

THE DIADORA FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Welcome to
The
Carlsberg
CUP FINAL



HENDON
v.
WOKINGHAM TOWN



at Marlow Football Club,
Alfred Davis Ground,
Oak Tree Road, Marlow
Tuesday 3rd. May 1994
Kick-off 7.30pm.
Souvenir Programme £1



HENDON FOOTBALL CLUB 1994

Back Row: (left to right) Steven Heffer, Scott Ashenden, Dennis Rodway, Duncan Hardy, Mark Hill, Dave Root,

Andy Polston, Lee Hunter, Mark Kane, Jude Monteath (Physio)

Front Row: Ian Rutherford, Paul Kelly, Curtis Warmington, Peter Lawrence (Asst. Manager), Bob Dowie (Player/Manager), Tommy Mason, Bradley Anderson, Robert Bourne

The Chairman's Message

Good Evening,

It is my pleasure to welcome you all here to the home of Marlow Football Club for tonight's CARLSBERG CUP FINAL between Hendon and Wokingham Town Football Clubs.

As you will be aware, this Competition is for Clubs that play in the Premier and Division One of our League and formerly known as the "Full Members Cup" has this Season been sponsored by CARLSBERG a product that will be well known to most of you.

The League have been extremely fortunate in obtaining sponsorship for both its Full Members Cup and Associate Members Trophy Competitions with Carlsberg-Tetley Brewing Limited and we are extremely grateful for the support of the company and are indeed proud to be associated with such a famous name.

It is my pleasure to welcome tonight the Managing Director of Carlsberg-Tetley Sales, Mr. Mike Titmus, together with colleagues from his company and their guests for what will I am sure be a most exciting match. It is also my pleasure to welcome all other guests at tonight's match and of course to all supporters of both Clubs and others who may be attending as neutrals.

Our thanks are extended to Mr. Michael Eagleton, Chairman of Marlow Football Club and to Secretary Paul Burdell for their assistance in providing the facilities here at Oak Tree Road to stage this evening's Final.

In conclusion, may I express a personal thank you to all supporters of our level of football and also my special thanks to Mike Titmus and Carlsberg for their support to our League and its Member Clubs.

Best wishes to you all and wishing your Clubs all success

ALAN C. F. TURVEY

Chairman and Managing Director



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1993/94 Season Carlsberg Cup Round by Round

[illegible]

Penalties: 1st Round: Carshalton won 4-1; 2nd Round: Wokingham won 4-3, 3rd Round: Purfleet won 8-7, St. Albans won 4-3, 4th Round: Hendon won 3-1, Wokingham won 5-4

HENDON F.C.

The usual school of thought is that Hendon Football Club was formed as Hampstead Town in 1908 and while the date is not in question there are new doubts concerning the club's original name. Documents have come to light this season suggesting that the club began life as Christ Church Hampstead F.C. adapting to Hampstead Town the following season.

What is known for certain is that the fledgling club started life on a tidal wave of success. Playing in the local Finchley Football league they were third division champions in their first season. the following season they won the second division title and in their first season in the top division they won the League Championship.

Hampstead Town were members of the London League by 1911 and eight years later joined the Athenian League. In 1926 "Town" was dropped from the club's title followed by a complete name change in 1933 when the club was re-christened Golders Green F.C.

The most significant name change came in 1946 when the club became Hendon F.C. there was a Hendon Football Club playing as early as 1887 and making a name for themselves in the FA Cup and to prove that the clubs are not one and the same, records show they both met in season 1931/32 with both clubs gaining a win each.

Today's Hendon were five times runners-up in the Athenian League before claiming the title as last in 1953. They were also to win it in 1956 and 1961.

Hendon were one of four clubs to be elected into the Isthmian League in 1963 and finished their first season as runners-up to the now FA Premiership club, Wimbledon. The Isthmian League Championship flag was flying at Claremont Road the following season when Hendon took the title after beating Enfield in a "play-off". Both sides finished level on points and at the time the goal scoring records of the clubs were not taken into consideration to decided placings. Their second title came in 1973 and in the clubs first eleven seasons in the League they never finished lower than sixth.

