



Nuneaton's Footballing Heritage

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# Nuneaton Borough 1937-1945

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# Nuneaton Borough 1937-1945

## Introduction

### THE NEW FOOTBALL CLUB

#### Application To Be Made To Birmingham Combination

With regard to the new Football Club, to be known as the Nuneaton Borough Football Club, negotiations have been commenced with the Nuneaton Corporation for the lease of the Manor Park ground for next season, and the club has applied for admission to the Birmingham Combination for next season.

This formation of a new club followed quickly on the decision of the shareholders of Nuneaton Association Football Club Company, Ltd., to wind up that company. At the meeting when that decision was come to, it will be remembered, it was stated by the Chairman, Alderman Pembleton, that the Nuneaton Corporation were most anxious that there should be a Nuneaton football club playing on the Manor Park ground next season.

It was also announced that steps were to be taken forthwith to consider the formation of a new Company by a group of local gentlemen.

Mr Fred Payne, one of those interested in the new project, said in an interview they were now awaiting the result of the negotiations with the Corporation. They had already applied for admission to the Birmingham Combination. There was a movement on foot, he understood, to extend the Birmingham Combination to twenty-two clubs.

### Combination Application Rejected

“At the moment I don’t know what we shall do. We are holding a meeting next Tuesday night, when a definite decision, either one way or the other, will be made.”

This statement was made to an “Observer” reporter by Mr Fred Payne, when commenting upon the failure of Nuneaton Borough FC to gain admission to the Birmingham Combination, at the annual meeting on Wednesday night.

The clubs applying for membership were Bournville Athletic (who finished bottom and had to apply for re-election), Nuneaton Borough, Coventry A, Jack Moulds FC and Kettering.

Bournville were re-elected and Coventry City A were elected as new members to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Leamington Town.

Nuneaton’s fate was really sealed when the clubs decided by a big majority not to increase the League from 20 to 22 clubs.

... “We shall come to a definite decision next Tuesday night,” Mr Payne said when asked what the prospects for the future were. “A lot will depend upon the Corporation and how much they will charge us now for the use of the ground.”

He definitely stated that the club would not consider rejoining the Birmingham and District League.

### Borough FC To Approach Council About Ground

#### May Run An Amateur Side

Steps towards the re-organisation of senior football in Nuneaton were taken at a private meeting of persons interested in the Nuneaton Borough FC, held at Manor Park on Tuesday night, and provided that the Corporation is prepared to rent the ground on reasonable terms, the club will definitely function next season, most probably as a purely amateur organisation.

This was considered the only real way of re-building the club – to start modestly all over again and develop according to the support forthcoming.

The object of the meeting was to consider the future of the club, following upon its application for admission to the Birmingham Combination having been refused.

The possibility of applying for re-admission into the Birmingham and District League was thoroughly gone into, and facts and figures presented, but after lengthy deliberation the idea was given up as impracticable, but Mr F. J. Perry was instructed to write to the secretary of the Birmingham Combination stating that should any vacancy occur during the season the club would be prepared to consider taking over fixtures.

A deputation consisting of Mr H. Watkins, who presided, Mr Fred Payne and Mr Fred Perry, was appointed to interview the Town Clerk with regard to the use of Manor Park.

The running of a purely amateur side was next considered and favourably received by the meeting, and the probability now is that the club may apply for membership of the Central Amateur League.

It was felt that a really good amateur side, built around those players who rendered the club such valuable assistance last season, could be got together.



Such a team, it was thought, would do well, and that the public would give more support to a team with prospects of doing well in amateur circles than an amateur side operating with possibly very little success in a professional organisation.

## More Local Flavour

A point raised in favour of the Central Amateur League was that there would be more local flavour about games than in the Birmingham and District League.

Cup ties would also be entered, including, maybe, the Amateur Cup, and it should be possible to stage some very interesting games at Manor Park.

At the moment, however, a good deal rests with the Corporation – whether they will be prepared to favourably consider the club's application for the use of the ground at rent, which, as an amateur organisation, they can reasonably be expected to pay.

If a favourable decision is reached another meeting will be called, and the committee's ideas put into operation.

## Full Season's Fixtures Assured

A full season's programme of football is assured for Nuneaton Borough FC at Manor Park next season.

Following upon the club's admission to the Central Amateur League at Leicester on Saturday, Mr F. J. Perry immediately set to work compiling his fixtures.

The first four League games next season – there are intervals for cup-ties – are all at home, the first match of the season being Leicestershire Nomads at Manor Park.

At a meeting of the club committee on Monday night, it was decided to enter the Birmingham Senior Cup, the FA Amateur Cup, and the Leicestershire Senior Cup, in addition to local cup competitions, so that there will be a full programme of games.

There are at present twelve teams in membership of the league, so there will be 22 League games. The full list of fixtures will be published as soon as the cup games have been fixed up.

Mr Alf Smith has been appointed trainer, with Mr H. Hall as his assistant.

The committee also met representatives of the old Supporters' Club and put forward suggestions which the representatives will carry back to their members.

Hinckley United have accepted the club's invitation to play in the Nuneaton Charity Cup at Manor Park on September 18.

## Alderman W. Croshaw Accepts Presidency

The prospective Mayor, Ald. W. Croshaw, has accepted the presidency of the Nuneaton Borough Football Club. Mr Harry Watkins has been elected chairman and Mr Fred Payne vice-chairman, with Mr Fred Perry as hon. secretary, and Mr P. Osborne players' hon. secretary.

These appointments were announced at a meeting of the club on Monday night. The committee will be Messrs. S. J. Butler, G. Till, F. Watkins and E. K. Brown.

It was reported that the club's application to enter the Leicestershire Senior Cup had been accepted.

Mr Osborne stated that the following players had been signed to date:- Goalkeepers: A. W. Wyatt (Bedworth Town), R. Copson and R. Chandler; backs: C. Parkinson, D. C. Seabrook, W. Whitehouse and Goode; half-backs; Albrighton, Reg Irons, N. Pinnegar; forwards: Price, H. Tebbett, M. Lawrence, R. Tromans, R. Cobley (Hinckley United), whose brother is the Aston Villa full-back, D. J. Talbot (Leamington Town), W. Meads (who formerly represented Atherstone Town and last season was a prolific goalscorer for Herberts), W. Johnson (Nuneaton Town and Hinckley United), E. D. G. Merry and Gibson (Hinckley United). The club has other players in view.

## First Practice Match – New Players Signed On

Nuneaton Borough FC officials have been very busy these last few days signing players and preparing for the first practice match on Saturday, and some important captures have been made.

These include Miller, a goalkeeper, late of Bishop Auckland, FA Amateur Cup winners, who had obtained an appointment in Nuneaton; Meacham, a centre-forward, of Barking Town, and who has played in FA Amateur trial games, Hughes, outside-left, who last season assisted Willington in the North Eastern League; Morris, an outside-left, who assisted Coventry City last season; Les Hudson, last season's full-back; T. H. Goode, right-half, late of Hinckley United; J. H. Bailey, inside-right, who has played for Atherstone Town and has had a trial with West Bromwich Albion; S. Marshall, who played for the club last season; T. Bedward, a local player; and Cotterill, a prolific scorer in the Coventry and North Warwickshire League last season.

The officials are to be congratulated on obtaining such players as Miller, Hughes, Meacham and Cotterill, along with such favourites as Tebbutt, Tromans, Parkinson and Albrighton. Much is expected of the other players. Roberts is a strong hard-working centre-half, and Gibson a speedy winger from Hinckley United.

The following teams have been selected for the first trial game on Saturday, kick-off 3-15pm. Blue and Whites: Miller; Parkinson and Whitehouse; Crowley, Pinnegar and Bond; Talbot, Lawrence, Johnson, Jones and Hughes. Red and Whites: Copson; G. Hutt and Butler; Dawkes, Roberts and Albrighton; Tebbutt, Tromans, Meacham, Cotterill and Gibson.

The teams will be subject to alteration at half-time, while a number of other players who have signed will be unable to take part owing to cricket.

The price of admission to trial games will be 4d., and season tickets will be on sale at the office at 6/- each.



## 1937-38

### Nuneaton Borough v Leicester Nomads 28-08-1937

Nuneaton: Darby; Butler and Hudson; Whitehouse, Roberts and Crowley; Lawrence, Tromans, Forknell, Hutt and Hughes.

Nuneaton Borough welcomed Leicestershire Nomads to Manor Park for a Central Amateur League game.

In the early stages, chances were missed by the Borough attackers through over-eagerness, ragged finishing and poor control of the ball, which was lively on the hard ground. Those misses were excusable and did not give cause for much concern. Goals were bound to come it was felt, in view of the pressure put on.

It was disappointing, therefore, when half-time arrived with a blank score sheet; and pleasurable anticipation turned to sheer consternation when the Nomads went ahead with a penalty goal.

It was a gift goal. The ball bounced against Hudson's arm and the referee had no option but to point to the spot. Field took the kick, his shot was a rasper, but Darby stopped it grandly – then another big chunk of ill-luck, the ball span sideways out of the keeper's hand and went over the line. There were many shouts of protest when a goal was awarded, but few spectators were in a position to judge.

Well, that unexpected and quite undeserved penalty goal sealed Nuneaton's fate for, despite still greater efforts, the Borough marksmen failed to find the target.

Forknell led the Nuneaton attack in fine style. Speedy and resourceful, he did not wait to be spoon-fed and repeatedly worried his way through. Such a menace should produce plenty of goals during the season. His bad luck on Saturday can only be described as exceptional.

The Nomads, stated to be one of the strongest sides in the Central Amateur League, had a well-knit defence, but their attack gave Nuneaton few anxious moments. The outstanding man was Ford, the centre-half, but the chief characteristic of the Leicestershire side was team work.

### Nuneaton Borough v Morris Motors 11-09-1937

Nuneaton: Darby; Butler and Hudson; Marshall, Roberts and Bond; Lawrence, Tromans, Forknell, Gibson and Tebbutt.

Borough welcomed Morris Motors to Manor Park for a Central Amateur League game.

Most of the thrills – and kicks – in this game were crowded into the last half hour. Ten minutes after the change of ends Morris were leading 2-0, but in the last five or ten minutes they were having to struggle terrifically hard to avoid defeat.

It was quite an exciting finish to what was otherwise a fairly tame affair; and in the excitement players lost their heads and more fouls were committed than in any professional game. Still, it all helped to keep the spectators interested.

But the cold fact remains that the Borough gave a very patchy display, and the players must brace themselves up considerably if games are to be won. However, the very appreciable improvement displayed in the last half-hour gives hope that better things are to come.

From start to finish the Borough did most of the attacking but most of their movements fizzled out in the vicinity of the Morris goal through poor finishing. The improvement which came about in the latter stages was very welcome, though never once did the forwards present a menacing front.

With fewer chances, Morris made the running and it was their ability to utilise openings that gave them a 2-0 lead, for from a territorial point of view Nuneaton always held the whip-hand.

It was a really smart goal by Bond which gave the Borough the encouragement they so badly needed. And how the goal came is well worth describing. A left-wing movement had the Morris defence all at sea and in an effort to clear, John, the visitors' goalkeeper, left his charge. Bond seized upon the ball and shot – and as John was rushing back across goal in a more or less blind effort to save, the ball struck him. In the ensuing scramble Bond again secured possession and after manoeuvring into position he let loose a grand shot which beat the goalkeeper all the way.

With the score now 2-1 the Borough put much more zest into their play – but it was only a penalty that put them on level terms. Forknell was fouled when little danger was threatened to the Morris goal, and Hudson made no mistake from the spot.

Borough made a grand final effort to snatch a victory, and had Gibson taken his chances they would probably have succeeded. The winger was a failure throughout, neglecting to get the ball into the area when there were two forwards standing unmarked and with only John to beat.

Tromans and Lawrence were Nuneaton's most dangerous wing, and while one can commend them on so soon settling down to each other's play, they would probably do well to change the point of attack a little more. Forknell requires someone to put the ball through to him, so far the inside men have not succeeded in doing this. Tebbutt was a livewire throughout and shaped very well at right-half in the latter stages.

### Birmingham Trams v Nuneaton Borough 13-09-1937

Nuneaton: Darby; Butler and Hudson; Whitehouse, Roberts and Crowley; Lawrence, Tromans, Forknell, Purcell and Hughes.

Borough travelled to The Stadium, King's Heath on Monday night to take on Birmingham Trams in a Birmingham Senior Cup first round tie.

Borough's performance was outstanding, but what was more pleasing was they manner in which they forced a replay. To say they were always playing the better football is not stretching the point, but when it is appreciated that they were once two goals down, their performance was distinctly meritorious.



They not only staged another grand rally, but ought to have had a penalty after they had drawn level. It was a thrilling three minutes. They reduced the lead, equalised the next minute, and should have had a penalty the next, for when steadying himself to shoot, Bond was badly bowled over by a charge in the back. It was a palpable foul inside the penalty area and one can only assume that the referee was temporarily unsighted.

The Trams were badly rattled at this lightning change in their fortunes and for the remainder of the match they did little else but quibble at the referee's decisions which was quite unjustifiable. Trams certainly did rally in the closing minutes and though the visiting defence had its anxious moment, it seldom flinched and finished the game with colours flying.

The Borough's display was a great improvement on that which they gave against Morris Motors on Saturday, and nothing was more gratifying than the form of the two boys, Darby and Bond – for they are little more than that. The goalkeeper made a number of grand saves, while Bond was as good as any half-back on the field.

The appearance of Purcell at inside-left had a beneficial steadying influence on the attack, which worked much more smoothly. Hughes was hardly such a success at outside-left, and it seems that here a problem is still faced. Roberts did extremely useful work at centre-half.

The young Nuneaton players stood the pace much better than the Trams' players, and it is to be noted that in addition to scoring two goals through Hughes and Purcell – Lane and McDonald got through for the Trams – the Borough twice saw the ball hit the woodwork of the Trams' goal, with the goalkeeper hopelessly beaten. That will suffice to prove that the visitors were not favoured with good fortune.

## **Nuneaton Borough v Hinckley United 18-09-1937**

**Nuneaton: Darby; Butler and Hudson; Whitehouse, Roberts and Bond; Lawrence, Tromans, Forknell, Purcell and Tebbutt.**

Borough welcomed Hinckley United to Manor Park for the final of the Nuneaton Charity Cup.

United deserved to win, but it was no easy task, and they were kept at full stretch for the whole ninety minutes. In fact, as has been the case in the last two matches, the Borough finished the stronger side, after being a couple of goals down, but on this occasion they failed to come along with the all-important goals.

Had the Borough forwards finished all their attack's properly the result might have been an entirely different one. A penalty miss figured in Borough's misses. It was not a good spot kick of Hudson's and Hammond had little difficulty in making the save. Had the kick succeeded the score would have been 1-1, and it would have been anybody's game. Then there were two missed scoring chances. Purcell, who was not a patch on the player he was against the Trams, was the

offender on each occasion – and from identically the same spot each time. On the first occasion a shot from Forknell hit the Hinckley upright and went to Purcell, standing only a few yards out on the left side of the goal. His return shot went wide of the near post. Later, when Whitehouse took a free-kick in front of the old stand, the ball came across goal straight to Purcell's feet. With half the goal open to him he put the ball in exactly the same place.

Hinckley scored both their goals in the first half, during which period they were undoubtedly the better side. But after the change of ends the Borough, after making a number of forwards changes, had much more of the game and it was only through occasional breakaways that the visitors were dangerous.

The Borough did enough attacking in the second half to have at least saved the game, but the forwards wasted chance after chance. Indeed, they finished so poorly that rarely did they look like bringing the best out of Hammond in the Hinckley goal.

Hinckley played the more open type of football, and there were times when they kept the home defence, in which Bond, the young Dordon lad, was again a shining light, working at full stretch. Nuneaton, on the other hand, failed to appreciate the value of the long swinging pass and their close methods spoiled many otherwise promising moves.

Perhaps it was expecting too much to anticipate a Nuneaton victory, and while it can be said that they gave United a good game, one cannot disguise the fact that they were disappointing, and not nearly such a good side as against Trams on the previous Monday. The forwards, who never settled down to a good game were the chief trouble. More punch near goal is needed.

Hinckley got both their goals in the first half through Atkin and Cunningham.

## **Nuneaton Borough v Birmingham Trams 20-09-1937**

**Nuneaton: Darby; Butler and Hudson; Tebbutt, Roberts and Bond; Lawrence, Tromans, Godderidge, Forknell and Purcell.**

Borough welcomed Birmingham Trams to Manor Park for a Birmingham Senior Cup first round replay.

For three-quarters of this tie, it seemed that neither side would score, so simple were the chances that each set of forwards had allowed to slip by. Then the Borough got a goal – it was the first time they had actually led in a game this season – and so encouraged were the players that in the end the Trams were lucky to get away with a couple of goals deficit.

Tromans got a second some little time afterwards and then Roberts hit the Trams' bar with Tyler well beaten. It was a storming finish to what had hitherto been a very poor encounter, not so much because of bad play, but on account of the many simple scoring chances that were thrown away by the forwards of either side.



Nuneaton were bad enough in front of goal, but the Trams were even worse, and for a Birmingham Combination side their play was positively poor.

The Borough called the tune practically throughout, but the efforts of the forwards to score were thoroughly puerile. But once they had found the net – the first goal came 12 minutes from the end – they swarmed round the Trams’ goal like hungry wolves.

There was never much real danger of the Borough losing, it was more a question of whether they would ever succeed in getting the ball into the net. And one doubts very much whether they would have scored had not the attack been changed. Lawrence, who had been astonishingly weak at outside-right, went to outside-left. Purcell moved inside and Forknell crossed over to the opposite wing. The change proved effective, for from passes by Lawrence, Forknell and Tromans got the goals. Forknell netted with a swift cross-shot and Tromans with a beautifully placed header.

If Godderidge, the new leader, did nothing else, he infused “pep” into the attack and was always worrying the Trams’ defence. With the right type of support he should get goals.

Once again, however, Bond the young wing-half, was Borough’s best player, in fact the outstanding player of the twenty-two. A born footballer this lad, and the harder the going the better he likes it. Another player who did really well was Tebbutt, at right-half. He undoubtedly improved the middle line. Darby did smart work in goal. No one need have any qualms about this lad either.

In games such as this one, it has to be considered the the Borough are playing teams taking part in a professional league, and no matter what their faults be, a victory does them distinct credit. They are to be congratulated on gaining their first success of the season. May it be the forerunner of many others and the means of drawing bigger crowds. So far, the “gates” have been terribly poor, and have been of little encouragement to those people who are trying their best to keep football alive in Nuneaton.

Reports on the FA Amateur Cup games appear on later pages.

## **Nuneaton Borough v Northampton Nomads 16-10-1937**

**Nuneaton: Darby; Butler and Hudson; Tebbutt, Roberts and Bond; Forknell, Tromans, Godderidge, Colledge and Lawrence.**

Nuneaton Borough welcomed Northampton Nomads to Manor Park for a Central Amateur League game.

As a football spectacle this game was not to be compared with the previous week’s game against Sutton Town. This was to a very large extent due to the poor opposition provided by the Nomads – a good sporting side, but lacking in football skill. But wait a minute! One must confess that in the first ten minutes of the second half they did play some really neat football, but that was almost the only period in the game

when they looked like causing the Borough trouble. For the remainder of the time they were more or less desperately defending their goal against the persistent onslaughts of the home attack.

Six times their goal capitulated – but it should have been ten or a dozen, so overwhelmed were they. One must not grumble about the opportunities lost by the Borough forwards, seeing that it was easily their highest score of the season – in fact it was the first time since the campaign opened that they had obtained more than two goals in a match, but it has to be said that they threw away almost as many goals as they scored.

That may have been due to the fact that the Nomads were such easy prey that they were able to amble through the game to success. They might have done better had they had to make a fight for it. But as events turned out the Borough were able to take things easily, and that probably accounted for the lethargic way they dealt with their scoring opportunities.

There were two outstanding features of the game – Tebbutt’s brilliant goal, and the improvement brought about at outside-left by Lawrence. Tebbutt’s goal was quite the best of several really good goals. He dribbled round the whole Nomads’ defence and then drove home a beautiful cross-shot, which had Smith beaten all the way. If Lawrence can keep up the form he displayed in this game – and he is quite good enough a footballer to do so – the officials need have no further qualms about the outside-left position. Lawrence did well all through and got a couple of neat goals.

On the opposite wing Forknell also did well, but he would have been of even greater assistance to his side had he centred more and shot less. Several times he tried more or less wild shots from impossible angles. Despite these shortcomings, he did notch one of the goals. The other two goals were scored by Godderidge and Colledge, who again performed well at inside-left.

Bond has still not recovered his best form – but he will. About that I have not the slightest doubt.

### **Mr & Mrs Joseph Poultney**

Mr and Mrs Joseph Poultney, of 280 Queen’s Road, celebrate their golden wedding next Tuesday. They were married at Warton Parish Church on November 9, 1887.

Mr Poultney is a native of Warton and his wife hails from the Sheffield district. For two and a half years Mr Poultney was organist at St Mary’s Church, Warton and then for 17 years was employed by Captain Townsend at Caldecote Hall.

Mr Poultney is almost part and parcel of the Manor Park football ground, as for 16 or 17 years he has been part-time groundsman. Mr Poultney is 71 years of age and his wife 70. They have a family of nine – five daughters and four sons and there are 14 grandchildren.



## Gas Proofing A Room

One day next week, a cottage in the Borough which has come under the ban of slum clearance, will be utilised for the purpose of demonstrating the gas proofing of a room in connection with the Air Raids Precaution Scheme.

It will not be a public demonstration. It is to be given to professional men – doctors, dentists and veterinary surgeons – who have been attending a course organised by the local division of the British Medical Association, which covers an area including Nuneaton, Atherstone and Tamworth.

The course, arranged by Home Office experts, has been held the last five or six weeks, and has been attended by the majority of the professional men in the area belonging to the three classes mentioned.

Colonel Bateman, a Home Office expert, will give the demonstration, and will probably be assisted by Mr F. W. Mortimer, who has attended one of the gas schools...

## Hednesford Town v Nuneaton Borough 30-10-1937

**Nuneaton: Darby; Butler and Hudson; Tebbutt, Roberts and Whitehouse; Lawrence, Tromans, Godderidge, Reader and Talbot.**

Borough travelled to The Cross Keys to take on Hednesford in a Birmingham Senior Cup second round tie. Borough were unable to field their best line-up as Colledge was unable to make the journey and Forknell reported unfit. There was an attendance of around 1,000.

Hednesford won the toss and had the advantage of a slight slope in the first-half. The home side were first to attack but were driven back and Borough retaliated, but were soon on the defensive again. Blackham raced away on the right and centred, and Reynolds, standing on the goal-line had no difficulty in heading home.

Godderidge brought a good save from Davies before Lawrence missed a likely chance. Talbot from a good opening grazed the crossbar. Hednesford took up the attack and in one raid on the Borough goal, Jones tested Darby, who saved well. Soon afterwards, Jones scored from a rebound off the post. The Borough fought back with vigour, and Tromans, Reader and Godderidge all had shots stopped by Davies.

After 40 minutes, Hednesford were awarded a penalty for an alleged foul on Jones by Roberts and from the resultant kick Gould shot wide. The Borough immediately attacked, and Godderidge passed to Talbot, who cut in from the wing and scored with a low shot into the corner of the net. The home side led 2-1 at the break.

On the restart Borough attacked and Godderidge almost equalised, Davies saving at full-length. About 15 minutes after half-time, Hednesford scored direct from a corner taken

by Blackham, and two minutes afterwards the same player profited by a mistake by Whitehead, to score again. The Borough were not to be denied and Tromans went close, and Lawrence put a shot into the side netting.

Blackham again raced away, and from his centre Gould scored. Straight from the kick-off, the Borough attacked, and from Tromans' pass Godderidge found the net with a good shot. Hednesford did most of the attacking until the end, and Gould scored again.

## Nuneaton Borough v Moor Green 13-11-1937

**Nuneaton: Buck; Butler and Hudson; Whitehouse, Roberts and Boffin; Tebbutt, Tromans, Godderidge, Colledge and Lawrence.**

Borough welcomed Moor Green to Manor Park for a Central Amateur League fixture.

It was a curious game. In the first-half the visitors played delightful football and the footwork of their forwards completely baffled the home defence. So pronounced was their superiority that the Borough were lucky to be on level terms at half-time. After half-time the tables were turned. Nuneaton did practically all the attacking, but their scoring efforts were shocking.

During this period, the visitors' attacks were very isolated and yet, when they did get away, they always seemed more likely to score than the home side. It was in one of their spasmodic attacks that they got the winning goal, when three minutes from time, in a breakaway, Stanley, the Moor Green outside-left recovered the ball when many people thought it had crossed the line. He slipped it into the centre and, meeting it first-time, Leek put it into the back of the net.

Nuneaton's big trouble was at half-back. Whitehouse completely failed to keep Stanley and Love in check, and before half-time, he and Tebbutt changed places. This certainly had the effect of keeping Stanley more subdued, but it doubtless robbed the attack of what little punch it might have possessed.

On the other flank, Boffin never knew whether to go in for a tackle or not. For the most part he went half-way and stopped, which was neither one thing nor another. Roberts was just as much at fault and did not keep the ball moving enough.

The incompetency of the halves caused the backs to be placed in Queer Street on many occasions, and R. J. Buck, who was making his first appearance in the Nuneaton goal, must have wondered actually where he stood. Considering all things, he gave a good display, and on at least two occasions saved when a goal seemed certain.

Moor Green's footwork in the first-half was delightful, and when their forwards got on the move, especially their left-wing pair, they went through the home defence as if there was nobody there. With the least luck they might have been leading by two or three goals at half-time. Quicker tackling by the Nuneaton defence put a stop to their little pranks after half-time, but still there was no cohesion in the play of the home side.





## Morris Motors v Nuneaton Borough 20-11-1937

**Nuneaton: Buck; Butler and Hudson; Tebbutt, Roberts and Boffin; Copley, Godderidge, Beasley, Colledge and Lawrence.**

Borough travelled to Courthouse Green to face the unbeaten Morris Motors in a Central Alliance fixture. Tromans, Borough's best forward, was missing.

Borough called the tune from start to finish and took the lead ten minutes after the start, and they never looked back, but it was not until the second half that they really clinched matters, scoring four goals to Morris' two.

Borough enjoyed just as much of the game before the interval as afterwards, and should have made the issue quite safe by the time the mid-stage arrived. Twice, with only the goalkeeper to beat, Lawrence fired the ball with terrific force over the top and then wide of the goal. A cool head would have meant certain goals, and then a header by Godderidge struck a stumbling Motors' back as it was going into the net.

Still, taken all through, Nuneaton gave one of their best displays of the season, and actually there were few faults to find with the team, except that Beasley, who was tried at centre-forward, although a worrier, was not up to the standard of the other forwards. One of the big successes of the match was Copley, the former Hinckley player, who appeared at outside-right. He got two splendid goals and paved the way for another, his perfect centre only having to be nodded into the net by Godderidge.

The Nuneaton attack was always dangerous. Colledge was never more at home than in this match, and he spoon-fed Lawrence. Perhaps, however, he would have been even better had he changed the point of attack a little more. Godderidge, too, played an exceptionally good game at inside-right and headed two perfect goals. He made an excellent partner for Copley.

There was only one brief period in the game when Nuneaton looked at all uneasy, and that, curiously enough, was then they were leading by three goals. The defence, for some reason, became a little unsteady, and Morris snatched a goal. They kept up the pressure for some little time afterwards and then, in a couple of minutes, Morris found themselves in a hopeless position. One of their defenders handled in the penalty area and Lawrence scored. Straight from the centre kick the Borough went down the field, and Godderidge headed through to make the score 5-1. Morris got their second goal with the last kick of the match from a penalty for a foul by Roberts.

## Nuneaton Borough v Ibstock Penistone 27-11-1937

**Nuneaton: Buck; Butler and Hudson; Tebbutt, Roberts and Boffin; Copley, Tromans, Godderidge, Colledge and Lawrence.**

Borough welcomed Ibstock Penistone Rovers to Manor Park for a Central Amateur League game.

Nuneaton's form takes a bit of weighing up. After their brilliant victory over Morris Motors, they were expected to account for

the Rovers, and the way they played in the first-half suggested they would. Three times they took the lead – twice to be immediately pegged back again – and led 3-2 at half-time. Then, within about six minutes of the restart, they found themselves a goal to the bad. Subsequently they equalised, but if either of the sides went near to winning, it was Rovers.

The cause of the Borough's second half troubles can definitely be attributed to the halves, who cracked up badly. They completely failed to keep a lively Rovers' attack in check and in view of the enormous amount of work that was thrust upon Butler, Hudson and Buck, it was not surprising that these players often found themselves in difficulties.

For several weeks now, Roberts has not been showing the form expected of him at centre-half; Boffin, after a good first half, failed to stand the hot pace set by the visiting forwards, while Tebbutt hung on to the ball too much. The middle line got into such dire straits in the second half that the Nuneaton attack had to fend for itself, so poorly was it supported, and, consequently, the forwards faded out of the game.

Rovers proved themselves one of the best sides the Borough have played this season. Strong in all departments, they had a very dangerous forward line, in which the two wingers, Lewin and Adcock, were outstanding. Each time the Borough took the lead they seemed able to go down the field and equalise.

In spite of their second half mistakes, the Borough had the chances to win the game. Twice, after the change of ends, Tromans went through on his own, completely tricked the defence, and then failed to control the ball at the crucial moment. Godderidge also missed an easy chance, but between them they were concerned in the best goal of the match which, to everybody's amazement, was disallowed.

Tromans dashed straight between the two full-backs, drew Mullie out of goal, and then placed the ball right to Godderidge's feet, for the latter to shoot into the net. Why the referee disallowed the goal, only he himself knows. Taken all through it was a thoroughly interesting game, and the result did justice to both sides. Copley (2), Tromans and Lawrence scored for the Borough, and Keeling, Adcock (2) and Simpson for Ibstock.

## Loughborough Brush v Nuneaton Borough 04-12-1937

**Nuneaton: Buck; Butler and Hudson; Tebbutt, Roberts and Boffin; Copley, Tromans, Whitehouse, Colledge and Lawrence.**

Nuneaton travelled to Loughborough Brush for a Leicestershire Senior Cup tie. Borough had to give up home advantage for the tie as Manor Park was booked for another match.

It was not until they were hopelessly in arrears that the Nuneaton players began to realise they were taking part in a football match. All through the first-half they played like a team with no objective, and the wonder was that they were not more than 3-1 behind at the interval. Shortly after half-time, a visiting forward missed with an open goal in front of him. Straight up the field went Brush and scored a fourth –

# Nuneaton Borough 1937-1945



and the game was won and lost. Not until then did Nuneaton show any sign of fight.

Colledge went centre-half and Roberts centre-forward and for the rest of the game the Brush were desperately defending their own goal. And the reason – the visitors had at long last found in Colledge a half-back who appreciated that the ball must be kept on the move if the visitors were to achieve anything. It seemed that in the last half-an-hour of the game that Borough had enough easy chances to have saved the game, yet before they got their second goal the Brush had carried their total to five.

There was so little difference in the amount of attacking done by the two sides that the final score was truly remarkable. It was purely a case of the Brush playing the football best-suited to the conditions and the Borough trying to play a type of football more suited to a dry ground than a pitch ankle deep in snow and slush.

Had Borough accepted a chance that would have made the score 3-2, the result might have been different, for the Borough actually scored two more goals. Why the referee disallowed a goal when Tromans got the ball into the net, only he knows.

Still, the Brush deserved to win, about that there is no doubt. They won because they played the type of game most likely to succeed – crisp through passes which spreadeagled the Nuneaton defence, which seemed all too easily beaten. In Moore they had the best forward on the field.

Sheppard, Moore (2), West and F. Pearson scored for the Brush and Lawrence got both goals for Nuneaton. All through, Colledge was Nuneaton's outstanding player.

## Nuneaton Borough v Boldmere St Michaels 11-12-1937

**Nuneaton: Buck; Butler and Hudson; Tromans, Colledge and Forknell; Cobby, Tebbutt, Roberts, Godderidge and Lawrence.**

Nuneaton welcomed Boldmere St Michael's to Manor Park for a Central Amateur League game. Positional changes saw Colledge take over at centre-half and Forknell brought in at left-half. Roy Tromans took over at right-half.

The Borough's remodelled half-back line played a big part in their side's fine victory. It not only tightened up the defence appreciably but supported the forwards grandly. Really, it was a cleverly obtained victory for, make no mistake about it, Boldmere are one of the best sides seen at Manor Park this season. The way the visitors started suggested the Borough were in for a warm time. Their halves and forwards combined beautifully, and against a less formidable defence they would have established a winning lead in the first 15 minutes.

It was a trying time for the new half-back line, but by sheer persistence – and no little skill – they weathered the early storm and settled down to a most effective game. In fact, their work so inspired the full-backs and goalkeeper that subsequently Boldmere must have felt that they never would score.

While the honours of the game undoubtedly went to the defence, credit must be given to the forwards for taking their chances. The first goal, scored by Lawrence, was really against the run of the play, but when Roberts clinched the issue later in the first half with a beautiful shot on the run from 20 yards, there was no questioning the Borough's superiority.

The best player on the Nuneaton side was Hudson, the captain. Heartened and given confidence by the men immediately in front of him, he tackled and kicked grandly, and behind him, Buck was equal to every demand made upon him. There are possibilities about Roberts as leader of the attack. That goal of his, one of the best seen on the ground this season, was not the only good piece of work he did. He made several other good efforts and generally kept the line well together. Tebbutt and Cobby were not at their best, and Godderidge and Lawrence were the better wing pair.

St Michael's are a polished side – make no mistake about that. In many respects they are the equals of Moor Green and it required the very best work by a very good defence to keep them at bay. Penzer was a dangerous winger and Gessey a capable leader. Their defence was also good and made Nuneaton work hard for their goals.

## Nuneaton Borough v Badsey Rangers 27-12-1937

**Nuneaton: Buck; Butler and Hudson; Higham, Colledge and Forknell; Cobby, Tebbutt, Roberts, Godderidge and Lawrence.**

Borough welcomed Badsey Rangers to Manor Park for a Central Amateur League fixture.

It would be difficult to imagine a more exciting game than this one. From start to finish the match was packed with thrills and the result was always in doubt until five minutes from the end. The home side had to fight every inch of the way for victory. And yet they really should have won 6-2. This may sound strange, but it is perfectly true.

Badsey scored first, but found themselves 3-1 down ten minutes after half-time, and played harder than ever and succeeded in reducing the home side's lead. From that point on, there was one of the grandest struggles seen on the ground, and for quite a while Badsey looked more like drawing level than Borough did of increasing their 3-2 lead. It was cut and thrust until 15 minutes from time, when Borough staged a grand final rally.

Twice within five minutes Roberts missed perfect sitters. On the first occasion he received the ball not more than four yards from goal and had only Ellis, the Badsey goalkeeper to beat. He tamely lifted the ball into Ellis' hands. Shortly afterwards he was given the ball right under the Badsey bar. How he contrived to lift the ball over the top – well, it seemed an almost impossible feat! Then five minutes from the end, with nothing like so simple an opening, he beat Ellis with a cleverly placed shot. Thus he made amends for his two previous blunders, for that goal definitely sealed the fate of the Rangers.



Badsey are one of the gamest, and best sides seen at Manor Park this season. They always played good football, but never better than when they were struggling to avoid defeat, and it was only the brilliance of Buck that saved the Borough on more than one occasion.

Both defences came out of a very trying encounter with flying colours. The Nuneaton defence played remarkably well with Hudson magnificent at full-back and the halves playing well, but even then it was not so sound as that of the visitors, which played magnificently. Had it shaped any worse the Borough would have won much easier.

Godderidge was the best forward, quite apart from the fact that he scored two goals, and Roberts, despite his misses, worried the Badsey defence very much and was always working hard. In Price and Collett, Badsey had two dangerous forwards, and against a less capable pivot than Colledge, the latter would have got more than one goal.

The goalscorers were Godderidge (2), Tebbutt and Roberts for Borough, and Collett and Baines for the Rangers.

## Moor Green v Nuneaton Borough 08-01-1938

**Nuneaton: Buck; Butler and Hudson; Higham, Colledge and Forknell; Tebbutt, Tromans, Roberts, Godderidge and Lawrence.**

Borough travelled to the Moorlands home of Moor Green for a Central Amateur League match. Tromans came back into the side in place of Cobby.

It was Borough's best display of the season, to hold and nearly beat the best amateur side in the Midlands. The visitors were in every way the equals of the home side, in fact they were superior at times. Moor Green played prettier football and Borough did not attempt to match it, relying on swinging passes out to the wings and sharp through-passes down the middle to Roberts. And their plan of campaign was by far the most effective.

Moor Green did more attacking but, against a fine, quick tackling defence their close-passing moves seldom looked like causing grave anxiety, although keeping Colledge and his colleagues working hard. On the other hand, the faster and less frequent attacks of the Borough carried far more danger and punch, and with the least bit of luck they would have had three goals.

There was only one period in the game when the Moors definitely called the tune – and that was after they had equalised. For about ten minutes they crowded on pressure, and only a superb defence kept them out. The Borough came back again and twice afterwards the Moor Green goal was lucky to escape.

One cannot speak too highly of the work of the Nuneaton defence against probably the most polished attack in the league – an attack which has scored many goals against professional sides this season in cup-ties. Buck was brilliant in goal, making some grand saves, while between them, Hudson, Butler and Colledge completely blotted out Whitehead, the Moor Green centre-forward.

Roberts gave his best display since moving to centre-forward. Throughout it took a couple of home defenders to keep him in check. His goal was a real beauty. Lawrence was sent away on the left and put the ball into the centre. Roberts gathered it smartly, cleverly tricked a couple of defenders, and as Jones came out to meet him, coolly placed it past him and into the net. Moor Green's equaliser had an element of luck about it, when Love broke through, but realising he had two Borough defenders on him, the Moor Green man shot hastily and only half hit the ball, which rolled to Buck, who allowed the ball to roll out of his hands to the feet of Wootton, who tapped it over the line and into the net. It was bad luck on Buck, who otherwise gave a thrilling exhibition in goal.

After the Moor Green equaliser Borough almost went ahead when Roberts almost repeated his first goal, but stumbled at the last moment and his shot flew just wide of the post. Both goals were scored in the first 17 minutes of the second half.

## Nuneaton Boro' v Northampton Mt Pleasant 15-01-1938

**Nuneaton: Buck; Butler and Hudson; Higham, Colledge and Forknell; Lawrence, Tromans, Roberts, Godderidge and Tebbutt.**

Borough welcomed Northampton Mount Pleasant to Manor Park for a Central Amateur League game. The game was spoilt by a terrific cross-wind and the ball was out of play as much as in.

Borough had the assistance of the wind in the first half, and had so much of the game that by half-time they should have been leading comfortably. But instead of being in that happy position, they crossed over a goal down. Mount Pleasant played so well against the wind that it seemed as though the home side were booked for defeat. The Mount Pleasant goal came 16 minutes before the break and was a neat affair. A movement which started in midfield had the home defence guessing. The ball travelled across to James, whose neat short inside pass was driven into the net by Labram.

Borough started the second half in much better form, but their luck seemed to be out. Tebbutt and Lawrence both hit the woodwork of the Mount Pleasant goal, while Roberts skimmed the crossbar with a grand header from Tebbutt's centre. And so, 25 minutes into the second half Borough were still trailing, but then came the turning point. A neat attack saw the ball crossed to Lawrence, who took the ball almost to the goal-line before crossing. It swerved under the bar and both Shipley, the visitors' keeper, and a full-back tried desperately to get the ball away, but the referee, who was close at hand, held that the ball had crossed the line and immediately awarded a goal.

That gave the home players renewed heart and three minutes later they got the winning goal. Godderidge dribbled the ball through smartly and finished with a sharp, low drive. The ball struck Shipley's legs and bounced across the goal to Tebbutt, who, with a clear opening flashed the ball into the net.

Borough deserved their success, if only for their fine second-half fight against tremendous odds. Once again team spirit



saved the day. But to be quite frank their first-half showing was positively poor. They showed little idea of mastering the wind; indeed, it was the wind that mastered them. The best two players in the home side were Higham and Godderidge. Higham did grand work at half-back and was working at full pressure from start to finish. Godderidge was the only forward to appreciate that the ball needed to be kept on the ground.

Mount Pleasant were a capable side and may have considered themselves a trifle unlucky to lose. In one respect they were superior to the home side and that was in always trying to beat the wind. Their long swinging ground passes in the first-half often had the home defence in difficulties.

