

## CLUB NOTES

THIS AFTERNOON—as we, the Champions, accept the challenge of the other League clubs in this annual encounter—all of us at Plough Lane are very happy indeed to cordially welcome all those Isthmian League Officials and Club Officials present today. We welcome, too, the Officers and other representatives from the Football Association and from the County Football Association. We also offer a welcoming hand to all players who form the opposition on this occasion. "We know, gentlemen, that none of you are strangers to Plough Lane, and we hope you will enjoy your return to our enclosure".

The Isthmian League is now entering into its fifty-eighth season, having been instituted 8th March, 1905, and officially sanctioned 31st March, 1905. Over the years this association of clubs has been served in various capacities by world-famous personages, including the Earl of Rosebery, who was President from 1908 until 1935. Since 1953, Mr. Max Woosnam, internationally known in amateur soccer, has held the same office. Sir Stanley Rous, who needs no introduction to any football fan, was Hon. Referee and Fixture Secretary from 1926 to 1934.

Only two clubs of those now constituting the League—Clapton and Ilford have an unbroken record of membership from the very first season.

Since its inception, member clubs have captured the blue riband of amateur football, the F.A. Amateur Cup, 24 times, and have formed the losing finalists on eleven occasions. The London Amateur Senior Cup has borne Isthmian League colours 37 times as outright winners, 28 times as runners-up, and on two occasions as joint holders.

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Seven other County Cup competitions—Essex, Kent, Middlesex, Berks. and Bucks., Surrey, Herts. and Oxfordshire—have Isthmian League Clubs on their records both as winners and runners-up.

No detailed records are readily available of the contribution made to International Amateur Soccer, but the League clubs have provided a steady flow of stars to National sides. As recently as last season, our own players formed a large and valuable part of England's Amateur Elevens, with our own Skipper, Roy Law, reaching the peak of representative honours—leading his country's teams.

And just as we welcome the players and officials of the other League clubs today, so, too, do we cordially welcome back to Plough Lane our other friends our supporters. The advent of yet another soccer season is the signal that yet another summer is on its way out, although it is still early enough to hope for more weeks of summer weather. To those of our friends who have already had their holiday, may we hope that you enjoyed them to the full. To those now on

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holiday we would wish everything they would wish for themselves, and to those still waiting to "get away from it all "—" Sorry you will miss a match or two, but have a good time, anyway".

In a week or two from now we shall all be together again, settling down or perhaps getting "het up" and excited over a new series of our favourite game. And so to each and every one—officials, players and friends—"A season at least as successful and as exciting as the last, and may the cup that got away last season appear on our sideboard when April comes around next year".

Since the end of last season, work has been steadily progressing on the three projects put in hand to improve still further our already first class enclosure. Two of those projects—the running track and the extension of our Supporters' Club Headquarters—are open to view, but the third consisted of the modernisation of both the "Home" and the "Away" Dressing Rooms and Bathrooms.

Still more remains to be done before our Management Committee can sit back and cannot visualise more improvements, and other alterations are already either on the agenda for future discussion or, maybe, already on the drawing board or at the planning stage. Each and every one of us has his or her own ideas of what comprises a perfect football ground, but have no doubt about it, over the coming years our Plough Lane enclosure will become, even more so, a stadium of which we all can be proud—very proud indeed.

#### CASUALTY CORNER !

All of us will call to mind the very last game of last season—the London Senior Cup Final at Dulwich—when with four players abroad on international duty, three other players were absent through injury. In addition, although he played, Eddie Reynolds was already booked for a return visit to the Nelson Hospital. Mike Kelly, too, was scheduled for a return trip to the same address owing to complications resulting from a cartilage operation. Other members of our playing staff were suffering from the aches and pains which are almost inseparable from a hard-fought season of soccer, but at the time of going to press we are happy to record a clean bill of health. Long may that happy state of affairs continue !

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#### WEDDING BELLS!

Since the end of last season all hasn't been quiet on the matrimonial front, and to those of our players who have "taken unto themselves a wife"—Bob Ardrey, Mickey Moore, Brian Rudge and Eddie Reynolds—we offer our sincere, if somewhat belated, congratulations and best wishes for the future.

In early October next, the Isthmian League are sending a team to Uganda to take part in the celebrations to commemorate the granting of independence. Congratulations are due to our own Eddie Reynolds and Ted Murphy who have been selected to make the trip.

## FIRST TEAM FIXTURES

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Wednesday, 22nd August-v. Leytonstone (Isthmian League). (Away).

Saturday, 25th August-v. Woking (Isthmian League). (Away).

Monday, 27th August-v. Whitley Bay (Friendly). (Home).

Saturday, 1st September-v. Maidstone United (Isthmian League). (Home).

- Monday, 3rd September—v. Walton & Hersham (S.O. Thames Cup : 1st Round, 1st Leg). (Away).
- Saturday, 8th September—v. Leatherhead (F.A.C. Cup : 1st Qualifying Round) (Away).
- Monday, 8th October—v. Walton & Hersham (S.O. Thames Cup : 1st Round, 2nd Leg). (Home).

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## SUPPORTERS' CLUB NOTES

#### OUR VISITORS.

This afternoon we ring up the curtain on the 1962/63 soccer season with an attractive fixture, Wimbledon, the League Champions, versus The Rest of the Isthmian League. We extend a very sincere welcome to the Players and Officials of the league team, at the same time we wish the Dons another very successful season ahead.

#### MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS.

In spite of rising costs, we are pleased to announce the subscription for membership of the Supporters' Club is again 2/- for the new season, old age pensioners and children 1/-, these subscriptions are now due, and should be paid at the club office today.

#### TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS.

Next Saturday the Dons will be playing at Woking, members wishing to travel with the Supporters' Club, should book with Mr. C. G. Harden this afternoon, membership card should be produced when booking.

#### SOCIAL EVENTS.

On Sunday, 30th September, we have arranged a visit to the new COVENTRY CATHEDRAL, and on Thursday, 18th October, a visit to the Savoy Theatre has been booked, to see "SAIL AWAY" by Noel Coward. Members who would like to attend either or both of these outings are requested to give their names, stating the number of seats required, to our Social Secretary, Mr. K. Paterson, as soon as possible. A small deposit should be paid when booking.

#### HAVE-A-GO!

The JACKPOT Competition, which was held on match days last season, proved very popular with spectators, so it will again be held during this season. Don't forget to get your ticket from our sellers at the main gates.

AUBREY NEWMAN.



G. T. Fleming & Co., Printers, 1a, Norman Road, Wimbledon, S.W.19