernon did not play. A. Greenwell played at centre-half, A. Mines at left-half and G. Tapping centre-forward. Results like this are for the good of the game and we do not belittle our opponents or those that played in the match.

A WORD IN RETROSPECT

We have not had much to write about the Reserve sides, largely due to restriction on space. From the commencement of Loakes Park the 2nd team had done wonderful things, winning all the competitions entered for, such as the South Bucks and East Berks Junior League, a very good competition and a tough one to win. In these early days the Reserves and Wycombe Trinity attracted big crowds both on the Rye and at Loakes Park. These two clubs were to feed the Wanderers' first team and many great players passed through their ranks. The Wycombe Cup was a hard competition to win, but the Reserves won it 12 times. The Berks & Bucks Junior Cup was won on one occasion, in 1923-24.

This was the year that the Berks & Bucks County side beat Essex to win the County Championship for the first time, by 2 goals to 0. Several Wanderers players took part :—

Jim Kipping, Frank Adams (captain), Joe Grace, Fred Gates and Reg Boreham. Jim Kipping also played when the Juniors won the County Championship, with Harry Phipps, in the same year.

The Stand had been enlarged during this period, 1926, to extend the whole length of the playing pitch, as we know it today, with dressing accommodation and baths at the back. Until then the changing rooms were at either end of the Stand. Many old players and members will remember the nice-looking thatched roof changing room at the Marlow Hill end always used by the visitors.

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The Wanderers continued to hold their own in the Isthmian League, with the exception of one year when they had to seek re-election—being bottom but one. But they regularly appeared in the Final of the Berks & Bucks Cup. In 1931–32 they beat Chesham United by one goal. In 1933–34 this same team beat us by 3 goals to 0, after a draw of 0–0. Aylesbury United were beaten in 1934–35 by 3–0. Windsor & Eton won by 3–1 in 1936–37 and again in 1937–38 (1–0). Although the Wanderers appeared in the final of the Cup six years out of seven they only won the cup twice. It is almost true to state that they have lost this trophy in the final as many times as they have won it. Yet over the same period they have always given a good account of themselves in National Competitions.

SECOND WORLD WAR, 1939–45

The Second World War broke upon us perhaps suddenly. Many of our players received an immediate call-up. Football everywhere received a great set-back, but competitions were improvised and the Berks & Bucks F.A. ran an Emergency War Senior Cup competition, which our team won in 1939–40 by defeating a Wycombe club, The Redfords. The “Red Cross” Fund Cup, War Period, was initiated and the Wanderers won this in 1942–43.

Meanwhile, clubs got together and formed a league called the Great Western Combination, which was headed by the Wanderers after Uxbridge had been beaten on March 31st, 1945, by 7 goals to 2. We feel sure it would be of interest to give the names of this team :—

A. Hallwood, goal ; M. Lewis, G. Parsons, backs ; J. Strong, A. Crump, F. Keen, half-backs ; R. Hunt, W. McCullum, F. Avery, T. Andrews, W. Ing, forwards. Games played 22, won 18, lost 3, drawn 1, for 87, against 40, with points 37. Maidenhead United, Windsor & Eton, Oxford City, Windsor Works, Marlow, Uxbridge, R.A.F., Slough United, High Duty Alloys, Reading “A,” and Yiewsley were the clubs competing.

Many players turned out during this period and the officials put in a great deal of work. Bob Spatchett, who had fifty years with the Club as player, committee-man, was Chairman ; Reg Boreham, Hon. General Secretary, a great player and now undertaking a task of great responsibility as the chief official ; Wally Howland, Hon. Financial Secretary, with 60 years of voluntary service for the Club, a tremendous contribution ; George Bunce, Hon. Treasurer, still in harness with years of faithful effort in a voluntary capacity, and Charles Allen who was formerly Hon. Match Secretary, Chairman of Ground Committee and member of the General Committee for nearly 35 years. We would mention many more but our space does not allow.

Preparation for the resumption of play was put in hand immediately after the cessation of hostilities.

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WYCOMBE WANDERERS, 1945

The War having ended, trial games were organised ; meetings of clubs, leagues and Associations were held, and a start was made with competitive football as near as possible to where it was left off.