## The Pingle Fields

A scheme prepared by the Borough Surveyor for the layout of the Pingle Fields as a sports ground was submitted to Nuneaton Town Council on Wednesday.

The scheme provided for the construction of football and hockey grounds, cricket and netball pitches, bowling green, three hard tennis courts, nine holes pitch and putt golf course, children's corner and paddling pond with shelters and pavilion.

## Nuneaton Borough v RAF Cranwell 29-01-1938

**Nuneaton: Buck; Butler and Hudson; Higham, Colledge and Grubb; Tebbutt, Tromans, Roberts, Godderidge and Lawrence.**

Borough welcomed RAF Cranwell to Manor Park for a Central Amateur League fixture.

Nuneaton played well in the first-half against a terrible rough wind, and when half-time arrived with the game scoreless, many thought that the home side would go on to win. Borough took the lead six minutes after half-time, Tebbutt finding the net with a brilliant shot. They continued to dominate the play, but somehow or other, all their attacks went astray near goal. With just 15 minutes to go the home side were still leading by the only goal of the game, but the defence began to show signs of tiring, no doubt due to their valiant efforts in the first-half when defending their goal against the wind.

The halves lost their grip on the RAF forwards, the backs failed to get the ball away as they had done before, and within a brief space of three minutes, the visitors were in the lead. In the end Borough got away with a draw, due to a lucky goal from Lawrence, who took a speculative shot from fully 35 yards, which Clarke, the RAF keeper, seemed to have covered, but the ball escaped his grasp and rolled over the line and into the net. That goal saved Nuneaton from defeat, but had they lost, it would have been entirely their own fault, for they should have won comfortably.

Given their dominance Borough should have won, and were the better footballers in the first half despite the handicap of the wind. For the first half hour of the second half they

practically dominated play, and yet a mere 15 minutes play nearly brought about their downfall.

Colledge and Tebbutt were outstanding for Nuneaton. Colledge was at his very best throughout, and Tebbutt was the most dangerous forward, and it is a pity he did not see more of the ball in the second half. Grubb, a new wing-half, made a fairly promising debut. Indeed, in the first half he played really well, but later tired. He should develop into a good attacking half-back. The Airmen were best served by Hall at right-half, and Denwood at outside-left, while Ferebee was a useful centre-forward. Hall played beautifully constructive football in the second half.

## Decadent Youth Uninterested In Sport Are "Soft" Indoor Games More Popular Today?

Is football, both Association and Rugby, taken too casually by the young men of today? Mr Harry Cleaver, secretary of Nuneaton Rugby Club, makes this suggestion on another page and thinks that the many other interests for young people in this modern age are partly to blame. Whatever may be the cause, it cannot be denied that football in Nuneaton today is at the lowest ebb it has been for many years.

Association football in the town is under a cloud. Nuneaton Town FC has faded into oblivion and the amateur club which a few enthusiasts have started to fill the gap is bravely keeping the flag flying on gates of about 300.

Nuneaton Rugby FC, though in a healthy financial position, is having a very lean time from a playing point of view, the season's record being the worst for many years. The gates at the New Inn ground are also round about 300. What has happened to the thousands that used to flock to Manor Park and the New Inn ground years ago? Are they no longer attracted by football? Or is their interest merely confined to checking of their pools coupons?...

## Loughborough College v Nuneaton Borough 05-02-1938

**Nuneaton: Buck; Butler and Hudson; Grubb, Colledge and Higham; Tebbutt, Tromans, Roberts, Godderidge and Lawrence.**

Nuneaton made the journey to Loughborough College for a Central Amateur League fixture.

In the first minute Hudson, in kicking clear, crashed the ball against a home forward and it went straight to Jenkinson, who had the easiest of tasks in scoring. For the next 20 minutes the Borough played well, and then came an incident which may have decided the whole course of the game. During a hot attack by Nuneaton one of the home defenders palpably handled the ball in the penalty area, and the referee immediately ordered a spot kick. Everybody was surprised when Buck came running up the field to take it. The keeper crashed the spot kick against the bar, and it rebounded straight back to him, but he shot

straight into the College keeper's hands, which didn't matter anyway as he was in an offside position.

The penalty miss seemed to affect the side, including Buck, for when Jenkinson got the College's second goal, the shot went through Buck's legs and into the net, and later a corner kick found its way into the Borough net without touching anyone. So it will be seen that Nuneaton were up against it. Still, as they had to kick downhill with the wind behind them in the second half, it seemed there was a remote chance of pulling back those three goals. And, believe it nor not, in the last 20 minutes of the second-half, they had chances to have at least drawn level. The ball was almost constantly in the College penalty area, but the Borough's scoring efforts were so feeble that Miles, in the College goal, did not have one single shot to save.

Victory went to the better side – about that there can be no doubt. The College played as a team and some of their passing movements were really good. But above all they were grand fighters. They were not afraid to “mix” it and Nuneaton can be blamed for not doing the same. The best player on the field was Haggog, the College's Egyptian full back. A grand player and a tremendous worker – at times he thwarted the visiting forwards almost single-handed. Another Egyptian, Gale, playing outside-left, was about the College's best forward.

## New Long Shoot Hotel

### Work Carried Out By Local Contractors



An Architect's drawing showing the north elevation of the Long Shoot Hotel

Nuneaton's newest hotel – The Long Shoot – opens tomorrow. This newly fully licensed house of refreshment has been recently erected to fill a long felt want for the convenience of travellers on the London-Holyhead Road.

It stands at the junction of the Long Shoot and Watling Street on a site of more than 1½ acres, and is set back forty feet to form a car park with access from both roads.

The building is L-shaped with a wing facing each of the roads and a connecting block fronting the splayed junction between the roads. One wing contains, on the ground floor, a large Lounge and the other, the Public Bar, with an octagonal shaped Smoke Room in the connecting block. On the upper floors there is a large Dining and Club Room, served from the nearby kitchen, and capable of accommodating 60 persons,

with a separate entrance and staircase, and also living rooms for the tenant.

The building itself, for which Messrs. Forshaw and Palmer, Burton-on-Trent, are the Architects, was constructed by Messrs. Hope and Aldridge, the well-known local builders of Weddington, Nuneaton. It is pleasing to note that wherever possible, local materials and labour has been used. The completion of this imposing building adds to the long list of important local contracts carried out by Messrs. Hope and Aldridge. These include the school clinic in Riversley Park.

### Nuneaton Man's Invention

The “Observer” is able to exclusively reveal that a Nuneaton man's patent is in use on Britain's biggest air-liner – the G-A.D.S.R. Armstrong-Whitworth Ensign.

The retractable undercarriage of the wonder 'plane was designed by Mr Gerald Smith, of King Edward Road, Nuneaton, and is patented in his name.

Mr Smith, a Nuneaton Old Edwardian, is one of Messrs. Armstrong-Whitworth's chief designers, and has been in their employment since leaving King Edward VI School.

This is the first commercial liner on which Mr Smith's patent has been used...

### Northampton Mt Pleasant v Nuneaton Boro' 12-02-1938

**Nuneaton: Buck; Butler and Hudson; Tromans, Roberts and Albrighton; Tebbutt, Lawrence, Higham, Godderidge and Jephcote.**

Borough made the journey to Northampton Mount Pleasant for a Central Amateur League game. A new winger, Jephcote was given a trial at outside-left.

A goal by Godderidge 20 minutes after the start gave Nuneaton the points, and once again Borough are in the running for the League Championship.

As has been the case so often in recent weeks, the game was ruined by a gale, yet now and again there were glimpses of neat football. In fact, Borough's goal was one of the best worked of the season. The move started in midfield. After grubbing round an opponent, Albrighton slipped the ball inside to Lawrence. The latter, without a moment's hesitation, put the ball between the backs, and racing after it, Godderidge went through unchallenged to easily beat Shipley.

The move was carried through with such rapidity that from the time Albrighton made the pass until Godderidge scored, the ball was not touched by a home player. The goal was scored when Borough had the wind at their backs, and it seemed they would have a very hard job to win with just a single goal lead at the break. But so well did the Borough defence shape up in the second-half that their lead never looked in danger of being overturned, and Buck had hardly half-a-dozen saves to make all match.



The appearance of Albrighton, the ex-Nuneaton Town and Atherstone Town half-back, greatly improved the Borough defence. Throughout he kept a tight rein on Bailey, the home outside right, and the latter was quite unable to produce those dazzling wing runs that made him an outstanding performer in the match at Manor Park. Tromans did equally as well and constantly got Tebbutt and Lawrence away with beautiful ground passes – just the type of pass to succeed in such windy conditions.

Owing to an injury to Colledge, Roberts was back in his old position of centre-half. His tackling was first-class throughout and it was a pity that he was not so successful in feeding his forwards. Behind this strong half-back line Butler and Hudson, after a shaky start, struck their very best form and their kicking against the wind in the second half was most effective. Indeed, so well did the whole defence play in the second half that the Mount Pleasant forwards seldom found a clear passage to goal throughout the half.

Mount Pleasant were but a shadow of the team they were when visiting Manor Park. Occasionally their right-wing pair, Bailey and Labram, carried out a dangerous raid, but generally speaking they were so completely subdued by the powerful Borough defence that Godderidge's goal nearly always seemed likely to prove the decider.

## RAF Cranford v Nuneaton Borough 19-02-1938

**Nuneaton: Buck; Butler and Hudson; Higham, Roberts and Albrighton; Tebbutt, Tromans, Godderidge, Lawrence and Jephcote.**

Borough made the long journey to Lincolnshire to take on RAF Cranford in a Central Amateur League game.

The whole of the first half of the match was a continual series of attacks by the Nuneaton forwards, and yet half-time arrived with a blank score-sheet. True, the RAF goal bore a charmed life. The ball was continually hovering in the vicinity of the penalty spot, but no Borough forward had a shot in their boots to finish off the attack. Had Borough been leading by four or five goals at the interval they would not have been flattered, for with the exception of spasmodic raids by the RAF, the Borough were continually on the attack.

A stiff breeze blowing across the ground was slightly in favour of the Borough during the first-half, but the Borough forwards missed so many easy chances, even allowing for a good display by the RAF goalkeeper.

The chief culprit was Tebbutt, usually so sure of accepting any chance that comes his way. Twice in as many minutes he was right through, and with only the goalkeeper to beat he unaccountably placed wide. Again, a minute before the interval, a perfect centre from Jephcote found Tebbutt waiting in front of goal, and he headed on to the bar, when it looked far easier to find the net.

In the second half Borough had a full share of the play, but chances were still going begging. The RAF played far better

in this half, the backs and halves kicking lustily, and their rushing tactics soon had the Nuneaton defence in difficulties. For about ten minutes in this half the RAF were definitely on top, and during this period they found themselves two goals up. The RAF right-half fired in a long shot which quite deceived Buck, and the ball passed under his body into the corner of the net. The second goal had an element of luck about it, for from a clearance by Butler, the ball hit an onrushing RAF forward and rebounded into the net, giving Buck no chance.

After these reverses, the Borough livened up and staged a series of attacks, the half-backs trying their shooting ability, and one save from Albrighton by the RAF keeper drew rounds of applause from the crowd. Lawrence and Tebbutt changed places and the move was immediately successful, for from a centre by Lawrence, Tebbutt shot into the net. The Borough still attacked, but the RAF goal bore a charmed life and attack after attack fizzled out.

It looked that an equalising goal would reward the Borough efforts and young Jephcote, on the left, headed beautifully towards goal, but the keeper again made a marvellous save and so the end came with the Borough still attacking.

## Leicester Nomads v Nuneaton Borough 26-02-1938

**Nuneaton: Buck; Whitehouse and Hudson; Higham, Grubb and Albrighton; Tebbutt, Godderidge, Roberts, Whitmore and Jephcote.**

Borough travelled to Leicester to play the Nomads in a Central Amateur League game.

It was the old, old story at Leicester – the Borough having most of the play and yet failing to register a single goal. It sounds like the same old excuse but, nevertheless, it is perfectly true. The points were frittered away through bad finishing. And yet, having regard to the fact that the visitors were short of Colledge, Butler, Tromans and Lawrence, their general performance was not too bad. In everything they did, with the exception of the all-important art of getting goals, they were every bit as good as the home side, in fact, in some respects much better.

Set to face a strong wind in the first half, they were unlucky to cross over a goal behind. Nomads got their first goal ten minutes after the start, when a centre from the left-wing flicked a Nuneaton defender and went straight to Sanders and Wain, who were both standing at least four yards behind the Nuneaton backs. But the ball having touched a visiting defender they were put on side, and with the goal at his mercy, Sanders easily netted.

The second half definitely belonged to Borough, but after the Nomads defence had been hammered for the first 25 minutes of the half, they broke away, and though Sanders again seemed to be offside, he was allowed to go through to score. It would be perfectly true to say that for most of the second-half Borough were continually attacking. The ball was constantly hovering round the Nomads goal, and yet so poor



was the finishing of the forwards, that Dickens in the Nomads goal, scarcely had one difficult shot to save, although he seemed to be handling practically every minute.

To rub salt into the wounds, Seal, the Nomads' left-back stopped the ball with both hands, well inside the penalty area. It was a palpable penalty, but the referee stated after that he did not see it. Yes, the Borough were unlucky, but there was really no excuse for missing several really easy chances. Not one of the forwards seemed capable of delivering a decent shot. By far the most dangerous attacker was centre-half Jack Grubb, and the eighteen-year-old youth, playing his first game at centre-half, did grand work all through, and in the last minute saw a flying header completely beat Dickens and just miss the angle of the upright and crossbar.

Borough had big trouble on the left-wing where the young players Jephcote and Whitmore operated. They were not strong enough and actually presented few difficulties to the opposition, although Jephcote got across one or two useful centres.

## Coalville Town v Nuneaton Borough 05-03-1938

**Nuneaton: Buck; Butler and Hudson; Higham, Grubb and Boyd; Lawrence, Godderidge, Roberts, Tebbutt and Jephcote.**

Borough travelled to Coalville Town for a Central Amateur League fixture. There were a number of last-minute enforced changes to the line-up.

In all, this was Borough's best performance of the season. It even eclipsed their display at Moor Green. It did the heart good to see the forward line, which for several weeks has shown such poor form. They found a new lease of life and making gaps in a reputedly sound defence almost as wide as the field itself. But not only did they find the gaps, but the goals as well.

Borough got their first goal after 25 minutes, following a centre by Lawrence, the ball hovering about on the goal-line for several seconds before Tebbutt put it into the net. They got their second ten minutes before the interval, Lawrence shooting through from Knight's corner after both Roberts and Tebbutt had allowed the ball to pass to him. The third goal came 15 minutes after half-time and was typical of many of the fine moves they made. Tebbutt sent Lawrence away with a wide pass. The winger fastened on to the ball smartly, and taking advantage of Hill's delay in tackling him, he closed in and then put the ball straight on to Roberts' head – and the ball spun into the net, yards out of Stafford's reach.

Coalville were lucky they did not concede five or six goals. Apart from scoring three, the Borough went close to getting three of four more. Boyd hit the bar with a shot that had the goalkeeper whacked to a frazzle; Roberts, with a header and Godderidge, with a terrific drive, skimmed the bar, with the goalkeeper at the other end of the net; and Lawrence nearly put the goalkeeper in Dreamland with a shot which struck him in the chest with terrific force.

Only for five minutes shortly after Borough got their first goal

did Coalville cause any real anxiety, and let me say right away that Borough were lucky in that short period that they did not concede a goal. For the rest of the game the home side were easily second fiddlers and it was not until a few minutes from the end that they got their only goal. Borough players revealed afterwards that Cooper put the ball into the net with his fist.

The whole Borough attack excelled. Lawrence proved without doubt that his proper position is at outside-right. Neatly supported by Godderidge and Higham, he made some grand wing runs and centres. Grubb again gave a very solid display at centre-half, but the real strength of the side lay at full-back, where Butler and Hudson defended superbly. The former kicked with rare precision and judgment. Buck did his work well in goal.

## Borough Player Attracts Attention

A First Division Club has shown interest in one of Borough's players, and after seeing him play at Coalville a representative of the club approached a Boro' official after the game. After discussing the matter, he said he would report to his club. But whether the player will sign is another matter. He has a good job, we understand.

If he leaves, he will be the third player on their books this season to go to an English League side. Johnson is with Leicester City and Bond with Coventry City.

## Northampton Nomads v Nuneaton Borough 12-03-1938

**Nuneaton: Buck; Butler and Hudson; Tromans, Grubb and Higham; Lawrence, Godderidge, Roberts, Tebbutt and Gibson.**

Nuneaton travelled to play Northampton Nomads in a Central Amateur League game. It was their sixth successive away game. The home side were yet to gain their first win of the season.

The home side's display belied their lowly position in the league, and they are a much better side than their record suggests. Still, they were fortunate that they were not more soundly beaten.

Borough's opening goal in the first half was a finely-worked effort. While the Nomads' defence was trying to decide whether to tackle Lawrence or Godderidge, the latter slipped round them and put a beautiful pass down the middle for Roberts to snap it up and score with ease.

Nomads' goal was scored by Butler, who sliced a centre past his own goalkeeper. Nuneaton's winner was almost laughable. Sent away by Lawrence, Godderidge raced through the Nomads' defence at top speed. A full-back and the goalkeeper tried to check him, but, paying far more attention to the man than the ball, they were completely bamboozled by Godderidge, who simply allowed the ball to roll into the net.

Borough did not play nearly so well at Northampton as they did at Coalville the previous week, and had to work very hard to defeat the Nomads by the odd goal. Still, they should have won by a wider margin. Most of Borough's danger came

from the right wing, where Lawrence and Godderidge again played with fine dash and understanding. The left wing was not nearly so good. Tebbutt worked hard inside, but Gibson, a player from the Bible Class League, after a fair first half, faded out of the picture afterwards. Still, he is a player with possibilities. Roberts was a hard worker, but slow on the ball.

The halves were not so good as the previous week, and there is little doubt that Boyd's shrewd ground passes were missed. Grubb was again the best half. The full-backs were good as usual, until Hudson was injured about 15 minutes before time.

## Nuneaton Borough v Loughborough College 19-03-1938

**Nuneaton: Buck; Butler and Hudson; Tromans, Grubb and Boyd; Lawrence, Godderidge, Roberts, Higham and Tebbutt.**

Borough returned to Manor Park following six consecutive away matches, to face Loughborough College in a Central Amateur League fixture.

Ten minutes after half-time, Borough won a throw-in about eight yards from the corner flag and Tromans threw the ball to Godderidge, who after a little manoeuvring, put across a centre from almost on the goal-line. Roberts put his head to the ball and it flashed into the net, beyond the keeper. That goal gave Borough another two valuable points in the grand effort they are making to keep their place at the head of the League.

Although only a single goal victory, Borough's performance was actually a very good one, for if there was one team that they feared might check their progress towards the championship it was the College, who in some opinions are the best team in the league.

It was a grand struggle from first kick to last. The College obviously meant to win if it were at all possible, and right from the kick-off they went all out for goals. For the first ten minutes they hammered the Borough defence, but once they had overcome that early unsettling experience, the Borough were always slightly the superior side without actually being able to definitely nail down their opponents.

College strove for an equaliser, but it was Borough who had the best chance of scoring, when Godderidge failed with an easy chance just before time. College hit the woodwork twice, being especially unlucky on the first occasion when the ball hit the far post with Buck beaten. Borough should have scored with practically the last move of the first-half, when Higham sent Roberts clear, and the latter found himself only two yards from goal with the ball between his legs and the goalkeeper helpless to do anything. But unaccountably the centre-forward failed to net, when a mere touch would have meant a certain goal.

Jenkinson, the College's burly centre-forward is a past master at scoring goals. He netted eight out of ten against Northampton Nomads. That he did not have one really good chance in this match was due to the fine play of eighteen-year-old Jack Grubb and to the splendid backing he received from Hudson and Butler.

The best half-back was Tromans, who gave his neatest display of the season on the right flank. He had a tricky wing to face in Osman and Sykes, but they very rarely got the better of him. Boyd did not have such a successful match as at Coalville, but nevertheless did good work.

## Nuneaton Boy Makes Own Gas Mask Proves Efficient In Face Of Severe Tests



A cocoa-tin and a piece of hose-pipe have been used by a Nuneaton Grammar School boy in the making of a gas mask which proved absolutely efficient in the face of the severest tests.

He is sixteen-year-old Maurice George Cooper, son of Mr and Mrs G. A. Cooper, of 30 Bracebridge Street. He is a member of the Sixth Form.

The gas mask somewhat resembles those in standard use at the present time – with the exception that the canister has been made from a cocoa tin, while a piece of host-pipe leads from the canister to the mask itself.

Other articles used in its manufacture include a cheap pair of goggles, a cork, and a piece of bent glass tubing.

It was made in about two hours, and the total cost was about 2s. The mask had been tested with bromine and sulphuretted hydrogen, and has proved thoroughly efficient. In actual warfare, it would be impossible to get as pungent a gas as bromine...

## Boldmere St Michaels v Nuneaton Borough 26-03-1938

**Nuneaton: Buck; Butler and Hudson; Tromans, Grubb and Boyd; Lawrence, Godderidge, Roberts, Higham and Tebbutt.**

Borough travelled to Sutton Coldfield for a Central Amateur League game against Boldmere St Michaels.

Throughout the game, Borough played in spasms, but they started strongly and it looked as if Boldmere were in for a warm time, after a series of very swift raids put the home side's goal in danger, and they were lucky to prevent a score.

For some time after that play evened up a little, but then came the best move of the game. Godderidge started it by sending Lawrence away on the right. The winger slipped it into the centre. Roberts collected the ball and in turn put it across to Tebbutt, who had closed in from the wing. The latter cleverly dribbled round a back and then fired in a great shot which struck the upright, with the goalkeeper at the other end of the goal. A very lucky escape for the home side.

Then came Boldmere's turn. Taking full advantage of a Borough weakness at left-half, they made a long series of right-wing attacks which had the Borough defence all hot and bothered,



# Nuneaton Borough 1937-1945



and a period of sustained pressure ended in Wiseman putting across to Gibbs, who turned the ball into the net. The scorer seemed to be in an offside position, but the goal stood. From that point until half-time it was nearly all Boldmere and to be quite frank the visitors were lucky to be only one goal behind.

When the game was resumed, St. Michael's again started hammering the Nuneaton defence, but with Higham now at left-half their forwards lost some of their sting, and gradually the Borough began to find their feet again. Well backed by their halves, the forwards, despite an injury to Lawrence, began to show something like the form expected of them. Tebbutt figured prominently in attack after attack, and success came the visitors' way after thirty-two minutes of the half. Godderidge broke through on the right and put across a low centre, which had the home defence in a quandary. The ball struck one of their defenders and dropped at the feet of Boyd, standing almost on the goal-line, and he had only to touch the ball into the net for the equaliser.

From that point until the end the Borough forwards greatly harassed the home defence and nearly snatched a victory when Roberts in trying to place the ball into an unguarded net, just put the ball over the top.

Buck played a splendid game in the Nuneaton goal, and was generally well-covered by Hudson and Butler, although the former once miskicked in the second half and nearly presented the home side with a sitter, with only a flying dive by Buck at Gibbs' feet saving the situation. Tromans was again the best half-back, but Grubb was not up to his usual form before the break, but did some good work after and broke up many attacks. Boyd was disappointing and completely failed to hold Gessey and Pulfrey. Tebbutt was the best forward and continually got the better of the Boldmere defence.

## Nuneaton Borough v Leicester City A 11-04-1938

**Nuneaton: Buck; Butler and Hudson; Tromans, Grubb and Higham; Lawrence, Emery, Roberts, Tebbutt and Knight.**

Borough welcomed Leicester City A to Manor Park for the final of the Nuneaton Hospital Cup.

Borough gave Leicester an excellent game and with a little more steadiness in front of goal in the first half, they may have gained a victory. While City did far too much close work, Borough swung the ball about smartly, and Halliwell, in the City goal had far more work to do than Buck. Indeed, it was the smartness of Halliwell that saved City on many occasions. He made one thrilling save from Emery in the closing stages of the game.

Emery, a Thursday League player, made a highly promising debut for the Borough, and was probably their best forward. He made many openings, and it was a pity that he should have missed two excellent scoring chances in the first half. With only the goalkeeper to beat, he failed, but he can look back upon the game with satisfaction.

Borough got the first goal of the match a few minutes after

half-time. Emery was brought down when going through and from the resultant penalty Butler scored with a smashing drive. Halliwell got his finger-tips to the ball, but was unable to prevent the shot going into the net.

Johnson, the City leader, did not have a happy match against his old club. He seldom got the better of Grubb and it was from the only real chance that he had that he saved the game with a goal 15 minutes from the end, when he took advantage of hesitancy on the part of the home defence to make a tackle, and running through, he beat Buck with an oblique shot.

Borough had a sound defence, with Buck being so well covered that he had scarcely a shot to save all through the game. The shot that did beat him gave him no chance. Butler and Hudson defended stoutly, and the halves kept a tight grip on the opposing forwards most of the game.

The Borough were not so good in attack as in defence. Had they been, they would most certainly have won, for they had far more scoring chances than City. Tebbutt was very erratic at inside-left and failed to get the best out of Knight, who, with very few opportunities proved himself a dangerous raider. Roberts was slow in the centre.

## Borough Captain To Play For Pick of the League

Hudson, the Nuneaton Borough left full-back and captain, has been selected to play for the Pick of the Central Amateur League against Aston Villa at Northampton on April 28th.

## Nuneaton Borough v Coalville Town 16-04-1938

**Nuneaton: Archer; Butler and Hudson; Tromans, Grubb and Higham; Lawrence, Emery, Roberts, Tebbutt and Knight.**

Borough welcomed Coalville Town to Manor Park for a Central Amateur League fixture. Both teams were still in with a shout for the Championship, although Nuneaton's prospects were pretty slim.

The home side played grim football. They kept hard at it from start to finish. Coalville had quite as much of the game; in fact at certain periods they did more of the attacking, but they lacked the punch of the home forwards near goal.

While Coalville relied for the most part on short passes, the Borough, prompted by Grubb, kept the ball well on the move and their wide-flung attacking movements often had the Coalville defence spreadeagled. The visitors carried their attacks too far – and this was vital against such keen tacklers as Grubb, Tromans and Hudson.

The game was as much a triumph for the Borough defence as anything, for against a less keen and dependable rearguard, Coalville were certain to have scored on more than one occasion. As it was the Leicestershire side's forwards had few clear shots at goal and when they did get an opening they



never shot sufficiently well to cause Archer, the local goalkeeper, much trouble.

The latter, who was making his debut for Borough, gave a very convincing display, showing fine anticipation and a clean pair of hands. One save of his in the first-half when he dived at the feet of Cooper and saved what appeared to be a certain goal, was a fine piece of work.

Indeed the game was a triumph for the local players in the side. Grubb at centre-half, was the best player on the field, and almost completely blocked the way down the middle of the field to the Nuneaton goal.

Then there was Emery, the Nuneaton Thursday League player. He was a real glutton for work and infused that extra bit of pep into the attack which was perhaps needed to overcome a side like Coalville. But what is more, he is a keen opportunist and scored two of his side's three goals. The Borough defence was sound, although occasionally Tromans found the Coalville left wing pair a little tantalising. Hudson was outstanding at the back for Borough, as was Butler.

The game was more notable for its grimness than its football, but it was a good encounter to watch. Nuneaton scored twice in the first-half through Roberts (eight minutes) and Emery (30 minutes), and again 15 minutes from the end through Emery.

## **Badsey Rovers v Nuneaton Borough 18-04-1938**

**Nuneaton: Archer; Butler and Hudson; Whitehouse, Grubb and Higham; Lawrence, Emery, Roberts, Tebbutt and Harrison.**

Borough made the journey to face Badsey Rangers in a Central Amateur League fixture on Easter Monday.

Although the Borough left it late to save the game, their performance was actually a good one seeing that shortly after half-time they lost the services of Emery, who had to be taken to hospital to have a wound under the eye stitched.

With only ten men they lost a one-goal first-half lead and a little later got in arrears, but a spirited rally brought the equalising goal. It was about the only good move the match that brought this goal. Whitehouse beat his man cleverly before, slipping the ball out to Lawrence. Almost off the goal-line the winger sent across a beautiful centre. Roberts met the ball with his head and it literally flew into the net just inside the angle of the crossbar and upright. This goal gave the Borough renewed heart and they all but snatched a victory in the closing stages, and Badsey were lucky to escape a penalty, one of their defenders obviously handling the ball from a centre by Roberts.

On the whole, it was a poor game, largely because of the very poor ground. Accurate football was out of the question and for the most part it was a kick and rush affair. Nuneaton's first goal was scored by a Badsey defender. In saving a brilliant shot by Lawrence, the goalkeeper pushed the ball away and in trying to complete the clearance a back crashed the ball against a colleague, from whom it bounced into the net.

Both Badsey's goals came early in the second half, and were scored by the brothers Collett. Borough lacked the services of Buck, Godderidge, Tromans and Knight, and their places were taken by Archer, Harrison, Whitehouse and Emery. It was a game in which there was scarcely a single outstanding player.

## **Borough v Nuneaton Thursday League 19-04-1938**

**Nuneaton: Archer; Whitehouse and Higham; Joyce, Grubb and A. N. Other; Lawrence, Tebbutt, Forknell, Colledge and Gibson.**

Borough rounded off their holiday programme on Tuesday when they defeated the Thursday League. The Borough, who only fielded four of their regular players, deserved their success, only it was not easily achieved.

They led 3-0 at half-time, but in the early stages of the second half, the Thursday League scored twice to make the score 3-2, and it was not until late in the game that the Borough clinched matters with a fourth goal.

The Thursday League played really well and gave their opponents a hard game. They were unlucky in having a number of shots hit the woodwork of the Borough goal. Colledge, Lawrence, Grubb and Tebbutt scored Borough's goals and Bainbridge and Knight netted for the losers.

## **Keen Fight For League Title**

Competition in the Central Amateur Football League is working up to a climax similar to that promised in connection with struggles in the more important Football League. The victory by 3-1 by Moor Green over Morris Motors at Coventry on Wednesday night has brought an interesting position.

Moor Green, last year's winners, have now completed their programme. They are level on points with Morris Motors, whose remaining game is with Ibstock Penistone Rovers at Ibstock on Saturday.

As Moor Green's goal average is greatly superior, Morris Motors will have at least to draw at Ibstock in order to wrest the championship from the Birmingham club.

## **Ibstock Penistone v Nuneaton Borough 30-04-1938**

**Nuneaton: Buck; Butler and Hudson; Whitehouse, Grubb and Harrison; Lawrence, Tromans, Emery, Higham and Knight.**

Borough travelled to Ibstock Penistone Rovers for a Central Amateur League match with a weakened side.

Young Emery, who led the attack with great dash, was particularly unfortunate in this respect. He shot against the upright and on two other occasions headed against the woodwork; Knight had a brilliant shot pushed against the upright by Watson; while Lawrence had one or two centres run along the Rovers' bar. On top of this, several easy scoring chances were missed.



The first-half was one long attack on the Ibstock goal. Aided by a strong cross wind, the visitors swarmed round the home goal and in the first ten minutes should have scored two or three goals. Then, the first time they went up the field, the Rovers scored. W. Smith sent Simpson right through and the latter scored with ease. Undismayed, Borough swarmed to the attack again, and it was remarkable that they did everything but score. Indeed, not before a quarter of an hour from half-time did they get on level terms – and then it was a half-back who did the trick, Joyce scoring with a beautiful long range shot which was a goal every inch of the way. Three minutes later Lawrence centred accurately from the right for Knight to head a neat goal.

Borough were far and away the better side, and they went close to adding to their lead on several occasions, only some fine work by Watson saving Ibstock. It was without much difficulty that Borough finished the game still that single goal to the good.

Compared with Watson, Buck had an easy afternoon. Buck only touched the ball once in the first half, but had more to do in the second, although he was well covered by the defence that he had very few difficult shots to save. Although Tromans and Higham had to be taken out of the half-back line to fill the places of Tebbutt and Roberts, who were both attending the Cup Final, the defence was certainly not weakened by the presence of Whitehouse and Joyce.

Joyce was about the best half-back on the field. This young Bible Class League player certainly knows how to play football. He defended soundly and gave the forwards some beautiful ground passes. The forwards played better against the wind than with it, and gave the home side an object lesson on how to control the ball, and by quick switches of position Lawrence and Tromans made big holes in the home defence. Emery, although he did not score, was always the most dangerous forward, and his strong dashes down the middle had the Ibstock defence on tenterhooks. He is a most fearless raider and only a brick wall can stop him.

On the whole the reconstructed Borough side gave a good account of itself and always had a little too much in hand for the home side.

## Review: Season 1937-38

### Lack of Goal Scoring Centre Forward Cost Nuneaton Borough The Championship

Although Nuneaton Borough did not succeed in winning the championship of the Central Amateur League at the first time of asking – in fact, at the start of the season it was the very last thing that was expected of them seeing that the club was breaking entirely new ground and did not know the strength of the League – they have proved themselves one of the strong sides of the League.

Indeed it took the team nearly half of the season to settle down, and unfortunately it was during that period that

valuable home points – points which would very probably have given them the championship honour – were lost.

Up to the end of last year the Borough had played nine matches in the League, eight of which were at home, obtaining 12 points out of a possible 18. Thus six vital home points were lost. What a difference they would have made at the end of the season.

During the second half of the season the Borough played 13 League games, six of which were won, three lost and four drawn, capturing 16 out of a possible 26 points. And the important thing to note is that ten of these thirteen games were away from home and that only three of them were lost.

In fact, in League matches the Borough have gained 15 out of 22 at home and 13 out of 22 away, thus they have dropped seven points at home and only 11 away. Those seven points dropped at home before a settled team was got together has made a vital difference in their championship prospects and curiously enough one of the most moderate sides in the League was the only team to collect the maximum points from them – Leicester Nomads.

### Doubles

Borough accomplished the “double” at the expense of Coalville Town, Northampton Nomads and Northampton Mount Pleasant, while they took three points from Morris Motors, Boldmere, Badsey and Ibstock. And the remarkable thing about it all is that Morris and Coalville from whom they collected seven out of eight points, finished higher in the League.

One can say without fear of contradiction that the only two teams in the League who, on the day’s actual play, really deserved to beat Nuneaton were Moor Green, at Manor Park, and Loughborough College, at Loughborough. In other matches which they lost the Borough literally threw the points away, both home and away to Leicester Nomads and away to RAF Cranwell.

Still, having regard to the very necessary changes that have had to be made in the team during the season the players are to be complimented on their grand efforts, and, as I have said on several previous occasions, had the Borough started with the side that they finished with, they could hardly have missed winning the Championship.

### Sound Defence

There has been little wrong with the defence all through the campaign. Buck proved himself a most able goalkeeper, and Butler and Hudson had no superiors in the League. Roberts, who started the season at centre-half, did some useful work but did not open out the game enough. Colledge, who followed in the position, rendered extremely good service and it was a pity that he missed many matches in the latter half of the season.

This, in a way, was fortunate, for it enabled Grubb to take over the centre-half position – and from that moment the Borough became a really workmanlike combination. Only eighteen and of powerful build, Grubb was a distinct find, and though some people found fault with his first-time kicking and banging of



the ball up the field, others think that the forwards had far more opportunities to get goals than ever before. Experience will remedy any little faults that he may have and probably next season will see him holding the ball a little more.

## Wing Halves

During the last part of the season Grubb has received valuable support from Tromans and Higham. Tromans has found his true position at right half, whilst the evergreen Charlie Higham has done his job valiantly.

The forward line has given the officials of the club the greatest concern, but in the last two months or so there was at last a semblance of combination about it. The most consistent forward was undoubtedly Godderidge and it was a pity that illness kept him out of the game towards the end of the season. Since being moved forward Billy Roberts has done a lot of good work and it is a great pity that he seems unable to develop that extra yard or two of speed. Still, he had scored some really grand goals with his head, those at Coalville and Badsey being brilliant efforts. A more whole-hearted player never stepped onto a football field.

Still, lack of a real go-ahead, goalscoring centre-forward has been a great handicap all through the season. Lawrence and Tebbutt, of whom big things were expected, have been moderately successful. The former, possessed of all those qualities which go towards the making of a top-notch player, has been tantalisingly inconsistent, and it was not until the last part of the season, when he played in his old position at outside-right, that he touched anything like the form expected of him. Tebbutt has never had a settled position and occupied four different forward positions and also the right half berth. In that respect he might be termed as being the utility man of the side.

## A Weakness

Not until Knight stepped into the breach in the last few weeks was the outside-left position filled at all satisfactorily. None of the other players made anything of the position and there was hitherto a very pronounced weakness there. Happy features were the discovery of three excellent youngsters in the last few weeks in Archer (goalkeeper), Emery (inside forward) and Joyce (half-back). Archer made an admirable substitute for Buck and looks like developing into an extremely useful custodian. Emery, in his first match against Coalville Town at Manor Park, scored two goals and the other, scored by Roberts, was made easy by a shot from Emery which dropped off the bar at the centre-forward's feet.

It was unfortunate, therefore, that in his next match at Badsey, Emery should have sustained a cut under the eye which necessitated hospital treatment. However, he was back again for the match at Ibstock and gave further proof of his ability. If the form displayed by Joyce at Ibstock is any criterion then the club need not look any further for a wing-half next season.

The goalscorers were as follows: Lawrence 12, Godderidge 11, Tebbutt and Roberts 9 each, Tromans 5, Cobley 4, Colledge 3, Forknell and Knight 2 each; and Bond, Hudson, Hughes, Purcell, Boyd, Butler, Grubb and Joyce one each.

## Central Amateur League Final Table 1937-1938

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Moor Green	22	13	5	4	58	27	31
Morris Motors	22	14	3	5	65	40	31
Coalville Town	22	13	3	6	60	46	29
Nuneaton Borough	22	11	6	5	45	31	28
Badsey Rangers	22	12	1	9	67	30	23
Ibstock Penistone	22	9	5	8	54	64	23
Loughborough College	22	9	3	10	64	62	21
Boldmere St Michaels	22	8	4	10	52	43	20
Northampton MP	22	7	5	10	42	47	19
RAF Cranwell	22	6	6	10	48	67	18
Leicester Nomads	22	7	2	13	40	59	16
Northampton Nomads	22	1	2	19	38	99	4

## Nuneaton Borough To Apply For Combination

Nuneaton Borough FC has decided to apply for membership of the Birmingham Combination for next season.

This decision was reached at a meeting of the committee of the club at Manor Park on Tuesday night, presided over by the chairman, Mr H. Watkins.

Despite the fact that a loss was sustained on the past season – a loss which has been met by the officials – it was felt that the club should keep faith with the public by applying for membership of the Birmingham Combination.

After a lengthy discussion it was agreed to send in an application for membership, and that in the event of this being unsuccessful to continue in the Central Amateur League.

Reference was made to the improved attendances at the home games in the latter part of the season and it was thought that this was an indication that interest in local senior Association football was reviving.

It was recognised that the committee was taking a bold step in view of the general experience of the past season so far as support was concerned, and the hope was expressed that should the application for membership of the Birmingham Combination succeed there would be livelier interest displayed in the club's activities.

It was reported that representatives of the club had interviewed the Markets and Estates Committee with regard to the club taking over full control of Manor Park for Saturdays and Thursdays next season, and that the Committee's recommendation in the matter would come before the Town Council at their next meeting.



## Nuneaton Borough AGM: May 1938

### Small Loss On Playing Season

A small loss of £1 1s. 3d. on the past season was reported at the annual meeting of the Nuneaton Borough Football Club on Monday night, but it was pointed out that since the club accounts were closed they had received further donations which had given the club a credit balance at the bank.

Mr H. Watkins (chairman of the committee), who presided, apologised for the absence of the President, the Mayor Alderman W. Croshaw, who had a prior arrangement. A letter of apology was received from Councillor C. J. S. Dickens.

Presenting the first annual report, the secretary Mr F. J. Perry, stated that from a playing point of view the club proved one of the best in the League, 22 league games having been played, of which 11 were won, five drawn and six lost, scoring 45 goals against 31, a total of 28 points. Had it not been for dropped points when playing at home they would without doubt, have won the League.

### Didn't Have Control

In the Amateur Cup they played four matches, winning three and losing to Jack Moulds away – a match which should have been played at home, but not having full control of the ground they had no alternative but to play the match away on the conference date of the competition. The same thing happened in the Leicestershire Senior Cup, when they had to visit Loughborough, at which place they were beaten.

