

Annual Challenge Match

'CHAMPIONS'

(WYCOMBE WANDERERS F.C.)

ISTHMIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE CHAMPIONS 1970-71

versus

'THE REST'

(ISTHMIAN LEAGUE SELECTED XI)

LOAKES PARK, HIGH WYCOMBE

on Tuesday, 5th October, 1971

kick-off 7.30 p.m.

SOUVENIR PROGRAMME 5p

Foreword

It is my pleasure to write a brief foreword for tonight's programme and to congratulate Wycombe Wanderers on behalf of the Isthmian League Council on being Champions for the past season, thus emulating their successes in 1955-56 and 1956-57.

The Champions versus the Rest of the League was first played in 1912 when London Caledonians were Champions. For many reasons the fixture elapsed until 1960 when the event again became a regular on our calendar.

Wycombe Wanderers have been most worthy members of the League since 1921 and at all times contributed much in many ways to the status and success of our Combination, none more so than their record on the playing field.

To the Officers, Committee, playing members and all helpers of Wycombe Wanderers F.C. we say 'thank you and well done', with every good wish for success in the present season and those ahead.

D. W. McKenzie,
Chairman, Isthmian League.

Chairman's Remarks

Tonight's game is being held to celebrate our performance of last season when we won the Isthmian League with 62 points. In the process we scored more goals than any other club (93) and only two sides had less scored against them. Out of 38 games, we lost only four and one of these was *after* we had won the championship. As a Club we have always prided ourselves on playing attractive and attacking football and whatever success we achieved last season was due to a determination to provide entertainment through good football at all times. The advent of firmer refereeing this season is a move which we, as a Club, fully support and if the outcome of this move allows, and this it seems to be doing, the better footballers to exploit their skills, then the outcome can only result in better football and more worthwhile entertainment.

I have no doubt that tonight's game will provide fast and skillful football and we welcome the visiting officials, players and all supporters to what should be an evening of pleasure, an 'occasion', without the tensions and stresses of our everyday programme.

John Delaney

It gave me great pleasure to captain 'The Blues' last season to the Championship. To captain a side like 'The Blues' is made easy when you have players like Ted and Larry, players who know the game. All the players in the squad got on with the job with the least amount of fuss and carried out their instructions as best they could. As you realise, the team relies on every player to do his part, and if one player chooses to go his own way the rest of the team will suffer.

Since I have been here under the 'Boss' (Brian Lee), he has chosen a squad of players that get on well, which has proved that to pick the players that blend, rather than a team of individuals, will in the long run give consistency. That is why I think this season we will do as well as we have done in the past.

The 'Boss' often tells us that he could pick any twelve players from the squad to win the game in hand, but sometimes I think that you the supporters do not understand—you watch the game but do not encourage enough. You can be sure that the players are always doing their best for you—make sure you do your best for them.

Secretary's Notes

Perhaps tonight we might be excused if we look back a little and recall briefly the record of last season's league campaign. If you will remember, the team got off to a great start, winning outright the first nine matches, and remaining undefeated until the fourteenth, when we went down unexpectedly at Kingston. And so into the new year, by which time we had dropped nine points from twenty-two games, and our nearest rivals Sutton, by reason of an early dismissal from the Amateur Cup, were forging ahead and leaving us a considerable leeway to make up. For us, the turning point came in that memorable game at Hendon, which seemed to lift the whole team for the final run-in. The 'clincher' of course came at Sutton, when after perhaps a moderate game we were successful by 1—0.

So much for the immediate past, as a result of which we are privileged to stage tonight's game for the benefit of league funds. Our opposition is, we feel, possibly the strongest which could be selected, and we look forward to a feast of football. We welcome these players, together with league and club officials, F.A. representatives, with a special word of thanks to Don Mackenzie for contributing the foreword.

As mentioned in a previous programme, the club-room will be closed after the match except for those holding tickets for the buffet which has been prepared.

We would also remind you of the friendly match, which has been arranged with Hillingdon Boro', on this ground on Thursday evening, 7th October.

FORTHCOMING MATCHES

Thurs. 7th Oct.—v. Hillingdon Boro'.....	Home..k.o. 7.30 p.m.
Sat. 9th Oct.—v. Kingstonian (I.L.)	Away..k.o. 3.00 p.m.
Tues. 12th Oct.—v. Hitchin Town (I.L.)	Away..k.o. 7.30 p.m.
Sat. 16th Oct.—v. Walthamstow Avenue (I.L.)	Home..k.o. 3.00 p.m.

Champions !

by BRIAN LEE
(Manager W.W.F.C.)

The most important yet difficult achievement in soccer is to attain a consistency from August to May. It is therefore particularly pleasing for any manager to win a Championship despite the fact that supporters like the glamour of 'Cup runs'. To be consistent in terms of results means winning, which in turn means people take interest and gates increase. The two factors mean that the club, with its facilities, people and atmosphere becomes a viable proposition.

The most important and coveted competition in soccer is the 'European Cup' when the League winners of each country play to find the European Champions. The passport to fame and fortune is to win the Football League Championship and must be every manager's ambition. Although scaled down many, many degrees, the same feeling of achievement was felt at Loakes Park last May.

The previous season had seen us drop a point in the last League match against Kingstonians and lose the Championship to Enfield. The Middlesex club had an amazing 'run in' and although we were disappointed, Enfield really deserved the title with their terrific finish. To win the Championship for three consecutive years was an excellent feat that may well never be repeated. At the end of the season had we been level on points, we would have had a better goal average by 0.04 of a goal!

I know the two top teams would have met for a 'decider' but in my mind the winners would have been perfectly clear!