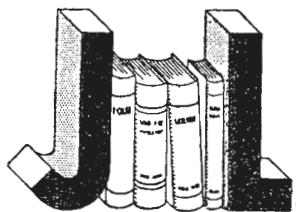
The Wanderers' first game, against those great fighters, Walthamstow Avenue, was played on September 1st, 1945, and the team was :—

A. Hallwood, goal ; M. Lewis, J. Vickers, backs ; F. Lipscombe, A. Crump, J. Strong, half-backs ; W. Gearing, W. McCullum, F. Avery, T. Andrews, K. Butler, forwards. The game was lost by 4—3. J. W. Lewis (International) and his son, J. L. Lewis, formed the right wing for the London team.

The next week Southall knocked us out with a bang by 7—2 in the F.A. Cup. Looking through the records, many changes were made during the season. The B. & B. Cup was again won in 1946—47. This year the Reserves won the Reserve Section of the Isthmian League.

RESERVES SECTION 1946—47

	P.	W.	D.	L.	Goals		Pts.
					F.	A.	
Wycombe Wanderers ...	26	18	2	6	94	51	38
Dulwich Hamlet ...	26	18	1	7	99	46	37
Ilford ...	26	15	5	6	74	42	35
Wimbledon ...	26	14	5	7	89	51	33
Woking ...	26	13	6	7	77	59	32
Walthamstow Avenue ...	26	14	2	10	61	48	30
Leytonstone ...	26	14	1	11	71	63	29
Clapton ...	26	11	5	10	50	54	27
St. Albans City ...	26	10	5	11	67	65	25
Kingstonian ...	26	9	2	15	51	78	20
Oxford City ...	26	6	6	14	40	85	18
Romford ...	26	6	5	15	49	93	17
Tufnell Park ...	26	6	3	17	44	87	15
Corinthian-Casuals ...	26	3	2	21	42	86	8



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GIFT OF LOAKES PARK TO THE WANDERERS

Mr. Frank Adams, a great player and popular captain, over many years, presented as a gift to the Club, the famous ground known by all as Loakes Park. This presentation took place on the playing



Frank Adams, Esq., presenting the Deeds of Loakes Park to C. P. Vine, Esq.,
at the Official Ceremony.

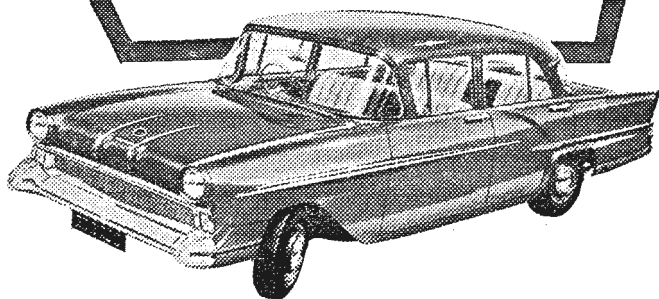
pitch before a large crowd on Saturday, 19th April, 1947, immediately prior to the game against Corinthian-Casuals. All members and supporters were deeply thrilled by this magnificent expression of magnanimity, and we would place on record our own feeling of appreciation for the generous thought and action that now ensures the Wanderers of a ground for all time.

We give the names of the officials at that time :—

President, C. P. Vine ; Chairman, Bob Spatchett ; Hon. General Secretary, Reg Boreham ; Hon. Financial Secretary, Wally Howland ; Hon. Treasurer, G. R. Bunce ; Reserve Hon. Secretary, J. Richardson.

On February 28th, 1948, Loakes Park staged its first and only International when England met Wales in the Youth British Championship. All those who witnessed this game will long remember how well these lads played. England won by 4—3.

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In 1949, Mr. R. Boreham retired, and the important office of Hon. General Secretary was taken over by Mr. W. J. Hayter who was previously "A" team Secretary. Bill Hayter, since his election, has seen the Club reach the 1st Round Proper F.A.C.C., Final and Semi-final ties F.A.A.C., two successive years as Isthmian League Champions (Senior and Reserve Sections), Berks & Bucks Senior and Intermediate Cups, Reading Senior Cup, etc. He is a member of the Isthmian League Council, Vice-President of Berks & Bucks F.A. and High Wycombe & District Referees' Assoc. and Schools' F.A.