In the Birmingham Senior Cup they met Birmingham Trams and Hednesford Town, defeating the former after a drawn game and losing to the latter away. The Nuneaton Charity Cup was lost to Hinckley United and they made a draw with a Leicester City side in the Nuneaton Hospital Cup.

### Financial Side

From a financial standpoint, continued Mr Perry, they lost money in the Leicestershire Senior Cup and in the Central Amateur League matches due to the long journeys the team had to travel and poor gates when playing at home. The majority of the receipts from these games did not reach £5. But thanks to the item donations and the strictest economy they finished the season with only a small deficit of £1 1s. 3d., after refunding £20 which was loaned to the club by the officials. Since the club accounts were closed, they had received further donations which had placed the club with a credit balance at the bank.

### Combination Hopes

Next season, concluded Mr Perry, they hoped to be playing in the Birmingham Combination.

Mr P. Osborne expressed the opinion that, after trying to oblige the public by putting a local side into the field they had been badly let down.

Mr Fred Payne did not think the public had let them down, but that the late Board of Directors let the public down. It all dated, he said, from the Shrewsbury match which was

abandoned. Considering everything, he thought the club had done remarkably well. If they succeeded in getting admission to the Birmingham Combination they would have to start looking around the corner.

Moving the adoption of the report, the chairman expressed thanks to the players who had put their best into the matches and gave them some very good games. He also expressed thanks to the trainers, the St John Ambulance, the secretary and Mr Percy Osborne for all they had done to help the club.

Mr Payne seconded and the report was adopted.

### Balance Sheet

The balance sheet showed an excess of expenditure over income of £1 1s 3d. with cash in hand of £4 18s. 5d. The income amounted to £216 13s. 10d., and the expenditure £217 15s. 1d. The income from League matches was £73 18s. 2d. and from other matches £6 19s. 2d. Donations amounted to £28 18s. 3d. The chief item on the expenditure side was £90 18s. 6d. for travelling and hotel expenses.

The balance sheet was adopted.

The Mayor, Alderman W. Croshaw, was re-elected President; the Vice-Presidents were re-elected en bloc; Mr H. Watkins was re-elected Chairman and Mr Fred Payne Vice-Chairman.

## Borough Not Admitted To Birmingham Combination

### Hinckley and Bournville Re-elected

At last night's annual meeting of the Birmingham Combination, Nuneaton Borough's application for admission for next season failed.

The two teams seeking re-election, Bournville Athletic and Hinckley United, were again admitted.

Four new teams sought membership – Nuneaton Borough; Jack Moulds FC, Dudley and Hereford – and all were unsuccessful.

Nuneaton's chances of gaining admission faded when Tamworth's motion that the League be extended from 20 to 22 clubs was defeated. A vote was then taken and the two teams seeking re-admission were elected for another season.

The Borough club was represented by Mr H. Watkins (chairman) and Mr E. K. Brown, a member of the committee.

It therefore seems that the Borough will again be seen in the Central Amateur League next season.

But the officials are to be commended on one thing – they were prepared to make a plunge into higher class football when the support accorded the club scarcely warranted the risk.

## Stafford Old Eds — Preliminary Round

Nuneaton welcomed Stafford Old Eds to Manor Park for an FA Amateur Cup preliminary round tie.

Nuneaton: Darby; Whitehouse and Hudson; Lawrence, Roberts and Bond; Bennett, Tromans, Forknell, Knight and Johnson.

Had Nuneaton taken all their chances, a crib board would have been required to register the goals, but once again the forwards gave a convincing exhibition of how not to score.

It was really a one-sided game from start to finish the home side dominated the exchanges and at various periods were literally shooting in. And yet, they only got two goals – and the second only a few minutes before the end.

Granted the absence of Tebbutt, who was married that day, and Forknell, who had a swollen knee, had a great effect, but for all that, the scoring chances came and were neglected. It was really astounding that a team having so much of the game should not have won by a wider margin. Even allowing for the fact that the Old Eds gave a stubborn defensive display and that Jennings made many fine saves. In fact Jennings was half the visitors team.

Despite the poverty of the Nuneaton shooting, he had many ticklish situations to deal with and came out of the game with great credit.

Really, something has got to be done about this bad finishing. A good deal of the trouble is that the forwards all bunch together in their opponents' goalmouth. And this, of course, is the outcome of short passing. They simply must open out the game more and cut out the tip-tapping.

The Nuneaton attack was never really effective. Three new men were on view – Bennett, a new outside right, Knight and Johnson, who formed the left-wing. Without being overly critical one can say that the left-wing for the greater part of the game was ineffective; Bennett was little better.

To make things worse Godderidge nor Tromans played as well as they are capable of. The former had his back to the Stafford goal far too much when waiting for the ball.

The defence was good throughout and Bond was again outstanding at half-back. It is a pity other players do not keep the ball on the ground as he does.

Taken all through the Borough were easily the better side, which really goes to prove that the Old Eds were very moderate opponents. Both of Borough's goals were scored in the first half. The first was scored by Roberts, who hooked the ball in after Hudson had hit the woodwork with a free-kick. Roy Tromans got the second with a delightful header from an equally good centre from the left.

## Sutton Town – 1st Qualifying Round

Nuneaton welcomed Sutton Town to Manor Park for an First Qualifying Round FA Amateur Cup tie.

Nuneaton: Darby; Butler and Hudson; Tebbutt, Roberts and Bond; Forknell, Tromans, Godderidge, Colledge and Johnson.

Not excluding Hinckley United, Sutton are the best side to visit Manor Park so far this season, and the Borough's performance in beating them 2-1 was a distinctly creditable one. A better game than this could not be seen.

Sutton were the bigger side and made Nuneaton fight hard for victory – and let it be said right away that the home side had a number of frights after they had taken the lead. They had a particularly bad few minutes midway through the second half with the least bit of luck during this period Sutton might easily have forced a replay.

Taking the game all through, however, the Borough deserved their success, for during the first ten minutes of each half they literally bombarded the visitors' goal. In the first nine minutes after half-time they not only drew level and went ahead – Sutton led 1-0 at half-time

– but might have had two more goals. Forknell hit the upright with the keeper beaten, and a few minutes later, with only Baldwin to beat, the same player shot across the face of the goal and wide. In the first half he put the keeper out of action with a fierce drive.

Both teams had their periods on top, although, without a doubt, the balance of play favoured the Borough. Sutton played cool and calculated football all through; Nuneaton were faster but lacked the same method as their opponents. Their enthusiasm carried them through more than anything.

The presence of Colledge, who played with Bedworth last season, put more thrust into the home attack – and steadiness, for the inside-left always contrived to hold the ball to see how the land lay before parting with it. He rendered Johnson admirable support and though the winger got a goal and swung across one or two neat centres he was on the slow side. Tromans and Forknell were better as a wing pair.

Dakin got Sutton's goal after half-an-hour. Godderidge replied for the Borough four minutes after half-time when he kicked the ball out of Baldwin's hands as he was about to save, and Johnson shot the winner five minutes later. Sutton were lucky to escape a penalty midway through the second half, as a Sutton defender palpably handled the ball in the box.

## Hereford City -2nd Qualifying Round

Nuneaton welcomed Hereford City to Manor Park for an Second Qualifying Round FA Amateur Cup tie.

Nuneaton: Darby; Butler and Hudson; Tebbutt, Roberts and Whitehouse; Forknell, Tromans, Godderidge, Colledge and Lawrence.

In the first half of this match, the Nuneaton team played brilliant football and obtained five of their seven goals, three coming in the first six minutes. It was a grand display that they gave.

Probably satisfied with their big lead they slackened their efforts after the change-over and though they still had an overwhelming share of the play they could only add two more goals.

Unlike the previous week's opponents City "cut up rough" in the second half and more often played the man rather than the ball. Some of their players completely lost their heads and the referee had quite a job in keeping them in check.

On one occasion in the second half, Nuneaton were awarded a free-kick just outside the penalty area, there was so much haggling that play was held up for a few minutes and in the end the referee had to almost push the City players away from the ball. The free-kick was eventually taken and during a scrimmage which followed, two or three of the City players handled the ball as it was crossing the line for a goal.

The referee immediately ordered a penalty and there was another delay before the ball could be spotted. The kick was easily converted by Lawrence and the visitors paid in full for their display of temper.

Nuneaton played their best game of the season, and the forward line has never played better. They struck their best form from the kick-off and nearly got a goal every time they went down the field in the first half. Harris in the City goal, scarcely knew which way to turn for shots and before the spectators hardly knew it he had picked the ball out of the net three times.

Tromans set the goalscoring into motion after only two minutes with a grand shot. Almost from the centre kick Tebbutt went through and fired in a shot which glanced off an opposing player into the net. No sooner had the game re-started than Tebbutt again won possession and ran in and found the net with another glorious shot.

The Borough got two more goals before half-time through Godderidge and Colledge – both good efforts.

Forknell had the ball in the net before half-time, but it was disallowed, as the scorer had shouted "mine" before receiving the ball.

The second-half was inclined to be scrappy in comparison with the first, but play continued to be centred entirely round the City goal. But it was not until the half had been in progress 22 minutes that Lawrence scored number six from a penalty.

Twelve minutes from the end Godderidge got a neat goal. City got their only goal with the last kick of the first-half. T. Batts received the ball when he was at least ten yards behind everybody with the exception of the Nuneaton keeper. He was allowed to go on, however, and scored with ease.

Tebbutt was again an inspiration to the Nuneaton side at right-half. The way he was continually going through with the ball was amazing and his shooting was deadly. But it would be difficult to single out any home player as outstanding, so well did they all play. Tromans and Colledge were fine inside men, and Lawrence again a dangerous left winger. A pleasing feature was the display of Whitehouse, who deputised for Bond at left-half. Bond was having a further trial for Coventry City. Whitehouse played grand football and on this form it is going to be difficult to keep him out of the side.

## Jack Moulds -3rd Qualifying Round

Nuneaton travelled to Shirley to play Jack Moulds in a 3rd Qualifying Round FA Amateur Cup tie.

Nuneaton: Darby; Butler and Hudson; Tebbutt, Roberts and Colledge; Forknell, Tromans, Godderidge, Boffin and Lawrence.

The pitch was very bumpy and against the playing of passing football. Despite this Borough tried to adopt the passing game and paid the penalty. Instead of banging the ball about as the home side did, they attempted to kill it and pass along the ground. Although they took the lead after six minutes, there

seldom seemed any likelihood of them winning. In fact they got steadily worse as the game progressed.

It was the Nuneaton defence that failed – Roberts and Tebbutt in particular. There is no player in the side who can control a ball as Tebbutt can and it was through attempting to play his normal game on a ground totally unsuited to it that the right-half failed so badly. Roberts was equally at fault.

The forwards received sparse support from the half-backs, because the latter were far too busy trying to cover one another's faults. The whole defence seemed incapable of getting the ball away and there were long periods where scrambles took place in the Nuneaton area.

Having said that, Borough could and should have been three up in the first 15 minutes. Tromans gave Borough the lead after six minutes with a delightful header from Colledge's free-kick. Three minutes later, Lawrence, with the goal at his mercy – a mere tap would have meant a goal – tried to make absolutely sure, hesitated and had his shot blocked at the expense of a corner.

Shortly after Forknell had a grand header miraculously saved by Tomlins when a goal seemed certain. Nuneaton's chances ended there, except for just one isolated opportunity in the second half when Godderidge missed a sitter with only Tomlins to beat. For the remainder of the game the home side was doing all the attacking and yet, it was a gift goal which really set them on the high road to victory. With the score at one-all and the game anybody's, Wiseman sent in weak ground shot directly at Darby, and to everyone's amazement the keeper let it slip through his legs and into the net.

In conclusion, Jack Moulds well deserved their success. They fully atoned for their first-half mistakes with some very crisp second half play. Jackson, Wiseman, Randell and Colledge got their goals.

# Nuneaton Borough 1937-1945



## 1937

Date	Opponent	Venue	Comp	Result	Scorers	Attendance
08.28	Leicestershire Nomads	H	L	0-1		c300
09.11	Morris Motors	A	L	2-2	Bond, Hudson (p)	
09.13	Birmingham Trams	A	BSC1	2-2	Purcell, Hughes	
09.18	Hinckley United	H	NCC F	0-2		
09.20	Birmingham Trams	H	BSC1r	2-0	Forknell, Tromans	c100
09.25	Stafford Old Eds	H	FAAC	2-0	Roberts, Tromans	
10.09	Sutton Town	H	FAAC 1Q	2-1	Gooderidge, Johnson	
10.16	Northampton Nomads	H	L	6-1	Lawrence (2), Forknell, Godderidge, Colledge, Tebbutt	
10.23	Hereford City	H	FAAC 2Q	7-1	Lawrence (2), Tromans, Tebbutt, Colledge, Godderidge (2)	
10.30	Hednesford Town	A	BSC2	2-6	Talbot, Godderidge	c1000
11.06	Jack Moulds Ath	H	FAAC 3Q	1-4	Tromans	
11.13	Moor Green	H	L	1-2	Tromans	
11.20	Morris Motors	A	L	5-2	Godderidge 2, Cobley 2, Lawrence (p)	
11.27	Ibstock Penistone Rovers	H	L	4-4	Cobley 2, Tromans, Lawrence	
12.04	Loughborough Brush	A	LSC	2-5	Lawrence 2	
12.11	Boldmere St.Michaels	H	L	2-0	Lawrence, Roberts	
12.27	Badsey Rangers	H	L	4-2	Godderidge 2, Tebbutt, Roberts	c3-400

## 1938

01.08	Moor Green	A	L	1-1	Roberts	
01.15	Northampton Mt. Pleasant	H	L	2-1	Lawrence, Tebbutt	
01.29	R.A.F.Cranwell	H	L	2-2	Tebbutt, Lawrence	
02.05	Loughborough College	A	L	0-3		
02.12	Northampton Mt. Pleasant	A	L	1-0	Godderidge	
02.19	R.A.F.Cranwell	A	L	2-2	Tebbutt, Lawrence	
02.26	Leicestershire Nomads	A	L	0-2		
03.05	Coalville Town	A	L	3-1	Tebbutt, Lawrence, Roberts	c2000
03.12	Northampton Nomads	A	L	2-1	Roberts, Godderidge	
03.19	Loughborough College	H	L	1-0	Roberts	
03.26	Boldmere St.Michaels	A	L	1-1	Boyd	
04.11	Leicester City `A`	H	HC F	1-1	Butler (p)	
04.16	Coalville Town	H	L	3-0	Emery 2, Roberts	
04.18	Badsey Rangers	A	L	2-2	Roberts, o.g.	
04.19	Nuneaton Thursday Lge	H	Fr	4-2	Colledge, Lawrence, Grubb, Tebbutt	
04.30	Ibstock Penistone Rovers	A	L	2-1	Joyce, Knight	

KEY; L = Central Amateur League, FAAC = F.A.Amateur Cup, BSC = Birmingham Senior Cup, LSC = Leicestershire Senior Cup, NCC = Nuneaton Charity Cup, HC = Hinckley Cup, Fr = Friendly





## Mr Fred Payne Resigns From Borough FC

Mr Fred Payne has resigned from the committee of the Borough FC. He was vice-chairman of the club.

At a meeting of the Committee on Monday night, Mr Payne sent a letter tendering his resignation.

In his letter he referred to the club's failure to secure admission to the Birmingham Combination and to heavy commitments next season in regard to the ground.

His resignation was accepted.

In regard to the question of the club taking over full control of the ground next season, it was decided that Mr Harry Watkins (chairman) and Mr F. J. Perry (secretary) should interview the Town Clerk.

The Mayor concluded by saying that he would use every effort to get the Council to make the Manor Park ground one of the best in the district.

## Chairman Replies

Mr Watkins thanked the Mayor for his generosity. They were sorry not to have been successful in gaining admission to the Birmingham Combination, but they tried their best and the officials were prepared to find the money which would have been necessary. He visualised the time when the Birmingham League would amalgamate with the Birmingham Combination and two divisions formed.

Reference was made to the illness of Mr F. J. Perry, secretary of the club and the Mayor expressed the hope that he would soon be restored to health again.

## A Fine Team

Mr Osborne thanked the players for their loyalty during the past season, also the trainers and the groundsman for all they had done in an honorary capacity. He thought there was little doubt that had they had a settled side at the beginning of the season that they would have won the championship of the Central Amateur League in their first season. They finished the campaign with a team which, in his opinion, would have held its own in the Birmingham Combination.

Regarding the coming season, Mr Osborne mentioned that in order to ensure a full programme of fixtures they were applying for membership of the Nuneaton Combination as well as continuing membership of the Central Amateur League.

Mr Osborne made an appeal to local players to join the club, mentioning that they were out to encourage local talent to the utmost. In his opinion there was plenty of good local talent, but they seemed loath to come along. He assured them that they would be given every chance.

## Players Reply

In the absence of L. Hudson, captain of the team, Reg Buck replied on behalf of the players. He eulogised the support given to the club by the Mayor and said he was no mere figurehead. He also spoke in terms of praise of the work of the committee and of the happy relations that existed between the officials and the players.

While expressing regret that they had not succeeded in their application to the Birmingham Combination, Buck thought another season in the Central Amateur League would be beneficial. The Birmingham Combination produced a higher standard of football and was a very tough training ground for the bigger clubs. He agreed with the fostering of local talent and referred to the apathy of the bigger clubs in the matter of the transfers of young players. This was going to have a very adverse effect on big football in the future, for after all the junior clubs were the stepping stones to higher circles. The time would come when there would be an outcry about a shortage of players.

## Appeal To Local Players

### Join Up With Borough FC

The Mayor of Nuneaton, Alderman W. Croshaw, who is President of the Nuneaton Borough Football Club, entertained the players and officials at the Moore's Arms, Appleby, on Tuesday night, to an excellent cold spread.

The Mayor was supported by the Mayoress, Mrs Leslie Croshaw, Mr Harry Watkins, chairman of the club, and Mr C. P. Osborne, players secretary.

All the players with the exception of Tebbutt, Godderidge, Grubb, Higham, Hudson and Butler, who sent letters of apology, were present.

After the meal, the Mayor expressed the hope that everyone had enjoyed themselves. He spoke of the pleasure it gave him to entertain the players and officials – and suggested that some of the players might be future "stars."

He thought they had had one or two players taken by bigger clubs and hoped that in future when the big clubs secured players they would treat them well.

### Players Congratulated

He congratulated the players on their displays. They had worked very hard, he said, and had tried in every way to uphold the high traditions of the game.

The Mayor expressed regret that the club had not been successful in securing admission to the Birmingham Combination, but urged the players to sign on again. He thanked the players, trainers, groundsman and the Press representatives for all they had done to help the club. The players had done very well indeed; their play had been as good as some of the leading teams he had seen, and he thought the attendances at the games should be anything from three to four thousand.

## Illness Of Jack Grubb

Borough FC supporters will be sorry to hear that Jack Grubb, the young and highly capable centre-half, has been medically advised not to take part in any form of sport for a considerable period.

Jack was taken ill about a month ago and recently went to Blackpool to recuperate. However, he was very poorly and remained in bed, and on Wednesday his father went to Blackpool to bring him home.

Only eighteen years of age, Jack was one of the big successes of the Borough team last season and has few, if any, superiors in the league at centre-half.

He joined the club from St Mary's FC and quickly settled down to play some outstanding games. He was also a member of the Nuneaton CC second team.



This "Observer" photo will give an idea of the development and improvement that is taking part in Queen's Road, Nuneaton.

A row of dirty old derelict cottages and an untidy garden are giving place to one of the most outstanding Commercial enterprises in the Borough.

Instead of the tortuous "S" bends involved in a journey from Edward Street to High Street, there will be clear run across Queen's Road. This will involve the demolition of the present one-storey Co-operative Store (shown in the picture) and the adjoining two shops.

Instead, the new premises and hall of the Co-operative Society will form the corner building of what will be a fine open square.

The handsome proportions of the new Co-operative building are clearly indicated in our picture.

## Manor Park In A Deplorable Condition

The question of whether or not a groundsman should be appointed at Manor Park was debated at the meeting of Nuneaton Town Council on Wednesday.

The Markets and Estates Committee reported having considered the question of the appointment of a groundsman and also the income and expenditure account which showed a deficiency of £133.

It was pointed out that the Nuneaton Borough FC would take over the ground in August and would be responsible for the maintenance. The Committee did not deem it advisable to appoint a groundsman, but to appoint a person to superintend the ground during the cricket season.

It was resolved that for the cricket season, arrangements be made with the groundsman of the Football Club to superintend the ground.

Councillor S. Dickens moved reference back on the grounds that he did not think the Committee had gone far enough. The ground, he said, was getting into a deplorable condition and there was no doubt that the buildings would soon be derelict.

Councillor S. Johnson seconded, mentioning that people playing cricket there had been hurt badly. If they were going to run the ground they should pay some attention to it.

Councillor Dickens: If they all bowled like Councillor Johnson we should have more hurt (Laughter).

Councillor J. Bates pointed out that they had made a loss of £133 on the ground. They had agreed to appoint a temporary man for the present season. Councillor B. Mayer referred to the absence of rain and said it was difficult to get a decent wicket.

Councillor Dickens remarked that they were going to have a much heavier burden than at present if something was not done. He suggested his club should challenge the Council – and something would be done then.

Councillor W. T. Smith said he did not like the excuse that there had been an adverse year's working. They should not consider it as a balance sheet proposition; they did not regard the parks and recreation grounds as profit-making concerns.

Councillor J. Bates pointed out that the matter had been under consideration for six months and that the Committee had given orders for certain improvements to be made.

The Town Clerk stated that he had had an interview with the chairman of the Borough FC and the Committee would have to reconsider their decision.

Councillor Dickens said that if the matter was to be reconsidered he would withdraw his amendment.

## Borough Secretary Resigns

Following his recent serious illness, Mr F. J. Perry, the well-known Nuneaton football official, has tendered his resignation as secretary of the Nuneaton Borough FC.

The club has received Mr Perry's resignation with the greatest possible regret, but Mr Perry has consented to accept the vacant position of vice-chairman following the resignation of Mr Fred Payne.

In a letter to the club, Mr Perry stated that he tendered his resignation on medical advice. Mr Perry will be succeeded as secretary by Mr Percy Osborne, who has been assisting Mr Perry for the last three or four years.

Mr Perry has been secretary of Nuneaton's Senior Association club since the days of the Southern League debacle.

## British Railway Speed Record



The LNER announce that during the course of a trial run on Sunday the "Coronation" streamlined express train with dynamometer car attached attained a maximum speed of 125 mph. This speed was sustained for 306 yards near Little Bytham Station and was only reduced on account of the approaching junction at Essendine. Prior to reaching the maximum 120 mph had been sustained for approximately three miles...

## The Great Don Makes Wilmot Dance But He Caught Him Out Next Ball

Wilmot, the Warwickshire and former Griff and Coton cricketer, was yesterday instrumental in dismissing the greatest batsman in the world – the inimitable Don Bradman.

Bradman, who had made 135, drove a ball from Mayer ferociously hard on the on-side, and Wilmot, at short mid-on, got in the way – with rather painful results to himself. He damaged his hand and then crashed awkwardly on his leg. There was a short halt while Wilmot did a little dance to sooth his hurts.

Then Mayer sent down the next ball and Don spooned it up to Wilmot, still at short mid-on. It was an easy catch. Wilmot made no mistake about it, and before the crowd had had time to realise that Bradman was out Don was back in the pavilion at the double.

The previous day Wilmot clean bowled another great batsman – McCabe, so that he will have cause to remember the visit of the Australians to Edgbaston.

## Team Building For Next Season

Nuneaton Borough FC is making good progress as regards team building for next season. Old players who have re-signed include Hudson, the captain, Higham, Tebbutt, Lawrence, Tromans, Whitehouse and Buck.

After first deciding not to sign for next season Harold Butler, the clever full-back, has re-signed. Young players who have again re-signed are Emery, Joyce, Archer, Gibson and Jephcote.

Trial matches will be held in August and local players desiring a try-out should apply to the hon. secretary Mr P. Osborne, "Bavos," Newtown Road, Nuneaton.

The season will open on August 27, when Northampton Nomads visit Manor Park in the Central Amateur League. The club will again compete in the Birmingham Senior Cup.

## Borough FC Prospect Rosy

Officials of Nuneaton Borough FC are looking forward with every confidence to the club's second season. Prospects, from a playing point of view, are considered to be rosy, but better support is hoped for so that the club can be put on a firmer financial basis in anticipation of moving a step higher next season.

An important new signing is T. Beddows, a young half-back who last season assisted an English League club in the Birmingham Combination. Players will commence training at Manor Park on Tuesday evening next. Two public trial matches have been arranged, the first to take place on Thursday next, August 18, kick-off 6.30pm, and the final trial on Saturday, August 20, kick-off 3-30pm. Several promising local juniors have applied to participate in these games and the committee are anxious that all local talent should be given a chance. Any local players desirous of a trial should apply at Manor Park next Tuesday between 6.30 and 8.30pm.

The club opens its programme on Saturday, August 27, in the Central Amateur League, with a visit from Northampton Mount Pleasant, one of the strongest sides in the league.

Season tickets will be on sale at the practice matches.

## Second Trial Match

Promising form was revealed in Nuneaton Borough's final practice match at Manor Park on Saturday. The teams were a mixture of last season's players and new players receiving trials, and it seems likely that two useful sides will be got together.

A clever display was given by Wright, a newcomer, who did well both at outside-left for the Reds and later at inside-right for the Blues, scoring from each position. Whitmore and Jephcote also did well.

Of the old forwards, Tebbutt and Godderidge did excellent work, while Broker, who led the Reds' attack, had two goals to his credit, one being from a penalty.

# Nuneaton Borough 1937-1945



Roberts gave a useful display in his old position of centre-half, while Tromans, Higham and Beddows shone for good half-back play. Hudson was as sound as ever at full-back, and Seabrook and Mullins were other capable defenders.

## 1938-39

### Nuneaton Borough v Northampton MP 27-08-1938

**Nuneaton: Archer; Daulman and Hudson; Tromans, Roberts and Higham; Tebbutt, Godderidge, Emery, Boffin and Wright.**

Nuneaton welcomed Northampton Mount Pleasant to Manor Park for a Central Amateur League fixture.

A penalty goal by Billy Roberts in the first-half gave Nuneaton Borough full points in their opening match of the season. Victory was only obtained by the narrowest possible margin, though actually the home side were much better value for their win, which should have been far more convincing.

All through, the Mount Pleasant defenders met the Borough attack with keen resolution, but there were two or three occasions when luck rather than judgment saved their goal from downfall. Once or twice hurried finishing by Emery resulted in chances being missed; Tebbutt, too, should have scored; while Tromans rattled the crossbar with a terrific shot with the visiting goalkeeper beaten all the way.

The latter was easily the best shooting effort of the day, and if any shot deserved a goal that one did. Then there was another occasion when only a thrilling save by Ward saved the visitors. Emery ran through down the middle and slipped the ball well to the side of Ward. It seemed a goal all over, but somehow or other Ward contrived to reach the ball and prevent it going into the net. Borough did not have matters all their own way, however, and Mount Pleasant did their share of attacking, but were even less effective close to goal.

Archer's work in the Borough goal was nearly always from long range, the one exception being a smart effort by Bailey which the goalkeeper saved finely at the foot of the far upright. Archer gave a very convincing display between the sticks and seldom seemed likely to concede a goal.

Actually, it was a game in which both defences excelled, and sound though Roberts and his colleagues played they did no better than the Mount Pleasant rearguard, in which the lanky Tomlin and the equally tall Searle played dominant parts, although the latter was given some very anxious moments by Wright. Although the full-backs now and again sliced their kicks the Borough defence was as sound as it was last season. Tromans, Roberts and Higham were three fine half-backs; Hudson was as good as ever; while Daulman, the former Coton Church player, did exceptionally well on his debut.

Roberts was far more effective than he was at centre-half in the early part of last season and went up the field with the attack far more than he used to. Altogether his was a fine display and seeing that he converted the penalty – awarded

for a trip on Emery – he can look back on the game with extreme satisfaction.

Although Emery, who led the line, did not have a happy time, he seems to have the ability and should do well. Godderidge and Tebbutt formed the best wing and were always keeping the ball on the move. Wright, for so young a player, is extremely clever with the ball and his slick moves often had Searle running the wrong way.

### Atherstone Town v Nuneaton Borough 12-09-1938

**Nuneaton: Archer; Seabrook and Daulman; Grubb, Roberts and Joyce; Wright, Emery, Proctor, Godderidge and Grassby.**

Borough travelled to Sheepy Road to take on Atherstone Town in a Birmingham Senior Cup first round tie.

It is unlikely that Atherstone will have such an easy victory this season as they did on Monday night. Not as an excuse, but in mitigation of Nuneaton's very poor display, it should be explained that the side which took the field was but a skeleton of the team which has done so well in amateur football circles, and that several of the players in this match had no more than Bible Class League experience.

From the moment it was known that Borough would be without Tromans, Higham, Tebbutt and their captain, Hudson, it was realised that the "Adders" had an easy proposition, for to have to field a side without those four highly capable and experienced players was a tragedy.

Fortunately for the young Borough players, the opposition was not so strong as it might have been. The "Adders" had their faults, and it is pretty obvious that they will have to do something about their attack if they are to improve their present League record. In this game, only Bradley of the forwards did anything of note. The others were extremely moderate, even Shaw. The defence was sound and easily coped with Borough's ill-conceived attacks, which usually petered out long before they looked like developing.

With so many changes in the side, the Borough were all at sixes and sevens and, to be quite frank, they never looked like getting a goal. Not one of the forwards caused any trouble and Roberts was the only man in defence who really did play a good game. Archer was far below his best form in goal and should have saved at least two of the shots, which found their way into the back of the net.

It was a bad day for Nuneaton and of little satisfaction to the "Adders" – except that they passed into the next round of the cup. The home side scored three times in the first-half through Buffery, J. Smith and Shaw, and twice afterwards through Bradley and O. Smith. Bradley's goal came as the result of a wonderful shot which Archer probably never saw.

With such a poor side on the field, it was only to be expected that the "Adders" would win comfortably; indeed, they really might have been expected to win with more ease than they actually did.



## Nuneaton Borough v RAF Cranwell 17-09-1938

**Nuneaton: Archer; Daulman and Hudson; Tromans, Roberts and Beddows; Tebbutt, Godderidge, Boffin, Emery and Wright.**

Borough welcomed Cranwell RAF to Manor Park for a Central Amateur League match.

Nuneaton won easily as the Airmen were really a poor lot. It is true the visitors carried out some neat midfield movements, but they had not one forward who seemed capable of delivering a good shot. Most of their shooting was extremely weak and as most of their shots on target were from long range the alert and highly-efficient Archer very seldom looked like conceding a goal.

It was a peculiar sort of game. If anything the Airmen had slightly the better of the exchanges in the first 20 minutes but then, in one devastating period of about ten minutes, the Borough should have obtained five goals. After 23 minutes Tebbutt put over a corner, fast and low and Godderidge headed the ball into the net. In the next minute a Cranwell defender badly miskicked and let in Boffin, who had the easiest of tasks to score number two. During the next attack the visitors defence was again in a tangle and Boffin missed a good chance. Borough attacked again and Boffin went through on his own and cut in, but with only Stretton to beat, he shot wide of the post with the goal yawning in front of him.

To cap it all off, Wright went through on his own and was brought down. Roberts shot feebly into the hands of the goalkeeper from the spot kick. Thus Borough had five chances in ten minutes, but only led 2-0 at the break. The home side got two more after the break to make the final score 4-0.

Although the performance sound satisfactory, the forward line was weak. There was a lack of punch in the middle. Emery has fallen very much below expectations. Tebbutt, too, would do well to get the ball into the middle quicker than he does. Godderidge and Wright did well, but for most of the second-half the former was playing centre-half. Roberts moving to outside right, as he was not really fit to play, as he had a badly swollen knee. Tromans tightened up the middle lines, but Higham was missed at left-half. The backs did yeoman service while Archer was a clever custodian.

Borough's goals were scored by Godderidge, Boffin, Tebbutt and Roberts.

## Holywell Amateurs v Nuneaton Borough 24-09-1938

**Nuneaton: Archer; Daulman and Higham; Tromans, Roberts and Johnson; Tebbutt, Godderidge, Boffin, Emery and Wright.**

Nuneaton travelled to Hinckley to face Holywell Amateurs in a Footballer's Bed Cup first round tie.

Encouraged by a goal five minutes after the start, the Hinckley side were always threatening in their breakaways, and under their snap attacks the Nuneaton defence often faltered, and mistakes were frequent. It was, therefore not

really surprising that Nuneaton found themselves 3-1 in arrears at half-time.

However, the experience did them good, for during half-time the players decided to go all out for goals. Johnson, who started at right-half, went left full-back; Higham moved from left-back to left-half; and Godderidge went centre-forward. All frills were cut out and the straight course for goal was taken.

After half-time the referee failed to spot Tebbutt using his hands to get the ball past a defender, and the winger centred for Godderidge to head into the net, to make the score 3-2. For the next half-hour Borough attacked strongly, but without looking like scoring another goal, and then, five minutes from the end, Boffin equalised.

In the last few minutes the visitors threw everything into attack, and with only a minute to go they forced a corner. The ball was placed neatly into the goalmouth, and while Tebbutt harassed the Amateurs' goalkeeper, Tromans jumped into the air and turned the ball into the net. It was a dramatic finish to a game in which fortunes fluctuated greatly.

It was an unusual game, in that Borough, playing brilliant midfield football in the first-half, should find themselves two goals down at the interval. They kept up an almost incessant attack on the Amateurs' goal, and the ease with which their forwards ran through the home side's defence was really astounding. But in their brilliance they made one very fatal error – they tried to walk the ball into the net – and paid the penalty. On the other hand the Holywell forwards used their wingers to good advantage and when near goal they shot hard and often. The outcome was that while Nuneaton were doing all the pattern weaving, the Amateurs were getting the goals.

## Two Borough Players Given Trial By Derby

Nuneaton Borough's two youngest players are to be given a private trial by Derby County next Tuesday. They are Archer, the goalkeeper, who hails from Higham-on-the-Hill, and Wright, the left-winger, who lives at Stoke Golding.

Archer joined the club towards the end of last season, while Wright came into the side this season. Both are extremely promising lads.

## Nuneaton Boro' v Northampton Nomads 01-10-1938

**Nuneaton: Archer; Daulman and Hudson; Tromans, Johnson and Higham; Lawrence, Godderidge, Roberts, Tebbutt and Wright.**

Borough welcomed Northampton Nomads to Manor Park for a Central Amateur League fixture.

In the first-half Nomads were every bit as good as Borough, but the home team set up such a terrific pace that the visitors were compelled to go on the defensive and it was there that they stayed for most of the half.

Some idea of the manner in which Nuneaton started the second-half may be gauged from the fact that in the space



of about four minutes they had struck the woodwork of the Nomads goals three times. First Lawrence headed on top of the bar; then Godderidge hit the underside of the bar; and in the next minute Lawrence cut in from the wing and flashed a terrific cross-shot against the face of the bar.

It was only poetic justice, therefore, that a few minutes after this Wright should have scored with a shot which Smith, the Nomads' keeper, in trying to clear, pushed against the underside of the crossbar from which the shot rebounded into the net. The Borough's goals were scored by Roberts, Wright and Lawrence. They were all extremely good goals, especially those of Roberts and Lawrence.

Having recovered from injury Hudson, the team captain, came back into the side and partnered Daulman. They kicked and tackled so fearlessly that the Nomads forwards found them almost unbeatable. Johnson, playing at centre-half, was distinctly a third back and kept a close watch on Pettit, the visiting centre-forward. Tromans and Higham joined in with the attack, and as a result the home forwards were pretty well supplied with the ball. Tromans gave glimpses of his best form.

The Nuneaton attack was better in the second half when Wright, the Stoke Golding youngster, changed places with Tebbutt and went inside-left. Here he created many openings for his colleagues, while Tebbutt, operating on the wing, was in his most tantalising form and was continually bursting through the Nomads defence. Lawrence made a welcome re-appearance at outside-right, and though out of practice, put in many fine runs and centres.

## Nuneaton Borough Elected To Birmingham Combination

### Unanimously Accepted Last Night

Nuneaton Borough was last night unanimously accepted into the Birmingham Combination to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Evesham Town owing to financial difficulties, and they will commence their fixtures on Saturday week, when they visit Bournville.

The club was represented by Mr Harry Watkins (chairman) and Mr Fred Perry. The Nuneaton club representatives asked, in the event of the club finishing in the bottom two positions, whether they would be given a guarantee that their application for re-election would be successful.

The meeting was unable to give this assurance but the club representatives were given to understand that the other clubs would give them their support.

The two representatives will report back to their committee at a meeting tonight, when the club's membership of the Central Amateur League and the Nuneaton Combination will be considered.

It is understood that a meeting for supporters will be called in the near future, and that efforts will be made to form a

Supporters' Club at once. The club is to immediately advertise for professional and amateur players in all positions.

The Borough has taken a bold step in their efforts to place Nuneaton on the football map again and it is to be fervently hoped that the public will rally to the aid of the officials.

### Nuneaton Boro' v Loughborough College 15-10-1938

**Nuneaton: Archer; Daulman and Hudson; Tromans, Johnson and Higham; Lawrence, Godderidge, Roberts, Tebbutt and Wright.**

Borough welcomed Loughborough College to Manor Park for a Central Amateur League game.

Both sides were unbeaten before the kick-off and Borough took the lead after 31 minutes through Godderidge. Borough were the better side and gave the College defenders some anxious and trying moments before half-time, with the Loughborough goal having had some remarkable escapes.

Twice the ball had struck the woodwork of their goal, feet flew in all directions as defenders were trying to get the ball away off the goal line and forwards attempting to force it over the line. It was astonishing that the Borough did not score on these occasions.

In the dressing room at half-time, it was discovered that Higham had an injury, which resulted in him missing the first ten minutes of the second half. When he did join the match again, he went to outside-left where he was a passenger, unable to run or kick the ball. Tebbutt, who had been a livewire attacker in the first half, had to go left-half, and the whole side lost its balance. The defenders got panicky in the face of Loughborough's sharp and forceful attacks, and two very bad mistakes led to two goals, quickly followed by a third – and the game was won and lost.

When Borough were two goals down, there was a remarkable incident. In one of their attacks, Wright sent in a beautiful shot. As it flew through the air towards goal one of the College players fell down injured. Wright's shot was a goal all the way, but as it was entering the net a Loughborough back smartly tipped it over the bar.

Players and referee went to the assistance of the injured player and when play was resumed, the referee awarded Loughborough a free-kick.

### Moor Green v Nuneaton Borough 22-10-1938

**Nuneaton: Archer; Daulman and Hudson; Johnson, Roberts and Boffin; Whitehouse, Godderidge, Lawrence, Tebbutt and Wright.**

Nuneaton made the journey to The Moorlands to take on the champions Moor Green in a Central Amateur League game. Borough were without regular wing-halves Tromans and Higham.

Borough were unfortunate in losing right-half Johnson after just ten minutes, and although he came back as a passenger on the right wing up until half-time, he was unable to



continue in the second half. While Borough had eleven men on the park, even though one of them was crocked, they held the home side to a single debatable goal lead at the break. The goal was scored when the ball was pushed out to Rodway, who was yards offside, but the referee allowed play to carry on and the ball was slipped into the centre. Although Archer made a save, Bull picked up the loose ball and easily netted the opening goal.

Against only ten men, and a team that was totally disorganised, the champions ambled to victory, and but for a very fine display of goalkeeping from Archer, the home side would have won even more comfortably.

Moor Green played nothing like champions in the first-half, but improved out of all recognition afterwards and made some brilliant attacking moves. How much this was due to the fact that their opponents were a man short can only be conjectured. Still, their second-half display was really brilliant and an outstandingly clever display was given at inside-left by Love. The way he contrived to give Wootton the ball when the latter was clear of all opposition was really remarkable.

Two of Moor Green's goals were gifts from the gods, the first one which obviously came from an offside move, and the one scored by Rodway. When the latter netted colleagues had twice failed to net from not more than three yards range, the ball hitting the woodwork on each occasion. When the ball hit the post it rebounded to the feet of Roberts. The centre-half had an easy chance to kick the ball away, but dallied and Rodway simply pushed the ball into the net. Moor Green's other two goals were both scored by Love.