The interesting thing in winning a Championship is to assess the vital moments of the season. Is it better to be out in front or to come from behind? There is only one answer to that question and that is to get on top and stay there: it is not every year that you meet such a 'run in' as Enfield's! Last season though, two important victories away from home stand out in my mind. Our visit to Sutton, because it was 'us or them' and it was late in the season and it was really a telling game. We played well and deserved the win, but our visit to Barking was one of those games when everything went right for us and nothing for our opponents. It was a grateful team that returned from Barking that day!

Tonight therefore, is a big occasion at Loakes Park and the opposition is both star-studded and experienced. I hope that our supporters—are there any better in Amateur Football?—witness an entertaining and keenly contested match. For purposeful enjoyment with a competitive background has brought us all together, which in turn is the essence of soccer.

SEASON 1970-71

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wycombe Wanderers	38	28	6	4	93	32	61
Sutton United	38	29	3	6	76	35	61
St. Albans City	38	23	10	5	87	26	56
Enfield	38	24	7	7	67	24	55
Ilford	38	21	7	10	74	51	49
Hendon	38	18	11	9	81	37	47
Barking	38	20	4	14	89	59	44
Leytonstone	38	17	10	11	68	50	44
Woking	38	18	6	14	57	50	42
Walthamstow Avenue	38	14	11	13	63	52	39
Oxford City	38	13	10	15	51	48	36
Hitchin Town	38	12	9	17	46	60	33
Wealdstone	38	12	8	18	45	64	32
Tooting & Mitcham United	38	11	9	18	44	66	31
Kingstonian	38	11	8	19	53	71	30
Bromley	38	10	6	22	34	77	26
Dulwich Hamlet	38	7	10	21	30	66	24
Maidstone United	38	7	6	25	42	84	20
Clapton	38	5	7	26	33	101	17
Corinthian-Casuals	38	2	8	28	23	103	12



THE SQUAD

	Appearances	Goals		Appearances	Goals
G. Anthony	48	12	A. Horseman	66	47
B. Baker	58	3	J. Hutchinson	62	28
K. Blunt	58	3	J. Maskell	50	—
B. Bremer	72	24	I. MacLean	33	1
J. Delaney	54	22	K. O'Brien	33	—
V. Faulkner	41	1	E. Powell	64	—
P. Fuschillo	43	1	L. Pritchard	58	18
C. Gale	43	1	I. Rundle	48	1
R. Hartridge	14	—	K. Searle	76	46

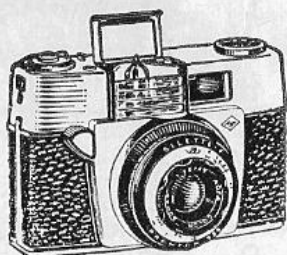


PHOTO ACTION



John Maskell saves Chris Duggan's penalty in the game with Enfield.



Action from our Amateur Cup Quarter Final Tie with Skelmersdale.

supporters club notes RON FISHER

Good evening Supporters,

This attractive fixture tonight is the result of, and the award for, the success of last season. All the excitement we experienced through that campaign is now several months behind us, so this would seem to be a good time to think what that success meant to the supporters, and to the Supporters' Club.

To the supporters it meant a great feeling of achievement. For several years past the Wanderers had looked likely winners of cup or league, or even both, but always when the end of the season had come, it was only to find that we were a few points short, or that somehow or other the cup had slipped from our grasp. It was 14 years since the Club had won a major competition, and many of the newer supporters had never experienced the thrill of cheering home the victors.

We saw some great football during the season. Attacking football too. The Wanderers scored 93 league goals, and for all matches in 1970/71 the goal tally was almost 200. So also for the supporters, the success meant entertainment. The highlights perhaps, were the 4—0 victory over Sutton early in the season, and that great away success at Hendon by three goals to one in April. But they are all highlights when you are in process of becoming the Champions.

The supporters didn't score any of the goals, or keep them out at the other end for that matter, but they sweated, and lived and died with the players on the pitch none the less. Sometimes perhaps, they went home more tired than the players. It might be a good idea to start training nights for supporters too!

Many times the players said how much the support they received meant to them, and their gesture in toasting their supporters on the pitch at the end of the season meant much to the supporters too.

To the Supporters' Club the success meant a dramatic rise in the membership. It was 50% up on the previous year. It meant increased takings at every sales point on the ground. There was some very hard work for the faithful few. But we loved seeing the big crowds rolling in to Loakes Park. We served our supporters, and we made money for our Football Club. We had achieved something too.

Many of the players in The Rest team tonight have played in this fixture before on other grounds, but seldom in front of the size of crowd that is likely to be here tonight. May they go back to their clubs feeling that they have played in front of an enthusiastic crowd who show their appreciation of good football, from whoever it comes.



Annual Challenge Match**Tuesday, 5th October, 1971**

Wycombe Wanderers*light and dark blue*

- J. Maskell **1**
I. Rundle **2**
J. Lailey **3**
E. Powell **4**
J. Delaney **5**
R. Williams **6**
V. Faulkner **7**
L. Pritchard **8**
K. Searle **9**
A. Horseman **10**
J. Hutchinson **11**
M. Holifield **12**

Isthmian League XI*green and white*

- A. Williams
(Enfield)
L. Tilley
(Enfield)
J. Mears
(Sutton United)
P. Deadman
(Hendon)
J. Charles
(Leytonstone)
R. Haider
(Hendon)
P. Wood
(St. Albans City)
T. Bladon
(Sutton United)
J. Butterfield
(St. Albans City)
K. Jelly
(Sutton United)
C. Kelly
(Sutton United)

Referee : Mr. K. W. SUTLIFF (Rainham)

Linesmen : Messrs. P. J. C. Bradbury (Slough)
and P. Wrennal (Burnham)