The Berks & Bucks Cup was won and then we startled the football world by reaching the semi-final of the F.A.A.C. 1949-50. The season started badly, first the game at home, when Dulwich Hamlet, playing for Isthmian League points, overplayed us. Even in the 4th Qualifying round of the Amateur Cup against Maidenhead (away) we had the benefit of fog fifteen minutes before the end of the game when our opponents were leading by 5-4, and the game had to be abandoned. The following week, after a great struggle, the game ended in a draw 0-0. At Loakes Park, we won after a great game by 2-1, goals being scored by H. Mikrut and P. Birdseye.

In the 1st round Proper we travelled to Bungay Town and won by 4-0, H. Mikrut 2 and J. Blizzard and W. McCullum 1 each. The 2nd round was against Crook Town, which was a wonderful game, with W. McCullum scoring the only goal. Round 3 found us playing against Dulwich Hamlet before a large crowd, goals being scored by J. Blizzard, W. McCullum and P. Birdseye. The next round, round 4, saw St. Albans as our opponents at home, when before a record crowd, amidst tremendous enthusiasm, we won 4-1; W. McCullum 2, H. Mikrut 1, K. Butler 1.

All High Wycombe was interested in the draw for the semi-final. We were to play Bishop Auckland at Brentford. Before a crowd of 33,000 we lost in a hard game by 2-1, Johnny Way scoring a grand goal. The match was televised and it was a great disappointment to lose. During this period we received the benefit of the part-time services of Bill Brown as coach, and we pay tribute to his work in getting the side fit. We had injuries which affected our play in the semi-final tie.

The following are the names of those who played in the semi-final against Bishop Auckland in 1949-50: C. Lodge, goal; W. J. Flippance, G. Jackson, backs; F. Gearing, M. Krupa, J. Way, half-backs; J. Blizzard, W. McCullum, H. Mikrut, K. Butler, J. Birdseye, forwards.

WE COMMENCE TO CLIMB THE LADDER OF SUCCESS

The Berks & Bucks Cup was won and lost several times. The 1951-52 season commenced the employment of a full-time coach: Mr. J. McCormick was engaged. We had a fair season and a good run in

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the Amateur Cup, losing to Barnet, away, in the 4th round by 2—0. Perhaps we ought to have done better. It was, however, a fine game.



Sid Cann, *Coach*

During the close season 1952, Mr. Sid Cann was engaged as full-time coach. We began somewhat indifferently, injuries being severe in some cases. For example, D. Syrett, goalkeeper, was badly injured at Romford, when we lost by the high score of 9—0. But the side began settling down and although nothing startling was achieved there appeared evidence of a high standard of play which began to bring results and stamped the side as a great team in the making.

With the retirement of Mr. J. Richardson, the office of Hon. Reserve Team Secretary was taken in 1953 by Mr. George Jackson (former player) and much of the successes enjoyed may be attributed to his work and enthusiasm with the team.

In 1954, Mr. Howland, after over 50 years service, decided to retire. Mr. Reg. Maskell was appointed as Hon. Financial Secretary and his knowledge and experience has been a great asset to the Club. He successfully took complete charge of the finances on the Swiss and Belgian tours, and the tremendous amount of work which he so ably accomplished for the Amateur Cup Final was most praiseworthy.

In the 1953-54 season we had some tremendous games with Leytonstone in the Amateur Cup. The second replay at Dulwich in mid-week was a real thrill, the winning goal being scored in the last minute by G. Truett, who returned a goal kick taken by the Leytonstone keeper straight back into the net to the surprise of us all. The ground, however, had been hard on account of frost and we had to play Hounslow away in the F.A. Cup three days after the game with Leytonstone. Several players had blistered feet and we lost somewhat easily by 3 goals to 0.

CLUB PRESIDENT

At the commencement of season 1954-55 Mr. John Timberlake, former Captain and latterly Chairman of the Club, was elected President, an office he has ably held since that date, thus serving the club continuously for over 35 years as player and official.

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THE SEMI-FINAL AGAIN AT DONCASTER

Once again we got through to the semi-final of the F.A.A.C. after some fine games with clubs with whom it is always a pleasure to play. In the League we gradually got nearer to the top, as can be seen by the table in another section of this story. We gained points over the previous year and at one time we thought we might win, but again injuries interfered with our playing. M. Hunt, centre-forward, unfortunately received an injury which eventually was to cause him to give up football altogether. He met with this disaster just before the semi-final. We hoped against hope that he might be fit, but he could not make it, much to our regret and to his.