## **Nuneaton Borough v Ibstock Penistone 29-10-1938**

**Nuneaton: Archer; Mullins and Dexter; Tromans, Roberts and Boffin; Lawrence, Godderidge, Perkins, Tebbutt and Dingley.**

Nuneaton welcomed Ibstock Penistone to Manor Park for the home team's last match in the Central Amateur League. Borough had a weak side out with Higham, Johnson, Hudson and Daulman all being absent.

Nuneaton started as though they would run the Rovers off their feet and got an early goal through Godderidge. The same player all but increased the lead with another fine effort shortly after, but the home side's play deteriorated and the greatest danger came from the visitors. Rovers realised Nuneaton's weakness at right-back and kept feeding the left wing, with the result that the Nuneaton defence had many anxious moments. But for the fact that Tromans went full-back Borough would have been defeated. The visitors got their goal eight minutes before half-time.

Nuneaton's goal was the one bright spot of their display, a really brilliant affair. Near the half-way line Tebbutt slipped the ball out to Dingley and raced full speed, calling for the ball to be returned. Dingley shoved the ball forward and taking it in his stride, Tebbutt raced through the Ibstock defence and centred right across the goal. Godderidge met

the ball in mid-air and it flew into the back of the net. It was a finely-worked goal.

Generally speaking, however, both sets of forwards lacked finish and most of the exchanges were fought in midfield. Here the front line men indulged in some neat passing, but near goal they seemed to lose confidence and their finishing lacked punch. Still, both goalkeepers had plenty to do, and they came out of the game with flying colours.

Borough gave trials to Perkins, who has played for Atherstone Town, full-back Dexter, who has had trials with Stoke City and outside-left Dingley. The latter displayed good footwork and looks as though he might develop into a useful winger. Perkins was a fearless raider and never neglected to go after the ball, but he had few really good through passes.

## **Borough Supporters' Club Formed**

### **Mr J. Sankey Elected Chairman**

At a meeting at the Peacock Hotel on Wednesday night it was decided to form a Supporters' Club in connection with the Nuneaton Borough FC, which starts its fixtures in the Birmingham Combination tomorrow.

Mr H. Watkins, chairman of Borough FC, presided, and was supported by Mr P. Osborne (Secretary) and members of the Committee. The Chairman apologised for the absence of the Mayor, Alderman W. Croshaw, who regretted being unable to be present on account of a prior engagement. As they knew, said the Chairman, the Borough club had taken over the fixtures of Evesham Town in the Birmingham Combination and the object of that meeting was to consider the formation of a Supporters' Club to assist the Club financially.

He mentioned that they had extended the Committee – the new members are Messrs. Bert Carris, R. J. Carris and W. Barrs. The Committee members were all workers and were willing to do all they could for the Club. What they wanted the Supporters' Club to do was to assist the Club financially. They would have to get players and to get players would cost money.

### **Nucleus Of A Team**

The Secretary considered they had the nucleus of a Birmingham Combination side among the players they had at the moment. They had received about thirty-five applications and were in touch with a centre-half whom, they were of the opinion, would be the mainstay of the side. Three new players, Astle, Russell and Jones, would definitely be in the side on Saturday. Two other players had been signed and might or might not be playing on Saturday.

With regard to the financial aspect, he estimated that the cost of running a Birmingham Combination side would be about £200, and the members of the Committee had practically guaranteed that amount.

Mr Osborne mentioned that a past Supporters Club raised as much as £204 in one season. A good Supporters' Club could



be a great asset to the Club and could raise money towards the cost of running the Club. He thought they were all right for this season; it was next season they had to worry about. They had got to get the crowd back to Manor Park, and it would have been seen that the Town Council was doing its best to once again make the ground the best in the Birmingham Combination. If they all put their backs into the work, they could successfully run a Birmingham Combination side.

## Club Formed

A motion that a Supporters' Club be formed was put before the meeting and carried unanimously.

The Secretary mentioned that two members of the old Supporters' Club, Mr J. Sankey and Mr Place, could not be present that night owing to their work. Mr J. Sankey was appointed Chairman of the new Supporters' Club and Mr Jack Bates secretary, and Mr R. J. Carris consented to act as treasurer until a suitable person for the post was found.

## Bournville Athletic v Nuneaton Borough 05-11-1938

**Nuneaton: Archer; Jones and Hudson; Tromans, Homer and Higham; Tebbutt, Godderidge, Perkins, Astle and Russell.**

Nuneaton Borough travelled to the Model Village to take on Bournville Athletic in the Birmingham Combination.

The first action saw Tebbutt show an amazing turn of speed, flashing through the Bournville defence and cutting in, drew Oliver out of his goal, but with practically an open goal to shoot into, he shot across the goalmouth and just wide of the far post. A minute or two later Astle struck the home bar with a beautiful shot, with Oliver out of his goal. Two minutes after that Astle sent Russell clean away, but again with only the keeper to beat, the winger missed the target hopelessly with a sliced shot.

Bournville making their first attack, rushed to the other end, and after Hudson had kicked away, Tilson hit the ball first-time into the net. Borough returned to the attack immediately, and from only three yards' range, Perkins shot straight into Oliver's hands when it seemed much easier to shoot into the net.

Back up the field went the Bournville forwards and though he seemed to be offside, Holding was allowed to go through on his own. Archer advanced from his goal, but hesitated and reaching the ball first, Holding shot into the net. Thus in three minutes the whole course of the game had been altered and instead of being in an unbeatable position, as they should have been, luckless Borough were facing defeat. They never played with the same skill afterwards, but generally well held their own and there was a goal for each side in the second half.

While there were many pleasing features about the Borough's display, it is fairly obvious that certain changes will have to be made, especially in the attack, for to go on frittering chances away, as in this game, will prove disastrous. The only forward

who really did himself justice, and he did that a thousand times, was Astle. There were times when he almost made the ball talk, and it was annoying to see him creating delightful openings for his colleagues to completely ruin.

Tilson (2) and Holding scored for the home side and Astle for the Borough. The latter's was the best goal of the match. Hitting a centre from Tebbutt first-time, he crashed the ball into the net.

## Nuneaton Borough v Walsall Reserves 12-11-1938

**Nuneaton: Archer; E. Jones and Hudson; Tebbutt, Homer and Brown; Lawrence, M. Jones, Tromans, Astle and Perkins.**

Borough welcomed Walsall Reserves to Manor Park for a Birmingham Combination encounter.

The performance of Archer in the Nuneaton goal was in stark contrast to his previous displays for Borough, having rendered yeoman service in the past. He was, however, responsible for at least three of the goals and possibly a fourth. The final score was a travesty of the actual run of the game. Walsall certainly deserved their victory, but the majority of the goals were gifts.

Realising Archers' shakiness in goal, the Walsall forwards shot hard and often, a policy which paid them handsomely. It was a pity that the goalkeeper should have been so much at fault, for how could a side possibly play at their best when their opponents were being presented with goals. Hopefully, there was enough promise in Borough's play to keep the crowd interested, as there was the biggest attendance at Manor Park for about three seasons.

Mickey Jones gave an outstanding performance at inside-right, and delighted everyone with his smart ball control and beautifully placed passes. If anyone can get the best out of Lawrence it is Jones. Two other players who pleased the crowd were Hudson, the captain, and Tebbutt, who was played in the position he asked to occupy, right-half. Tebbutt's request was justified, for he was the Borough's best half-back. A bundle of energy he pegged away like a Trojan from the first minute to the last, and quite held his own against a very nippy winger in Redwood.

The home side were not without their weaknesses, however, and Brown, the new left-half, was so poor that Davies on the Walsall right-wing, had an afternoon's holiday. Perkins was moderate at outside-left, and wasted many good openings. However, taking the Borough's display on the whole, there was more to commend it than to condemn it. There are seven or eight players who well deserve their inclusion, but there are other weaknesses which will certainly be remedied if Nuneaton people continue to support the club as they did in this game.

Walsall proved themselves worthy of their exalted position in the league, but how much they owed to the poorness of the poorness of Nuneaton's keeper can only be imagined.





## Hinckley United v Nuneaton Borough 19-11-1938

**Nuneaton: R. Jones; E. Jones and Hudson; Tebbutt, Homer and Higham; Lawrence, M. Jones, Tromans, Astle and Boffin.**

Nuneaton travelled to the Holywell Ground to face Hinckley United in a Birmingham Combination match. New goalkeeper Raymond Jones was selected in place of Archer and Higham returned at left-half.

Had Borough had one single forward who could have turned easy chances to account they could not possibly have lost this match at Hinckley. A goal-scoring forward would have placed them in an impregnable position by half-time. Really the Borough should have scored at least four goals in the opening half. Chances were created in a way which left no possible doubt that the Borough can play football. Indeed, the ease with which the two inside forwards brought about those openings must have made the Hinckley followers think that there was something radically wrong with their defence, for times out of number Tromans was sent through with nobody to beat but the keeper.

On at least four occasions he failed when Corbett was left with no alternative but to rush out of his goal in a last desperate effort to pull his side out of what appeared an irretrievable hole. But each time the centre-forward somehow contrived to place the ball outside or over the top.

And yet, Tromans scored one of the best goals you could wish to see, beating two defenders in a beautiful dribble and side-stepping the keeper as he rushed out before putting the ball into the empty net. The goal came just before half-time and was the one success in a number of dismal failures.

Shortly after half-time Tromans was again sent through and he worked the ball well and shot hard for goal, but the shot took a deflection off a defender and went wide. That was practically Borough's last chance as the team went to pieces. The crippled Woolley got a goal for Hinckley to level the scores. Three minutes later Prew sent across a high dropping centre and three Hinckley forwards closed in on Jones. Instead of punching the ball, the goalkeeper tried to catch it and Pilkington bundled the ball into the net. With twelve minutes to go Pilkington centred for Mullard to score a really fine third goal for the home side.

The game was very similar to the one at Bournville, and one cannot hide the fact that the points were thrown away through poor marksmanship. A good deal of blame was thrust on Tromans, but when most players appeared to have given up the ghost he was always throwing the whole of his energy into the game. Hinckley could not have matched the way Borough played in the first-half and nor did they try to. Their policy was to hit the ball and bring their wingers into the game as much as possible. Borough overdid their cleverness and played too much down the middle of the field. This was especially noticeable in the second half, when the extreme wingers had few real chances to shine.

## New Players In Side To Face City Transport

Nuneaton have acquired the services of a new goalkeeper, Burdett, who played several London Combination games for Coventry City last season and has been recommended to the Borough by Mr Harry Storer, the City manager.

A new right-back named Mold, who assisted Hinckley United last season, will partner Hudson, while Boffin displaces Higham at left-half. Austin, who has played for Shirley Town (now Solihull Town) and Bournville, will be on the left-wing.

## Nuneaton Borough v City Transport 26-11-1938

**Nuneaton: Burdett; Mold and Hudson; Tebbutt, Homer and Boffin; Lawrence, M. Jones, Roberts, Tromans and Austin.**

Borough welcomed City Transport to Manor Park for a Birmingham Combination match.

Transport were well and truly beaten on the day's display. They were always trying hard, but their hardest was not good enough. Their much boosted defence was never able to keep the lively Nuneaton forwards in check. Styles saving their face on many occasions. Poynton never seemed to successfully cope with Roberts. The attack showed flashes of cleverness, but Stevenson's general subjugation affected the whole line.

There was no scoring in the first-half although the Borough deserved at least a couple of goals. Ten minutes after half-time Lawrence rounded off a clever attack with a smart goal and a minute later he repeated the performance. Seven minutes from the end Sheppard put through for the Transport following a corner, but after Lawrence had hit the upright Roberts again restored the Borough's two goal lead.

Borough gave a very fine display and only brilliant goalkeeping by Styles saved the visitors from a much heavier defeat. He made some brilliant saves, one from Billy Roberts just before half-time being really thrilling. But he was definitely lucky when Tromans went through the defence and hit the post with the keeper at the other side of the goal.

The appearance of Billy Roberts as leader of the forwards revitalised an attack which previously had shown great cleverness, but little of no scoring ability. Roberts was cleverly supported by Jones and Tromans. Jones was his usual inimitable self and the manner in which he got opposing defenders running the wrong way with simply a flick of the ball made the spectators yell with enthusiasm. A grand little footballer is "Mickey." In his true position as an inside-forward Tromans showed how clever he really can be and it was a pity that Austin made such poor use of the fine passes he shoved out to the wing. Jones is the making of Lawrence and the winger gave another excellent display, quite apart from the two of his side's three goals.



## Wolves A v Nuneaton Borough 03-12-1938

**Nuneaton: Burdett; Mold and Hudson; Astle, Homer and Boffin; Lawrence, M. Jones, Roberts, Vials and Wright.**

Nuneaton travelled to Dudley to take on Wolves A in a Birmingham Combination match. New signing Percy Vials from Tamworth made his debut at inside-left. Roy Tromans was missing as he was getting married.

Wolves just about deserved to win, but their path to victory was no sinecure. Indeed, it can be imagined that the home players were greatly relieved when the final whistle went, for while they had literally played themselves out.

The pitch, down the centre, was more than ankle deep in slush, and the teams left the field plastered in mud from head to foot. Accurate football in such depressing conditions was out of the question. Wolves won because they made better use of the drier patches on and near the touchlines, where the two extreme wingers, Steen and Mullen, showed dazzling speed and neat ball control. Lawrence was taken ill before the match and was never able to reproduce the form of recent matches. The youthful Wright, on the other wing, played his hardest, and was certainly better than some of the men tried in that position, but the going was too heavy for him.

Roberts was again the Borough's best forward, as strong as a horse, he literally smashed his way through the opposing defence; but that was not the limit of his prowess for he was constantly pushing the ball through to Vials. Wolves were a speedy and clever team, and against a less capable side would have scored many times. Leading 2-0 at half-time, they made the mistake of forsaking their original plan of campaign for attempted individual cleverness and their scoring efforts afterwards were really feeble, the inside men making some glaring mistakes near goal.

Wolves opened their account after 15 minutes following a corner kick which was well-placed in the goalmouth, and the ball was headed towards goal. Hudson was on the goal-line, and in kicking clear he crashed the ball against Rennie, who was rushing in, and it rebounded into the net. Wolves second goal was yards offside. When the ball was sent out to Mullen, he was well behind both Nuneaton backs, but he was allowed to carry on and scored with ease. When Roberts pushed the ball through for Vials to score, the latter was slightly behind the backs, but he, too, was allowed to carry on, and he made no mistake.

## Nuneaton Borough v Tamworth 17-12-1938

**Nuneaton: Burdett; Mold and Hudson; Astle, Homer and Boffin; Lawrence, M. Jones, Roberts, Vials and Sayce.**

Borough welcomed Tamworth to Manor Park for a Birmingham Combination match. New signing Sayce replaced Wright at outside-left.

Tamworth scored first after eight minutes' play through Read, who netted with a cleverly placed shot. About 20 minutes

later Vials burst through and beat three players before lifting the ball across for Lawrence to head an equaliser. Everton regained the lead for Tamworth early in the second half and J. Whitehouse scored a last minute penalty. He hit the shot very poorly and straight at Burdett, but in the failing light the goalkeeper allowed the ball to escape his usually very safe hands and go into the net.

Right up until the penalty incident, Tamworth were struggling desperately hard to maintain their very slender 2-1 lead. For the last quarter of an hour the Nuneaton forwards literally shot in at the Tamworth goal, and how it escaped penetration was really remarkable. But having conceded so much, let me say right away that if ever a team deserved to lose, Nuneaton did. They gave by far their poorest display since rejoining the Birmingham Combination and shaped far worse than they did when Walsall Reserves trounced them in their first home game.

Only three of the home players produced anything like their usual form – Burdett, Homer and Boffin. The goalkeeper gave another polished performance, while Homer and Boffin worked tremendously hard to pull the game round. Boffin is developing into a grand little half-back. Mickey Jones was dead out of form, and that probably accounted for the poor display of the attack, in which Lawrence was the only player to do himself justice. Sayce, who made his debut at outside-left should solve the problem in that position, but he was forced to play full-back for much of the game, covering for the injured Hudson. Vials made the running for Borough's goal, but missed a number of easy chances.

## Nuneaton Borough v Gloucester City 26-12-1938

**Nuneaton: Burdett; Mold and Hudson; Tebbutt, Homer and Boffin; Lawrence, M. Jones, Vials, Tromans and Astle.**

Nuneaton welcomed Gloucester City to Manor Park for a Boxing Day Birmingham Combination match.

It is difficult to imagine how Borough came to lose by such a margin, for if the scores had been reversed, it would have been less of a puzzle. Vials had so many chances that he might have won the match on his own, but there were others nearly as bad.

Borough were two goals up in the first 15 minutes and then a shot from Lawrence hit the upright with the keeper beaten. There the Borough's scoring efforts finished. Instead of carrying on with the game that had produced nearly three goals, the forwards started fiddling about with the ball and trying to walk it into the net. Then it was that Gloucester came into the game, swinging the ball about freely, their forwards made a number of menacing raids which culminated in the lead being reduced. Three minutes later they were on level terms and at half-time the score was 2-2.

In the early minutes of the second half Vials missed a chance of putting Nuneaton ahead. Gloucester went straight down the field and took the lead. For the next 20 minutes the Borough outplayed their visitors, the forwards simply



## Nuneaton Borough v Birmingham City A 31-12-1938

**Nuneaton:** Burdett; Mold and Dexter; Tebbutt, Homer and Boffin; Lawrence, M. Jones, Roberts, Tromans and Wright.

Borough played their final game of 1938 against Birmingham City A, in a Birmingham Combination game, at Manor Park.

Except for two early efforts by Lawrence, which might have been goals but for the fact that the team's luck is dead out, the home forwards seldom, if ever, looked like getting a goal in this match. In midfield they did quite as much of the attacking – but when it came to rounding off their movements they were terribly poor. Borough again missed many chances and had they taken advantage of the many openings, the result may have been very different. Birmingham won solely because their forwards finished better.

It was anybody's game up till 20 minutes from the end, when Birmingham were having their work cut out to hold on to a slender 1-0 lead. Up to that period Borough looked as though they might possibly snatch a point, but when the "Blues" scored again it was pretty patent that the home side did not possess the necessary finish to pull back a couple of goals. And to clinch matters properly the visitors got a late third goal.

In some ways Birmingham were fortunate. Twice in the early minutes Lawrence had the goalkeeper beaten with shots from the wing, but somehow or other the ball contrived to pass the wrong side of the posts. In the second half Tromans was badly tripped in the penalty area – in fact, he was sent sprawling full length – and why the referee did not give a penalty, only he knows. Then about two minutes from the end Billy Roberts, with a yawning net in front of him and from only two yards' range, put the ball miserably wide. It was every bit as bad as Vials' miss against Gloucester on Boxing Day.

Burdett gave another fine display in goal, although he may have saved Birmingham's second goal. Dexter, who made his first appearance in the side, gave quite a useful display and by no means let his side down. The halves again did well, but Jones had another poor match at inside-right. Wright is hardly good enough yet awhile. Birmingham were the better balanced side and in Jones and Smith had two clever inside men. Stevenson was a dangerous winger. Harris played so well in goal that he seldom looked like conceding. Actually, though, most of the shots sent in by the home forwards were easy to deal with. The visitors' goals were scored by Smith (2) and Brown.

## Banbury Spencer v Nuneaton Borough 07-01-1939

**Nuneaton:** Burdett; Whitehouse and Dexter; Tebbutt, Homer and Boffin; Lawrence, Astle, Roberts, Tromans and Sayce.

Borough made the journey to Banbury for the first match of the New Year, a Birmingham Combination fixture against Banbury Spencer.

Borough lost left-winger Sayce, less than 15 minutes from the

swarming round their goal. In this period Borough had more chances than Gloucester had all through the match, but their efforts at getting the ball into the net were astonishingly poor. True, Langley made a number of really fine saves, but the opportunities that fell to the home side were so easy that it was amazing they did not go well into the lead.

These mistakes were truly capped by Vials when, after Jones had tricked the defence and drawn out Langley, he slipped the ball to the centre-forward. Not more than three yards from goal and with an empty net in front of him Vials let drive recklessly and his shot hit the bar. He could have walked the ball into the net had he so desired. To celebrate their many let-offs Gloucester went down the field and scored again, to make the score 4-2. Just before time they again broke away and scored.

The Nuneaton halves were the best part of the team, Boffin, Homer and Tebbutt working extremely hard. Mold was the better of the full-backs, while Burdett, in goal, could be blamed in no way for his side's defeat. Weaver (3), Gwatkin and Evans scored for Gloucester, and Astle and Vials for the Borough.

## Redditch Town v Nuneaton Borough 27-12-1938

**Nuneaton:** Archer; Mold and Hudson; Tebbutt, Homer and Boffin; Wright, M. Jones, Vials, Tromans and Astle.

Borough made the journey to Redditch for a Birmingham Combination game.

Poor finishing by Borough was again in evidence as they failed to score from two penalties and missed a number of other very easy chances. Borough once again played well in midfield, but failed near goal – the same old story. Vials was at fault when reasonably good scoring chances presented themselves, and missed at least one sitter.

Hudson and Vials were the players to fail with the penalty kicks, both awarded for trips on Jones. The first came when Redditch were leading 2-0, but Hudson shot straight at the goalkeeper, who had little difficulty in saving. The second penalty came in the second half, but Vials shot wide of the target.

Jones was better than against Gloucester, while the youthful Wright, operating in the accustomed position of outside-right in place of Lawrence, who was not available, did a lot of clever things. Astle did useful work at outside-left, as did Tromans at inside-right. The halves again did a lot of hard work, Tebbutt playing a very smart game. Boffin, too, did well, but was inclined to go too far up the field. Mold was the better of the full-backs, Hudson again making mistakes. Archer, deputising for Burdett in goal, made a number of particularly clever saves.

Taken on the whole the Borough did not disgrace themselves, but there has got to be far more punch in the attack if they are to get points. After all, it's goals that count and all this clever midfield play is of no avail if easy scoring chances are to be continually neglected. The home team's goals were scored by Colledge (2), Rudge and Cole.



## Nuneaton Borough v Darlaston

14-01-1939

**Nuneaton: Burdett; Mold and Dexter; Tebbutt, Homer and Boffin; Lawrence, Tromans, Roberts, Vials and Astle.**

Borough welcomed league champions Darlaston to Manor Park for a Birmingham Combination match.

It was a game in which the visitors, after a very shaky start, supplied the thrills and the Borough the thrusters. The champions certainly revealed class in midfield, but this led to their downfall, for while they dribbled for position before shooting the home defenders had plenty of time to cover up, and that was the big difference between the two teams.

Although they carried out some good attacking moves, the Borough forwards especially during the first-half, relied more upon the open game. All their goals came about as the result of these tactics. When Astle got the first goal, he received the ball when the Darlaston defence was concentrating on an attack down the middle. The outside-left had only one full-back between him and goal, and beating his man, he netted with a clever cross-shot.

The next goal was due to haphazard play on the part of Preston, the Darlaston left full-back. When the ball was pushed down the wing he hesitated about going for it and while he was in that frame of mind, Tromans darted forward, slipped the ball into the middle, and Roberts did the rest. The third goal was very similar to the first, Lawrence put the ball into the middle and Roberts turned it out to Astle, who again cleverly placed the ball into the net.

After those three goals had been scored the balance of play favoured the visitors. This was largely due to the fact that the wing-halves played too far inside with the result that the Darlaston wingers had plenty of room in which to work. Still, with the middle of the field closely packed and the road for goal obstructed, the tactics obviously worked.

While Darlaston did most of the pressing in the second half, Borough could have got another couple of goals. Astle got away on the left and played the ball across the goalmouth, but no-one was on hand to touch the ball home. Later, Tromans went through unchallenged, but was unable to finish.

### Tinklin Signs

Bert Tinklin, a former Manor Park favourite, has been signed on by Nuneaton Borough, and will play at outside-left against Atherstone Town tomorrow.

Tinklin has been playing for Brierley Hill, who recently went out of existence, in the Birmingham and District League. When the Borough officials got in touch with him this week, the player replied that Oswestry had sought his services, but he would consider an offer from the Borough, even if it were smaller, having regard to his previous happy association with Nuneaton.

start of the game and played with ten men throughout the rest of the game. Despite this handicap the visitors carried on with great heart and for once in a while the luck of the game favoured them. Twice in the game the woodwork of the Nuneaton goal was struck with rasping shots, but the fact remains, that in addition to scoring the only goal of the match they got the ball into the net on another occasion only for the goal to be disallowed on the decision of a linesman.

The win was largely due to a wonderful display of goalkeeping by Burdett. At least on four occasions he saved magnificently when all seemed lost, and his display bears comparison with great keepers of the past such as Joe Merrick and Ernie Kester. Another player to truly excel was Billy Roberts, who gave Cringan, the former Birmingham pivot, one of the most gruelling afternoons of his long career.

Roberts' stamina is astounding. From start to finish he was operating on the very worst part of the ground, for down the middle of the field the pitch was more than ankle deep in mud and slush. Despite the terrific amount of running about he did, Roberts was still pegging away at the final whistle. Not only did he get the goal that mattered, but netted with the best shot of the match, but was unfortunately offside. He also just missed the post with another grand effort.

There was only one point in the match when Banbury got on top and that was in the 15 minutes following Borough's goal. During that period the home side swarmed around the Borough goal, but could not get the ball past Burdett.

The Borough defence was outstanding and Homer, the only professional in the side, certainly earned his money. Both Whitehouse and Dexter performed well at full-back. Tebbutt and Boffin were admirable, although the latter tried to dribble the ball too much given the conditions. Tromans was capable at inside-right and Lawrence worked hard and helped Roberts a great deal in the second half.

### Four More Wailing Sirens

Four more wailing sirens have been received in Nuneaton in connection with air raid precautions, making five in all, and when these are placed in their positions there will be a simultaneous test.

When the exact details as to the position of the additional sirens have been decided upon, they will be installed at the following points:

Tuttle Hill (near the Water Towers).

Hill Top (near the junction of Coventry Road and College Street), and

Either at Weddington or the Long Shoot

Captain Clarke, ARP Officer, told an "Observer" representative that they had arranged those positions in order to cover the borough area as effectively as possible and to counteract the effect of the wind.



## Atherstone Town v Nuneaton Borough 21-01-1939

**Nuneaton: Burdett; Mold and Dexter; Tebbutt, Homer and Boffin; Lawrence, Tromans, Roberts, Astle and Tinklin.**

Borough travelled to Sheepy Road to take on Atherstone United in a Birmingham Combination game.

Atherstone scored first, eight minutes after half-time, through Pritchard – and a very clever goal, too – and the second half was 22 minutes old when the Borough got on level terms. There was a warm attack on the “Adders” goal, during which Tinklin worked himself in front of goal. His shot was blocked by a defender and the ball rebounded to Astle. The inside-left shot, Hammond positioned himself to save, but to his chagrin the ball struck Ross and was deflected into the net well out of the goalkeeper’s reach. It was a very fortunate goal.

The goal gave Borough renewed heart, and eight minutes later Bill Roberts won the game with one of the best goals seen at a Nuneaton game for many a long day. Tinklin put the ball through the middle and Roberts seized his chance, cleverly side-stepped Deakin, and then put in a glorious shot which had Hammond beaten all the way.

Three goals were shared in this match – but twice as many were missed. Easy chances were missed by both sets of forwards. Walker failed with a couple of sitters for the home side. Roberts and Lawrence failed for Borough when it seemed far easier to score. But the real let-off of the match came after Borough had taken the lead.

A right-wing movement ended in Lawrence sending across a shot, which although running very slowly, had Hammond beaten. Tinklin stood at the foot of the upright and so certain did he seem that the ball was going in that he just stood there and watched. By some strange freak the ball scraped by the upright when just a tap by the outside-left would have meant a certain goal.

Nuneaton, until late in the second half, played too close and Astle did far too much dribbling to get the best out of Tinklin. George Godderidge, who was called on to take the place of Tromans, gave satisfaction and will take some shifting out of the team. Roberts, although missing one or two chances, gave another extremely useful display and scored the best goal of the match. The halves played well and behind them Mold and Dexter, though having plenty of work to do, shaped with confidence. Burdett was safe as usual, although nearing the end he failed to hold a free-kick and for a moment things looked black for his side.

## Nuneaton Borough v Coventry City A 28-01-1939

**Nuneaton: Burdett; Mold and Dexter; Tebbutt, Homer and Boffin; Young, Tromans, Roberts, Astle and Tinklin.**

Borough welcomed Coventry City A to Manor Park for a Birmingham Combination game. The visitors were managed by Nuneaton footballing legend Emmin Dunn.

What a game! The biggest crowd of the season enjoyed every minute of it. After all, thirteen goals for sixpence takes a bit of beating. Can you get better value for money anywhere?

Some sympathy must be given to the respective defences who had to work in those parts of the field which were inches deep in mud. Once beaten it was impossible to recover. That explains why so many goals were scored. Some of them were real gems. Roberts’ first, a delightful header from Tinklin’s glorious centre; his second and third, both brilliant shots, were fine efforts. Then there were grand goals by Lewis, the City leader, and Young, the City inside-left. The latter’s goal was a triumph of skill. Taking the ball from midfield he dribbled past player after player and finished with a lightning burst and shot which left the defence and goalkeeper standing.

Though Roberts was Borough’s outstanding performer, Tinklin played a big part in his side’s victory. In the early stages of the game he ran rings round the City defence, so much so, in fact, that after only a quarter of an hour’s play, young Billy Bond, the former Borough player, was moved from left-half to right-half to try to put a stop to his games.

Young, Borough’s new outside-right, although scoring one of the goals, fell below expectations, but we may not have seen the best of him. Mold, Homer and Tebbutt did fine work. The City defence could never keep Roberts in check, but they had three very fine forwards in Lewis, Conwell, the former West Ham forward, and Simpson. The first two displayed brilliant ball control in the mud, while Simpson did devastating work on the right-wing.

The goals came in the following order: Roberts (1-0); Young C. (1-1); Young, R. (2-1); Kettle (2-2); Roberts (3-2); Astle (4-2); Lewis (4-3); half-time. Roberts (5-3); Roberts (6-3); Young C. (6-4); Lewis (6-5); Simpson (6-6); Roberts (7-6).

## Halesowen Town v Nuneaton Borough 04-02-1939

**Nuneaton: Archer; Mold and Dexter; Tebbutt, Homer and Boffin; Lawrence, Tromans, Roberts, Astle and Tinklin.**

Borough made the journey to Halesowen to play a Birmingham Combination fixture.

The outcome of the game centred on an injury suffered by Borough’s goalkeeper, Archer. Three or four minutes before half-time the ball was pushed down the right wing. Dexter was the only player near the ball and had ample time to clear, in fact to do anything he liked. And yet, though not challenged in any way, and a considerable distance from goal, he tried to put the ball back to Archer. The ball stopped lamentably short of its mark and left Lacey with a clear run for goal. Archer was left with no alternative but to rush out of goal and dive at the feet of the centre-forward to stop what would have been a certain goal. In saving that goal, the goalkeeper received a nasty injury to his shoulder and wrist.

At half-time he was obviously in great pain and was really not fit to take any further part in the game, but pluckily, he



decided to continue and for that reason he should not be blamed for his side's defeat. But the fact remains that the turning point of the game came as the result of a goal which never ought to have been scored. At that time Borough were leading 3-1, and with less than ten minutes to go the visitors appeared to have the game well in hand. To start with Homer, in trying to head the ball away, got too far under it and it fell at the feet of Wagstaff. That player ran on and then shot from good range. Archer tried to punch it away with his sound fist, but only helped the ball into the net.

A minute or so later Mold, near the half-way line, tried to back-heel the ball when the obvious thing was to kick into touch. The ball was quickly secured by Page, who immediately transferred it into the middle – and Lacey had an easy task to level the scores. A minute later the same player cleverly hooked the ball into the net to give his side victory.

Generally speaking, however, the Borough were far below their best. Had they shaped anything like they did in their four previous games they would have won this game comfortably, for despite their success Halesowen were a particularly moderate lot.

Tinklin and Astle (2) scored for the Borough, and Page, Wagstaff and Lacey (2) for the home side.

## Cheltenham Town Res v Nuneaton Borough 11-02-1939

**Nuneaton: Burdett; Mold and Jones; Tebbutt, Homer and Boffin; Lawrence, Young, Roberts, Tromans and Tinklin.**

Nuneaton made the journey to Cheltenham for a Birmingham Combination game.

A display of pluck seldom witnessed was seen at Cheltenham on Saturday. Billy Roberts and a home defender jumped into the air at the same time to get to a high centre. Roberts got the ball and the Cheltenham goalkeeper had to be particularly alert to prevent it entering the net. Roberts fell heavily to the ground unconscious. He was taken on to the touchline and for fully a quarter of an hour the trainers of both teams and an ambulance man worked hard to get him round. Eventually he was able to stand on his feet and with assistance walked some little way round the touchline. He again collapsed, however, and was taken to the dressing room on a stretcher. A doctor was summoned and found that he was suffering from severe concussion. By half-time he was again able to stand on his feet.

When the players came in, he asked the score and was told his side was losing 1-0. Despite the fact that the doctor had ordered him to take no further part in the game and that officials of the Borough implored him not to return to the field, he insisted on going out again. It was quickly obvious that he was still very badly dazed and scarcely knew what he was doing, and after less than ten minutes the referee stopped the game and despite his protestations the centre-forward was led off the field by the Borough trainer and an official.

Roberts' injury, coupled with the fact that Astle arrived too late to play, beat the Borough. Cheltenham never played clever enough to have beaten them with a full side. A word of praise must go to Burdett, fully recovered from his injury, he gave a grand display and stopped everything within reach.

The outstanding player on the field was unquestionably Jones, the Borough's new left full-back. If this is Jones' normal form – well, he must be the best full-back the club has had for several seasons.

## Gloucester City v Nuneaton Borough 18-02-1939

**Nuneaton: Anderton; Mold and Jones; Tebbutt, Homer and Boffin; Lawrence, Astle, Holden, Tromans and Tinklin.**

Nuneaton made the journey to Gloucester City for a Birmingham Combination match. Reserve centre-forward Holden came in for Roberts, who has been ordered to rest for ten days following his head injury against Cheltenham.

Borough were forced to recruit a new keeper as Burdett was unavailable due to work and Archer was still injured following his injury at Halesowen. New recruit Anderson was playing only his third 'soccer' game after five years of playing rugby, but he was pressed into service. Gloucester's two opening goals were both gifts. The first came after only seven minutes' play when Anderton came out to a free-kick and completely missed the ball for Thompson to head into an empty net. The second, five minutes later, was an even worse blunder, for Anderton when he had a simple bouncing ball covered, stopped when moving across to it, and it slowly crawled over the line into the net.

Gwatkin, Gloucester's clever right-winger lead many dangerous onslaughts on the Borough goal, but Anderton, after his shaky start, gained in confidence and this settled down the defence. From that point on the visitors held their own. Homer settled down to play a brilliant game. He completely bottled up the dangerous centre-forward, Weaver, to such an extent that the crowd began to urge him to "Liven up your ideas Weaver."

Gloucester scrambled a third goal from a corner, three minutes before half-time, but so effective were the Borough defence after the break that Gloucester were unable to add to their lead. On the other hand Borough got a goal to make the final score 3-1. Borough's goal was scored by Astle from Tinklin's centre, 12 minutes after the break.

Considering their bad start – the Borough redeemed themselves in this match, and especially Anderton. After conceding those gift goals, the goalkeeper settled down to play a fine game and brought off some delightful saves. It was a great pity that his mistakes proved so costly. But a goalkeeper is perhaps the one player in a team who can't cover up his mistakes.

Thompson, G. Edwards and Weaver scored for Gloucester and Astle for Nuneaton.



## West Brom A v Nuneaton Borough 25-02-1939

**Nuneaton: Burdett; Mold and Jones; Joy, Homer and Boffin; Tebbutt, Tromans, Holden, Astle and Tinklin.**

Borough welcomed West Brom A to Manor Park for a Birmingham Combination game that was scheduled as an away fixture.

Tebbutt was the bright light in the home attack and there were occasions when he simply streaked past the Albion defence. He got the first goal from a penalty for handball with a splendid drive, and supplied a glorious centre from almost off the goal-line, for Tinklin to head a neat second.

Nuneaton were never two goals better than their opponents at any period in the game. Indeed, all through the Albion had slightly the better of the exchanges, but what with erratic finishing and sound defensive work by Burdett and his colleagues, the visitors were held in check until two minutes after Tinklin had scored the Borough's second goal.

After West Brom scored, Borough had an almost endless defensive work. But it was curious that immediately before the Albion got their opening goal that Borough might have easily scored a third. Tebbutt outran the Albion defence but, with three home forwards waiting in front of goal, practically unmarked, the winger centred badly. The ball was booted down the field and transferred to the outside-right. The latter, after running a few yards, banged the ball right across the face of goal. When it seemed the ball would go outside, Butler turned it back into the net from what seemed an almost impossible angle.

Eight minutes from the end, Price flashed the ball into the net for a splendid equaliser. After this it was all Albion. Price put in another brilliant shot, which Burdett could only partially parry. It rolled to Clift and it seemed that he was certain to score. Sizing up the situation in a twinkling, Burdett made a frantic dive at the winger's feet, pushed the ball away, and Jones completed the clearance. Burdett was injured in making the save, but was able to resume.

Burdett played his usual confident game and Jones, although not as prominent as in his first two games, did enough to show what a highly competent player he is. Boffin was a brilliant ball player. Joy, who has been playing for Courtaulds, created a very favourable impression in his first game.

## Nuneaton Borough v Bromsgrove Rovers 04-03-1939

**Nuneaton: Burdett; Mold and Jones; Joy, Homer and Boffin; Tebbutt, Astle, Roberts, Tromans and Tinklin.**

Borough welcomed Bromsgrove Rovers to Manor Park for a Birmingham Combination fixture.

The football served up was of a mediocre quality, but the Borough score might easily have been doubled, as Bromsgrove were the poorest side that Borough have met this season.

Bromsgrove were not so bad in midfield, but they were terribly poor near to goal and Burdett had no more than two or three shots to handle all the way through. In defence they were worse still. Layton, the old Charlton player, did nothing except rub shoulders with Roberts all through. He was the centre-forward's shadow, but while he was doing this the inside men found gaps almost as wide as the field itself. The two backs were slow, and what with Tebbutt's pace and Tinklin's skill they had a very rocky time.

Borough so overran Rovers' defence in the first-half that they might easily have been leading by five or six goals by half-time, instead of two.

Although Roberts had to take a couple of days off work in the week, still feeling the after-effects of his injury at Cheltenham, he insisted on playing and though a shadow of his usual self, he slipped some neat passes out to the wings and generally kept the Bromsgrove pivot busy. Astle, who was twelfth man, but had to play as Colledge once again did not turn out, had the satisfaction of scoring four of his side's six goals. Some of them were good and others lucky.

A run by Tromans brought a well-deserved goal. The ball was slipped through to him when he was standing a short distance from the half-way line. He warded off a tackle with a neat flick and then raced on leaving all opposition behind. Jones came out of goal to meet him but the inside-right dribbled round him and then put the ball into the empty net. Borough's final goal of the game was scored by Roberts.

## Jack Grubb To Be Watched By Manchester City

Jack Grubb, the former Nuneaton Borough and present Coalville Town centre-half, is to be watched by a representative of Manchester City tomorrow. Grubb, who is only 19-years-old and has a fine physique, played with Nuneaton St Mary's in the Bible Class League before joining the Borough FC last season. Unfortunately he had a serious illness, which kept him out of the game for some time.

## Nuneaton Borough v Bournville Athletic 11-03-1939

**Nuneaton: Burdett; Mold and Jones; Joy, Homer and Boffin; Tebbutt, Astle, Roberts, Tromans and Tinklin.**

Borough welcomed the 'Cocoa-Boys' of Bournville Athletic to Manor Park for a Birmingham Combination game.

The visitors started the game as though they were going to make a hard fight of it. In the first minute or so, Fisher got clean away on the right and put in a hard drive, which Mold kicked away from off the goal-line. A little later, after Borough had scored, Holding, on the opposite wing, struck the Nuneaton bar with Burdett beaten. But the strong Borough defence quickly settled down to its job, and it was not long before the previously nippy Bournville forwards were held in such a tight grip that they seldom looked like escaping. Now and again,



Fisher, easily their best forward, flashed into the picture with clever wing runs, but for three parts of the time the Borough forwards were pggging away at the other end of the field.

The very bad conditions – it rained throughout the game – made accurate football impossible and, consequently, play did not reach a very high standard. I suspected that the Borough were inclined to treat the opposition too lightly, and at times obviously sacrificed effectiveness for over-cleverness. Some times it came off – but more often it didn't. The open style of play was far more effective and produced most of the goals.