Renowned FA Amateur Cup fighters, Hendon appeared in five finals at Wembley Stadium. 1955 saw them meet the mighty Bishop Auckland in front of a capacity crowd of 100,000. Hendon lost 2-0 but

went on to record three triumphs at the famous stadium, beating Kingstonian 2-1 in 1960 and this after being a goal behind with just three minutes left. In 1965 Whitby Town were defeated 3-1 and Hendon returned the following season only to lose 3-1 against Wealdstone. In 1972 Hendon met local rivals Enfield and lifted the famous trophy for the third time following a 2-0 win.

A win in Italy against Unione captured the European Amateur Cup Winners Cup in 1972 and at local level Hendon have won the Middlesex Charity Cup 12 times, the Middlesex Senior Cup ten times and the London Senior Cup twice.

Other visits to Wembley include the Middlesex Red Cross Cup Final during the Second World War and the 1988 Middlesex Charity Cup Final. Hendon were also the first side to play under floodlights at the stadium, when they were uninvited to test them out by the Wembley owners.

Over the years many outstanding players have worn the Hendon shirt and England's three highest capped Amateur International are all Hendon men. Rod Haider won a record 65 caps, Goalkeeper John Swannell won 61 caps and another former custodian Mike Pinner won nine of his 52 during his spell at Claremont Road. Peter Deadman gained 40 caps and all of Laurie Topp's 32 were collected during his spell wearing Hendon green. Today at professional level Iain Dowie continues the club's traditions. Now playing for Southampton he is a current Northern Ireland International.

Hendon's moment of F.A. Cup glory came in 1974 when they held Newcastle United to a 1-1 draw at St. James' Park in the Third Round before losing in a replay played on Watford's Vicarage Road Stadium. Internal off-field changes saw the club converted into a Limited Company in February 1992. In January 1994 Elaine Green became the first woman in the club's history to be appointed as Chairman, one of the very few to hold that title in senior football. She plans to restore the club to its former glory at the head of non-League football and then into the Football League. Elaine Green knows this will all take time but she is determined to achieve her goal.

THE HENDON PLAYERS

BRADLEY ANDERSON Made his club debut in the 3-2 win at Molesey in February 1994 and scored for the first time against Sutton United in April. He has also played for Hertford Town, Stevenage Borough and St. Albans City. Was also with Swindon Town's Reserve sides.

SCOTT ASHENDEN Signed at the start of the season and made his debut as sub against Grays Athletic on the opening day. Scored on his full debut ten days later. Was previously with Southend United for three years.

ROBERT BOURNE A loan player from Boreham Wood. He made his debut for Hendon against Stevenage and his next seven games co-incided with an unbeaten run for the club.

BOB DOWIE First signed in 1987, joining brother Iain at the club and is currently in his third spell at Claremont Road. Re-signed from St. Albans City in the summer after winning a runners-up medal with the Hertfordshire club last term. Became player/manager in January 1994.

DUNCAN HARDY is also in his third spell at Hendon after making his debut in October 1982, hitting the winner in the game with Billericay Town. Has made over 100 appearances for the club and re-joined in January 1994 in time to score the only goal of the game in the Carlsberg Cup tie against Enfield.

STEVEN HEFFER Last signing for the club by former manager Peter Taylor last December. Made his debut against Aylesbury United and his former clubs include West Ham, Southend United and Swindon Town.

MARK HILL One of just three survivors from last seasons squad, having joined Hendon from Conference side Slough Town. Gained a Conference championship medal at Maidstone. After starting his career with QPR he has also played for both Barnet and Wycombe Wanderers.

LEE HUNTER A former N. Ireland Youth International who signed pre-season from Wivenhoe Town. Has League experience with Colchester United and Wigan Athletic. His father is former Ipswich player Allan Hunter. Lee has missed just two games this season.

MARK KANE Formerly with Enfield, Mark joined Hendon at the start of this season, but his appearances have been limited due to an unlucky run of injury problems.

PAUL KELLY Is currently on loan from Endsleigh League side, Fulham until the end of the season. Scored the winning goal in the Carlsberg Cup semi-final against Dulwich Hamlet

ANDREW LAWRENCE Signed just prior to the season's registration deadline and was a substitute in the semi-final against Dulwich. A former junior with

Luton Town, Andrew has also played for Harrow Borough

TOMMY MASON A World Cup International for New Zealand, Tommy joined Hendon at the start of the season from Enfield where he made over 100 appearances. Has Football League experience with Fulham and whilst he was at Southbury Road, gained two runners-up medals. Also played for Brighton.