There were no startling results at the commencement of the season 1954-55. Oxford City defeated the Wanderers in the 2nd Qualifying Round of the F.A. Cup by 4-1. From the first 13 games in the Isthmian League we obtained 16 points. There was a shock in the 1st round of the Amateur Cup, at home to Wealdstone, on 18th December, 1954, when the result was a draw 1 all, M. Hunt scoring. The replay at Wealdstone was exciting and after a severe tussle we won by 2-1, Trott and Hunt scoring.

In the 2nd round at Loakes Park we defeated Woking by 4-0 (M. Hunt 2, G. Truett and P. Bates 1 each). Again we were fortunate in being drawn at home in the 3rd round, against Ilford, whom we defeated 3-1 after a great game. M. Hunt, G. Truett and P. Bates scored.

On the 12th February, 1955, a misfortune befell the Wanderers when M. Hunt was injured in a game against Barking at Loakes Park 15 minutes from the start. This was a great blow as we had drawn Pegasus, one of the favourites for the Cup. The game to be played on the 19th February with the Universities side was cancelled because of snow. The following week saw a great struggle before a big crowd, which ended in a draw, nil all, at Loakes Park. The replay, which took place at Oxford, on March 5th, was an all-ticket game. This was a tremendously thrilling encounter resulting in the Wanderers entering the semi-final by 2 goals to 1. Jackie Tomlin scored the winning goal in the closing minutes of the game, the other goal being scored by C. Trott.

We already knew that the winners had to go to Doncaster on March 12th to meet the redoubtable Bishop Auckland side, winners of the F.A.A.C. more times than any other club. We had never beaten them. All means of transport were employed to get there and six special trains were arranged and well organized too. It was a good match with many exciting moments in both goals. However, late in the game the Bishops obtained what we would say was a rather fortunate goal to win the match 1-0. Our lads put up a wonderful struggle against a really good side.

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We give the names of the players in this historic semi-final, before 24,800 spectators :—

D. Syrett, goal ; F. Lawson, F. Westley (captain), backs ; M. Wicks, B. Darvill. J. Moring, half-backs ; L. Worley, C. Trott, G. Truett, J. Tomlin, P. Bates, forwards,

Len Worley after this game toured Italy with the English Youth team. Slough won the Berks & Bucks Cup, defeating the Wanderers 2—1 at Chesham.



A happy group on tour, Torquay, 1955

CHAMPIONS, ISTHMIAN LEAGUE, 1955-56

We had a fine introduction to this most successful season in the F.A.C.C. (English Cup), although we were perhaps lucky to get away with a draw at Witney in the Preliminary Round. Our opponents missed a penalty with no goals scored. In the replay at Loakes Park we overwhelmed them by 15 goals to 1.

In the Isthmian League our start was unfortunate, Walthamstow winning by 3 clear goals, but our next game, at Oxford, was won by 3—1

In the 1st round F.A.C.C. Maidenhead were beaten by 4 to 2 ; Slough Town in the 2nd round of the same cup resulted in a draw 3—3, the replay being won by the Wanderers 1—0. In the 3rd round we were away to Banbury Spencer and after a hard struggle emerged the winners by 2—1. Before a big crowd at Loakes Park, we played Fareham Town in the 4th round Qualifying and a good game was won by 3—1. We entered the 1st Round Proper of the F.A.C.C. and before a crowd of 9,696 met Burton Albion. The gate amounted to £1,027 (charges had been raised by F.A. ruling). The Wanderers lost by 3—1, although the last half-hour was a shooting match for them without luck, corner after corner being taken, but Burton kept the ball out of the net.



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On the 17th December, 1955, it was announced that Malcolm Hunt had retired from football ; everybody felt sad at this news.

When the Wanderers gained a win over Romford at Loakes Park by 6—2, they became League leaders for the first time—with 21 points from 15 games. The lead was never lost. It had taken a long time to achieve this distinction and at the end of the season 12 points separated the first and second in the League, Bromley being second.



CHAMPIONS ISTHMIAN LEAGUE, 1955-56

Photo by M. W. Keen, High Wycombe

Back Row (L. to R.) : N. West, D. Syrett, F. Westley (Capt.).

Centre Row (L. to R.) : W. J. Hayter (Hon. Gen. Secretary), F. Lawson, M. Wicks, B. Darvill, J. Moring (Vice Capt.), S. Cann (Coach).