The strong part of the Borough side was unquestionably the defence, in which the half-backs were very sound. Boffin was again a brilliant ball player and started many bright moves. Joy has very definitely come to stay; while Homer, in his usual quiet way, got through a tremendous amount of work with great efficiency. Behind them, Mold and Jones kicked and tackled soundly. The attack was not so good, although Tinklin was easily the best forward on the field. He dribbled with great skill, and his centres and corners were the models of accuracy.

Tebbutt, Tromans, Freer (own goal), Tinklin and Roberts scored for the Borough and Rodway for Bournville.

## Boot Inn Bridge Collapses: One Killed, Four Injured

One man was killed and four slightly injured when the old Boot Inn Bridge, at Chilvers Coton, on which they were carrying out demolition work yesterday morning, collapsed without warning and with a terrific crash.

The dead man was Frederick Lloyd of 44 Arthur Street, Chilvers Coton.

## Walsall Reserves v Nuneaton Borough 18-03-1939

**Nuneaton: Burdett; Mold and Jones; Joy, Homer and Boffin; Tebbutt, Tibbitts, Roberts, Colledge and Tinklin.**

Nuneaton travelled to Fellows Park for a Birmingham Combination game against Walsall Reserves.

Walsall started as though they were going to give the Borough the drubbing they give most teams. Gandy scored two clever goals for them in the first ten minutes and with Redwood, the very smart left-winger, playing havoc every time he had the ball things looked black for Nuneaton. The visitors settled down, however, and played some very neat and clever football. Slowly but surely the Borough defence got down to its job in real earnest, while the forwards prompted by Tibbitts, the new inside-right from West Bromwich Albion, the forwards gave Walsall some of their own medicine. Tewkesbury, the ex-amateur international keeper, had to bring out his very best in beating down a terrific short range shot from Tinklin and twice he was fully extended in dealing with shots from Tibbitts.

Borough lost their keeper, Burdett, a few minutes before half-time – he broke his right thumb in making a full-length save from a free-kick and he was replaced by right-half Joy.

It looked like it might just be a question of Walsall piling on the goals, but Borough's defence stood up to the home forwards with great resolution, and tackled so deadly and quickly that in their hurry to shoot or get rid of the ball Gandy and his front line colleagues made a long series of inglorious shooting attempts on goal, so much so that stand-in keeper, Joy, was rarely extended.

With Billy Roberts "weighing in" against Askew, the home crowd became extremely annoyed. Every time Roberts used his burly shoulders the crowd roared its disapproval. It was a pity, therefore, that with only about ten minutes to go Roberts missed a good scoring chance, for three minutes from the end Tebbutt, coming through from right-half, found the net with a glorious shot. If Roberts had taken the chance Borough would have drawn, but he was unfortunate. He tricked a defender and drew Tewkesbury out and with another defender quickly closing him down, Roberts had to shoot quickly and he aimed for the only opening he could find and the ball went about a foot wide of the upright.

Jones played a great game at left-back and Homer was again a terrific worker, while Boffin dribbled and passed the ball with rare skill. Joy, both at wing-half and in goal, did his job well. Mold, after a shaky start against Redwood, rendered his side good service. Tibbitts is a "find." He dribbled with great skill, and though only 18 years of age, made some of the experienced Walsall defenders look very small fry.

## Billy Bond Gets Junior International Cap

Billy Bond, the ex-Borough FC player, who is now with Coventry City, has been selected to play in the junior international match against the Scottish Juniors at Highfield Road tomorrow.

## Nuneaton Borough v Hinckley United 25-03-1939

**Nuneaton: Townsend; Mold and Jones; Joy, Homer and Boffin; Tebbutt, Tibbitts, Roberts, Blockley and Tinklin.**

Borough welcomed Hinckley United to Manor Park for the final of the Nuneaton Charity Cup.

Victory went to the better team, but because of defensive blunders the Borough went perilously close to losing. Six minutes from the end they were down 2-1, after having held a 1-0 half-time lead – and missing first-half penalty. Tinklin shooting wide of the mark after Tibbitts had been unceremoniously brought down in the area. Six minutes from the finish Tibbitts scored a clever opportunist goal to equalise, and in the last minute Blockley was sent right away by Roberts to beat Forrest from close in.

Seeing that Blockley also scored Nuneaton's first goal with



# Nuneaton Borough 1937-1945



a brilliant shot, it can be regarded as a highly satisfactory debut for the Reserves' winger, but apart from scoring these two goals he did quite a lot of useful work at inside-left. Townsend, the young Bedworth lad, also made a satisfactory first appearance. True, he did not have many really difficult shots to save, but when called into action he did his job thoroughly and well. He is a big lad for his sixteen years and seems to have a future before him.

Late in the first half Nelson received his marching orders, when, following a tackle by Boffin, the Hinckley man completely lost his head. Shortly after Tinklin received a badly damaged ankle in a tackle and was off the field for some time after the break.

Both Hinckley's goals came from defensive blunders. When Mullard got the first from a swift shot, Jones had failed to get the ball away, leaving the Hinckley man with a chance which he was quick to seize. This mistake by Jones was a pity, for he played another fine game. When United got their second goal, Mold was badly at fault. He had ample time to get rid of the ball, but tried to dribble round two men in front of his own goal. He got round the first one, but Pilkington robbed him and netted with a cross shot.

A minute after Tinklin's penalty miss, Borough immediately returned to the attack and, taking the ball through, Blockley netted with a brilliant shot from fairly good range. Tibbitts got the second goal. He secured possession from a throw-in and took the ball right in front of goal before banging it past Forrest. When Blockley got the final goal he was indebted to Roberts, who with a neat back heel, completely bamboozled the Hinckley defence. It left Blockley with a clear course for goal, and he took it right in before putting the ball past the keeper.

Tibbitts again did enough to convince the crowd that he knows his job, but was inclined to dribble too much. Roberts did not have a good game in the middle, but it was a shrewd piece of work that led to Blockley getting the winning goal. Tebbutt was the better of two very moderate wingers, for prior to his injury Tinklin did very little of note.

Homer was once again the pick of the defence and went through a tremendous amount of work in a very efficient style. Boffin, too, played well, but in the second half seemed to hang on to the ball too long. Mold has to cut out this dribbling business close to his own goal, but otherwise he played soundly enough.

## City Transport v Nuneaton Borough 01-04-1939

Nuneaton: Townsend; Mold and Jones; Joy, Homer and Boffin; Tebbutt, Tibbitts, Roberts, Astle and Blockley.

Borough travelled to the Stadium, King's Heath, to take on City Transport in a Birmingham Combination game.

The home backs looked for trouble in operating wide apart and practically on the half-way line in an effort to throw the visiting forwards offside whenever they moved to the attack. They

certainly succeeded in throwing Roberts offside, but the quick-moving right-wing pair, Tibbitts and Tebbutt, caught them napping on many occasions by holding on to the ball instead of passing and going through on their own. Their speed carried them right through with only the keeper to beat – and it was in this respect that the Transport were lucky not to have found themselves more heavily in arrears at the finish.

On one occasion Tebbutt raced through at terrific speed, leaving all opposition behind. He ran to within three yards of the goalkeeper, but at the crucial moment touched the ball too far forward and Tyler managed to scramble it away after great difficulty. Actually, Tebbutt should have scored with ease. A minute later Tibbitts beat the offside trap by going through on his own and though he had difficulty in keeping the ball under control he beat the keeper with a fast low drive to give Borough a 2-0 lead, for a quarter of an hour after the start Roberts had converted a centre by Joy.

Tebbutt got through on two further occasions, once when the goalkeeper touched the ball round the post and again when his shot just missed the angle of the upright and crossbar, with the keeper nowhere near. Borough had their share of luck when the home side hit the woodwork on two occasions, and Townsend saved on many occasions when a goal seemed certain. Townsend's only fault at the moment is that he has a habit of knocking the ball down before catching and clearing, rather than catching cleanly first time.

Borough had a problem after half-time, when a strong breeze sprang up and gave Transport a definite advantage. It was due to the wind that the home side reduced Borough's lead. The ball was heftily booted downfield and Homer, usually so certain with his head, moved forward to clear, but the ball sailed yards over his head to Elliott, the home centre-forward. As Mold and Jones closed in to challenge him the centre-forward shot and the ball entered the net at terrific speed.

Tibbitts and Tebbutt were a fine right wing pair and always seemed well on top of the Transport defence. The former dribbled and passed with skill, while Tebbutt's pace carried him through the home defence time and again. Boffin played too far inside and gave Stevenson, one of the most dangerous right wingers in the league, far too much rope. Homer was once again a dominating figure at centre-half and Jones was the better full-back, although Mold did his work well.

## Nuneaton Borough v Wolves A 08-04-1939

Nuneaton: Burdett; Mold and Whitehouse; Joy, Homer and Boffin; Tebbutt, Tibbitts, Roberts, Blockley and Tinklin.

Borough welcomed Wolves A to Manor Park for a Birmingham Combination game.

The game was won and lost between the 13th and 36th minutes when the young Wolves got five out of their six goals. Three of them were the result of fine shots; the other three were due to bad defensive blunders. Burdett, who returned to



the side following a fortnight's absence with a broken thumb, allowed a simple header to bounce past him; Whitehouse, instead of putting the ball into touch, tried to hook the ball over his head, but missed it completely, for the outside-left to crash the ball home, while Mold once again lost the ball trying to dribble round an opponent. The ball was lifted into the goalmouth and quickly transferred into the net.

Borough's experience during this tragically brief period was enough to break their heart but, instead, they fought back splendidly. Blockley twice reduced the lead before half-time and then scored again early in the second half to make the score 5-3. His first and third goals were both from penalty kicks and both were unstoppable.

With the score at 5-3, Borough attacked vigorously and most of the play was round the Wolves' goal; but bad finishing and weak wing play prevented them from making further inroads into the visitors' lead. Then, from one of their isolated breakaways, the Wolves got their sixth goal.

The game was remarkable for the fact that three players performed the "hat-trick" – Rennie and Wright for the winners and Blockley for the Borough – and that three penalties were awarded. Buckley failed with the spot kick for Wolves, shooting over the bar.

## Nuneaton Borough v Hinckley United 10-04-1939

Nuneaton: Townsend; Mold and Johnson; Joy, Homer and Boffin; Tebbutt, Tibbitts, Roberts, Blockley and Tinklin.

Borough welcomed Hinckley United to Manor Park on Easter Monday for a Birmingham Combination game.

Borough disappointed the biggest crowd of the season when they allowed Hinckley United to scramble a goal three minutes from the end. Roberts had given the home side the lead just before half-time. As was the case when the teams met in the final of the Nuneaton Charity Cup, Nuneaton had Tinklin off the field injured nearly all of the second half, while the visitors had a player sent off. O. Woolley, received his marching orders following a foul on Mold. Thus once again interest in the meeting of these two old rivals was marred.

Quite the feature of the game was the brilliant goalkeeping of Forrest and Townsend. Forrest undoubtedly saved his side from defeat. Twice he dived full-length to save shots from Roberts and Tebbutt which looked certain goals, but he made many other fine saves. Though not having so much to do as Forrest, Townsend, too, accomplished brilliant feats in goal.

The football generally was of poor quality and there were few really good movements. Nuneaton had much more of the game territorially than their opponents and at half-time should have been leading comfortably. Hinckley did far less attacking but were dangerous in breakaways. Mountford playing well up the field between the two full-backs. Roberts worked tremendously hard all through and was continually harassing the Hinckley defence. Blockley had a lean time

after Tinklin had gone off and missed his first penalty after four consecutive successes from the spot. Really, the penalty should not have been awarded, as Tibbitt's header was over the line when a Hinckley defender got it away with his hands.

Tibbitts, like Roberts, worked hard, and it was a delightful through pass of his which enabled Roberts to burst through and score. Tinklin was doing better than in some games recently up to the time he was injured. Tebbutt must keep to his position more. Joy and Boffin were grand wing halves, but Homer was not so sure of himself as he usually is. Mold did fine work all through, but Johnson the new left-back, tired after a good start.

Hinckley would be well satisfied with a point. They had fewer chances than the home side, but there was more crispness in their methods than those of the home team. They were, however, undoubtedly saved from defeat by the sterling work of the two full-backs and the goalkeeper. E. Woolley got the goal which saved United from defeat.

### Television Test At Nuneaton

The "Observer" is able to state that good reception of television has been obtained by a firm which has carried out experiments at Nuneaton, Leamington, Solihull and Lickey Rock on a 45 guinea commercial sight and sound receiver. Nuneaton, in common with other Midland towns, is eagerly hoping for a television service in the near future...

...That there is a growing demand for television to serve the Nuneaton area was confirmed by Mr W. W. Fennell, a well-known local radio dealer. Mr Fennell had a course in television servicing at Cambridge last summer and obtained a "pass" certificate with 72 marks.

"The biggest difficulty with television," said Mr Fennell, "is interference from motor cars. One could not expect to get good reception close to a bus terminus, for instance. And the general public cannot expect to get a good television without a properly erected aerial. Two or three pounds must be spent on a suitable aerial..."

### Hinckley Players Appear Before FA Commission

Incidents which occurred during the Nuneaton Borough v Hinckley United matches on March 25 and April 10, which resulted in two Hinckley players being sent off the field, were inquired into by a joint Commission of the Birmingham County FA and the Leicestershire County FA at the Bulls Head, Abbey Street, on Tuesday night.

Alf Nelson, was suspended for seven days and fined £1 1s. Owen Woolley was fined £1 1s. and suspended for 14 days for deliberately kicking an opponent, which Woolley denied. The Hinckley club had to pay 4s. towards the referee's expenses.



## Nuneaton Borough v Redditch Town 15-04-1939

**Nuneaton: Townsend; Mold and Jones; Joy, Homer and Boffin; Tebbutt, Tibbitts, Jayes, Roberts and Astle.**

Borough welcomed Redditch Town to Manor Park for a Birmingham Combination game.

After being a goal down at half-time, Borough proceeded to almost monopolise the play and in the end Redditch were lucky to get away with a division of the spoils. There can be no doubt that, with the wind behind them, Redditch were the more impressive side in the first-half. They took the lead through Colledge, who rounded off a smart attack with a neat shot from close in, 25 minutes after the start, and in the dying minutes of the half the same player should have added a second, lifting the ball high and wide with only Townsend to beat from less than six yards out.

It was a different tale in the second half. Borough simply swarmed round the Redditch goal, in the vicinity of which there were many thrills. First Astle missed a sitter, shooting wide with only Johnston to beat. A little later Tebbutt struck the Redditch bar, and shortly afterwards Roberts equalised with one of his "specials," a great long range shot which simply flew into the net. Then came the biggest thrill of the match. Astle put the ball down the middle to Jayes, the ex-Leicester schoolboy international. He headed the ball smartly down to his feet and darted forward. Both Wright and Johnson tackled him, and a general scramble followed. The ball came out and stopped no more than a yard from the goal-line with the goalkeeper lying on the ground beaten. Jayes scrambled to his feet and then stumbled again and the ball, which had only needed to be touched into the empty net, was kicked away. It was a very close call for Redditch – a stroke of bad luck for Borough and the 16½ year old centre-forward.

Jayes, generally, had a quiet afternoon and found Causer, a Junior International, a rare stumbling block. Roberts was easily Borough's best forward and it was only a thrilling save by Johnston in the closing minutes of the first-half that prevented him levelling the scores then. Other forwards were fair, with the exception of Astle, who gave a poor account of himself. The defence had its rocky periods, but generally held its own. Townsend had a fairly easy time in goal.

## Nuneaton Borough v Coventry City A 27-08-1938

**Nuneaton: Townsend; Mold and Jones; Joy, Homer and Boffin; Tebbutt, Tibbitts, Jayes, Roberts and Sabin.**

Borough welcomed Coventry City A to Manor Park on Monday evening for a semi-final tie in the Leamington Cup.

A strong cross-wind influenced the outcome, giving the side kicking with it a decided advantage, during the first-half Nuneaton and afterwards City A. The home side lost Mold to injury after about 20 minutes, and he played no further part in the game. Borough were leading 3-1 at half-time, but it

was a lead that never looked big enough, especially with City playing three players up front, who had played a prominent part in the City first team when called upon – Norman Smith, Lewis and Barratt. But only Barratt of this trio really caused the sound Borough defence much anxiety, for Barratt alone caused Townsend much difficulty. He got a brilliant "hat-trick," each of his three shots flashing into the net.

City did a great deal of attacking in the second half, but made the mistake of under-estimating the strength of Borough's defence. They carried their attacks too far and had it not been for Barratt, they may not have achieved a draw as their other forwards were well off the mark with their shots.

Borough's first-half goals were not so spectacular as Barratt's, but they counted just the same. The first, scored by Homer, was a long speculative shot which had McNess in a quandary and flew into the net just underneath the bar. The second was definitely lucky, with the goalkeeper allowing a ball to bounce over his head and into the net. The third was scored by Haver, the City centre-half, who smartly put the ball past his own goalkeeper in trying to kick away a dangerous centre from Tibbitts.

Jayes, the young schoolboy international, gave a better display, while Sabin, the new outside-left, looks like making a useful substitute for the injured Tinklin. Roberts again worked hard and had bad luck in not scoring with a shot that struck the City bar. The defence was good all through with Homer conspicuous at centre-half, while Joy did exceptionally well both at wing-half and later at full-back following Mold's injury. Townsend's work in goal made that of McNess look very clumsy. The three shots that beat him would have beaten any goalkeeper.

## Tamworth v Nuneaton Borough 22-04-1939

**Nuneaton: Townsend; Taylor and Jones; Joy, Homer and Boffin; Blockley, Tibbitts, Jayes, Roberts and Sabin.**

Nuneaton made the journey to Tamworth to play a Birmingham Combination game.

It was not until three minutes from the end that Gardner got Tamworth's third goal – and, incidentally, his "hat-trick" – to make the issue really safe for his side. Up to that moment, although Tamworth held the whip hand, the Borough had a chance of pulling the game out of the fire. Indeed, had the visiting forwards been smart in the second half they might easily have upset the home side's apperception, for several times they broke through only to finish miserably in front of goal.

Blockley, playing at outside-right in the absence of Tebbutt did little or nothing; Jayes twice dribbled through the Tamworth defence only to fail with his final effort; while Sabin hung on to the ball far too long. Borough did not make best use of the wind in the first-half and only Roberts seemed likely to get a goal. He was the one forward to realise the potential of trying a "pop" at goal. And, strange to say, he got his side's only goal.



On level terms at half-time Tamworth did most of the attacking after the change of ends, but they too only had one marksman – Gardner. The other forwards finished about as poorly as the visiting attackers. But enjoying so much of the attack in this half might easily have brought about Tamworth's downfall. Their defenders became venturesome and began to operate from the half-way line. Had Borough shown any initiative at this stage they would probably have given Tamworth a fright. Several times a long clearance gave them the chance to get clean away, but as many times as not Sabin, who seemed to have all the opportunities, persisted in dribbling. While he was doing this the Tamworth backs moved forward and when he did make his final pass or centre, well, his colleagues were invariably offside.

With the exception of Taylor, the new full-back, who was hopelessly out of his class, the Borough defence did well. The Tamworth left-wing ran rings round Taylor in the first half, but when Joy changed places with him there was quite a different story to tell. Taylor presented Tamworth with their first goal. When hard pressed, he neatly slipped the ball in front of goal to Gardner, who had an easy task to put the ball into the net. Homer, Joy and Jones defended stoutly, the latter having to do two men's work in the first-half because of Taylor's weakness.

## **Nuneaton Borough v Banbury Spencer 24-04-1939**

**Nuneaton: Townsend; Mold and Jones; Joy, Homer and Boffin; Tebbutt, Tibbitts, Ralphs, Roberts and Sabin.**

Borough welcomed Banbury Spencer to Manor Park on Monday evening for a Birmingham Combination game.

A silly goal ten minutes from the end resulted in Borough losing another home point. Banbury were awarded a free-kick a few yards outside the penalty area and Shanks sent in a low hard drive which Townsend got to but failed to hold, and the ball rebounded to Wallis who just had to tap the ball into the net. It was hard luck on Townsend, for it was really the first serious mistake he has made since joining the team.

Banbury were a very lucky side to get away with a draw. They led 1-0 at half-time, but afterwards they were hopelessly outplayed and were fortunate not to concede four or five goals. Twelve minutes after half-time the Borough were leading 2-1 and they proceeded to swamp their opponents. Homer, Roberts and Tibbitts all hit the crossbar, while there were several hard shots that were blocked by defenders.

It was a peculiar game. In the opening half the Borough played badly and the forwards seemed to get in each others way. When they were 1-0 down Roberts and Sabin collided heavily and both had to be helped from the field, Roberts with slight concussion and Sabin with a badly cut ear. Roberts resumed at outside-right before half-time, but Sabin did not come out until the second-half – and then with a heavily bandaged head. Ralphs, a young player who scored three goals with the Reserves on Saturday, levelled the scores with a smart header just after half-time and Sabin gave Borough the lead following

a clever bit of individual work. After this it was all Borough and there were some terrifically exciting scrimmages round the Banbury goal. How it escaped on two or three occasions is difficult to understand. And then with only ten minutes to go, Jones handled the ball and Banbury equalised.

Homer, Boffin and Joy played grandly in the Nuneaton defence, and it was really their fine work which inspired the team to better things in the second half. Ralphs and Sabin scored for Nuneaton, and Wallis got both the visitors' goals.

## **Manor Park Ground**

### **Should Borough Have Sole Rights?**

The question of whether or not the Borough FC should be allowed exclusive use of the Manor Park football ground was debated at the Town Council meeting on Wednesday.

The Markets and Estates Committee recommended that subject to the requirements of the Education Committee, the Manor Park ground be let to the Borough FC for the season 1939-40 at an inclusive rent of £40; the Council reserving the right to resume possession and to have the exclusive use of the ground at any time and for any purpose.

The Thursday clubs at present using the ground are to be offered a playing pitch in the Pingle Fields, it was pointed out.

Councillor H. Corbett enquired whether the Committee had received a deputation from the Thursday clubs who had been using the ground, and asked if they were offered the alternative of the Pingle Fields, whether the same amenities would be offered as at Manor Park. Did they think it was good policy to purchase a ground two years ago for £3,500 and then let it back to practically the same people at a rent of £40?

Councillor J. Bates said they had not received a deputation from the Thursday clubs but had received a letter from them. He pointed out that there was nobody responsible for the wear and tear and equipment and they thought it wise to allow the Borough FC, the sole right to look after it. They would, in all probability, give the same facilities at the Pingle Fields.

Alderman C. Reader said it seemed they were too concerned about one particular club.

Councillor B. K. Roper considered they should provide baths at the Pingle Fields.

Councillor S. Dickens said they had got to get down to the question of better equipment for the Pingle Fields. They had the opportunity of making it a really good playing field.

The Town Clerk then read a letter he had received from the two Thursday clubs using Manor Park, in which they asked for the Markets and Estates Committee to receive a deputation.

### **Heavy Liability**

The Town Clerk stated that having to pay a groundsman was a heavy liability in addition to the loss already incurred with regard to the ground. If they were granted sole use of the ground the Borough FC would be responsible for looking after it.



Councillor W. T. Smith moved reference back to the report. He said there was no immediate hurry and the Thursday clubs were entitled to consideration.

Councillor Dickens said that while they all wished to see junior football encouraged they had got to use some common sense in this matter.

Councillor B. H. Mayo said one of the main things they advocated when they took over the ground was to keep the Borough FC going. A town of this size ought to have a pretty good soccer team.

## Scheme Approved

The Town Clerk mentioned that that morning he had received a communication from the National Playing Fields Association, approving the scheme for the lay-out of the Pingle Fields, subject to one or two minor alterations.

Councillor C. Cartwright thought the minute should go through.

Councillor C. Ramsell declared that the ground was purchased by public money and should be controlled by a public body. He thought all parties should be fairly dealt with.

On being put to the vote reference back was carried by 15 votes to 3.

## Bromsgrove Rovers v Nuneaton Borough 27-04-1939

Borough made the journey to Bromsgrove on Thursday for a Birmingham Combination game.

With a side which included five reserves, Borough were heavily defeated 5-0. Bromsgrove, too, were below strength but were easily the superior side in a game which was too one-sided to be really interesting. The home team were on the attack almost throughout the game and the Nuneaton defence gave a creditable display.

The visitors were poorly served in the forward line and the Bromsgrove defence had an easy time, Read, in goal, being called up less than half-a-dozen times.

The Nuneaton forward line was handicapped through Blockley, their inside-left, having to go into goal in place of Townsend, who was injured after 25 minutes. After being off the field for some time, Townsend returned and played on the wing. Bromsgrove's goals were scored by Gill (2), Wilcox, Trigg and Cotton.

## Aston Villa A v Nuneaton Borough 29-04-1939

**Nuneaton: Burdett; Whitehouse and Johnson; Joy, Homer and Boffin; Moreton, Tibbitts, Smith, Ralphs and Sabin.**

Borough travelled to the Alexander Sports Ground to face Aston Villa A in a Birmingham Combination game.

With a side little stronger than a Nuneaton Combination team, Nuneaton Borough, as expected, proved no match for the Villa A, and the home side won as they pleased.

The best that could be said of the visitors was that they showed pluck. Until five minutes before half-time they had prevented the Villa from scoring. Then they conceded two quick goals. A quarter of an hour after half-time Villa again scored and the total remained 3-0 until a quarter of an hour from the end. Villa scored again, and in the last five minutes netted three more.

There were only four regular first-team players in the Borough side – the three halves, Joy, Homer and Boffin. Townsend, Jones, Tebbutt, Mold and Roberts were absent, and the side was made up by two players from Wood End Old Boys, one from Courtaulds and the remainder were reserve players.

Fortunately for Borough, Burdett had sufficiently recovered to resume in goal in place of the injured Townsend. Burdett showed something like the form we know him capable of, and brought off some very fine saves.

As long as they had the energy to resist the quick-moving Villa forwards the Borough defence kept the score down to reasonable bounds. It was really not a bad performance to keep the score down to 3-0 until 15 minutes from the end. Then Whitehouse received a knock and had to go outside right, Homer and Joy also got in the wars – and afterwards the Villa forwards scored at will. But three of their last four goals were gifts and were really the result of sheer exhaustion on the part of the Borough defence.

Borough had chances and Sabin missed an easy chance with only Billingsley to beat. On another occasion Tibbitts sent in a shot which had the goalkeeper well beaten, but the ball rebounded off one defender on to another and went just wide. Several times Smith, the centre-forward from Wood End, was put through, but he lacked pace and failed to reach the ball before it was kicked away.

Burdett and Joy were outstanding for Borough, with Homer and Boffin supporting them with courage. There was an unfortunate accident early in the second half. Browne, the Villa inside-left, was racing right through on his own and Burdett was left with no alternative but to leave his goal to meet him. The two players collided and Browne broke his leg. It was atrocious luck for the Villa player, but was a pure accident.

Dodds (2), Osborne (2), Goffin, Perry and Latham were the scorers for the Villa.

## Solihull Town v Nuneaton Borough 01-05-1939

**Nuneaton: Burdett; Whitehouse and Jones; Taylor, Homer and Boffin; Merry, Moreton, Roberts, Ralphs and Sabin.**

Borough made the journey to Solihull Town on Monday to play a Birmingham Combination match.

Borough again had to field a weak side, but put up a decent display and gave the home side a good game. Roberts returned to the leadership of the attack; Moreton and Merry formed the right wing and Ralphs and Sabin the left wing. Taylor deputised for Joy at right-half, while Jones returned



to partner Whitehouse at full-back. Despite these changes the Borough did well, but Solihull had the more dangerous attack. Short and Boswell being dangerous raiders. The Nuneaton wingers shaped well, Sabin being the best forward on the field. Homer was a sound pivot.

After an even opening Short scored a clever goal for the home side, but in the next minute Moreton scored with a fine shot. About a minute later, however, Short restored Solihull's lead. Seven minutes after half-time Short performed his "hat-trick" with a header. Later Moreton hit the woodwork of the home goal and after 37 minutes Sabin went through to score a brilliant goal. With only four minutes to go Boswell made the score 4-2.

## Nuneaton Borough v Solihull Town 06-05-1939

Nuneaton: Burdett; Mold and Jones; Joy, Homer and Boffin; Merry, Tibbitts, Roberts, Ralphs and Sabin.

Borough welcomed Solihull Town to Manor Park for the final game of the Birmingham Combination season.

Solihull were lucky to beat Borough on Saturday and a draw would have been a much more equitable result. The Borough did most of the attacking throughout the game, but with fewer chances Solihull won because they had the more workmanlike attack, in which the veteran Boswell was prominent – either for scoring goals or missing them.

His second goal was a very fortunate affair, and was the direct result of poor anticipation by Burdett. Although he had a perfect opening Boswell did not get hold of the ball properly, and Burdett allowed a simple shot to travel underneath him into the net. He was altogether too slow in getting down to the ball, although he had full view of the shot.

Altogether it was not a happy day for the Borough. They played quite well, but once again failed in finishing. And into the bargain, Homer, the captain, failed to convert a penalty, his shot striking the bar. Actually, it was bad luck on the Borough that Homer should not have scored for to prevent a certain scoring shot entering the net – Read, the goalkeeper, was out of his goal and well-beaten – Oliver put his hand to the ball and deflected it wide.

Borough's only goal was scored by Sabin, who was about the only forward who looked like scoring. It was a neatly taken goal. And he had the cruellest luck in not scoring an equaliser. He cut in from the wing, shook off the opposition, and went right in front of the goal. Unfortunately, in his final effort, he did not get his foot to the ball properly, and Read managed to scramble the ball away.

All Solihull's chances went Boswell's way. After scoring twice he had two more fine chances, but finished woefully, shooting wide on each occasion, once with Burdett out of goal. On the whole, however, Borough had more openings, and there were a number of terrifically exciting scenes outside the Solihull goal. There were occasions when the ball did practically everything but cross the line into the net.

Borough's best players were the half-backs, while Mold did well on his return to the side after injury. Sabin was the best forward, although in the first-half Merry the local player, did fine work at outside-right. After half-time, however, he received poor support from Tibbitts, who played too much to the middle. Solihull's outstanding players were Tranter, Hipkins and Tremelling. Boswell was dangerous on the move, but little was seen of Short.

## Birmingham Combination Final Table 1938-1939

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Aston Villa "A"	38	26	8	4	130	38	60
Walsall Reserves	38	27	5	6	129	54	59
Birmingham "A"	38	24	4	10	124	48	52
Darlaston	38	26	0	12	120	52	52
Tamworth	38	22	7	9	112	64	51
West Brom "A"	38	22	5	11	101	52	49
Wolves "A"	38	22	4	12	101	63	48
Gloucester City	38	16	12	10	73	61	44
Coventry City "A"	38	20	3	15	112	86	43
Birmingham Trams	38	19	5	14	91	86	43
Redditch	38	14	9	15	74	74	37
Cheltenham Town Res	38	17	1	20	91	110	35
Solihull Town	38	14	4	20	68	83	32
Banbury Spencer	38	11	8	19	68	87	30
Hinckley United	38	9	10	19	77	116	28
Halesowen Town	38	8	7	23	77	137	23
Nuneaton Borough	38	9	4	25	66	127	22
Atherstone Town	38	9	2	27	74	170	20
Bromsgrove Rovers	38	6	6	26	62	128	18
Bournville Athletic	38	4	6	28	51	165	14

## Aim Of Borough FC Officials To Put Nuneaton Back On Football Map

The aim of the Committee is to build up a team for next season worthy of the borough and to put Nuneaton back on the football map, was declared by the hon. secretary of the Nuneaton Borough FC, Mr Percy Osborne, at a spread which was given to both teams and members of the Supporters' Club following the Borough's last game of the season on Saturday. The Reserve side celebrated the occasion by bringing back with them from Dordon the Footballers' Bed Cup, having defeated Kingsbury Colliery 2-1 in the replayed final that afternoon. Also on view was the Nuneaton Charity Cup won by the first team.

A large attendance was presided over by the President of the Club, the Mayor, Ald. W. Croshaw, who was supported by the chairman, Mr Harry Watkins and members of the committee. Ald. Croshaw expressed his pleasure at being President of the club, and remarked that he had thoroughly enjoyed the games he had witnessed during the season. He congratulated



the players on their good sportsmanship; they had taken their defeats as well as wins in a true spirit of sportsmanship. He hoped the club would go on getting stronger and stronger and that he would live many more years to be their president. The Mayor mentioned that in June he might call upon the players to give a physical training demonstration, for he would like the team of which he was president to take part in the demonstration – and he was sure he would not be disappointed.

## Difficulties Overcome

Considering the difficulties they had had to contend with, the club had done remarkably well. Next season he hoped to see them do even better still, and he had faith in them getting some of the finest players in the district.

Mr Harry Watkins, chairman of the club, expressed his thanks to the Mayor and Corporation for the way they had treated the club. He thanked the public for the way they had supported the club and said the officials hoped to be able to double that support next season. Birmingham Combination football, he thought, demanded better support. He thanked the players for their loyalty to the club. Professionals and amateurs alike had given of their best. The same spirit existed among the committeemen and it had been quite a pleasure to work with them.

Nothing had been too much trouble for them. Whatever they had done had been of no cost to the club.

The chairman went on to thank the ladies, the ambulance men, the Supporters Club – he assured them that the officials greatly appreciated the work they were doing – and the trainers.

In conclusion the chairman eulogised the work of the hon. secretary. Nothing had been too much trouble for him; in fact they could not do without him, and they hoped to retain his services for many years to come.

Mr Osborne replied that although he was a mere novice he was glad to realise that his work had not been in vain. He reminded them that when the Borough took over Evesham's fixtures they were at the bottom of the League table, and it was to the credit of the committee and players that they had got away from it. The public had supported them as well as they expected up to a point, and they had been able to keep their head nicely above water. Next season they hoped to build up a side worthy of the Borough and to put Nuneaton once again on the football map. A wonderful team spirit had been displayed amongst the players this season, and he hoped that next season they would go forward and be a real success.

## Captain's Thanks

Jim Homer, captain of the team, thanked the committee for entertaining them and for the way they had treated the players during the season.

Mr W. Flanagan replied on behalf of the second team. He said they had some good young players and appealed to the first team men to give them the benefit of any advice they could offer.

On behalf of the Supporters' Club, Mr W. Robinson handed over £17 to the president for club funds.

The Mayor acknowledged the gift and expressed thanks to the Supporters' Club for the work they were doing. It showed the interest they were taking in the building up of the club and he hoped to see it built up to the old standard.

**May 12, 1939**

## New Boot Inn Opened Tomorrow

The new Boot Inn, Chilvers Coton, is being opened tomorrow – and the ancient tavern it replaces, a favourite haunt of many generations of Coton colliers will soon be pulled down.

Only one of the front entrances can be used at the moment as the ground floor of the new Boot Inn is 5ft above the floor level of the old house. After demolition of the old Boot Inn, the roadway will be filled up to provide access to the other entrances.

The business part of the new house is on the floor level and comprises a lounge, smoke room, bar, dining or club room, out-door department and garden service, all of which will be served from a central service.

Ample cellarge has been provided in the basement and stainless steel piping has been fitted throughout. A car park has also been provided. The tenants' living rooms are on the upper floor.

## Nuneaton Prefers Professional Football

### Public Has Backed The Club Satisfactorily

That Nuneaton people prefer professional to amateur football has been definitely proved by the experience of the Borough Club this season.

Last season and during the first part of this campaign, when the club was in the Central Amateur League, attendances were poor, but when, on November 5, they took over the Birmingham Combination fixtures of the now defunct Evesham club, there was an immediate improvement in the gates, and from that time until the close of the season things went along swimmingly, although a succession of bad Saturdays from the weather point of view during the winter months, especially during the Christmas period, caused some concern to the officials.

It should be explained right away that at the time the officials agreed to take over Evesham's fixtures a big risk was involved. For one thing there was little, if any money in the club's coffers, and everything depended upon how the sporting public responded to the important step taken by the officials. At the time it was a big gamble; either the club succeeded or it failed – and had the latter happened the small band of officials would have been responsible for any debt that might have been incurred.

Happily, the people of Nuneaton responded nobly. True, the attendances to start with, due no doubt, to the very modest strength of the team and to a number of defeats, did not reach expectations but, for all that, were sufficient to at least cover the expenses of the team. As time went on playing results improved – and the “gates” too.

New players were obtained, the club began to get clear of the foot of the League table, and by Easter things were going so well that the attendances at the holiday games reminded one of the “good old days.” The receipts at the games with Wolves A and Hinckley United definitely put the club on the right side and assured there would be no deficit at the end of the season. Which seems to be quite an achievement these days!

## Thoroughly Justified

Not only was the club’s re-entry into the Birmingham Combination thoroughly justified, but also the policy of the officials at the start of the campaign. Had they gone out and signed professionals right and left, it might very easily have proved disastrous. Instead they relied mostly on amateurs and never in any game were there more than four professionals. Indeed, for the majority of the games there were only three professionals and occasionally two.

When this is taken into consideration no one can deny that the team has done fairly well. The players have been great triers – and a more loyal set of fellows never walked on to a football pitch. Amateurs and professionals alike pulled their weight and I think it is true to say that they never gave up trying, no matter how the game was going against them. A typical example was the Wolves A game. The Borough were five goals down once, but they reduced that big margin to two goals before Major Buckley’s famed youngsters again found the net!

## Inspiring Captain

Homer has been an inspiring captain and centre-half, a trier to the last ditch. His form throughout the campaign has been consistently good; his bad games were conspicuous for their extreme rarity. More spectacular centre-halves have represented Nuneaton, but none has worked harder.

It was a lucky day for the club when Jones came to Keresley Colliery. At the moment Hudson, the original left-back and captain, had lost his form, and the position was never really satisfactorily filled until Jones stepped into the breach to make the position his own. Jones did not play a single bad game and, curiously enough, seemed to reserve his best form for away matches. At Cheltenham, Gloucester and Walsall he was positively brilliant. He and Homer were real stalwarts in defence.

Now to another grand player – Boffin. The progress made this season has really been astonishing, and I will say without fear of contradiction that as a ball player he had few superiors in the League in the left-half position. Mold, too, has played some very good games, the biggest fault that could be found

with him being his tendency to dribble in front of his own goal – a fault which cost his side more than one goal. Joy, who had previously played for Courtaulds, came into the side late in the season, and did his job thoroughly well. He undoubtedly stiffened the defence. Then we come to the goalkeepers – Archer, Burdett and Townsend. Until he broke his thumb at Walsall, Burdett was unquestionably a great goalkeeper. He gave some wonderful displays, his work at Banbury being the finest I have seen for several seasons. He was literally bombarded in that match and it was only because of his truly great display that his side won 1-0, a goal by Roberts doing the trick.

It was fortunate that, little more than a week before Burdett’s injury, Townsend the reserve English schoolboy international, was signed. After only one game with the Reserves, he stepped into the first team and immediately proved himself to be a first-class player in the making. It came as no surprise when his signature was obtained by Derby County.

The defence all through has been the real strength of the side. The forward play has been patchy. Several centre-forwards were tried before the great-hearted Roberts was brought into the side. His initial appearance as leader of the attack coincided with the club’s first away League victory – against City Transport on November 26. He proved himself a great worrier of opposing defences and scored steadily until the Coventry City A match on January 28. In that memorable game, which Nuneaton won 7-6, Roberts shot brilliantly and scored no fewer than five of his side’s seven goals. He literally won the match off his own bat.

## Unfortunate Injury

Just when Roberts was settling down to play a big part in the club’s revival, he met with an unfortunate accident at Cheltenham, which necessitated his detention in the Spa town’s hospital. He returned to the side some few weeks later but never seemed to have completely recovered from the severe head injury he suffered. For the most part of the season Astle and Tromans occupied the inside positions. The former played some clever football, but lacked “pep,” although proving himself a fairly consistent goal-getter. Tromans, like Roberts, was a worker but did not do so well as usual in the goalscoring business. I often suspected that he was not really well and, curiously enough, it was ill health that caused him to give up the game for this season midway through March.

The outside-left position was never properly filled until Tinklin was obtained. He revealed useful form until being ‘crooked’ against Hinckley in the final of the Nuneaton Charity Cup. Sabin made a good deputy. Tebbutt has rendered the club excellent service both as right-half and outside-right. In the latter position his speed has been most disconcerting to opposing defenders, and he has also obtained some neat goals, the best of the bunch being the one he obtained at Walsall.