ANDY POLSTON Signed from Brighton & Hove Albion and began his career at Spurs. Whilst at Spurs he was one of two brothers (John, now Norwich) to have played in the same side for many years. Has had loan spells at both Gillingham and Cambridge and has nearly 70 Hendon appearances to his credit.

DENNIS RODWAY Another player with limited appearances due to injury problems. he signed at the start of the season from Southend and has also played for Charlton Athletic. Having been injured in a pre-season friendly - it took him until Christmas to make his full debut for Hendon.

DAVE ROOT Now enjoying his Testimonial season with Hendon. the clubs longest serving player is now coming to the end of his eighth season. Has played almost 450 games for the club and has three times been voted Supporters Player of the Year. Has representative honours with the Diadora League, Middlesex Wanderers and Middlesex County.

IAN RUTHERFORD Joined from St. Albans in January 1994 after gaining a runners-up medal at Clarence Park. Scored his first goal in April and can name Luton Town, Crewe Alexandre and Stafford Rangers as his previous clubs.

CURTIS WARMINGTON A reserve and junior player with West Ham, Curtis was another summer signing from Enfield where he played over 100 times. Has also played for Dulwich Hamlet, Yeovil Town and Carshalton Athletic. Scored in the quarter-final against Bishop's Stortford

PETER LAWRENCE Appointed as Assistant Manager by Bob Dowie in January 1994. Peter has been very successful at St. Albans City, Hitchin Town and Harrow Borough and now along with Bob Dowie he leads Hendon into the Carlsberg Cup Final.

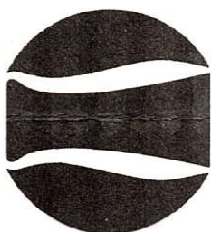
JUDE MONTEATH MCSP, SRP Hendon's highly rated and vastly experienced physiotherapist now in her third season treating the players at Claremont Road. Jude was with Kingsbury Town when they played Chelsea at Stamford Bridge in the Middlesex Charity Cup Final.

HENDON

(Green & White Hooped Shirts & White Shorts)

1. Dave ROOT
2. Lee HUNTER
3. Tommy MASON
4. Mark HILL
5. Bob DOWIE
6. Curtis WARMINGTON
7. Andy POLSTON
8. Paul KELLY
9. Scott ASHENDEN
10. Ian RUTHERFORD
11. Steve HEFFER
12. Duncan HARDY
14. Robert BOURNE

Manager: Bob Dowie
Asst Manager: Peter Lawrence
Physio: Jude Monteath



WOKINGHAM TOWN

(Amber & Black Shirts, Black Shorts)

1. Russell MEARA
2. Barry MILLER
3. Jim BRADLEY
4. Graham SMITH
5. Simon LINE
6. Jim DEVEREUX
7. Freddie HYATT
8. Iain DUNCAN
9. Elliott PEARCE
10. Tommy LANGLEY
11. Jon UNDERWOOD
12. Reg LEATHER
14. Micky HURDWELL

Manager: Roy Merryweather
Coach: Derek Cottrell
Physio: Dave Lane

Referee: Mr. G. Barber (Guildford, Surrey)

Linesmen: Mr. A. Doran (Green Flag); Mr. M. Hopson (Yellow Flag)
Fourth Official: Mr. L. Carr

WOKINGHAM TOWN

Wokingham Town Football Club was founded in 1875, which makes them the fourth oldest club in Berkshire, with only Reading, Abingdon and Maidenhead having been formed only a few years earlier.

The Club's original ground was in Oxford Road, but after a few years a pitch was laid out on the cricket ground in Wellington Road. In 1896 a further switch was made to Langborough Road and some ten years later the Club moved to their present ground in Finchampstead Road.

The year 1928 was another important milestone in "Town's" history, for not only was the League championship won for the second time, but the purchase of the Finchampstead Road ground was completed.

In 1949 the Supporters Club was founded and their remarkable talent for raising funds was largely responsible for the club's mercurial rise from Junior to Senior football in the years that followed.