Front Row (L. to R.) : L. Worley, C. Trott, P. Bates, J. Tomlin, G. Truett.

In the 1st round Proper of the Amateur Cup we beat Dagenham by 4—1. We were again drawn against Pegasus in the 2nd round on February 4th, at Iffley Road, Oxford. The game could not be played on account of icy conditions. It was a wonderful game played the following week, with the Wanderers winning 2—1. G. Truett (penalty) and P. Bates scored.

Here is the final League Table :—

RESERVES SECTION, 1955-56

	P.	W.	D.	L.	Goals		Pts.
					F.	A.	
Wycombe Wanderers ...	28	17	7	4	86	44	41
Bromley ...	28	16	7	5	80	47	39
Leytonstone ...	28	15	7	6	59	30	37
Walthamstow Avenue ...	28	15	7	6	56	33	37
Oxford City ...	28	14	7	7	83	64	35
Woking ...	28	12	7	9	57	54	31
Dulwich Hamlet ...	28	11	7	10	78	68	29
Barking ...	28	11	5	12	48	56	27
Ilford ...	28	11	2	15	53	60	24
Clapton ...	28	9	5	14	50	56	23
Wimbledon ...	28	8	7	13	60	69	23
Romford ...	28	8	6	14	39	61	22
Kingstonian ...	28	8	5	15	49	73	21
Corinthian-Casuals ...	28	7	4	17	41	83	18
St. Albans City ...	28	4	5	19	49	90	13

CLUB CHAIRMAN

Scarcely had the season commenced when the Committee were informed of the resignation of the Chairman, Mr. G. J. Partridge, who was unable to continue in office owing to pressure of business. Mr. Eric L. Webb accepted the Committee's invitation to this important office and his guidance and enthusiasm have played a major part in the success we have enjoyed.

1956-57 BEST SEASON EVER

This season is fresh in our minds and many of us will never forget the excitement of nearly bringing off the double in all sections, cup and league. The Isthmian League was in doubt right up to the last match when the Corinthian-Casuals were defeated by 3—2. This gave us a lead of one point, making a total of 42 against Woking's 41. This match was played on the 4th May and the game was hard fought with Tomlin (2) and Trott scoring the goals.

The season started with a tour of Switzerland, where three games were played without defeat. The Wanderers were excused until the 4th Qualifying round of the F.A.C.C., when we played Margate and lost by 4—2.

Our first game in the F.A. Amateur Cup in the 1st round Proper was at St. Albans and resulted in a 4—1 victory. The goals were scored by Bates (2), Trott and Truett. Clapton were our opponents in the next round at Loakes Park on 26th January, when we gained a 4—2 victory, Bates (3) and Tomlin scoring the goals. On the 9th February in the 3rd round 12,000 people saw us play against Hounslow Town and win by 3—1, with Bates, Truett and Trott scoring.

We should mention here a game against Didcot in the B. & B. Cup, when a surprise win for Didcot caused a sensation throughout Amateur soccer.

The 3rd round was away to Hitchin on the 18th February before a record crowd for the ground of 7,800. The conditions were difficult, with hard snow and ice. We lost by 1 goal to nil, doing everything except score all through the second half. It was a great disappointment.

Maidenhead beat us after a draw 2—2 at Slough in the B. & B. Cup, in the replay by 3—2 at Chesham. In each match we obtained the lead.

The Senior League Table is published as follows :—

TABLE OF RESULTS, 1955-56

SENIOR SECTION

		P.	W.	D.	L.	Goals		Pts.
						F.	A.	
Wycombe Wanderers	...	28	19	5	4	82	36	43
Bromley	...	28	12	7	9	54	43	31
Leytonstone	...	28	12	7	9	50	44	31
Woking	...	28	14	3	11	62	60	31
Barking	...	28	12	7	9	41	45	31
Kingstonian	...	28	12	6	10	67	64	30
Walthamstow Avenue	...	28	13	3	12	61	45	29
Ilford	...	28	10	8	10	44	52	28
Oxford City	...	28	10	7	11	48	55	27
Clapton	...	28	9	8	11	45	48	26
Wimbledon	...	28	12	2	14	51	62	26
Corinthian-Casuals	...	28	9	7	12	56	56	25
Dulwich Hamlet	...	28	9	6	13	55	67	24
Romford	...	28	9	6	13	42	55	24
St. Albans City	...	28	2	10	16	36	62	14

The Reserves also had a great season, winning the Reserve Section of the Isthmian League.