# Nuneaton Borough 1937-1945



1938						
Date	Opponent	Venue	Comp	Result	Scorers	Attendance
08.27	Northampton Mt. Pleasant	H	CAL	1-0	Roberts	c.300
09.12	Atherstone Town	A	BSC	0-5		
09.17	R.A.F. Cranwell	H	CAL	4-0	Godderidge, Boffin, Tebbutt, Roberts	
09.24	Holywell Amateurs	A	FBC 1	4-3	Boffin (2), Godderidge, Tebbutt	
10.01	Northampton Nomads	H	CAL	3-0	Roberts, Wright, Lawrence	
10.15	Loughborough College	H	CAL	1-3	Godderidge	
10.22	Moor Green	A	CAL	0-4		
10.29	Ibstock Penistone Rovers	H	CAL	1-1	Godderidge	
11.05	Bournville Athletic	A	BC	1-3	Astle	
11.12	Wallsall Reserves	H	BC	1-7	Hudson	1021
11.19	Hinckley United	A	BC	1-3	Tromans	
11.26	City Transport	H	BC	3-1	Lawrence (2), Roberts	
12.03	Wolves 'A'	At Dudley	BC	1-2	Vials	
12.17	Tamworth	H	BC	1-3	Lawrence	
12.26	Gloucester City	H	BC	2-5	Astle, Vials	
12.27	Redditch Town	A	BC	0-4		
12.31	Birmingham City 'A'	A	BC	0-3		
1939						
01.07	Banbury Spencer	A	BC	1-0	Roberts	
01.14	Darlaston	H	BC	3-1	Astle (2), Roberts	
01.21	Atherstone Town	A	BC	2-1	Astle, Roberts	
01.28	Coventry City 'A'	H	BC	7-6	Roberts (5), Young, Astle	
02.04	Halesowen Town	A	BC	3-4	Astle (2), Tinklin	
02.11	Cheltenham Town Res	A	BC	1-2	Young	
02.18	Gloucester City	A	BC	1-3	Astle	
02.25	W.B.A.'A'	At Manor Park	BC	2-2	Tebbutt (pen), Tinklin	
03.04	Bromsgrove Rovers	H	BC	6-0	Astle (4), Tromans, Roberts	
03.11	Bournville Athletic	H	BC	5-1	Tebbutt, Tromans, Tinklin, Roberts, o.g.	
03.18	Walsall Reserves	A	BC	1-2	Tebbutt	
03.25	Hinckley United	H	NCC F	3-2	Blockley (2), Tibbitts	
04.01	City Transport	A	BC	2-1	Roberts, Tibbitts	
04.08	Wolves 'A'	H	BC	3-6	Blockley (3, 2 pens)	
04.10	Hinckley United	H	BC	1-1	Roberts	
04.15	Redditch Town	H	BC	1-1	Roberts	
04.17	Coventry City 'A'	H	LHC SF	3-3	Homer, Tibbitts, o.g.	
	Coventry won on toss of a coin					
04.22	Tamworth	A	BC	1-3	Roberts	
04.24	Banbury Spencer	H	BC	2-2	Ralphs, Sabin	
04.27	Bromsgrove Rovers	A	BC	0-5		
04.29	Aston Villa 'A'	A*	BC	0-7		
05.01	Solihull Town	A	BC	2-4	Moreton, Sabin	
05.06	Solihull Town	H	BC	1-2	Sabin	

KEY; CAL = Central Amateur League, BC = Birmingham Combination, BSC = Birmingham Senior Cup, NCC = Nuneaton Charity Cup, LHC = Leamington Hospital Cup, FBC = Footballers' Bed Cup

\*\*\*\* 4.29 played at Alexandra Sports Ground

## Manor Park Ground

### Further Report On Sub-Letting

A further report with reference to the letting of the Manor Park football ground was presented at the meeting of Nuneaton Town Council on Wednesday.

The Markets and Estates Committee reported having considered the resolution adopted by the Committee with regard to the letting of the Manor Park Sports Ground for the football season 1939-40, which was referred back by the Council at its last meeting.

The Committee received a deputation from the Nuneaton Borough Football Club, the Nuneaton Tradesmen's (Thursday) League and A. J. Pearce's Football Clubs.

### Previous Resolution Rescinded

It was recommended (i) that the resolution adopted at their last meeting be rescinded; (ii) That, subject to the requirements of the Education Committee the Manor Park Sports Ground be let to the Nuneaton Borough Football Club for the season 1939-40 at a rental of £45, the Council reserving the right to resume possession and to have the exclusive use of the ground at any time.

### Responsibility For Maintenance

The Borough Football Club is to be responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the ground and for the electricity, water and other charges.

The Borough Football Club agreed to sub-let the ground to the Thursday Football Clubs at the same rent charged by the Corporation during the past season plus an allowance to be mutually agreed for the upkeep and maintenance of the ground and the payment of electricity, water and other charges.

The report was adopted.

### Woodhall and Tebbutt Signed by Borough FC

Stanley Woodhall, a former Nuneaton Town half-back, has been signed by the Nuneaton Borough for next season.

Since leaving Nuneaton in the 1936-37 season, Woodhall has been assisting Hereford United in the Birmingham League, and was captain last season. Tebbutt, the outside-right, has also been signed for next season.

### Amateur Forward Signed

Nuneaton Borough last night secured the signature of a forward named Smithson.

An amateur, Smithson, who has come to work in this district, has played for Consett in the North-Eastern League; Billingham in the Northern League, and Blackhall and Hetton United, in the Wearside League.

### “Big Hearted” Arthur Kisses The New Queen And “Stinker” Murdoch Kisses Eight Other Maids!

“What shall we do to celebrate?” workmates were asking at Messrs. Rufus Jones' factory, at Attleborough on Wednesday morning, when they learned that Miss Olive Harvey, of 80 Barton Road, Hill Top, Nuneaton, had been selected as Nuneaton's Hospital Carnival Queen for 1939.

A charming 18-years-old brunette, Miss Harvey was heartily congratulated by workmates and officials of the firm.

She was chosen at a Carnival dance at St George's Hall on Tuesday night by Arthur (Big Hearted) Askey, the famous radio and stage comedian, his colleague Richard (“Stinker”) Murdoch and Mrs Askey.

### Hello, Playmates

There was loud laughter when, after being announced by the Mayor, Ald. W. Croshaw, “Big Hearted” Arthur tripped lightly like a ballet dancer, down the floor of the ballroom to the stage, shouting: “Hello, playmates.”

He was quickly followed by his tall and handsome partner, “Stinker” Murdoch.

The Mayor, who was accompanied by the Mayoress, welcomed the artistes to Nuneaton, and “Big Hearted” Arthur replied with a witty speech into the microphone, which concluded with his famous “Eh thank you!”...

## Borough FC AGM: June 1939

### Loss Of £50 Turned Into Small Profit

A small profit of £1 4s. 2d. was reported at the annual meeting of the Nuneaton Borough FC, held at the Peacock Hotel on Tuesday night. It was pointed out that there was a loss of £50 on the Central Amateur League matches at the beginning of the season, so that it will be seen the club not only wiped out that loss but finished with a small credit balance – quite a creditable achievement.

With regard to next season, it was stated that every effort would be made to build up a really good side – a side of the strength that Nuneaton people are used to.

The meeting was presided over by Mr Harry Watkins (chairman), who was supported by Mr F. J. Perry (vice-chairman), Mr C. P. Osborne (secretary and treasurer), and by all the members of the committee.

The chairman said it was gratifying they had got through the season so successfully and a great deal of credit was due to Mr C. P. Osborne, who had combined business and finance with other duties. Taking into consideration that they had such poor gates in the Central Amateur League, which resulted in a loss of £50, the balance sheet showed a very satisfactory result.



The Chairman thanked the players and committee and remarked that the team spirit pulled them through. He also expressed thanks to the Vice-Chairman (Mr F. J. Perry), whose knowledge of football had been a very great asset to the club. He thanked the Supporters Club for their work.

## Annual Report

The annual report was presented by the Secretary, who said he looked back upon the past season with the greatest possible pride for they had again brought back Nuneaton into a really good class of football.

With regard to the playing side, Mr Osborne remarked that no matter how good a side they might put into the field in the future, he felt sure they would agree they would not turn out a better team of triers.

Commencing the season in the Central Amateur League, the team did fairly well until the opportunity occurred to take over the fixtures of Evesham Town in the Birmingham Combination.

He would like to mention here that had the club continued in the Central Amateur League it would have meant a fairly heavy financial loss, which the members of the committee would have had to face. The football in the League did not appeal to the public of Nuneaton, therefore the gates were very small and hardly covered the home matches.

Upon entering the Birmingham Combination the gates improved somewhat, but did not reach the expectations of the committee, probably due to the results of the matches and bad weather. Several new players were secured and the club also engaged three professionals. The team gradually improved and eventually started to climb the League table. The finances of the club were expected to improve as the result of an attractive Christmas programme, but the disastrous weather encountered put a damper on the enthusiasm of the committee. An attractive home match with Gloucester City turned out to be a serious financial loss and then there was the journey to Solihull only for the match to be cancelled.

Still the good spirit among players and committee enabled the club to take a turn for the better. Improved displays by the team brought better support from the public and an attractive Easter programme brought the finances of the club onto a sound footing again. They were thus able to look forward to the coming season with a credit balance, thus making a small profit in their first season in the Birmingham Combination.

They were hopeful with regard to the coming season and intended to try to build up a really good side which they felt would deserve the support of all local football enthusiasts. Quite a number of promising amateurs had been signed for next season, the only additions to the professional staff at the moment being Woodhall and Knight. They were endeavouring to secure a class centre-forward and inside

forwards, and interviews and correspondence had taken place. They had hoped to secure a class centre-forward by last weekend, but the terms demanded were excessive.

Mr Osborne concluded by thanking the Corporation for their generous treatment as regards the ground, the Chairman, all the members of the committee, and the Supporters' Club.

## Balance Sheet

The balance sheet showed a profit of £1 4s. 2d. compared with a deficit of £1 1s. 3d. the previous season. On the income side receipts from League matches totalled £413 11s. 9d. and cup-ties £63 0s. 10d. Donations from Presidents and Vice-Presidents amounted to £41 19s. and the sale of season tickets £7 11s. Total income was £546 2s. 2d. On the expenditure side, players' wages totalled £78 10s., travelling and hotel expenses £206 8s., and amounts paid to other clubs and charities £72 11s. 2d.

Commenting upon the balance sheet, Mr Perry stated that the amount received from League matches, £413 11s. 9d., was an increase of over £300 on the previous season. Receipts from cup-ties also showed a slight increase. Season tickets were also up. The average gate for Birmingham Combination matches was about £25 which, he thought, they would agree was not sufficient to run a team that the public of Nuneaton required. He hoped that next season the public would rally round the club so as to enable the committee to try to build up a team like they were used to having in Nuneaton.

The Mayor, Alderman W. Croshaw, was re-elected President, and the Vice-Presidents were re-elected en bloc. Mr Harry Watkins was re-elected Chairman, Mr F. J. Perry, Vice-Chairman, Mr C. P. Osborne Secretary and Treasurer and the committee en bloc.

## Birmingham Combination Not To Be Extended

At the annual meeting of the Birmingham Combination, a motion to extend the League from 20 to 22 clubs was defeated by a large majority.

Bromsgrove Rovers, who had to seek re-election, were again admitted. There were nine applications for the only vacancy, created by the resignation of Bournville Athletic. After a ballot, Stourbridge were returned as the successful applicants.

The annual report showed that the prestige of the Combination had been added to by the general excellence of the fare provided during the past season.

There were 1,332 registrations of players during the season and nineteen transfers were recorded. Special reference was made to the resignation of Bournville Athletic, which had been connected with the Combination for over forty years.

The officers were re-elected.



## Keep-Fit Festival At Manor Park

Besides providing an attractive programme for spectators, the Festival of Fitness being held at Manor Park Football Ground tomorrow will exemplify the progressive part Nuneaton is playing in the National Fitness Campaign.

Already Nuneaton has gained a reputation for being one of the most go-ahead towns in the Midlands for encouraging physical fitness. This is largely due to the initiative of the Mayor, Ald. W. Croshaw, in quickly setting up a Committee to deal with Physical Training and Recreation in the Borough...

## New Signings For Borough

Nuneaton Borough FC made their most important captures to date on Tuesday night, when they secured the signature of two first-class players – a centre-forward and an inside-forward.

The centre-forward is Billy Boyd, who has played for Clyde, Sheffield United, Manchester United and Southampton. Last season he was with Worthington, for whom he scored 45 goals, being the League's top goalscorer. He was offered terms by the club for the coming season but decided to leave. He is 28.

The other player is Tommy Robinson, who has played for Birmingham, Blackpool, Chesterfield and Lincoln City. Last season he was with Tonbridge Wells, winners of the Southern Mid-Week League and the Kent Senior Cup. He was top goalscorer with 58 goals. Robinson had been approached by Colchester and Worcester City, but preferred signing for the Borough, so as to be near his home in Coalville. He is 29 years of age, 5ft 9½ins, and weighs 12 stone. He is equally at home in any of the inside positions.

teams likely to be affected, he was calling the Executive Committee together to consider the whole position.

Mr Whetstone pointed out that those players who started in their junior section three years ago – this section caters for players up to 18 years of age – were now of Conscript age. The second division was likely to be most affected.

“We shall have more difficulty than the Nuneaton Combination because our players are mostly young,” he declared.

Mr F. Smith, secretary of Worthington's FC, Nuneaton, stated that the reason they were so badly affected was that they were about the youngest team in the Thursday League.

About three of their players came under the Bill at the moment, but there would be several others later on. He pointed out that they drew their team from all their shops in Nuneaton.

“Actually we shall have some difficulty in raising a team, but we hope to manage to get a side together for next season,” he added.

## Borough Outside-Left Signed By Cardiff

It is reported that Sabin, who played outside-left for Nuneaton Borough in several games towards the end of last season has been signed by Cardiff City.

## More Black-Outs

The recent “Black-outs” were only a beginning. Nuneaton will participate in a County A.R.P. exercise in October in which the RAF will co-operate. It will be a comprehensive test and in preparation for it, a series of smaller local exercises will be held at Nuneaton during the autumn.

## Footballers And Conscription

### Several Local Teams Hit By The Bill

The “Observer” understands that the Executive Committee of the Nuneaton Bible Class Football League is being called together to consider the effect of the Conscription Bill on the future of the League. One team, in particular, is likely to be hard hit in the matter of losing players, and other clubs are also likely to be affected.

Worthington's FC, members of the Nuneaton Thursday League, have resigned from the League, mainly because of the Bill.

Mr Jack Whetstone, secretary of the Bible Class League, told our representative that the Bill was bound to have an effect on the League next season. He believed there was one team who would lose several players and in consequence of other

## Borough FC May Sign Lauderdale

### Former Coventry Player In Tomorrow's Trial

Officials of Nuneaton Borough Football Club, who are confidently looking forward to a very successful season, expect to sign “Jock” Lauderdale, the Northampton and former Coventry City star forward this weekend. He has promised to give his decision after appearing in the final trial match at Manor Park ground tomorrow.

Since the close of last season, the Borough FC committee has adopted a progressive policy to ensure that for the coming campaign they will be able to field a team capable of holding its own both on the home territory and on foreign soil. The committee is determined that at the end of the season the club will not be lowly-placed in the league table, as was the case last year, but that the team spirit of the players, ably backed by the strong support of the residents and football fans of the town, will carry the club well up the Birmingham



Combination table – a position which it fully deserves as a fitting reward to the efforts of those who have been working so hard to re-establish the popularity of professional football in Nuneaton.

All last season's players have re-signed, with the exception of Tinklin, and the committee has not spared any expense to secure the signatures of good men to fill the key positions. On paper now, the club has a team which looks capable of providing serious opposition to all comers...

...Among the new players there are two goalkeepers – G. F. Allen, who hails from Bedworth and J. Collins, a local lad. One of the new backs B. Wannacott, who played with Kidderminster Harriers last season, is not exactly a new face as he turned out for the old Nuneaton Town club. J. Aston, left-back, is another promising local recruit, who saw service with Manor Park Rangers last season.

Three new half-backs have been added to the club's list, and these include S. Woodhall, last season's Hereford United captain, J. Beresford who plays cricket for Coventry Colliery and who experienced North Eastern League football last season. W. Richardson is from Loughborough Corinthians, in the Leicestershire Senior League.

W. Boyd, ex-Sheffield United centre-forward and prolific goalscorer last season for Workington, will, it is hoped, repeat his feat of last year when he notched 47 goals with Workington, making him the top scorer in the North Eastern League. He should form a dangerous combination with T. Robinson, ex-Birmingham and Tunbridge Wells Rangers' inside-forward, and W. Muncie, outside-left, who was with Southend United last year, going there from Leicester City. Muncie commanded a regular place in the Southend United senior eleven...

## Final Trial Match

At Nuneaton Borough FC's final practice match at Manor Park on Saturday, when, owing to some rather sweeping second half changes virtually four different teams were on display, the 500 or so spectators were rewarded by a feast of goal-scoring, and must have left the ground feeling very confident as to this season's prospects.

In the first half the Blues' forwards found the net three times and in the second, the same line, with two positional changes, but then playing as Reds, added another two.

Some consternation must be felt over the fact that the line which included the Borough's three most important captures to date, namely Robinson (Birmingham and Tunbridge Wells Rangers), Lauderdale (Coventry City and Northampton) and Muncie (Leicester City and Southend), failed to score at all, although shortly before the final whistle, Muncie was most unlucky with a terrific shot. The fault lay mostly with Robinson, whose shooting was completely off the mark. His right winger, Tebbutt, although showing plenty of speed and dash, finished poorly with his centres. Lauderdale in the

opening 45 minutes, was very disappointing, little being seen of him except in one or two neat moves with Muncie, but after the change-over of ends, he treated the crowd to a delightful display of football.

Muncie was lively and tricky on the left wing, frequently selling the dummy to the opposing defence. It was a pity that his well-placed centres could not have been converted into goals. However, Muncie, Robinson and Lauderdale combined very well.

Foxall (Cheltenham and Peterborough United), brother of the famous West Ham and England winger, was rather inconspicuous, although it was obvious he is possessed of a strong shot.

### “Jock” Lauderdale Signed By Nuneaton Borough

Nuneaton Borough have signed on “Jock” Lauderdale, the former Coventry City inside-right, and R. Foxall, a utility player, who last season assisted Cheltenham in the Southern League, and who is the brother of the West Ham and England forward.

## 1939-40

### Nuneaton Borough v Birmingham City A 26-08-1939

**Nuneaton:** Burdett; Mold and Wannacott; Woodhall, Homer and Foxall; Tebbutt, Lauderdale, Roberts, Robinson and Muncie.

**Birmingham City A:** Harris; Parr (capt) and Galley; Bartlett, Foulkes and Keasey; Lammas, Massart, Rowley, Pears and Southam.

Borough welcomed Birmingham City A to Manor Park for the first Birmingham Combination match of the 1939-40 season.

In the first-half, the Borough forwards commanded the play, but after the interval, the exchanges became more even, and the Borough defence was resolute and stood up well to several periods of heavy pressure. The home side crossed over with a 2-0 interval lead – a margin which they had fully deserved. The forwards had shown plenty of sparkle, Lauderdale having been the main schemer. Muncie and Tebbutt were in lively moods and each scored once. Tebbutt gave the Borough the lead when, 15 minutes after the start, he headed in from one of Muncie's accurate centres.

However, it was Robinson who paved the way for Muncie's goal. A brilliant run down the middle drew the defence and Muncie was almost on the goal line when he received the ball from the inside-left. That goal came five minutes before the interval and it seemed that there would be a runaway victory for the Borough, but when the teams took the field again, Southam on the visitors' left wing was allowed too much rope by Mold and gave Burdett some very anxious moments.

Homer, however, exercised a strong hold over centre-forward Rowley and this certainly held up the Birmingham line. Burdett was also in good trim and brought off many fine saves. Lauderdale put matters beyond all doubt with a classic 20 yards shot midway through the half, receiving the pass from Tebbutt. Birmingham deserved their one goal which



was scored by Lammas after Burdett had made a one-handed save from Southam.

Supporters can be quite pleased with the Borough display. It was a good all-round performance and the score was a true reflection on the Borough's superiority. Lauderdale, who skippered the team gave a brainy exhibition and both Tebbutt and Muncie were fast and tricky. Robinson played with vim and vigour, although on several occasions he and Roberts missed badly. Woodhall persevered as an attacking half-back and Homer was a grand stopper. On the other flank, Foxall was rather inconspicuous but nevertheless played a useful game.

Wannacott was the outstanding defender. On many occasions during the first half he cleared many dangerous shots from the goalmouth and when Birmingham made a sudden breakaway, leaving Lammas and Massart with only Burdett to beat, he quickly recovered and succeeded in blocking Lammas' shot.

His partner, Mold, was fairly sound but Southam gave him a good deal of trouble and he was apt to rather slacken his watch on the winger. Although at first Burdett fumbled the ball, he soon gained confidence in himself and was capable of shaping up to all emergencies.

## **Nuneaton Borough v Hinckley United 26-08-1939**

**Nuneaton: Burdett; Mold and Jones; Woodhall, Homer and Wannacott; Tebbutt, Lauderdale, Roberts, Robinson and Muncie.**

Borough welcomed Hinckley United to Manor Park for the final of the Nuneaton Charity Cup.

A cleverly taken goal by Lauderdale midway through the second half rallied the Borough when their hopes of avoiding defeat looked slim. At that time Hinckley were leading 2-0 and so poorly were the Nuneaton forwards playing that it looked as though they would never score. Lauderdale's goal – a shrewdly placed left-foot drive – was just the tonic his side required.

Borough played inspired football after this, swarmed round the Hinckley goal, and shortly afterwards Wannacott levelled the scores. Two minutes later Roberts got the goal which gave them victory. It was a remarkable finish to a game which was not a good one to watch. Both sets of players were inclined to become far too easily rattled and tempers were often allowed to run loose.

Prior to Lauderdale's goal the Borough forwards seldom looked like scoring. They did far too much dilly-dallying in their approach work and the shooting was poor in the extreme. In the first half they had much the bigger share of the attacking but rank bad finishing proved their downfall.

Hinckley, with far fewer attacks, always looked the more menacing. Their halves booted the ball about freely and the forwards always took the quickest route for goal. It came as no surprise at all when Conwell opened their account before half-time, after the home goal had escaped from a shot which rattled the bar with Burdett out of goal.

There was a further shock for the Borough early in the second half. Mold, with the whole of the field in which to clear, preferred to middle the ball to a colleague. The ball failed to reach its objective. Conwell gained possession, and after manoeuvring into position, beat Burdett with a shot which entered the net via the far post.

This goal thoroughly rattled the Borough and for the next quarter of an hour, it was all they could do to prevent Hinckley adding to their lead. Then came Lauderdale's goal. It proved the turning point of the game.

Taken all through the Borough gave a shaky display – a display which was almost in complete contrast to their snappy exhibition against Birmingham A in the opening match. The inside-forwards held the ball too long and there was far too much individual play. Tebbutt was easily the best forward; he was source of danger to the Hinckley defence all through.

The defence, with Wannacott at left-half and Jones at left-back, was not so compact as against Birmingham A and often wilted before Hinckley's speedy raids. Burdett gave another good display in goal.

## **Borough FC Awaiting Official Notification**

Nuneaton Borough FC is awaiting official notification from the Football League before making any announcement as to the future.

This decision was reached at a committee meeting on Tuesday, presided over by the chairman, Mr Harry Watkins.

## **Bromsgrove Rovers v Nuneaton Borough 02-09-1939**

**Nuneaton: Burdett; Mold and Wannacott; Woodhall, Homer and Foxall; Knight, Lauderdale, Smithson, Robinson and Muncie.**

Borough made the journey to Bromsgrove Rovers for a Birmingham Combination match.

That the Rovers are a greatly improved side is borne out by the fact that Tamworth only beat them 3-2 after a hard struggle last Saturday and that in the week they beat Halesowen 11-0. It was a very even match with both sides putting forward great efforts to gain a win.

Nuneaton scored first, after 20 minutes, when Smithson netted with a grand shot following a centre by Knight, who deputised for Tebbutt at outside-right.

The score remained 1-0 until nine minutes after half-time when Lacey turned into the net a centre by Rollason. The same player put his side ahead 28 minutes after half-time, netting after Burdett had only partially cleared from Rollason. Borough's equalising goal came nine minutes from the end when Woodhall converted a penalty.

Smithson, who made a good impact, having replaced Roberts at centre-forward. He led the attack well throughout and in the first-half scored a grand goal. Simpson, the ex-Villa and Walsall

player, failed to level the scores in the first-half, missing from the penalty spot.

Borough's defence was hardly so strong as in previous games and on occasions experienced difficulty in keeping the lively Rovers forwards in check.

## All Sport Brought To A Halt

All sport has been brought to a halt for the moment. The concentration of Britain's whole effort on winning the war makes its continuance inappropriate.

The Government has announced that the assembly of crowds in the open or indoors is at the present time to be avoided, and all events which would attract the public in any numbers have been prohibited.

Subsequently, it may be possible to minimise or remove the restrictions which have been imposed – but time alone will show what can or cannot be done.

## First "Black Out" Case At Nuneaton

"You are liable to a fine of £100 or three months' imprisonment with hard labour. It is for the safety not only of yourselves but for the general public at large."

So remarked the Chairman, Ald. J. Randle, at Nuneaton Police Court on Monday, when the first case of not obscuring windows sufficiently at night came before the Bench.

## Committee To Meet To Consider Borough's Future

The committee of the Nuneaton Borough FC is to meet shortly to consider its future.

The activities of the Birmingham Combination are definitely suspended for the time being, also the English Cup, which is a competitive competition. At the present time, only friendly football is permitted.

Mr C. P. Osborne, hon. secretary of Borough FC, told a reporter on Wednesday: "The committee will be meeting at an early date to consider the position."

It is announced that all Nuneaton Combination matches have been cancelled until further notice.

## Association Football

### A League Committee To Review The Situation

After a ban of six days on all football the Government has given permission for friendly football matches to be played in certain neutral districts, and a limited number of junior games took place on Saturday.

Mr S. F. Rous, the Football Association secretary, states that the following conditions apply to the resumption of football:

"Friendly matches at which it is not anticipated a large crowd will congregate may be played in areas not specified in the official list, provided sanction is first obtained from local police headquarters."

For the time being all football at which points are at stake is out of the question, though there is a feeling in certain quarters that regional competitions may come into being. As soon as the announcement was made that there would be friendly games on Saturday, some junior leagues presumed they could resume operations. Three in Wolverhampton and a number in the immediate district wired to London for advice. Mr Rous replied that his sympathies were with them, but only friendlies were permitted.

## "Black-out" Offences: Cyclists In Trouble

A number of cyclists were summoned at Nuneaton Police Court on Thursday for "black-out" lighting offences.

One case involved a cyclist without a white front light or a red lamp at the rear. Special Constable R. Perkins said the cyclist had no lights on at all. Fined 5s. in all.

A number of other cyclists were fined for similar offences.

## Friendly Matches To Be Arranged By Borough FC

It is likely that in the very near future – Saturday week is the suggested date – Nuneaton Borough FC will stage attractive friendly matches at Manor Park.

The position was discussed at a committee meeting on Wednesday night and it was decided that unless the Birmingham Combination officials make a new move in the meantime, friendly matches should be arranged.

It was suggested that teams like Derby, Coventry City, Leicester City, etc., might care to send teams to Manor Park. Before these matches can be played, however, the permission of the police will have to be obtained.

## Nuneaton Borough v Sutton Town

30-09-1939

Nuneaton: Burdett; Mold and Wannacott; Woodhall, Homer and Boffin; Knight, Lauderdale, Smithson, Foxhall and Muncie.

Borough welcomed Sutton Town to Manor Park for a friendly match.

Except for the fact that they were playing their first match since the outbreak of war a month ago, the Borough can have no excuses to offer for their defeat. The better footballers won. Borough played like a team that had been out of action for a month and towards the end of the game several of the home players were showing signs of leg weariness.

Strengthened by players from some of the "A" teams in the Birmingham district, Sutton served up smart and attractive football, and their crisp and controlled passes were in direct



contrast to the loose combined play of the home men. They were quicker on the ball than their opponents and kicked much more cleanly.

Joy, although playing in the unaccustomed position of outside-right was, to my mind, the most effective forward. When he received the ball he got on with the job without wasting time. It was a certain scoring shot of his which Bassett, in a vain effort to clear, put into the back of the net to score against his own side, while one or two headers of his went very near the mark.

Borough's defenders found the accurate passing of the Sutton forwards difficult to cope with and several times they were drawn out of position. Homer was inclined to play too far back, but did a lot of useful defensive work in the role of a third back. Boffin, making his first appearance of the season after his illness, found the game a little trying, but clearly showed that he has lost none of his old skill. Burdett had no chance with either of the shots that beat him.

Sutton have now beaten two Birmingham Combination sides in Solihull and Nuneaton, which is undeniable proof of their capabilities. They were cleverer in the movements than Borough, whose efforts at over-cleverness really brought their downfall.

Elkington opened the scoring for Sutton after 13 minutes, when he raced through and netted with a cross-shot which entered the net via the far upright. The Borough equalised after 33 minutes. Crosswaite the visiting goalkeeper made a mistake in leaving goal to go after Smithson, when the latter had the ball in a position from which it was almost impossible to score. Smithson rounded the keeper and pushed the ball to Joy, who shot hard and true for the net. It was a certain goal, and Bassett, in trying to kick away, could only put the ball into the net. Sutton got their winning goal in the early stages of the second half. A neat attack had the home defence spreadeagled and when Pritchard centred into the goalmouth, Davies easily put the ball past Burdett and into the net.

## English League Players In Team Against Borough

For their match with Nuneaton Borough tomorrow, Solihull are expected to have the assistance of four Villa and one Birmingham players – Dearson, Callaghan, Barker, Osborne and Batty.

## Solihull Town v Nuneaton Borough 07-10-1939

**Nuneaton: Burdett; Mold and Wannacott; Woodhall, Rouse and Joy; Knight, Lauderdale, Smithson, Boffin and Muncie.**

Borough made the short journey to Solihull Town to play a friendly match.

Borough put up a good fight against Solihull, who were able to put out a side studded with players of repute – Dearson,

Birmingham's Welsh international; Callaghan, the Villa full-back; "Ned" Barkus, ex-Birmingham full-back, and several of the Villa's most promising young "stars"; a team far above the strength of any side the Borough has met for several seasons.

Borough realised they were up against it before they went on the field, but rather than allow the strength of the opposition to intimidate them, it only served to make them all the more determined to give a good account of themselves. And in this they succeeded admirably.

Had it not been for Dearson, Borough might not have lost. The Welsh international was a veritable box of tricks and, throwing all his weight into the attack, he literally forced his front-line colleagues into action. Even so, had the Borough had a centre-forward who could have turned opportunities to account, I still think they would have avoided defeat.

Smithson gave a curiously mixed display at centre-forward. With easy chances he failed badly; with much more difficult openings he did better. Once he brought King, the home goalkeeper, to his knees with a splendid cross-shot taken on the run, while in the second half he almost rendered the keeper incapable with a smashing shot from close range.

Woodhall was the best defender on the field and did noble work against Dearson and Batty. I did not envy his job trying to keep the elusive Dearson in check, but he stuck to his guns with great spirit – which was fortunate for the Borough. Rouse, making his first appearance of the season at centre-half, gave a most able display, his great height serving him in good stead when it came to duels in the air with Osborne. Joy completed a very fine half-back line.

A pleasing display was given by Knight, who is only a young lad, but has the makings of a very good player. He has pace, ball control and can centre with the best. His goal was possibly the best of the four scored. Muncie plied Boffin with a neat pass down the wing. The latter went on a short distance and then centred beautifully. Knight gathered and quickly beat King with a rasping low drive.

Osborne, Bradley and Dearson scored for the winners and Knight for the Borough. Dearson's goal came after a thoroughly hectic attack on the Borough goal. First Osborne hit the post; from the rebound another terrific shot struck Burdett; and from that rebound Dearson shot through. It was a really grand game to watch.

## Nuneaton Borough v Stourbridge 14-10-1939

**Nuneaton: Burdett; Mold and Wannacott; Woodhall, Rouse and Joy; Knight, Lauderdale, Johnson, Boffin and Hill.**

Borough welcomed Stourbridge to Manor Park for a friendly match.

Apart from the fact that 12 goals were scored, it was a game which will not be forgotten quickly, because of some brilliant goals – and brilliant moves. There were so many highlights that it is really difficult to know where to start, but I think





pride of place must be given to the display of Hill, the young Bedworth lad who, following a successful debut with the Reserves the previous week, was given his chance at outside-left in place of Muncie. To say that the move was a success is putting it far too mildly; his play was a revelation.

To score a “hat-trick” of goals in one’s first match in this type of football is something to be proud of, but it was not only his goalscoring ability which attracted the eye; his general play was also astonishingly good. Two of his goals were finely crafted pieces of work. When he got his second, he cut in from the wing and put in a terrific ground shot. Billingham, the Stourbridge keeper could only partially stop the ball, and before he could recover, Hill was on the ball again and banged it into the net.

Hill’s third goal was even more brilliant. Receiving the ball well out, he left the opposition standing, closed in, and literally slammed the ball into the back of the net. Another brilliant goal was scored by Johnson, whose re-appearance in Nuneaton colours not only gave pleasure to supporters, but brought about a big improvement in the attack. The ball came over to him in rather loose fashion, but, waiting for it to drop in front of him, he hit it first time in the air – and Billingham knew no more until he fetched the ball out of the back of the net.

The best effort in the match, which did not result in a goal, although it deserved one, was that of Lauderdale, late in the game. A badly-placed corner kick went to the home captain when he was standing fully 30 yards from goal. He emulated Johnson in hitting the ball in mid-air, and Billingham was the luckiest man to be just in the right position to save a terrific shot.

Stourbridge’s first goal was a picture-book effort. Moss got away on the left and drawing the opposition, he put the ball beautifully into the mouth of the goal out of Burdett’s reach, and with a perfectly placed header, Knott did the rest. Knott’s other two goals were easy efforts, but the one scored by Moss took the eye. When Mold and Rouse were attempting to clear, the ball was headed away by one and then struck the other, falling at the feet of Moss who beat Burdett with a lovely shot.

Another clever goal was scored by Beresford, the ex-Villa star, who played delightful football. Although there was a suspicion of offside about the movement the ball was swung across by Moss, and getting it square on his head, the old Villa man put it well out of Burdett’s reach. Two of Borough’s other goals were less spectacular. From almost on the goal-line Knight tried a shot at goal. Hard pressed by Johnson, Talbot tried to kick away, but only helped it into his own net. The other was a gift from the gods. Hard pressed by home forwards, Bashford tried to put it back to his goalkeeper while the latter was leaving his goal to cover the ball. Billingham made a full-length dive to save, but the ball just passed by his fingertips and entered the net.

Hill (3), Johnson, Talbot (o.g.) and Bashford (o.g.) scored for Nuneaton, and Knott (3), Beresford, Salters and Moss for Stourbridge.

## Competitive Football Again

At the time of going to press last night, information was not forthcoming as to the decision reached by the Birmingham Combination as regards a resumption of competitive football, but from information previously gleaned by the “Observer” we shall be surprised if it were not decided to arrange some scheme for war-time football.

The Borough Club was represented at last night’s meeting by the chairman, Mr Harry Watkins.

The “Observer” understands that one suggestion put to the meeting was that the League should be divided into two sections, the Borough being included in the one which would bring them into opposition with such clubs as Hinckley, Atherstone, Tamworth and other teams within reasonable travelling distance of Nuneaton. However, Atherstone FC has now decided not to compete in war-time football.

Most of the clubs in the League are prepared to continue, but the Borough officials were not altogether satisfied with the suggested team grouping of the two sections, and Mr Watkins was instructed to put forward a suggestion that there should be one League composed of all the clubs who have expressed willingness to take part, or, failing that, that the suggested section in which Nuneaton would compete should be increased numerically, with a fair proportion of “A” teams.

The Borough officials are extremely anxious, in fairness to their supporters, to take part in competitive football – friendly fixtures obviously do not appeal to their followers, judging by the last two home “gates” – and Mr Watkins could be relied upon to wholeheartedly support the resuscitation of the league in some form or other at last night’s meeting.

### League To Re-Start

A last-minute telephone message from Mr Watkins stated that it had been decided to restart the League, and that the following teams had been accepted into membership:-

Nuneaton Borough, Darlaston, City Transport, Tamworth, Bromsgrove, Redditch, Wolves A, Solihull, Stourbridge, Sutton Town and possibly Coventry City.

It is probable that the games will be commenced on Saturday, November 4th.

### Nuneaton Borough v Solihull Town 21-10-1939

**Nuneaton: Burdett; Mold and Wannacott; Woodhall, Latham and Joy; Knight, Lauderdale, Johnson, Boffin and Hill.**

Borough welcomed Solihull Town to Manor Park for a friendly match.

In the first-half, play was very interesting and some good football was witnessed, but after the change of ends things



deteriorated badly and the Borough missed several easy chances. Before the visitors got their only goal midway through this half, the Borough should have been leading well. After half-time more easy chances went begging. The play of the forward line, which gave such a brilliant exhibition against Stourbridge the week before, was very moderate, but this is explained by the fact that there were changes in both extreme wing positions. Hill who made such a fine debut in the last home match, was reported to have joined the Army, while Knight was suffering from influenza.

Smithson filled the vacant outside-right berth, while Knight, the local player, figured at outside-left. The latter did fairly well, but Smithson proved a poor substitute for the other Knight and apart from scoring a goal – it was a good one from a left-wing centre – did very little else. With the punch missing from the wings the attack always seemed to be struggling rather than functioning as a smooth-running force, and Lauderdale did not help matters by another exhibition of over-dribbling.

The Borough got both their goals in the first-half. The first was netted by Smithson, who ran in to shoot into the top of the net from Knight's accurately placed centre. The other was obtained by Woodhall with that brilliant long shot. Kendrick got Solihull's only goal midway through the second half. It looked as though he was offside and the Nuneaton players seemed to think so too, for they stopped, expecting the whistle to blow. The referee waved play on and Kendrick, moving forward, netted with a well-placed shot. Woodhall missed a penalty when he kicked the ground at the same time as the ball and it rolled gently into King's hands.

In the absence of Joy, who was not well enough to play, Billy Bond of Coventry City, appeared at left-half and gave a very pleasing display. But from the Borough's point of view the chief item of interest was the appearance of Latham, the Villa player, at centre-half. Latham had not played for seven weeks, but gave a very fine exhibition. Woodhall again showed his mettle and shortly after he missed the penalty, he made amends by finding the net with a terrific long-range shot which simply flew past the goalkeeper. Mold gave by far his best display of the season. He scarcely put a foot wrong all the match.

## Darlaston v Nuneaton Borough

28-10-1939

**Nuneaton: Burdett; Mold and Wannacott; Woodhall, Latham and Joy; Knight, Lauderdale, Johnson, Boffin and Blockley.**

Borough made the journey to Darlaston for a friendly game.

Borough's defence won this match for Darlaston on Saturday. They not only presented their opponents with a couple of the silliest goals I have ever seen, but went perilously close to handing them a "hat-trick." The visitors certainly displayed a spirit of goodwill towards their opponents.

After only two minutes' play, Mold, the right-back, got himself in a terrible tangle, and as a last resort tried to put the ball back to his goalkeeper just as the latter was leaving his goal

to clear. The ball dropped at the feet of a Darlaston forward, and all he had to do was put it into an empty net.

After 37 minutes came presentation goal number two. When standing fully 35 yards from goal, Latham endeavoured to put the ball back to his goalkeeper. As he went to kick the ball it lifted on the rough ground, with the result that he only half-kicked it. The ball reached an unmarked Darlaston forward, who had no more to do than walk the ball round the stranded Burdett and place it into the net. Between these two goals, Wannacott also tried to put the ball back to his goalkeeper as the latter was leaving his goal to gather it. With Burdett helpless to do anything, the ball passed right across goal and missed entering the empty net by inches only.

Thus Darlaston had two goals start and when another goal came to them a minute after the scoring of the second, things indeed looked bad for Borough. But things went bad for them before the game started. Lauderdale sent a telegram at the last minute to say that he could not play owing to the death of his mother, while Blockley wired to say he was still unfit.

Three goals down at half-time was not a very happy prospect for the Borough, and yet Darlaston were considerably flattered by the cross-over score. Despite all their faults, the Borough had given a plucky display and but for the fact that Smithson missed two sitters, while Knight saw a really great first-time shot skim the bar, they would not have been so badly placed at half-time.