In 1953 the Final of the Berks. & bucks Intermediate Cup was reached for the first time, and the stage was set for entry into Senior Amateur football. The Club joined the Metropolitan League, and subsequently transferred to the Delphian League.

1957/58 brought a memorable FA Amateur Cup run with the club progressing from the early qualifying competition to the quarter-finals before losing to Crook Town in front of 10,000 by the odd goal in five.

In 1959 Wokingham Town were admitted to the Corinthian League, in 1962 the switch was made to the Athenian League and then they became a founder member of the Second Division of the Isthmian League in 1973.

Floodlighting was first installed in 1966, marked by a match against then First Division Fulham. These lights were eventually replaced at the start of the 1980/81 season.

The end of the 60's also witnessed the Club's first success in the Berks. & Bucks. Senior Cup, when a strong Slough side were beaten at Loakes Park, the former home of Wycombe Wanderers in 1969. The second success came in 1983 when "Town" overcame Bracknell 2-0 at Slough's Wexham Park. Wokingham Town progressed to the Premier Division at the end of the 1981/2 season, having

won Division One by some thirteen points. They finished 17th. in the higher sphere a year later, but recorded another milestone in their history by reaching the First Round of the FA Cup and drawing at home 1-1 with Cardiff City, before losing the replay at Ninian Park. They spent the first three months of the following season anchored in the bottom two, but results improved around Christmas and the club rose to a much more respectable 8th. place. They continued their progress in 1984/5 by finishing fourth - and by reaching the last sixteen of the F.A. Trophy and winning the Berks. & bucks Senior Cup again.

Tenth place in 1985/86 was followed by a very disappointing 1986/7 season where the club finished in 16th. position - they also made early exits in virtually every cup they entered. However the "low spot" was turned around in 1987/8 with an excellent run to the semi-final of the FA Trophy. Unfortunately they met the favourites, Telford United at that stage and the Conference side proved to be too strong, winning 3-0 on aggregate.

1989/90 started in a very promising fashion with the Club having lost only three league games by the end of February, and in fact they only lost only twice more. However at the end of the season, Slough had lost one less and it was they who progressed to the Conference with a win confirmed only five minutes from time. Runners-up spot was however, their best position so far.

Preparation and the start of the 1990/91 season was not helped by the Club having to play its home games on the ground of Reading FC until November by this time the momentum for the Championship was gone and the club finished in mid-table.

Again the Club bounced back the following season to finish 1991/92 in 5th. place and with victories over the top two Woking and Enfield (twice) as the high spots in the season.

Last season was a struggle from start to finish with seven players from the 91/2 squad leaving the Club and a very young team having to be relied upon. They were rarely out of the bottom three, until the final weekend when they secured a point at already relegated Bognor to scramble clear.

THE WOKINGHAM PLAYERS

RUSSELL MEARA (Goalkeeper) 20 year old who was signed from Aylesbury United at the start of the year as cover for the injured Peter Scrivens, and has performed well enough to keep his place in the team.

IAIN DUNCAN (Fullback) Joined Town during January 1994 from Windsor & Eton. A 21 year old who has established himself in the first team with his stylish play. Previously spent two seasons with Leicester City.

REG LEATHER (Central Defender) Signed from Leatherhead in November 1992. Reg is a vastly experienced player who has been around the Diadora League for many years especially with Hayes. Very strong in the air, he reads the game well, and is very dangerous at set pieces in the opposing penalty area. Can always be relied upon to give of his best.

SIMON LINE (Defender) Signed in early November from Chertsey Town, this 22 year old was previously with Brentford. Scored on his debut against Hendon and looks to have a great future in the game.

GRAHAM SMITH (Central Defender) Graham has proved to be very capable defender since breaking into the first team. Now a 30 year old, he has made over 70 appearances for the Club and is a school teacher in Reading.

JIM DEVEREUX (Central Defender) Signed during the 1990/91 season from Basingstoke Town, having previously played for Aldershot. A 23 year old who improved tremendously last year and was a first team regular, scoring three goals in 47 appearances.

FREDDIE HYATT (Midfield) Signed from Burnham towards the end of the 1990/91 season and has made over 120 appearances and has scored over 20 goals. This 25 year old has great ability and can always be relied upon to do the unexpected and is a favourite with the fans.