Photo by M. W. Keen, High Wycombe

CHAMPIONS ISTHMIAN LEAGUE RESERVE SECTION, 1955-56

Back Row : J. Rackstraw, E. O'Connor, H. Bates, G. Hodsdon, R. Kipping, C. Brown, G. Dawes, R. Lance, C. Brewin, G. Jackson (Hon. Reserve Secretary), F. Little.
Centre Row : R. Maskell, A. Conduit, R. Williams, J. Hathaway, D. Worley, R. Stagg, K. Crook, A. Burgess, A. Fryer, G. Campion, K. Grace, S. Cann (Coach).
Front Row : W. J. Hayter (Hon. Gen. Secretray), J. Timberlake (President), D. Twitchen, R. Howson, R. Butler, N. West (Capt.), D. Draffan, T. Lambert, D. Way, G. Partridge (Chairman), E. Rolph (Vice Chairman).

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F.A. AMATEUR CUP FINALISTS 1956-57. ISTHMIAN LEAGUE CHAMPIONS (SENIOR AND RESERVE SECTIONS) 1955-56; 1956-57.
WINNERS BERKS & BUCKS INTERMEDIATE CUP, 1956-57



Photo by M. W. Keen, High Wycombe

Back Row : R. Hearn (Masseur), A. Conduit, A. Fryer, E. O'Connor, G. Hodsdon, K. Grace, R. Maskell (Hon. Financial Secretary)

Fourth Row : E. Rolph (Vice-Chairman), H. Bates, G. Jackson (Hon. Res. XI Sec.), R. Williams, Dr. D. Ellis (Hon. Medical Officer), G. Styles, J. Rackstraw, C. Brewin, F. Little, R. Ing, J. Pountney (Masseur)

Third Row : G. R. Bunce (Hon. Treasurer), B. Darvill, D. Worley, M. Webb, W. Cartwright, A. Burgess, D. Draffan, A. Reid, R. Howson, T. Lambert, N. West, S. Cann (Coach)

Second Row : K. Patey, C. Newbold, K. Crook, K. Brown, E. L. Webb (Chairman), J. Timberlake (President), F. Adams (Patron), W. J. Hayter (Hon. Gen. Secretary), D. Syrett, D. Pembroke, R. Butler, M. Rockell

Front Row : C. Trott, J. Truett, G. Truett, P. Bates, F. Westley (Capt.), F. Dawson, J. Tomlin, F. Smith, M. Wicks

In the 4th round Amateur Cup we played away to Ilford in shocking weather, before 12,000 supporters. It had rained for a long time and the pitch was covered with water. We experienced one of the most exciting and well-fought games ever played by these two well-matched clubs. The replay at Wycombe attracted a crowd of 15,500 and after a tremendous struggle the Wanderers won by 2 clear goals. The goals were scored by G. Truett (penalty) and Trott (2) at Ilford, and at Wycombe by Smith and Trott.

The semi-final against the Corinthian-Casuals at Highbury was a fine game. The Corinthians obtained a goal in the early minutes of the game, then Paul Bates obtained two great goals, only to see the Corinthian-Casuals equalise near half-time. In the second half the game was fought at a tremendous pace. Unfortunately both F. Westley and F. Smith had to leave the field with injuries. During

this period L. Worley created a terrific sensation with two brilliant goals, one with his head. Our goal had some charmed moments, but we won by 4—2.



Photo by K. Goodearl, High Wycombe

Officers and some of the Committee discussing Wembley arrangements.

FINAL AT WEMBLEY

Again we were to play Bishop Auckland, the holders of the Cup. We had never beaten them and they were recognised as being the favourites by the press. They certainly had been playing well and undoubtedly were a good side.

The first half was fairly even. The second half saw the Bishops slowly becoming dominant as the game progressed. Frank Smith scored the goal which made the score equal, but eventually the result was Bishop Auckland 3, Wanderers 1. The match was not an impressive one, although we should mention the wonderful save of the Bishops' goalkeeper from a beautiful header made by Paul Bates from a perfect corner by F. Smith. A goal then could have swung the game the other way. Perhaps also we were a little unfortunate when the referee's whistle went against us as L. Worley was about to end a magnificent piece of play which resulted in the ball being driven into the net by Jack Tomlin.