A vastly different Borough side was seen after the break. They had overcome their first-half shocks and the Darlaston defence was given plenty to think about. Knight, although poorly supported, gave a grand display at outside-right, and whenever he got the ball he literally made rings round the Darlaston defence. Joy and Boffin were doing better on the left wing and Smithson showed signs of improvement.

After Knight had several times come near to scoring, Johnson netted with a grand shot. Another breakaway goal by Darlaston put them three goals ahead again, but the Borough came back once more and Smithson got a very neat second goal. Several times after this the visitors went near to further reducing the lead with Johnson twice going close.

## No War Football For Villa

Aston Villa Football Club, which has suspended its activities for the duration of the war announced that it has decided to refund money to all season ticket holders, less a proportionate amount for the two matches played before the outbreak of hostilities.

The Board states that the police will not permit football at Villa Park and that it will not be politic to endeavour to arrange regular leave of absence for the many players who have undertaken work of national importance. The directors consent to players who find themselves able to play having their services utilised by other clubs.



## Redditch Town v Nuneaton Borough 04-11-1939

**Nuneaton: Burdett; Woodhall and Jones; Joy, Latham and Bond; Knight, Lauderdale, Johnson, Wannacott and Jeremy.**

Borough travelled to Redditch for their first match in the newly constituted Birmingham Combination against Redditch Town.

Redditch had five Stoke City players in their side, but Borough gave a truly magnificent display, with every man pulling his weight. The home supporters had come to see the total eclipse of the visiting side; they had been lulled into a false sense of security by the fact that they were playing the best side they had ever put into the field. And no one will really deny that they had every cause to expect victory. Fancy, five Stoke City players in the side. Three of them, Antonio, Kirton and Wilkinson, regular members of their First Division side.

Borough players were well aware of the task that lay ahead of them, but it only made them all the more determined to give a good account of themselves. "The bigger they are, the heavier they fall," was the comment from the Borough captain, Lauderdale, before the game started. Right from the kick-off the Stoke players, Antonio and Westland, deputy to the international Steele, started pattern-weaving. But the Borough defence refused to yield. The home side launched attack after attack, but still the opposition would not yield.

Heartened by the grand work of their defenders, the Borough forwards began to get into their stride, and after 25 minutes' play they struck the first blow. Jeremy, the newly-acquired outside-left from Coventry City, raced away down the wing and slipped the ball into the middle. Johnson secured possession, and when about to be tackled, slipped the ball out to the unmarked Knight – and the winger did the rest with a glorious shot into the roof of the net.

About two minutes before half-time Borough went further ahead. They were awarded a free-kick near the half-way line. The home players crowded in front of their goal, expecting Bond to place the ball there. Instead, the half-back put it out to Joy, who was standing well out on the right wing, Joy immediately swung the ball right across the goal. Expecting that the keeper, Wilkinson, would reach it, the defenders made no attempt to clear. Meanwhile Jeremy had pounced on the ball and after moving forward he dribbled round the keeper and coolly put it into the net.

After half-time Redditch cut out the fancy work and became much more menacing. It was not long before Randle, after Burdett had made a truly great save from a point-blank shot, dashed up to put into the net. A quarter of an hour later, Randle got away and put across a beautiful centre which Westland got to with his head and delightfully steered the ball past Burdett.

It looked as though Borough's resistance had been broken, but 15 minutes from the end Borough went ahead again, and really magnificent goal it was. The ball was swung out

to Jeremy. The latter quickly made ground, but instead of centring he slipped the ball inside to Wannacott. The latter quickly shoved the ball forward to the waiting Johnson and, after skilfully avoiding a tackle by Clutterbuck, the centre-forward coolly slipped the ball out of the reach of the advancing keeper. This goal knocked all the resistance out of the Redditch defence and Jeremy again got away and centred delightfully. Standing near goal, Wannacott lifted his left foot to the ball in the air, and while Wilkinson stood perfectly still, wondering what had happened, the ball was in the net again.

## Nuneaton Borough v Tamworth 11-11-1939

**Nuneaton: Burdett; Woodhall and Jones; Joy, Latham and Bond; Knight, Lauderdale, Johnson, Wannacott and Jeremy.**

Borough welcomed Tamworth to Manor Park for a friendly match.

Tamworth scored the first goal after ten minutes, against the run of play, for Johnson had already hit two shots against the Tamworth bar when Goffin put Mills through and the latter's shot was deflected out of Burdett's reach by Bond's outstretched foot. Borough had such wretched luck in the finishing department, that it seemed they would never score, for in addition to the escapes from Johnson, Tamworth's goal miraculously remained intact from a terrific free-kick by Lauderdale, which struck the upright, and when Jeremy also struck the post.

The tonic that Borough needed came just two minutes after half-time. Jeremy beautifully side-stepped Ross and put across a delightful centre for Lauderdale to dive full length to head into the net. After that Tamworth were outplayed. Wannacott put the Borough in front after 33 minutes with a good shot and four minutes later the crippled Latham added a third. Tamworth were outplayed in the second half, the diminutive Borough outside-left Jeremy, playing ducks and drakes with their right flank defence. He had far too many tricks for Ross and Edney, and did almost as he pleased with them. In the end Ross resorted to barging tactics, but they were just about as successful as his previous efforts.

Goffin the ex-Villa player, caused the Borough defence great trouble in the first-half and he led many raids on their goal. While not nearly as good as at Redditch, Borough made a number of delightful attacking moves. Johnson was far better than Wombwell for Tamworth and with the least bit of luck would have bagged two or three goals. Considering the handicap of an injury to Latham, Borough did well to win.

## Sutton Coldfield Town v Nuneaton Borough 18-11-1939

**Nuneaton: Burdett; Woodhall and Jones; Boffin, Joy and Bond; Knight, Lauderdale, Johnson, Wannacott and Jeremy.**

Borough made the journey to Sutton Coldfield for a Birmingham Combination game against Sutton Town.

For three parts of this game the Borough gave the home side



## Nuneaton Borough v B'ham City Transport 25-11-1939

**Nuneaton: Burdett; Woodhall and Jones; Joy, Woolley and Bond; Boffin, Lauderdale, Johnson, Wannacott and Jeremy.**

Borough welcomed Birmingham City Transport to Manor Park for a Birmingham Combination game.

It was a dull, uninteresting game, the main feature being the Borough's timid first-half efforts to get a goal. In many respects this half was a repetition of that at Sutton; the Borough had all the play – and yet found themselves a goal in arrears at half-time. During this period Transport only had two scoring chances. Meredith, a capable winger, muffed the first, but took full toll of the second. On the other hand Borough had at least half-a-dozen scoring opportunities, but frittered them all away in a most tantalising fashion. At Sutton the forwards had a lot of bad luck, against City Transport it was rank bad finishing.

The forwards certainly bucked up their ideas after the break and within ten minutes Johnson had made amends for first-half blunders by levelling the scores and then putting Borough ahead. The first one was a hook shot which was scrambled back into play. There was no doubt that the ball had crossed the line and the referee immediately pointed to the centre. Johnson's second goal was a good one. Jeremy slipped the ball inside to the centre-forward, and warding off the challenges of the visiting defenders, Johnson found the net with a fast cross-shot.

After the second of these goals the Borough pressed heavily. Tyler, the City keeper, made a great full-length save in the fast-fading light; and Boffin missed a sitter after Johnson had fooled the defence by jumping over a centre by Jeremy. Boffin collected the ball, but was too long getting it under control and the ball was scrambled away.

The real thrill of the game was in the last minute, when Borough gave away a free-kick within scoring range. The light was so poor that an astutely placed shot would undoubtedly have scored, for Burdett could not possibly have seen the ball. As it was, however, the ball crashed into Borough defenders, who formed a human wall, and before the ball could be properly cleared, the whistle went for full-time.

Woodhall and Jones were far below their best and Woolley of Hinckley was a moderate substitute for Latham. The wing-halves were good, while Boffin gave a very satisfactory display in the unaccustomed position of outside-right.

## Darlaston v Nuneaton Borough 02-12-1939

**Nuneaton: Burdett; Woodhall and Jones; Boffin, Joy and Bond; Kirkaldie, Lauderdale, Johnson, Wannacott and Jeremy.**

Borough made the journey to Darlaston for a Birmingham Combination match.

Borough's attack was strengthened by the inclusion of Kirkaldie, formerly of West Ham and Doncaster Rovers, and

an object lesson in the finer arts of the game, but the tragic part of the whole thing is that their artistry did not produce a single goal. In between periods of being outplayed Sutton snatched a couple of goals and the points.

For the first half hour the Borough toyed with their opponents. Their carefully planned and cleverly executed attacks had the home defence in a complete quandary – and how many times they nearly scored was astonishing. But the Sutton goal bore a charmed life. Johnson and his colleagues did everything but get the ball into the net. It simply would not cross the line.

Then Sutton broke away and it looked a goal all the way. The move caught the Borough defence napping. Davies (WBA) was left unmarked directly in front of goal and when Turner centred perfectly Davies headed a very clever goal which had Burdett beaten all the way. In spite of this shock Borough still looked to be in the game and there followed two or three more exciting incidents in front of the Sutton goal, a couple of headers flashing just the wrong side of the posts.

Shock number two came during another Sutton breakaway. Bond was alleged to have fouled a home forward. Whatever it was it was most trivial. Still the referee awarded a penalty and Bassett of West Bromwich Albion took the kick, only for Burdett to make a grand save near the foot of the upright. From the clearance, Nuneaton went right through the Sutton defence, the movement finishing with a through pass to Johnson. Although challenged from either side, the centre-forward waited his chance and as Merrick, the Birmingham goalkeeper came out, he shot. To Johnson's great disappointment the ball struck the bar and rebounded to safety.

Two minutes after half-time Jones, in attempting to head clear, put the ball to the feet of Keasley, who slipped the ball through to Holder (WBA). The latter shot hard and true. Burdett made a grand attempt to save and actually got his fist to the ball, but he could not stay its progress and the ball found the back of the net.

For the next 25 minutes, the Borough penned their opponents in, but the harder they tried to score the worse seemed their luck. Time after time a head or outstretched leg would divert what seemed a scoring shot, outside the posts or over the bar. Still the visiting forwards pegged away. Eventually Jeremy dribbled his way right into the goalmouth to shoot hard from only a few yards and Merrick punched it away, straight back to Jeremy who put in another hard drive, which Merrick again punched away, and the return shot hit the keeper. A minute or so later Lauderdale's fierce free-kick hit a defender's hand, but appeals for a penalty were ignored by the referee.

Proof of Borough's superiority can be seen by the fact that apart from the two goals that beat him and the penalty shot which he saved, and two more hard drives that he had to deal with, Burdett saw little of the ball. At the other end Merrick was constantly in action and had little respite throughout the game.



played some brilliant football. Their skilfully planned and executed moves putting fear into the hearts of both the defenders and home supporters.

The game had only been in progress five minutes when the Borough drew first blood. Securing the ball near the half-way line, Lauderdale, who gave glimpses of the form which made him famous with Coventry City, moved forward, beautifully drew the half-back and then banged the ball down the wing to Kirkaldie. The latter made ground and then put the ball on to Wannacott's head, and the ball flew into the net. A minute later Darlaston were on level terms. A pass found Beasley, the Walsall outside-left, unmarked – and he did precisely the same as Kirkaldie did. His perfectly placed centre found Cox unmarked, and the centre-forward headed past Burdett into the net.

Eight minutes later Borough were again ahead as the result of another brilliant move. It was the first one all over again. Lauderdale drew the half-back, pushed the ball down the wing to Kirkaldie, the winger centred perfectly and all Johnson had to do was to slam the ball into the back of the net. That ended the scoring until seven minutes from the end, when Beasley raced away on the left and centred for Humpage to head a fine goal to save a point for his side.

In between the scoring of Borough's second goal and Darlaston's second there were some almost breath-taking moments – play which had the spectators yelling with excitement. Up to half-time Borough definitely had the measure of their opponents and really ought to have crossed over with a 3-1 lead, for Johnson broke through on his own, but with only the keeper to beat, failed to control the ball and Dolman cleared. At this stage Borough should have been in a winning lead – it should have at least been 4-1 in their favour. Actually, still a goal to the bad, Darlaston then completely turned the tables on Borough.

Darlaston launched attack after attack on the visiting goal, forced corner after corner, and nearly scored three or four times. In face of this terrible onslaught, the Borough defenders naturally tired, but stuck to their guns and thanks to some grand play by Burdett, Woodhall and Joy held out until Darlaston got the equaliser seven minutes from the end.

Nuneaton Borough v Kettering Town	09-12-1939
Nuneaton: Burdett; Woodhall and Jones; Joy, Latham and Bond; Kirkaldie, Lauderdale, Johnson, Wannacott and Jeremy.	

Borough welcomed Kettering Town to Manor Park for a friendly match.

When the strength of the Kettering side is taken into account – they had previously lost only one match this season, scoring 60 goals against 20 – this Borough victory may be counted as one of their best performances this season.

Though rain fell heavily throughout the match and the ground was inches deep in mud, the spectators were treated to some fine football. The Borough's success was due to a fine second half rally, after it appeared at one time that the

visitors would run them off their feet – and this in spite of the fact that Borough netted a brilliant first-minute goal.

Although a goal down at half-time, the home side equalised seven minutes after half-time – and after that Kettering were completely outplayed. They conceded two more goals and their defence was so leg-weary towards the end that they were a trifle lucky to escape heavier punishment.

Borough's first-minute goal was a replica of the two they scored at Darlaston. The move started near the half-way line. Lauderdale beat an opponent, pushed the ball down the wing to Kirkaldie, the latter squared the ball to perfection – and Johnson's head did the rest. In the next five minutes Kirkaldie twice nearly increased Borough's lead, once with a fast ground shot, which passed right across the face of the goal, and then with a glorious drive which Barton saved beautifully.

After getting over these initial shocks Kettering settled down to play effective football and the crisp passing of their forwards gave the Nuneaton defence plenty to think about. Linnell soon levelled the scores from a short pass by Edwards, and later Carr, who was top scorer in the East Midlands League last season, put the visitors heads with a cleverly placed shot from another right-wing move. Borough had to defend for some time, but towards half-time showed signs of a revival, and in the last minute of the half, Latham dashed forward for a corner kick, which was placed right in front of the crossbar by Kirkaldie, but with all the net to put the ball into, he headed across and wide, when it seemed impossible to miss.

Kettering deserved their half-time lead, but seven minutes after the break Borough were on level terms. Joy placed the ball right into the goalmouth from a free-kick and as Barton advanced to clear Johnson steered the ball past him with his head and into the untenanted net. After this Kettering were run off their feet, and their occasional breakaways were easily dealt with. After 23 minutes of the second half, the Kettering keeper could only partially save from Wannacott and Johnson forced the ball into the net for his "hat-trick." Then after 31 minutes, Jeremy put the issue completely beyond doubt with a left foot drive which found the far side of the net.

Stourbridge v Nuneaton Borough	16-12-1939
Nuneaton: Burdett; Woodhall and Jones; Joy, Latham and Bond; Kirkaldie, Lauderdale, Johnson, Wannacott and Jeremy.	

Borough made the journey to Stourbridge for a Birmingham Combination match.

Borough started strongly and only the width of the crossbar prevented Johnson from scoring after ten minutes. At that time Borough were giving the home side plenty to think about. Once before Johnson and then Kirkaldie had all but scored for the visitors – and then came the move which has brought three goals in the last two matches. Kirkaldie was sent through on the right, he drew the defence skilfully and then centred beautifully. Johnson jumped into the air as the keeper moved forward to clear the ball, and got there

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first with his head. The ball flew across goal well out of Billingham's reach, to strike the top of the bar and go behind.

Shortly after Stourbridge got a goal when they were awarded a free-kick about 30 yards out. Joe Beresford, the old Villa "star" took the kick and sent in a hard drive. Instead of getting his hands to the ball Burdett preferred to kick at it. He did not get hold of the ball properly and it dropped a few yards in front of him at the feet of Salters, who had only to touch the ball into the net.

The score remained 1-0 until about 15 minutes from the end, when Stourbridge got another lucky goal. Morton was put clean through on the home right wing and closed in right on top of Burdett. The winger made a poor mess of his final shot, but he was so close to Burdett that the Borough keeper had no option but to punch at the ball. Although there were several Borough players at hand, the ball dropped at the feet of Knott, and the latter promptly put it into the back of the net.

Three minutes later Borough scored a gem of a goal. Kirkaldie was given the ball just inside the Stourbridge half. He went away like a streak of lightning, outpaced the wing-half and as the full-back, Turner of Crystal Palace, moved forward to challenge him, cut inside him and without hesitation sent in a terrific shot which found the back of the net, via the underside of the bar. It was anybody's game after that, but the Stourbridge defence held out, and so the Borough came away pointless.

Between the scoring of the home side's two goals, they were awarded a debatable penalty, as Woodhall appeared to have been fouled by Knott. The latter took the kick and Burdett pulled off a magnificent save.

## Nuneaton Borough v Wolves A

23-12-1939

**Nuneaton: Burdett; Woodhall and Hardy; Joy, Latham and Bond; Kirkaldie, Lauderdale, Johnson, Wannacott and Jeremy.**

Borough welcomed Wolves A to Manor Park for a Birmingham Combination match.

Borough monopolised play in the first-half, but their general play was so ragged and lacking in method that they seldom looked like scoring. Their only goal came from a penalty scored by Lauderdale, after Kirkaldie had been fouled. Later in the half, a shot by Elwell, the Wolves' outside-left, struck Latham and was deflected out of Burdett's reach for the equaliser.

The score remained 1-1 until 12 minutes after half-time, when Kirkaldie put the Borough ahead with a smart goal from a solo effort. For a short period the score remained unchanged – and then the fireworks came. In five minutes Borough added four more goals. Lauderdale started the ball rolling with a grand shot from a free-kick just outside the penalty area. A minute later Borough were awarded another free-kick. Lauderdale shot into the crowd of players, and smashed the ball into the net from the rebound. In the next minute Kirkaldie beat the field and presented Lauderdale with his third goal in three minutes.

Two minutes later Kirkaldie again beat the defence and put into the goalmouth for Wannacott to head the sixth goal.

All the real thrills of the game were packed into this brief period. The remainder of the game was notable for poor play by both sides. Borough lost the services of Jeremy early in the game through injury, while Johnson, too, hobbled about injured for most of the game. Hardy, formerly of Aston Villa and Blackburn Rovers, gave a highly polished display at left-back for the Borough.

## Nuneaton Borough v Tamworth

25-12-1939

**Nuneaton: Burdett; Woodhall and Higham; Joy, Latham and Bond; Kirkaldie, Lauderdale, Hardy, Wannacott and Knight.**

Borough welcomed Tamworth to Manor Park for a Christmas Day Birmingham Combination game.

Bad finishing and clever goalkeeping by Crowhurst saved Tamworth from a heavy defeat. Within half an hour of the start, Borough had established a 3-1 lead and things were looking very bad for the visitors. A few minutes later, Hardy, who led the attack in the absence through injury of Johnson, and who had previously netted twice, missed a glorious chance of putting the issue practically beyond doubt with a fourth goal, but with Crowhurst at his mercy, he failed.

A few minutes before half-time Tamworth got a second goal to put them in the hunt again. After half-time Hardy missed two more sitters – each time he had only Crowhurst to beat from no more than six yards, but somehow contrived to put the ball wide. By this time Borough should have been in a very comfortable lead. Still they held on to their 3-2 lead until eleven minutes from the end. Then, Tamworth, who had scarcely moved out of their own half for quite 20 minutes, got an equaliser. The ball was pushed through the middle where White was waiting. The Preston North End man dashed forward, out-ran Latham, and surprised everybody by scoring from an extremely difficult angle.

A few minutes later Burdett was injured in saving an awkward looking situation and had to be taken to hospital. Wannacott went in goal, but he was not seriously troubled and the game ended in a draw.

Hardy opened the Borough's account on three minutes, after Lauderdale had cleverly beaten a defender and centred. Nine minutes later Wombwell levelled the score following a scramble in the Borough goalmouth. Hardy put the Borough ahead again from Wannacott's centre, and a little later Lauderdale cleverly tricked the Tamworth defence to score a third. Just before half-time, following a defensive mess-up, Goffin reduced the lead with Burdett out of goal. There was no further scoring until White again levelled the scores, 11 minutes from the finish.

Lauderdale was the Borough's schemer-in-chief and carved out some nice openings, but the general team play is suffering from the neglect of brilliant winger Kirkaldie.



## Tamworth v Nuneaton Borough 26-12-1939

**Nuneaton: Townsend; Woodhall and Higham; Joy, Latham and Bond; Kirkaldie, Lauderdale, Hardy, Wannacott and Knight.**

Borough made the journey to Tamworth for a Boxing Day Birmingham Combination fixture.

The Borough's cup of holiday woe was filled to overflowing when they had two more players injured – Joy and Hardy – making five injured players in three matches. Joy had the misfortune to dislocate his knee and was taken to Tamworth Hospital. Hardy damaged his knee. The injuries to these two players undoubtedly robbed Borough of victory.

Borough played grand football in the first half and led 3-0 at the interval; it ought to have been 4-0 or 5-0. Lauderdale gave a great display during this half, and his cleverness with the ball made the Tamworth defenders look silly. Wannacott got a couple of goals and before half-time Hardy added a third. Twice, in addition, Crowhurst saved brilliantly from Hardy and Wannacott – and the same two players missed goal-scoring chances later.

After half-time Hardy and Higham changed places. Ten minutes after the re-start Whitehouse opened Tamworth's account, Hardy being injured during the attack that led up to it. He was off the field a short time and then resumed at outside-left, little more than a passenger. After 24 minutes White further reduced the lead from a penalty. In the next minute came Joy's accident – and the Borough, with only nine sound men, were literally up against it, and, as happened the day previous, White saved his side from defeat with a goal four minutes from the end.

The play of the visiting forwards in the first-half was brilliant. Lauderdale was the mastermind behind their cleverly executed moves and Kirkaldie made some grand runs and centres. Considering that Borough had Jeremy, Johnson, Burdett and Bond (who was playing for Coventry at Burton), absent from the team – it was a good performance.

## Nuneaton Borough v Tamworth 06-01-1940

**Nuneaton: Burdett; Woodhall and Jones; Tremelling, Latham and Boffin; Kirkaldie, Lauderdale, Dewis, Clarke and Jeremy.**

Borough welcomed Tamworth to Manor Park for a Birmingham Senior Cup first round tie.

The ground was more like a skating rink and was unfit for play. Good football was out of the question as the ball was practically unmanageable and players skidded all over the place. To turn round quickly was asking for a nasty fall, and the players could be excused to taking things in a more leisurely style.

Borough turned out a particularly strong side which included George Lewis, the Leicester City centre-forward, Sgt. Tremelling, the former Preston North End centre-half, and Clarke, late of Southampton and Tunbridge Wells. In the absence of Jeremy, who was still unfit, Fitton the old

Coventry City winger operated at outside-left. The strength of Borough's side may have resulted in an easy win in normal circumstances, but it was obvious before the kick-off that the conditions would bring the players down to the same level.

Borough won the game with a penalty kick in the first minute of the second half. Whitehouse saved a certain scoring shot by Fitton from entering the net by using both his hands, and Lauderdale did the rest from the penalty spot! Borough did more attacking than their opponents and only the smartness of Crowhurst in the Tamworth goal thwarted them on several occasions. He was far and away the outstanding Tamworth player. On the other hand, Burdett in the Borough goal, scarcely had a decent shot to save.

Tamworth had a chance in the closing minutes of the game when a Borough defender gave away a free-kick just outside the penalty area. The home players lined up in front of goal and made a direct scoring shot impossible. Seeing this, Whitehouse, who took the kick, toe-ended the ball over the wall of players and Burdett had his job cut out to get the ball away from underneath the bar.

It was not a match in which new players could be judged, but everyone knows what George Dewis can do. Tremelling, too, should know all there is to know about football. Lacking their goal-scorer in chief, White, the Preston player, Tamworth were disjointed in attack. They made some good moves, but finished badly. It was not a good game to watch and spectators did not see all there was to see because of the fog.

## Nuneaton Borough v Redditch Town 13-01-1940

**Nuneaton: Burdett; Woodhall and Jones; Bond, Latham and Boffin; Kirkaldie, Lauderdale, Dewis, Johnson and Clarke.**

Nuneaton welcomed Redditch Town to Manor Park for a Birmingham Combination match.

Although conditions were again bad – the ground was terrifically hard following the severe frosts – some exceptionally good football was served up by the two teams. Redditch played well, but they could not match the skill of the home side. Broome and Martin, the Villa men, whom the Redditch secretary had stated would play, were not in the Redditch side, but nevertheless, they had a strong side which included two internationals – Grosvenor (Birmingham and Bolton Wanderers), Hughes (Birmingham) – and other English League players in Baldwin (West Bromwich Albion and Brighton and Hove), and Chambers and Jones (Bolton Wanderers).

And yet the visitors were well and truly beaten; indeed, they were lucky to escape so lightly, for in addition to scoring five goals the Borough went very close on other occasions. Dewis had a shot travel almost the whole length of the bar; Lauderdale hit the upright with a great shot; while Kirkaldie very nearly rendered Baldwin hors-de-combat with a terrific shot which knocked him over.

Burdett appeared at fault when Jones opened the scoring

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for Redditch just after the start. When the ball was put out to the left-wing Burdett left his goal to follow Jones, who lifted it over the goalkeeper's head into the empty net. It was a lucky goal but did not perturb the Borough in the least, for a little later Dewis raced through the middle and although fouled inside the penalty area regained his balance and shot past Baldwin from close range.

Only a few minutes had elapsed before the home side were ahead. Dewis beautifully headed the ball to Lauderdale's feet and after closing in the captain crashed the ball into the top of the net. Then followed a quick third goal. A neat attack ended in Clarke putting the ball across goal to Kirkaldie – and the outside-right again beat Baldwin. Two minutes after this the Borough defence was caught napping. The ball was pushed through the middle to Hooper who ran on a few yards, and then beat Burdett with a cleverly-placed shot.

The score was now 3-2, but within a few minutes of the re-start the Borough had the game well in control. Kirkaldie closed in from the right wing to shoot into the net near the upright, and shortly afterwards Dewis made the total five, with a goal in which several players had a hand before the ball was pushed through to Dewis. The centre-forward was off like a shot. Baldwin came out of goal but Dewis coolly shot past him into the empty net.

After this Borough took things easy, but kept Baldwin working at full stretch. On one occasion Johnson fired in a surprise shot from long range. The shot seemed to have the goalkeeper beaten, but Baldwin dived across the goal and managed to push the ball behind for a corner.

Baldwin and Grosvenor were Redditch's outstanding players. The goalkeeper made a number of fine saves although beaten five times. It was a good game to watch and it was pleasing to see a bigger crowd than usual.

## Nuneaton Borough v Stourbridge 24-02-1940

Nuneaton: Burdett; Woodhall and Jones; Harris, Beresford and Boffin; Kirkaldie, Lauderdale, Dewis, Johnson and Clarke.

Borough welcomed Stourbridge to Manor Park for a Birmingham Combination game. It was the home side's first match for six weeks.

Borough looked leg-weary after their long lay-off, while Stourbridge, had the advantage of having played the previous two Saturdays. Stourbridge deserved to win, but only just. They were lucky in not conceding two penalties, one when Kirkaldie was brought down inside the penalty area by a defender, who obviously played the man and not the ball. And then, later on in the same half, when Dewis was forcing his way through the Stourbridge defence, a visiting defender put his hands to the ball.

Shortly after the start Dewis ran through and fired in a fast ground shot, which beat the keeper and looked destined for the net, but somehow the ball contorted in its path to

goal and went wide of the post. Despite these 'let-offs,' Stourbridge played some brilliant football. Better supported by their wing-halves than the home attack, their forwards showed some delightful touches, and inspired by Joe Beresford and Salters, a clever inside pair, Knott showed how to snap up chances.

While every credit must be given to Knott for his opportunism, one cannot help thinking that he was helped to two of his three goals by Burdett, who looked slow in reacting to the fast ground shot which brought Knott his second goal. It was from about 20 yards range, but Burdett was too slow in getting down to the ball. When Knott scored his third goal, Burdett was at the wrong end of the goal to deal with a high, lobbing right-wing centre – and the centre-forward had only to nod the ball into the net.

Stourbridge had a lucky goal – about 14 minutes from the start, a shot from Salters being deflected into the net off Beresford's foot. Billingsley, in the Stourbridge goal, made a number of exceptionally fine saves, but got himself all in a tangle when Kirkaldie got the Borough's second goal shortly after half-time to give them a 2-1 lead. Knott's first goal was a good one, as were those of Lauderdale and Dewis. Lauderdale's goal was the culmination of a really smart move which had the Stourbridge defence guessing. Kirkaldie was put away on the right, but instead of doing the obvious and lifting the ball into the goalmouth, he slipped a short pass inside to Lauderdale, who ran through to score.

Dewis' goal was a model of coolness. Put through by Clarke, he raced away and when Billingsley left his goal to challenge him, smartly put the ball out of his reach into the empty net. A really smart effort. It was unfortunate that Borough, after such a long rest, were called on to play one of the best sides in the League

## Wolves A v Nuneaton Borough 02-03-1940

Nuneaton: Burdett; Woodhall and Jones; Bond, Beresford and Boffin; Kirkaldie, Lauderdale, Johnson, Harris and Clark.

Borough made the journey to face Wolves A in a Birmingham Combination match.

Not for a long time has such aimless football been witnessed in a Borough match. Both defences overkicked their forwards and for three-parts of the game just blazed the ball backwards and forwards up the field. The Wolves A made no effort to play football. They just banged the ball about hoping for the best. Nuneaton were little better, but now and again their forwards introduced the only real football of the game.

Kirkaldie was head and shoulders the best forward on the field. He made some brilliant runs and centres and had Dewis been there he would have had a field day. Harris, playing at inside-left, showed that he is an exceptionally clever ball player. He made some tricky runs and was really unlucky not to have found the net on at least two occasions. Other Nuneaton players were poor. Little was seen of Lauderdale; Johnson





played his worst game so far; whilst Clark, apart from scoring a goal, did nothing. Billy Bond was obviously feeling the effects of not having played for seven weeks, while Boffin was fair. The backs were too easily beaten and played too wide and square, throwing a great deal of work on Beresford.

Borough should have won the game comfortably. Once Johnson headed feebly wide from a perfectly-placed Kirkaldie centre with a yawning net in front of him and in the very last minute missed a great chance of giving his side both points. The Borough forwards swept down the field and the ball was pushed out to Clarke. When there was only one defender between him, Johnson and an open goal, the winger put the ball across right in front of the centre-forward. A goal seemed imminent, but to everyone's astonishment Johnson completely missed the ball.

By far the best effort of the match was made by Kirkaldie in the second half. He cut through the defence at great speed, left the opposition standing, and then fired in a truly terrific shot, which struck the upright and rebounded to Johnson, who flung himself at the ball and headed into the net, only to be ruled offside. In another Borough attack a home defender deliberately knocked the ball down with his hands. It was an obvious penalty. The players stopped, the linesman waved his flag frantically – but the referee waved play on.

Borough opened the scoring after six minutes play. Clark cut in from the wing and centred from close in. A home defender missed his kick and Johnson just had to put the ball into the net. Wolves equalised after 19 minutes as the result of a blunder by Jones. Although he had time to kick away, the left-back attempted to put the ball back to Burdett. Lovelock nipped in and fired hard at goal. Burdett partially parried the shot, which went out to Burden, who scored with a powerful shot.

The score remained 1-1 until 16 minutes after half-time when Clark put the Borough ahead again. The winger was sent away on the left and quickly made tracks for goal. He shot hard and low from fully 30 yards out. Singleton should have covered the ball, but was too late getting down, and the ball passed right underneath his body. Two minutes later Wolves were again on level terms. This goal was the direct outcome of poor defensive marking, for when the ball was put directly in front of goal there was no Nuneaton player anywhere near Lovelock, who had the simplest task in scoring. On the whole, it was a poor display of football.

## Nuneaton Borough v Solihull Town A 09-03-1940

**Nuneaton: Burdett; Woodhall and Jones; Bond, Beresford and Boffin; Kirkaldie, Lauderdale, Johnson, Harris and Clark.**

Borough welcomed Solihull Town to Manor Park for a Birmingham Combination game.

Solihull's star-studded side served up some of the best football seen at Manor Park for many a long day. Good football was only to be expected from a side which included so many Aston Villa players, but one cannot get away from

the fact that the Borough fell much below their best form, which was disappointing.

Playing against a fairly strong breeze in the first half they did well to be only 2-1 down at half-time. The football during that period was exceptionally good. Solihull were undoubtedly the better side, but Borough stuck to their task so well that it was thought that they might push Solihull in the second half with the wind behind them.

The first goal came after about four minutes when Pritty's long shot sailed into the net, over a crowded penalty area and into the net out of the reach of an unsighted Townsend. Three minutes later a clever bit of work by Kirkaldie who went well inside before pushing the ball forward, enabling Jeremy to cut in and beat King with a fast rising shot. It was not long, however, before Solihull were again in front, Boswell beating Townsend from close range.

There was no further scoring until 20 minutes after half-time, when after a corner kick had been pushed away the ball went out to Boswell, who headed into the net. A few minutes later Bradley cut in from the wing to again put the ball past Townsend. It was after this fourth goal that Bowers bundled both goalkeeper and ball into the net for the Borough's second goal.

It was a very good game to watch, but the Borough definitely disappointed. They can play much better football than they did in this game. The occasion seemed too big for most of the players. Solihull were far better together than were Borough. There was method in all their work and at times their passing and inter-passing was positively brilliant. Cobley and Callaghan were two fine full-backs, although the latter's methods did not always please the crowd. Hipkiss, the centre-half, was finely supported by Barker and Pritty, while in attack Kerr, Davis and Boswell were outstanding.

## Bromsgrove Rovers v Nuneaton Borough 16-03-1940

**Nuneaton: Townsend; Woodhall and Jones; Wannacott, Hardy and Bond; Kirkaldie, Harris, Bowers, Lauderdale and Jeremy.**

Borough made the journey to Bromsgrove Rovers for a Birmingham Combination game.

Borough scored the first goal of the game 20 minutes into the second half. Bowers went through, had his first shot stopped, but followed up to walk the ball round the prostrate Collins into the empty net. Lauderdale, with the goalkeeper completely beaten shot against the upright, and the ball travelled all along the goal-line and went just outside at the other end of the goal.

Bromsgrove had their periods of attacking, but Townsend played so well in goal that they seldom looked like beating him. The young goalkeeper made some flying saves and had not Jones beaten him, six minutes from time, I don't think anyone would. It was a pity that Jones should have put through his own goal, as he had dispossessed Waldron and was in the process of passing back to Townsend when the ball

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bounced and the full-back's pass went out of the goalkeeper's reach and into the net.

George Hardy, making his first appearance since his injury at Tamworth on Boxing Day, started a little gingerly but quickly warmed up to his work, and the longer the game progressed the better he played. He certainly put a scotch on the Bromsgrove inside men and was the rock on which many of the home side's attacks foundered. His heading of the ball was a big factor in the Borough's partial success. He was complete master in the air. Bond relished being at left-half and did what was expected of him, bringing Kirkaldie into the game with long swinging passes. Kirkaldie, after playing so well throughout the game missed two none-too-hard chances.

Bromsgrove never played well enough to beat their opponents. For nine-tenths of the game they were easily second fiddlers; they had not enough moves to disturb the rock-like Borough defence. They were saved from defeat by the alertness of Collins in goal. He was perhaps the busiest player on the field and did his job with great efficiency.

## Nuneaton Borough v Sutton Coldfield Town 23-03-1940

**Nuneaton: Townsend; Woodhall and Wannacott; Harris, Hardy and Bond; Hillard, Lawrie, Lewis, Lauderdale and Jeremy.**

Nuneaton welcomed Sutton Town to Manor Park for a Birmingham Combination game. Borough were without Jones and Kirkaldie, while neither Dewis nor Bowers were available, so that three new players were introduced – Lowrie and Lewis of Coventry City, and Hillard, who has played for Leicester City and Grimsby.

All through Borough had the better of the exchanges and yet, at half-time, found themselves a goal in arrears. This was entirely due to the brilliant goalkeeping of Alderwick. He made glorious saves from Lauderdale, Lowrie and Lewis, but it is actually true to say that generally speaking the Borough did not effectively utilise the many openings that went their way.

Sutton's first goal – the only goal of the first-half, was due to a home team defensive error. Woodhall, who otherwise played a sterling game, for once failed to clear the ball and left Wombwell with an open goal. The latter, although only a few yards out, failed to get hold of the ball properly and a poor shot found the net, Townsend making a rather half-hearted attempt to save, probably expecting a pile-driver.

After half-time, Lewis quickly put the Borough on level terms, and it was quite evident then, that they would win – and win they did. Indeed, it was only the continued superb work of the Sutton goalkeeper that saved the visitors from a complete rout. He made marvellous saves from Lewis (twice), Lowrie, Jeremy and Hillard (twice), but before the end he was beaten on two more occasions by Lowrie and Lauderdale (penalty), and the latter also failed to convert a second penalty.

Lewis' equalising goal was a good one. He was sent away down the middle and when Alderwick came out to meet him,

shot hard and true for the net. The goalkeeper got his hands to the ball but the shot was too hard for him and found its target. Lowrie's was also a good goal. When the ball came into the middle he hit it with terrific force and Alderwick was well and truly beaten. Townsend was beaten again just before the end when Hardy failed to tackle Wombwell, who went on to score with a well-placed shot from fairly long range.

## Nuneaton Borough v Solihull Town B 25-03-1940

**Nuneaton: Townsend; Woodhall and Wannacott; Harris, Hardy and Bond; Hillard, Lawrie, Lewis, Lauderdale and Jeremy.**

Borough welcomed Solihull B to Manor Park for a Tillotson Cup second round tie. The Solihull side lined up thus: Read (Grimsby Town); Lunn and Cummings (Aston Villa); Massie (Aston Villa), Tranter and Murphy (WBA); Kenrick (Birmingham), Davis (Sunderland), Lake (Coventry City), McPherson (Watford) and Batty (Aston Villa).

This, to be sure, is a strong team, but they never looked like winning this game. They played no better than the Borough defence let them. One of the secrets of the success was the relentless tackling of the halves and full-backs. Indeed, Townsend was so well covered that he only had two shots to save all game.

In the first-half the Borough served up some brilliant football and they quickly put the large crowd on good terms by scoring two grand goals in the first quarter of an hour. The first came after only five minutes. Lauderdale crowned a splendid attack with a great shot which had Read beaten all the way. The other goal was an equally clever effort. The ball was pushed out to Jeremy who moved forward and, as Lunn ran across to tackle him, slipped the ball across the face of the goal. Lowrie was there, closed in, and as he was about to be tackled, banged the ball into the net, well out of Read's reach.

On other occasions the Solihull goal had narrow escapes. In the first few minutes Jeremy cut in and shot for the corner of the net. Read having to go down full length to save. The goalkeeper also did well to save from Lauderdale, while in the second half he was well beaten by Lewis, who was unfortunate enough to see his shot strike the upright.

Cummings, the Scottish international, did not have things his own way. He was often well-beaten by Lowrie, who again played a very fine game. Lowrie was again partnered by Hillard, who gave a much improved display. Just to show that Cummings did not altogether enjoy himself, it may be stated that in the second half he had his name taken by the referee.

Massie, Solihull's other Scottish International was often troubled by Lewis and Lauderdale. Indeed the only Nuneaton player who did not live up to his reputation was Jeremy. The little winger did not have a happy match at all. Bond and Harris worked like terriers at wing-half. After a brilliant first-half, play deteriorated and there was not nearly so much excitement, play being largely in midfield.



## Nuneaton Borough v Solihull B 30-03-1940

**Nuneaton: Townsend; Woodhall and Wannacott; Harris, Hardy and Bond; Kirkaldie, Knight, Lawrie, Lauderdale and Jeremy.**

Borough made the journey to Solihull to face Solihull B in a Birmingham Combination match.

Considering they only had ten sound men for more than half this game, Hardy again damaged his knee and throughout the second half hobbled about at outside-left and later at inside-left – the Borough's performance in this match at Solihull was a very fine one. If anything, Solihull had a stronger side than they fielded at Manor Park, for while the defence was the same and included three internationals, the attack was strengthened by the appearance of the two Birmingham inside men Harris and Craven.