MICKY HURDWELL (Midfield) Rejoined the Club at the start of the season from Thatcham Town. 28 year old who first played for the Club in the 1986/87 season. His previous clubs include Bracknell and Salisbury.

ELLIOTT PEARCE (Forward) Another youngster who has progressed through the youth and reserve sides to a place in the first team squad. 21 year old who has scored over 25 goals in around 70

appearances. A youngster who has a lot of promise and a big future in football.

TOMMY LANGLEY (Forward) This highly talented forward was signed at the start of last season to bring some experience to a young side. His previous clubs include Chelsea, QPR, AEK Athens, Aldershot, Slough Town and Exeter City. The top scorer last season with 21 goals, he won several club awards last season.

JON UNDERWOOD (Defender) Youngster who has progressed through the youth and reserve teams to a place in the first team squad. Has only recently broken into the first team after some impressive displays for the reserves.

JIM BRADLEY (Central Defender) Signed early in 1991/92 season, this 20 year old was impressive for the reserves. spent a short time at Staines before returning to Wokingham just before the end of the season. Was a consistent performer again last season and made over a dozen first team appearances. He is a young player with a very bright future ahead of him.

BARRY MILLER (Defender) Signed on loan from Brentford until the end of the season. A 17 year old, he has impressed in his first team appearances with his strong defending and positive attacking runs.

JASON WALKINGTON (Midfield) This 23 year old was signed at the start of last season from Basingstoke Town. His previous clubs include Southampton and Windsor & Eton. Made over 30 appearances last season, scoring four times. He has the flair and ability to be a match winner on his day.

JOHN LAWFORD (Forward) Joined Town from Aylesbury United, along with Russell Meara at the start of the month. A strong running and skilful player whom it is hoped will bring Town the extra goals they need to move up the table.

DEREK COTTRELL (First Team Coach) Derek returned to the club during 1992 as assistant to Terry Brown after a spell at Woking. During his playing days at Wokingham he made over 500 appearances scoring 27 goals. A great motivator who always gave 100% on the pitch. He took over as Coach when Terry Brown left in November. He is seen as the ideal partner to Manager Roy Merryweather.



***Today's Match Balls
have been supplied by:
DIADORA LTD.***

Paths to the Final

HENDON:

First Round:	Bye			
Second Round:	Enfield	(A)	1-0	Hardy
Third Round:	Uxbridge	(H)	1-0	Heffer
Fourth Round:	Bishop's Stortford	(A)	1-1#	Warmington
	(won 3-1 on penalties)			
Semi-Final:	Dulwich Hamlet	(H)	2-1#	Heffer, Kelly

WOKINGHAM TOWN:

First Round:	Bye			
Second Round:	Basingstoke Town	(A)	1-1#	Devereux
	(won 4-3 on penalties)			
Third Round:	Dorking	(H)	2-1	Hampstead, Langley
Fourth Round:	Purfleet	(A)	1-1#	Langley
	(won 5-4 on penalties)			
Semi-Final:	St. Albans City	(A)	2-0	Aseh, Devereux

Denotes extra time played.

Previously Trodden Paths

HENDON

Season

WOKINGHAM TOWN

4th. Round
2nd. Round
1st. Round

1990/91
1991/92
1992/93

2nd. Round
3rd. Round
2nd. Round

LATEST LEAGUE STANDINGS

(Includes Saturday 30th. April 1994)

Premier Division:

	Pl	W	D	L	Gf	Ga	Pts
Stevenage Boro	41	30	4	7	85	39	94
Enfield	37	25	6	6	73	27	81
Marlow	40	24	6	10	89	67	78
Chesham Utd.	41	23	8	10	70	45	77
Sutton Utd.	39	21	10	8	71	30	73
St. Albans City	41	21	10	10	80	51	73
Hitchin Town	41	21	7	13	81	55	70
Carshalton Ath	39	21	6	12	76	49	69
Harrow Borough	40	18	11	11	54	52	65
Hendon	41	18	9	14	61	49	63
Kingstonian	41	17	9	15	94	63	60
Aylesbury Utd.	40	16	7	17	62	64	55
Hayes	42	15	8	19	63	72	53
Dulwich Hamlet	40	13	8	19	49	64	47
Bromley	40	13	7	20	51	64	46
Molesey	39	11	11	17	43	56	44
Yeading	41	10	13	18	56	65	43
Grays Athletic	39	12	5	22	50	67	41
Wokingham Tn	41	10	6	25	36	66	36
Dorking	41	9	4	28	58	101	31
Basingstoke Tn	41	5	12	24	37	84	27
Wivenhoe Town	41	5	3	33	38	147	18