We congratulate our opponents on a classical display of football that enabled them to win the trophy for the third time in succession, which the F.A. recognised by the presentation of a special replica to them.

Our team was :—

D. Syrett, goal ; F. Lawson, F. Westley, backs ; G. Truett, M. Wicks, J. Truett, half-backs ; L. Worley, C. Trott, P. Bates, J. Tomlin, F. Smith, forwards. D. Atkins (2), B. Durvill (1) and J. Moring (1) played in the series.*

The preparation for the final, as indeed the semi-final, was a big task. Thousands of anxious vice-presidents, members and supporters had to be provided for and this required quite a considerable organisation on a part-time voluntary basis to be created and operated. It is only fair to mention this side of the Club and to state that the General Secretary, Bill Hayter, the official primarily responsible, had several thousand pounds worth of tickets for both Highbury and Wembley to allocate fairly to members, supporters and the general public. How well this was organized was shown by the fact of having received no complaints, and with the smooth manner of the operation of the plan for disposing of the tickets. Bill Hayter was ably supported by the two financial officers, Reg Maskell and George Bunce, who themselves undertook a difficult task most successfully. These officers received full co-operation from all members of the committee, which contributed to the overall success of the operation.

The Wanderers had a tremendous welcome home, although they had not won. The streets leading into the High Street were packed with cheering people. F. Westley had a few words to say from the "Red Lion" Hotel portico and all received a wonderful reception.

The Reserves had a great season, winning the League and the Berks & Bucks Intermediate Cup, as well as becoming finalists for the Westminster Hospital Cup.

During the year both P. Bates and L. Worley received International Caps, and G. Truett was 12th man on one occasion.

Len Worley fractured his leg while playing Army football at Woolwich on 30th April, 1957. This accident was a shock to all and we wish him a good recovery and many years of good football.

In this brief survey of the growth of the Wanderers, we have done our best to outline the development of the Club as a whole in play and administration. We have not dealt with everything and perhaps may have left out someone whose contribution to the fame of the Club merits mention either as a player, official or committee-man ; if so, we are sorry, and to them we express our thanks for their assistance over the years. We have dealt with the early days more fully because very little has been recorded of this period. We know of hundreds of supporters who have for years given support to the Club in fair weather and in foul. We appreciate your support.

We record our appreciation finally of the present officers and committee for their magnificent work rendered to the Club, and may we continue in a true spirit of sportsmanship to render the best service that we can to ensure the high standard of football given to us at all times shall be maintained.

WYCOMBE WANDERERS SUPPORTERS & SOCIAL CLUB



Photo by K. Goodearl, High Wycombe

C. W. BREWIN (*Hon. Treasurer*)
J. R. RICHARDSON (*Hon. Secretary*)

J. BAYLISS (*President*)
T. LEE (*Chairman*)

The Supporters and Social Club thank the Football Club for the opportunity of saying a few words in this their first publication of the Club's history. The Supporters and Social Club was founded in 1931 when the membership was then only 300 ; last season saw the figure reach the record of 1,500.

This season our aim is to reach the 2,500 mark. The officials and committee have worked hard to try and obtain this target, and it can only be reached with your support and co-operation. We can look back with a great deal of satisfaction on our past achievements, and you have shown yourselves to be good supporters to the parent body, for which full praise and thanks are due to you.

May this happy relationship always continue for the purpose of keeping Wycombe Wanderers Football Club in its rightful place, as one of the premier Amateur Soccer Clubs in the country, and help the Club to greater success in future years.

J. R. RICHARDSON, *Hon. Sec.*

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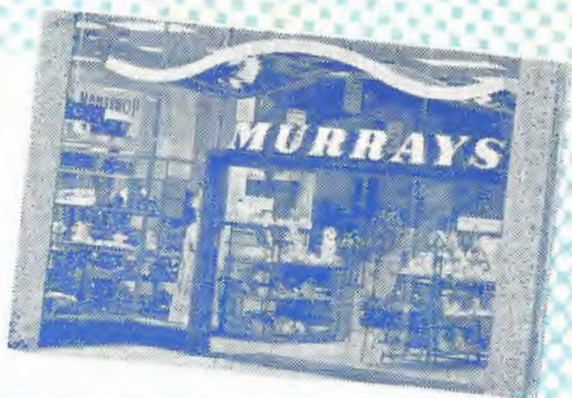
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