Division One:

Bisho's Stortford	40	24	12	4	83	30	84
Purfleet	41	22	11	8	68	42	77
Walton & Hersham	41	21	11	9	75	51	74
Tooting & M.	41	20	12	9	65	37	72
Billericay Town	41	20	11	10	67	47	71
Heybridge Swifts	40	19	11	10	71	44	68
Leyton	41	20	7	14	85	63	67
Abingdon Town	41	19	10	12	60	50	67
Worthing	41	18	11	12	75	44	65
Boreham Wood	40	17	14	9	66	46	65
Staines Town	40	17	8	15	80	54	59
Wembley	40	16	10	14	64	47	58
Bognor Regis Tn	40	15	12	13	55	46	57
Barking	41	14	11	16	59	68	53
Whyteleafe	41	15	6	20	70	86	51
Uxbridge	40	14	8	18	50	54	50
Maidenhead Utd.	41	12	13	16	51	46	49
Berkhamsted Tn	40	11	9	20	62	69	42
Ruislip Manor	41	9	8	24	40	78	35
Windsor & Eton	41	8	6	27	44	91	30
Chalfont St. Peter	41	6	10	25	36	76	28
Croydon	41	3	3	35	35	192	12

Division Two:

	Pl	W	D	L	Gf	Ga	Pts
Chertsey Town	40	32	2	6	117	45	98
Newbury Town	39	30	7	2	104	30	97
Aldershot Town	39	28	6	5	71	24	90
Barton Rovers	41	24	8	9	66	37	80
Witham Town	41	21	9	11	67	50	72
Thame United	41	18	12	11	86	51	66
Met. Police	41	19	9	13	71	52	66
Malden Vale	40	19	9	12	62	47	66
Banstead Ath.	39	19	7	13	54	50	64
Aveley	40	18	5	17	58	63	59
Edgware Town	41	15	10	16	81	74	55
Saffron Walden	41	16	7	18	59	62	55
Hemel Hempstead	40	14	11	15	47	39	53
Egham Town	41	14	8	19	46	58	50
Ware	41	13	7	21	45	75	46
Tilbury	41	13	3	25	59	79	42
Hampton	41	12	5	24	42	68	41
Hungerford Town	40	11	7	22	50	64	40
Leatherhead	41	10	6	25	43	86	36
Lewes	40	8	10	22	35	78	34
Collier Row	39	7	8	24	34	79	29
Rainham Town	41	4	2	35	23	109	14

Division Three:

Cheshunt	39	22	12	5	61	34	78
Bracknell Town	38	23	8	7	68	27	77
Harlow Town	39	21	11	7	58	36	74
Oxford City	37	21	6	10	82	54	69
Camberley Town	38	18	6	14	55	48	60
Southall	38	15	12	11	59	51	57
Hertford Town	39	17	6	16	61	65	57
Northwood	39	15	11	13	78	71	56
Royston Town	39	15	11	13	42	37	56
Epsom & Ewell	38	14	9	15	61	60	51
Harefield Utd.	38	12	14	12	43	49	50
Feltham & H'slow	38	14	7	17	60	57	49
Kingsbury Town	39	11	14	14	53	53	47
Leighton Town	40	12	11	17	51	65	47
Cove	38	14	5	19	57	73	47
E. Thurrock Utd.	38	10	15	13	63	58	45
Clapton	39	12	8	19	50	64	44
Hornchurch	38	12	8	18	38	54	44
Tring Town	38	9	11	18	44	56	38
Flackwell Heath	39	9	11	19	43	79	38
Horsham	39	6	8	25	43	80	26

*Previous Winners
of the
CARLSBERG CUP*

(Known as the Loctite Cup in seasons 1990/1 & 1991/2)

(Known as The Full Members Cup in 1992/93)

1990/91	Bishops Stortford beat Chesham United on pens.	
1991/92	Sutton United beat Woking	2-0
1992/93	Tooting & Mitcham Utd beat Dorking	1-0

DIADORA LEAGUE



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THE DIADORA FOOTBALL LEAGUE

The Diadora Football League as we know it today was originally born over 80 years ago when three men of vision saw the need in the London area for a really strong amateur league. Those men, Tom Kirkup, for many years Secretary of the London F.A., George Clarke, Hon. Treasurer of Ilford F.C. and Frank Evans, Hon. Secretary of Clapton F.C. met and sent out invitations to six clubs to attend a meeting at the Winchester Hotel in Old Broad Street to informally discuss the subject.

The meeting met with enthusiasm and soon the representatives had persuaded their committees of the value of such a competition. The late Harry Huband was approached to become Hon. Secretary and the Isthmian League was officially formed on March 8th. 1905 with Lord Kinnaid as President and Percy Timbs as Chairman.

The six clubs that formed the League on that inaugural season were London Caledonians, Clapton, The Casuals, Civil Service, Ealing and Ilford. London Caledonians were the first winners and Clapton were runners-up. It wasn't long before the League started an expansion programme which in due course led to the 87 club set-up of the present season in four separate divisions.

Personalities in those early days were all important, and none more so than Henry Huband who was Hon. Secretary and Treasurer for the first thirty years until 1935 and then President until his death in 1952. In fact, in many Isthmian boardrooms from the older clubs in the competition, his portrait which was presented to clubs after his death still looks out over the modern day running of clubs. During those years, the Isthmian League as far as the South of England was concerned also had a vice-like grip on the Amateur Cup with too many to name winners and finalists drawn from its ranks.

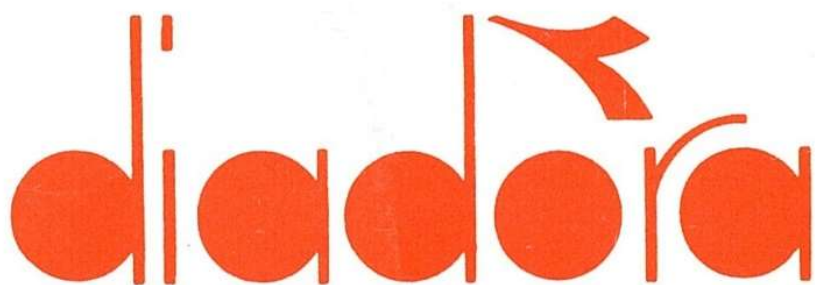
The League can now boast of three clubs who have gone on to embrace Football League membership. Wimbledon now in fact a Premier League club joined the Isthmian ranks in 1921 and were members until 1964. Maidstone United who sadly went out of business at the start of last season, were also members of the Isthmian League between 1959 and 1971 and of course Wycombe Wanderers are now in the Football League only six years after leaving our ranks.

The Isthmian League under the then Chairmanship of Barry East first embraced professionalism and sponsorship in the early 70's when Rothmans, Berger Paints and Servowarm all took turns at being the league's main sponsor. During the 1980's the present management structure under the guiding hand of present Chairman and Managing Director Alan Turvey transformed the league from two to four divisions and the highly successful sponsorship of Vauxhall Motors was obtained. The league enjoyed two three year sponsorship agreements which were attractive and rewarding for all parties concerned.

The league is now in its second two year agreement with the Diadora organisation which has seen the Italian Sportswear Company gain a share of the UK market and become a high profile advertiser on sports grounds around the country. We are sure that the extension to the agreement will be as successful and fulfilling as the previous two seasons.

Earlier this season the Carlsberg-Tetley Brewing Company signed an agreement to sponsor the Full and Associate Members Cup competitions of which tonight's final is the first climax. We feel sure that the Company will be delighted at what they have so far witnessed in our circle of football.

It is during the past decade that the league has emerged from the "amateur" tag that it previously had, and now plays a full part each year in the pyramid of football where it provides clubs with both a platform to rise from, and in the case of the clubs at a lower level, a target of membership to aim at. In recent years, member club Southall reached the Final of the F.A. Challenge Vase, whilst Yeading went one step better and won the competition in 1990.



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