While Borough had eleven sound men, they were much the better side. They played some delightful football and it came as no surprise, after the Solihull goal had had some narrow squeaks, when Knight gave them a well-deserved lead. Kirkaldie, who was constantly selling Cummings the dummy, beat the Scottish International, raced on and put the ball perfectly in the middle. Knight was in position and beat Read with a very hard, low drive. Read made an attempt to save and got his hands to the ball, but it went into the net.

As at Manor Park, the Solihull full-backs tried to throw the Borough attack offside, and though they often succeeded in their plan by playing well up the field, it cost them a goal about six minutes after half-time. Lauderdale got the ball near the half-way line and by holding on to the ball drew the Solihull defence. The home backs readily moved forward to throw Borough offside, but their little plan went astray, for when Lauderdale pushed the ball through it struck one of their backs and Lowrie was put onside. While Solihull's player shouted "offside," Lowrie went on, dribbled round Read and put the ball into the empty net.

Neither the crowd nor the Solihull players liked the decision, but after consulting a linesman, the referee awarded the goal. After half-time the Borough had to rearrange their side due to Hardy's injury, which completely upset the balance of the visiting side, especially the attack. The defence came under pressure and about six minutes after Lowrie's goal Batty swung the ball over from the left and Craven hit the ball first-time into the back of the net. Solihull put on terrific pressure and Harris headed in to level the scores.

The home side looked set for victory, but about this time Jeremy and Hardy changed places, which resulted in pressure being taken off the tired Borough defence. With only two minutes to go, Jeremy was sent away and just at the right moment slipped the ball into the middle. Lowrie secured possession, neatly side-stepped Lunn, and turning quickly on his heels, beat Read with a fast, low shot. Thus Borough won by the odd goal in five. They deserved to win for their pluck after withstanding heavy pressure.

## Nuneaton Borough v Coventry City Res 06-04-1940

**Nuneaton: Townsend; Woodhall and Jones; Harris, Latham and Hillard; Kirkaldie, Wannacott, J. Knight, Lauderdale and A. Knight.**

Borough welcomed Coventry City Reserves to Manor Park for a Birmingham Senior Cup third round tie.

Before half-time the visitors had matters pretty much their own way and their 2-0 lead did not flatter them in the least. The grand right wing play of Barratt – who, incidentally, scored both goals for his side – properly put the home defence on the spot. Hillard was totally unable to keep the speedy City winger in check and he was generally far too elusive for Jones, who was often left stranded.

An opportunist goal early in the second half by Arthur Knight, the local left-winger – he slipped in and shot into the net while Dobbs and Wood were a little undecided who should make a clearance – put the home side on their merits, and thereafter it was mainly a struggle between the Borough attack and the City defence.

A grand second goal by the same player – Knight cut in from the wing and shot beautifully into the bottom of the net well out of Wood's reach – gave them just that extra bit of confidence they needed, and from that point to the end of the game the Borough forwards, half-backs, and even Woodhall joined in the almost incessant attacks on the City goal.

During this time Wood stood between his side and defeat. Apart from the two magnificent saves he made from Hillard and Kirkaldie he finely saved a penalty kick taken by Lauderdale after Elliott had left the ball to upset Hillard when the latter was bursting through. The captain's shot was a hard one, but the alert City goalkeeper saved in first-class style.

There can be nothing but praise for the manner in which the weakened Borough side stuck to their guns and pulled the game out of the fire. The result was a tribute to their rare fighting spirit. It was the opportunism of Knight and the excellent team spirit that saved the day. It was a magnificent performance by the Borough – but they had good cause to be thankful to Arthur Knight. His two goals turned the game completely upside down.

## Nuneaton Borough v Army XI 13-04-1940

**Nuneaton: Townsend; Woodhall and Wannacott; Harris, Hardy and Bond; J. Knight, Hillard, Lewis, Lowrie and A. Knight.**

Borough welcomed an Army XI to Manor Park for a friendly match.

Lowrie's cannon-ball shooting was one of the high-spots of the game. Hanging back slightly behind the other forwards, the Coventry City man made some terrific lunges at the ball. Some of his drives went high over the bar, others whizzed by the posts – and two of them found the back of the net. The goal he got early in the first half really tickled the crowd's fancy; it nearly ripped the back of the net.



His other goal saw the ball do some weird things in mid-air before it passed into the net. But apart from his shooting, Lowrie was the best forward on the field. He prompted most of the Borough's attacks, treated the crowd to some tricky ball play, and slung out some beautiful passes to Arthur Knight. Another home forward who distinguished himself was Lewis, who netted the other three goals.

The visitors started the second half as though they were going to make a fight of it. They soon reduced the lead – thanks to mistakes by Hardy and then Woodhall – but from that point onwards they seemed totally unable to combat the skill of the Borough forwards. The Gunners got their second goal late in the game when Dean easily converted a penalty after Woodhall had handled the ball inside the penalty area.

## Coventry City Res v Nuneaton Borough 27-04-1940

**Nuneaton: Townsend; Woodhall and Wannacott; Harris, Latham and Boffin; Kirkaldie, Hillard, J. Knight, Lauderdale and A. Knight.**

Borough visited Highfield Road to take on Coventry City Reserves in a Birmingham Senior Cup third round replay.

The game swung against the Borough when, after 30 minutes play, brilliant passing by Harris and Kirkaldie enabled the latter to get right through. The winger had the goal at his mercy, but when about to shoot, was fetched down from behind. The referee immediately blew for a penalty, but the whistle had hardly finished sounding before Kirkaldie had regained his feet and shot the ball into the net. It was bad luck, but the referee had whistled before the ball was in the net and a penalty was awarded. Despite missing two penalties previously, Kirkaldie put the ball on the spot and shot wide.

During the next ten minutes, Coventry scored twice, with two fine goals, both scored by Ivor Lewis. Lowrie made the running for the first of Lewis' goals. He dribbled along the right wing and put the ball beautifully into the goalmouth where Lewis got it square on his head and left Townsend hopelessly beaten. The second goal came about when Borough defenders hesitated to tackle Lewis, the inside-left skilfully worked the ball right in front of the goal and then netted with a fine shot just inside the post.

Borough missed many easy chances during the course of the game. In the first-half Lauderdale and Harris found holes in the City defence with down-the-middle passes. On each occasion Hillard had a clear course for goal, but was too slow to make use of ready-made opportunities. In the second-half when Borough had by far the greater share of the attacking, Hillard again missed a chance, this time a sitter. How he contrived to put the ball over the top from right under the bar, only he knows.

The only Borough forward who really looked like causing Wood any trouble, was Kirkaldie. The winger did not have the ball nearly so much as he ought, but when he did get it he showed what a brilliant football he really is.

## Tamworth v Nuneaton Borough

05-04-1940

**Nuneaton: Townsend; Woodhall and Wannacott; Harris, Hardy and Bond; Kirkaldie, Lowrie, Harrison, Lauderdale and A. Knight.**

Nuneaton made the journey to Tamworth for a Tillotson Cup third round tie.

The pitch was in a terrible condition and the grass badly needed mowing. When the ball was dead, only the top half of the ball was visible. To work the ball along the ground was almost impossible and the only thing to do was to hit it into the air and follow up.

About the only difference between the two teams was that the Borough scored twice as against Tamworth's one goal. That is about as well as I can explain the true position. Borough played just about well enough not to lose, while Tamworth never did good enough to win. Therefore, perhaps a draw would have been a better result. Borough's most hard-working forward – Harrison, the new man from Derby County – got both his side's goals. Harrison put in plenty of effort and had some nice touches, but generally speaking the support he got was poor.

When he scored his first goal after 31 minutes, Tamworth had only themselves to blame, for when Lauderdale put the ball through down the middle, the home defenders, instead of playing to the whistle stopped, appealing for offside. The referee signalled them to play on and Harrison went through to cleverly beat Ager as he was advancing from his goal to meet him. There was a suspicion of offside about Tamworth's equalising goal ten minutes after half-time. The ball came over from the right and did quite a lot of bobbing about in the goalmouth before it eventually fell at the feet of Lecky, the Tamworth outside-left. He appeared to be behind the backs, but tapped the ball into the net for a goal.

Harrison's second goal, about seven minutes from the end, was very similar to his first. He received the ball in the middle of the field and, like Lecky, appeared offside, but he was allowed to go on – and once again he netted with a neat effort. Both sides had penalty appeals turned down, but in Borough's case it was a glaring infringement. A. Knight was racing in from the wing at top speed and when well inside the penalty area had his feet swept from underneath him.

## Bromsgrove Rovers v Nuneaton Borough 18-05-1940

**Nuneaton (from): Fenn; Woodhall and Wannacott; Harris, Hardy, Whitehouse or Rouse; Kirkaldie, J. Knight, Harrison, Lauderdale and A. Knight. (Squad announced on Friday).**

Nuneaton made the journey to Bromsgrove Rovers for a Tillotson Cup semi-final match.

Poor defensive positioning lost the Borough the game in the first 20 minutes. By that time the visitors were losing 4-1, and deserved to be. The referee gave Rovers a goal start in the first few minutes by allowing Bull to carry on after being yards



offside. But there was no excuse for the visiting defenders conceding three more goals in double quick time. The defence was as wide open as a field and the Rovers' attackers went through at will.

A few minutes after half-time Harrison cut the arrears, making the score 4-2. Rovers got three more goals in the concluding stages of the game, and finished up easy winners. Borough missed some easy chances and twice Kirkaldie ran through the Bromsgrove defence and left all opposition well behind, only to fail miserably when it was far easier to score than miss. The miss of the match came from Harrison. When the ball was put through the middle Harrison went after it like a bull and so intimidated Collins, that he missed the ball completely. The ball stopped less than a yard from goal and all Harrison had to do was to tap it into the empty net. How the centre-forward put the ball wide was a miracle of football.

Borough had much to blame themselves for, but it was because the home side adapted themselves much better to the conditions that they won. The grass was far too long, as was the case at Tamworth, to hope to play close football – and yet the Borough players tried to do this all the game through.

## Solihull Town A v Nuneaton Borough 23-05-1940

Borough made the journey to Solihull for a Birmingham Combination match.

Against a powerful Solihull A side which included many Villa players, the Borough did well to lose by only six goals to four last Thursday evening.

Borough were without Hardy, and Bond had to go centre-half with Twigger left-half. They held the lead at 1-0 and 2-1 but at half-time Solihull led 3-2. After half-time the home side increased their lead to 6-2, but showing fine spirit, the Borough came back and scored two more goals, the last coming about ten minutes from the end.

Lewis was a fine leader for the Borough and scored three of the four goals. Kirkaldie got the other. Although beaten six times, Wood made many good saves in the Borough goal.

## Nuneaton Borough v Bromsgrove Rovers 25-05-1940

**Nuneaton:** Archer; Woodhall and Wannacott; Harris, Rouse and Dean; J. Knight, Mullard, Roberts, Lauderdale and Wales.

**Bromsgrove:** Collins; Randall and Simpson; Dutton, Harris and Crawford; Davies, Chapman, Bull, Brown and Thomas.

Borough welcomed Bromsgrove Rovers to Manor Park for a Birmingham Combination match.

By half-time it seemed the Borough would not score a goal, but on resuming all the team went onto the attack. It was after 14 minutes' play that they deservedly went ahead when from a corner by Wales, a defender headed the ball to the feet of J. R. Knight, who drove it into the net. After this success the Borough put everything into attack. Woodhall actually went up the field and had a pot at goal. But this relentless attack

was doomed to failure. From a breakaway down the middle, Bromsgrove equalised through Bull, with Archer getting his fingers to the ball, but not preventing it going into the net. This was a blow to Borough but they stuck to their guns and did practically everything but get the ball past Collins.

The defence, although not having much to do, was sound when called upon. Archer, who was in goal, had an easy time, but made a brilliant save when he dived at the feet of an opposing forward. Woodhall and Wannacott were admirable, while the half-back line gave the forwards plenty of support. Harris again was a whole-hearted trier; Rouse had a good game, while Dean was consistent.

Although missing many chances the Borough were undoubtedly the better side and Bromsgrove were lucky to get away with a point. The Borough were really very unfortunate; they settled down better than their opponents and completely dominated the game.

## Nuneaton Borough v Darlaston 01-06-1940

**Nuneaton:** Townsend; Woodhall and Wannacott; Harris, Joy and Dean; Kendall, Lauderdale, Harrison, Mullard and Wales.

Borough welcomed Darlaston to Manor Park for the final game of the 1939-40 Birmingham Combination season.

When Preston, the Darlaston full-back, kicked into his own goal after about 15 minutes' play, it was a goal the Borough well deserved, for they had been attacking consistently since the beginning and the movement from which it started was well worth a goal. The ball was put to Wannacott, who lifted the ball beautifully across the goalmouth to Mullard, who tried to put the ball into the net, and it was deflected past the goalkeeper by Preston. After this first goal it was all the Borough, and about seven minutes later, from a centre by Wales, Harrison hooked the ball over the advancing goalkeeper's head into the net.

Borough continued to press for the rest of the half, but just before half-time, Bates, the Darlaston inside-right, reduced the arrears.

Following the break Darlaston put everything into attack, and the Borough's defence had a hard time. Twice corners were forced on the left and only magnificent saves by Townsend kept the ball from going into the net. In other attacks, the ball hit the foot of the Borough's post and Woodhall kicked off the goal line with Townsend right out of position. Later on Darlaston missed badly when they failed to score with only the keeper to beat. But success came at last, for after persistent attacking Darlaston equalised through Beasley, after Cox had done notable work. During this time the Borough's forward line seemed to have completely undergone a change; they played like tired men and were completely disorganised. Just to show how ineffective the Borough's attack was, the Darlaston keeper in one of the Borough's rare attacks, headed the ball clear.



In the Borough defence, Woodhall and Wannacott were outstanding and Joy, who re-appeared in the side after many months' absence, was a hard worker. The two wing-halves, Harris and Dean, did some grand work both in attack and defence. Of the forwards Harrison was the mainstay. He was always roaming about after the ball and his goal was a beauty. In the first-half Lauderdale was the highlight. He schemed beautifully and completely had the Darlaston defence on the run. Kendall and Wale on the wings did some good work. A feature of Wale's play was his corner kicking.

## Birmingham Combination Final Table 1939-1940

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Solihull Town 'A'	16	13	2	1	89	28	28
Stourbridge	18	13	2	3	73	37	28
Darlaston	18	10	5	3	65	31	25
Bromsgrove Rovers	18	10	2	6	57	42	22
Nuneaton Borough	18	6	7	5	47	42	19
Tamworth	18	8	3	7	54	60	19
Sutton Town	18	5	2	11	26	55	12
Redditch	16	4	1	11	36	53	9
Solihull Town 'B'	16	4	1	11	34	56	9
Wolves "A"	16	0	1	15	19	96	1

## Football Season Ends

### Some Grand Football Witnessed

A season fraught with difficulties has just been brought to a close – and yet it may truthfully be said, in spite of the outbreak of hostilities and the uncertainty of the times, that some very fine football has been witnessed.

No sooner had the season 1939-40 opened than came the declaration of war. Borough had only played three matches – two League games and a cup-tie – incidentally without defeat, when war fears became a reality. Football was suspended for a short period in the expectation of air attacks, but was resumed again on a friendly basis.

Subsequently the new Birmingham Combination competition was launched and on November 4 the Borough visited Redditch in the first of these new games. From that point onwards until about a fortnight ago, the new League, despite the overhanging and increasingly threatening war clouds, functioned smoothly.

Then with the invasion of Holland and Belgium, and the consequent call to industry to increase production, the difficulty in raising teams was felt and the season ended on a highly depressing note.

### Borrowed Players

The fact that teams were able to borrow players from other clubs resulted in the majority of Birmingham Combination

sides considerably strengthening their ranks, with the result that some exceptionally attractive games were played. Many stars of the English League were on view. Solihull A for example, fielding an almost complete Aston Villa side.

The Borough officials were not slow in recognising the trend of the times, and on various occasions played many English League Club players. These included George Dewis and Bowers (Leicester City), Lowrie, Lewis, Bond and Wood (Coventry City), Latham (Aston Villa), Hardy (Blackburn), Harris (Southend), Kirkaldie (Doncaster Rovers) and Harrison (Derby County).

All these players rendered the club exceptionally good service. Unfortunately George Dewis was unable to turn out very often, but when he did was a big attraction, and a favourite with the fans. Lowrie, too, was very popular with the crowd, his terrific shooting tickling the fancy of supporters. Lewis, too, played many fine games, while Latham, until being called up was a grand pivot.

### The Regulars

Of the regulars, Kirkaldie, Harris and Bond were stalwarts. Kirkaldie and Harris in their respective positions, had no superiors in the League. Both played delightful football. Billy Bond did his work as only he can do.

Now to those players who joined the club before the outbreak of war. Jock Lauderdale, the captain, played some remarkably fine games. If he had a fault, it was his inclination to over-elaborate – and to insist on taking penalties. After scoring several without failure, he missed three in a row. Woodhall and Wannacott have been valuable servants while young Townsend played many fine games in goal. Up to the time of his unfortunate injury at Tamworth on Boxing Day, Joy proved himself a grand half-back.

### Playing Results

From the playing point of view the team did well and treated spectators, both home and away, to some splendid football. With a little more luck the team would have reached the final of both the Birmingham Senior Cup and the Tillotson Cup. They reached the semi-final of the Tillotson Cup and the round before the semi-final of the Birmingham Senior Cup, being beaten at Coventry and Bromsgrove respectively, more as the result of inability to field a representative side than to anything else.

Taking the season all through, the club played 35 matches, winning 15, drawing 10, and losing 10 – quite a good record, all things considered.

The goalscorers were as follows:- Lauderdale (13), Johnson (10), Wannacott (7), Lewis (7), Lowrie (6), Kirkaldie (6), J. R. Knight (5), Harrison (4), Smithson (3), Hill (3), Jeremy (3), Hardy (3), Dewis (3), A. Knight (3), Woodhall (2), Bowers (2), Opponents (2), Tebbutt, Roberts, Muncie, Joy, Clarke and Latham (1). A total of 88 goals.



## Preparing For Next Season

The officials of Nuneaton Borough FC are busily preparing for the coming season.

We are informed by Mr C. P. Osborne, the hon. secretary, that last season's players who have definitely promised to assist the club are Townsend (goalkeeper), Wannacott (full-back), Harris (half-back), Dean (half-back), Joy (half-back), and Harrison (centre-forward). Several English League players have also promised to assist when available.

The Committee are hoping to utilise the services of as much local talent as possible, and local players desirous of assisting the club should communicate with Hon. Sec. at once. Any English League players who have come to reside in the district and would like to assist the club should get in touch with Mr Osborne, whose address is "Bavos," Newtown Road, Nuneaton.

### Football Procedure In Event Of Air Raids

The Football Association has announced the following instructions from the Ministry of Home Security with regard to the procedure to be followed in the event of air raid warnings being sounded at matches.

- (a) The match should be suspended until the "raiders passed" is sounded
- (b) The management should advise spectators to take refuge on the ground under the stands or in any other shelter available on the ground, but not to leave the ground to seek shelter elsewhere. It should at the same time be made clear that anyone is at liberty to leave to go to his home.
- (c) The match should not be abandoned unless either the warning occurs shortly before the end or there is no cover on the ground for the spectators.

These general arrangements will be subject to any modifications the police may consider desirable for any particular ground.

In the event of abandoned matches in the Football League competitions this season the result of a game will be reckoned on the score at the point where it is given up. If a side scores a goal in the first minute and no further play is possible, that side will be counted the winner. Matches may be resumed after interruptions, but there will be no replays.

## Nuneaton Borough FC

### Not To Compete In Birmingham League

After very careful consideration, the Committee of Nuneaton Borough FC decided on Monday night not to compete in the Birmingham League this season.

The committee heard the report of the delegation which attended the meeting at Wolverhampton last Thursday evening and it was explained that since that meeting Stafford Rangers had decided not to compete.

As Solihull had also decided not to run a side this season, it was pointed out that Nuneaton would be the only Birmingham Combination side, apart from English League clubs, left in the League.

It was explained too, that whereas the Birmingham Combination had decided on a 10s. per match wage maximum, there was no such stipulation so far as the Birmingham League was concerned, and it was thought in the circumstances, that in order to hope to compete with the English League club sides and such clubs as Wellington, Worcester City and Shrewsbury, the Borough club would have to pay wages which, it was felt, the gates would not warrant.

The view was expressed that at least an average gate of 1,200 would be required to meet expenses alone, and in view of the existing circumstances, the Committee found they could not expect gates of that dimension. Last season they fell much below that figure.

### Travelling Up 40 Per Cent

On top of this is the fact that travelling expenses would be up forty per cent and the meeting reluctantly came to the conclusion that it would not be practicable to run a team in this League unless at the risk of considerable financial loss – a loss which the club could not possibly afford.

The question of arranging friendly matches was also discussed, but having regard to the heavy financial loss sustained on friendly matches during the early part of last season – the small gates definitely proved that friendly football is not wanted by Nuneaton people – it was decided that this, too, would not be a worthwhile proposition.

### Committee's Regret

The Committee very greatly regrets having had to arrive at these conclusions, but it was felt that cold facts had to be faced – and these facts certainly did not point to anything other than a heavy financial loss.

The club has a small, though very useful, balance in hand, thanks to the hard work of the social committee, and it was unanimously agreed that rather than risk losing the whole of that amount and, probably, more as well, it would be much wiser not to compete in the League, but rather to carry on with the social activities of the club and so build up the finances that when the war is over the Committee will be able to "talk business" and get together a really good side.

Supporters are reminded that the club is still a member of the Birmingham Combination and, therefore, will automatically be in when the League again decides to function.

# Nuneaton Borough 1937-1945



## 1939

Date	Opponent	Venue	Comp	Result	Scorers	Attendance
08.26	Birmingham City "A"	H	BC	3-1	Tebbutt, Muncie, Lauderdale	2000+
08.28	Hinckley United	H	NCC F	3-2	Lauderdale, Wannacott, Roberts	
09.02	Bromsgrove Rovers	A	BC	2-2	Smithson, Woodhall	

Football suspended following declaration of war announcement. Soon football returned on a friendly basis. A new Birmingham Combination was introduced.

Boro's home match v Cheltenham Town on 4 Sept was never played. Boro were drawn at home to Coalville Town in FA Cup (also not played)

09.30	Sutton Coldfield Town	H	F	1-2	Bassett o.g.	
10.07	Solihull Town	A	F	1-3	Knight	
10.14	Stourbridge	H	F	6-6	Hill 3, Johnson, o.g.2	
10.21	Solihull Town	H	F	2-1	Smithson, Woodhall	c500
10.28	Darlaston	A	F	2-4	Johnson, Smithson	
11.04	Redditch Town	A	BC	4-2	Knight, Jeremy, Johnson, Wannacott	
11.11	Tamworth	H	F	3-1	Lauderdale, Wannacott, Latham	
11.18	Sutton Coldfield Town	A	BC	0-2		
11.25	Birmingham City Transport*	H	BC	2-1	Johnson (2)	
12.02	Darlaston	A	BC	2-2	Wannacott, Johnson	
12.09	Kettering Town	H	F	4-2	Johnson (3), Jeremy	
12.16	Stourbridge	A	BC	1-2	Kirkaldie	
12.23	Wolves "A"	H	BC	6-1	Lauderdale (4, 1 pen), Kirkaldie, Wannacott	
12.25	Tamworth	H	BC	3-3	Hardy (2), Lauderdale	8000+
12.26	Tamworth	A	BC	3-3	Wannacott (2), Hardy	

## 1940

01.06	Tamworth	H	BSC 2	1-0	Lauderdale (pen)	
01.13	Redditch Town	H	BC	5-2	Dewis (2), Lauderdale, Kirkaldie (2)	1000+
02.24	Stourbridge	H	BC	3-4	Lauderdale (2), Dewis	
03.02	Wolves "A"	A	BC	2-2	Johnson, Clarke	
03.09	Solihull Town "B"	H	BC	2-4	Jeremy, Bowers	
03.16	Bromsgrove Rovers	A	BC	1-1	Bowers	
03.23	Sutton Coldfield Town	H	BC	3-2	Lewis, Lowrie, Lauderdale (pen)	
03.25	Solihull Town "B"	H	TC 2	2-0	Lauderdale, Lowrie	
03.30	Solihull Town "B"	A	BC	3-2	Lowrie (3)	
04.06	Coventry City Reserves	H	BSC 3	2-2	A. Knight (2)	
04.13	Army XI	H	F	5-2	Lowrie (2), Lewis (3)	
04.27	Coventry City Reserves	A	BSC 3r	0-2		
05.04	Tamworth	A	TC 3	2-1	Harrison (2)	
05.18	Bromsgrove Rovers	A	TC SF	2-7	A. Knight, Harrison	
05.23	Solihull Town "A"	A	BC	4-6	Lewis (3), Kirkaldie	
05.25	Bromsgrove Rovers	H	BC	1-1	J. Knight	
06.01	Darlaston	H	BC	2-2	Harrison, o.g.	

KEY: BC = Birmingham Combination, NNC = Nuneaton Charity Cup, BSC Birmingham Senior Cup, TC = Tillotson Cup, F = Friendly

\*Birmingham City Transport withdrew to be replaced by Solihull Town "B". Their withdrawal also meant Boro had a bye in the Tillotson Cup 1st Round





## 1940-41 Season

Nuneaton Borough did not play games of any description during the whole season. Some sport was played at Manor Park, and included the following:

### Association Football

#### September 24th, 1940

Arthur Knight's XI 5, Polish Airmen 2

#### September 28th, 1940

Arthur Knight's XI 6, RAF XI 0

**Both matches were played in aid of Nuneaton's Spitfire Fund**

#### April 14th, 1941

RAF XI 0, Czechoslovak International 2 (Attendance 1,500)

Raised £34 for Mayor's £20,000 Hospital Appeal.

The Czech side had played Tottenham Hotspur on the previous Saturday. The RAF XI included many players who had assisted English League clubs.

#### May 3rd, 1941

#### Footballers' Bed Cup Final

Haunchwood Institute 3, Arley Rectory 2

#### June 7th, 1941

The Army 2, Wolverhampton Wanderers 2

In Aid of the Mayor's £20,000 Hospital Appeal

The Wolves' side included Billy Wright, who would go on to play almost 500 games for Wolves and 105 times for England and Jimmy Mullen who played 445 games for Wolves and made 12 appearances for England.

Billy Wright scored the equaliser for Wolves, after they had gone 2-1 down. This goal added to his Manor Park tally, as he had scored a hat-trick for Wolves A against Nuneaton Borough on April 8th, 1939.

### Rugby Football

May 24th 1941

**Nuneaton Rugby Club Seven-a-Side Tournament**

**Won by RAF Physical Training School**

The above tournament is the only known time that Rugby Union was played at Manor Park.

## Nuneaton Borough FC AGM

### To Run Junior Side Next Season

Circumstances permitting, Nuneaton Borough FC will run a junior side next season, probably in the Nuneaton Combination which, it is understood, may comprise ten teams.

This decision was made at the annual meeting of the club, held at the Nuneaton Tradesmen's and Farmers' Club on Wednesday night. The meeting was presided over by Mr Harry Watkins (chairman of the committee) who was supported by Mr F. J. Perry (vice-chairman), Mr Reg Carris (secretary and treasurer), and members of the committee.

The accounts were submitted by Mr Carris and approved.

It was decided to ask Mr Myrton Judkins to become president of the club.

Mr Harry Watkins was re-elected chairman and thanked for his whole-hearted services on behalf of the club.

Mr Perry was re-elected vice-chairman and Mr Reg Carris was reappointed secretary and treasurer. Mrssrs. B. Carris, J. G. Till, F. Watkins and W. Barrs, were re-elected to the committee.

With regard to next season, the chairman expressed the view that in order to keep faith with the public, and being the senior "soccer" club in the town, they should endeavour to run a side.

It was decided to run a junior side if possible in the Nuneaton Combination. Mr Perry stating that there would probably be a full season's fixtures.

*It's up to... YOU*

When you admire the exploits of our airmen, remember - each one of these young men has come forward on his own initiative, to place his courage and resource at the service of his country. The R.A.F. want more men to follow this example. It wants YOU! Go to-day to the R.A.F. Section of the nearest Combined Recruiting Centre (address from any Employment Exchange) and say you wish to *Volunteer for Flying Duties*. You must be 17½ and not yet 33. If your occupation is "reserved," find out whether you are free to volunteer as a Pilot or Observer. If you are suitable for flying duties as Pilot or Observer, but require tuition to pass the educational test, you will be coached free of charge in your spare time; this scheme applies to men aged 17½ and not yet 31.

*to fly with the*  
**RAF**

To Air Ministry Information Bureau,  
Kingsway, London, W.C.2. Please send me  
latest leaflet, giving details of Flying  
Service in the R.A.F.

AGE \_\_\_\_\_  
NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

## Death Of Sandy Sheldon

Nuneaton sportsmen will learn with regret of the death of “Sandy” Sheldon, the former Nuneaton, Manchester United and Liverpool footballer – the man who kept the famous Billy Meredith out of the Manchester United side for some time before the last war.

Sandy first came to prominence while playing with a Bedworth club. He then joined Nuneaton Town and after recovering from a bad injury was transferred to Manchester United. Once Meredith got into the Manchester side, Sandy lost his place and was transferred to Liverpool.

He played for the Liverpool club in the 1914 Cup Final against Burnley. Sandy rejoined Liverpool after the war and remained with them until 1921, when he broke his leg against Derby County.

He passed away in a Manchester hospital this week at the age of 64.



Miss Gracie Fields arriving at a Coventry factory, where she provided entertainment for war workers. It had been hoped that the famous comedienne would be able to appear at a Nuneaton concert, but this was found not to be possible, and a large crowd of people who had gathered to see her arrive were disappointed.

## 1941-42

All team line-ups are announced in Friday’s newspaper and sometimes bear no relation to the team that actually took part.

### RAF v Nuneaton Borough

04-10-1941

Nuneaton (from): Townsend; Topp, Wannacott, A. N. Other, Joy, Twigger, Elston, Hunt, Paul, Gunn, White, Plant, Dewis.

The RAF welcomed Nuneaton Borough to Manor Park for a Nuneaton Combination fixture.

The result was a fair one, for had either side won, the full

points would have been undeserved. The game was a disappointment from the Borough point of view, for the side never played the football expected of it. This was largely attributed to the weakness of the inside-forwards – White and Hunt – but in fairness to the latter, who is regarded as one of the club’s most promising youngsters, it has to be said that his play was affected by an injury to the leg.

Ray Paul, at centre-forward, worked extremely hard, but had few decent passes. The defence was fair, with Joy and Townsend outstanding. Wannacott put forward great efforts to get the side working smoothly – and though playing at left-back, got his side’s first goal from Elston’s well-placed corner kick.

RAF were better together as a side and displayed superior tactics, but seldom seriously troubled Townsend. Their defence was sound and positioned itself with skill, the backs kicking and tackling soundly.

The Borough led 2-1 at half-time and the RAF drew level and went ahead, only to lose their one-goal lead in the closing stages of the game. Brown (2) and Watson scored for the RAF, and Wannacott, Paul and Hunt for Borough. Paul failed with a penalty for the Borough.

## Death Of Mr William Worthington

Mr William Worthington, a full-back in the Nuneaton Town team which won the Birmingham Junior League Shield for the first time in the season 1906-07, passed away at Keat’s Lane, Earl Shilton, on Tuesday. Sixty years of age, Mr Worthington had been ill for fourteen months.

He was a native of Earl Shilton and besides playing for several seasons with Nuneaton Town, he also assisted Hinckley Town in the old Midland League days.

An old programme brought to the “Observer” Office yesterday by Mr Worthington’s son, showed that the team for one match was: T. A. Hilditch; L. Dale and W. Worthington; A. Harper, W. Ball and Boonham; Slater, G. Moore, E. Dunn, A. Moore and B. Carris. The trainer was W. Holmes. Messrs. Hilditch, Harper, Bert Carris and the two Moores are still in Nuneaton today. The funeral will take place at Earl Shilton on Saturday.

### Nuneaton Borough v Brick and Tile

27-09-1941

Nuneaton (from): Townsend; Topp, Wannacott, Hopkins, Joy, Bond, Elston, Spacey, Paul, Hunt, Dewis, Plant.

Borough welcomed Haunchwood Brick & Tile to Manor Park for a Nuneaton Combination fixture.

Brick and Tile could well be satisfied with their point in this game. For more than half the game they were unquestionably the better side. They were much more impressive as a team, having more ideas and swinging the ball about to fine purpose. At half-time they led the struggling and ragged Borough side 1-0, Smart having got their goal.



With a little luck they might have increased their lead – but suddenly the Borough took a new lease of life. Literally pushed into the attack by Wannacott, Joy and Bond – the last-named began to find the wingers with those typical across-the-field passes of his – the hitherto innocuous home attack began to do things, and from that point onwards the game developed into a desperate duel between the home forwards and the Brick and Tile defence, in which Lovell and Clarke were shining lights.

But try as they would the Borough could not get the ball into the net – not until about a quarter of an hour from the end when Wannacott found the mark with a beautiful header from a right wing cross. A few minutes later they deservedly went ahead, Spacey running in to drive home a centre by Plant. Just before the end Smart broke through to score and save a point for his side.

The Borough attack was again disappointing, the inside men and particularly the left-wing pair, lacking punch. Once again Paul had few openings made for him. Joy and Bond were outstanding. Both goalkeepers did fine work.

## Nuneaton Borough v RAF 04-10-1941

**Nuneaton (from): Townsend; Topp, Hopkins, Joy, Bennett, Bond, Elston, Spacey, Paul, Wannacott, Plant, Hunt and Dewis.**

Nuneaton welcomed the RAF to Manor Park for a Footballers' Bed Cup first round tie.

When the teams took the ground, wearing the Borough blue and white striped jersey was a player who would not only tighten up the whole defence, but would also put some life in the attack as well – George Hardy, the former Nuneaton and Aston Villa centre-half, who made a surprise, but welcome appearance in the team. Showing the same coolness and domination with his head for which he was noted while at Manor Park, Hardy, supported by a very sound defence, stemmed attack after attack by the RAF forwards. In fact, the half-back line of Joy, Hardy and Bond, would probably have broken the hearts of many teams in the pre-war Birmingham Combination.

The constructive attacking work of the trio helped considerably in bringing the Borough forwards into the limelight. The inclusion of Wannacott at inside-left did what was expected. Paul at centre-forward, who in the previous matches had been sadly neglected by the inside men, became a real live wire in the Borough attack and a constant source of danger to the plucky RAF defenders.

A feature of the game was that four penalties were awarded against the RAF and from these Wannacott netted twice out of three, and the other was missed by Joy. The Borough won because they were quicker on the ball than the Airmen; much stronger in defence; and the forwards made better use of their chances. The Borough scorers were Wannacott (3), Paul (2) and Spacey.

## Haunchwood Inst. v Nuneaton Borough 11-10-1941

**Nuneaton (from): Townsend; Topp, Hopkins, Joy, Hardy, Bond, Elston, Spacey, Hunt, Paul, Wannacott, Greensmith.**

Borough travelled to Haunchwood Institute for a Nuneaton Combination match.

The only period in the game when the home side looked like holding the Borough was in the first 20 minutes of the second half when the visitors were only a goal in front. During that part of the game Borough failed to reproduce their excellent form of the first-half, the forwards losing their sparkle. Haunchwood took full advantage of this and made a number of dangerous raids, but Townsend was equal to all the calls made upon him.

Then the Borough found their feet again and from that point onwards they did almost as they wished with the home defence and put on three more goals. And it should have been more! Taking the game all through Borough were the cleverer side, despite an early injury to Hunt; but this was counter-balanced by an injury to Johnson, who was off the field for the last 20 minutes.

Paul was Nuneaton's best forward; indeed he was the liveliest attacker on the field. His dash and perseverance made him a troublesome customer and he got three goals – and missed a perfect sitter in the closing minutes. His last goal was a typical effort. Although two defenders – and the goalkeeper – all had a chance of kicking away, the centre-forward "bullocked" his way through all of them and put the ball into the net.

Greensmith at outside-left, added punch to the attack and put across many fine centres in the second half. The halves – Joy, Hardy and Bond – were the strong part of the side, though the backs, especially Topp, presented a solid defence.

Hodgkins, the 'Stute skipper was Haunchwood's best player and worked indefatigably throughout. Bailey was a skilful inside forward, while Brittain made some neat runs. Paul got the opening goal about 15 minutes from the start with a lob shot which had Phillips well beaten. Hunt, with a well-placed kick, put on a second, but before half-time Brittain reduced the lead with a shot from the wing.

Twenty-five minutes after half-time Paul made the score 3-1; Wannacott added a fourth with a scorcher, and Paul rounded off the scoring with the effort already described.

## Nuneaton Borough v Nuneaton Police 18-10-1941

**Nuneaton (from): Townsend; Topp, Hopkins, Joy, Hardy, Bond, Elston, Bennett, Paul, Wannacott, Greensmith, Plant.**

Borough welcomed Nuneaton Police to Manor Park for a Nuneaton Combination game.

Although weakened by the absence of George Hardy, Spacey and Hunt, Borough won easily. The best that can be said



of the Police is that they took their heavy drubbing in true sportsman-like spirit. With a strong wind behind them, the visitors did fairly well in the first half and held their opponents to a 2-1 interval score. But, as was expected, they were badly over-run in the second half, the game developing into a shooting-in match.

Although beaten nine times, Richardson, the old Town keeper, made a number of saves, and it may truthfully be said that he had no chance with any of the shots that beat him.

Most of the Borough's goals developed from moves which left the scorer in easy positions to apply the finishing touches. Indeed, only one of the goals came from shots outside the penalty area – a brilliant effort by Billy Bond, which would have beaten any goalkeeper. Wannacott got a couple with cleverly placed drives; the others were hard drives from close range.

Bennett, who deputised for Hardy at centre-half, did fairly well, while young Plant, who moved from outside to inside-right, after the change of ends, got three goals in a row – all well-taken efforts. Greensmith did not do so well as at Haunchwood, doubtless due to the fact that he had a big blister on his left big toe.

Police were triers but were no match for the Borough. G. A. Richardson put in some fairly good work at centre-half, and now and again the right-wing pair showed to advantage. The scoring was as follows: Wannacott (Borough), Paul (Borough), G. A. Richardson (Police), Wannacott (Borough), Bond (Borough), Plant, Plant, Plant, Paul, Elston (all Borough).

## Nuneaton Borough v RAF

25-10-1941

**Nuneaton (from): Townsend; Topp, Hopkins, Joy, Hardy, Bond, Greensmith, Plant, Elston, Paul, Wannacott, Jeremy.**

Borough welcomed the RAF to Manor Park for the final of the Nuneaton Charity Cup.

There can be no doubt that throughout the first half Borough were the better side and more than deserved their 1-0 interval lead. However, after the change of ends there was a different tale to tell. Once the Airmen had drawn level, the home backs seemed to lose their earlier grip on the game, and were running about aimlessly when their opponents went ahead.

For some time after this the Borough re-asserted themselves, and only the smart goalkeeping of Ralph prevented them drawing level. Indeed, it was still anybody's game until about 20 minutes from the end, when the RAF got their third goal. Morrell, the RAF outside-right, appeared to be in an offside position when he received the ball, but was allowed to go on and score, with Townsend making little attempt to save. Another goal a couple of minutes later sealed the Borough's fate completely.

Three penalties were awarded during the game – two to the Borough and one to the Airmen. Wannacott netted the Borough's first after Ralph had beaten out his first shot and Bond failed badly with the second. Townsend brilliantly saved Watson's spot kick.

Although the faulty positioning of the backs caused the Borough a good deal of trouble, the forwards really lost the game. They did well in the first-half, although lacking finish, but after the change of ends they failed completely. Jeremy should have imparted punch to the attack – but didn't for the reason that he tinkered about with the ball too much. Paul, the young centre-forward, met his master in Williams, the Swansea Town centre-half, but did not lack perseverance.

The RAF, who had several English and Scottish League players in their side, were better together as a team, especially in the second half. Their defence was strong throughout, while their forwards, ably led by McCafferty worked more smoothly and with far more punch than the home attack. Wannacott scored for the Borough and McCafferty (3) and Morrell for the Airmen.

## Nuneaton Borough v Imperial Airways 01-11-1941

**Nuneaton (from): Townsend; Topp, Hopkins, Joy, Hardy, Bond, A. N. Other, Hunt, Paul, Wannacott, Jeremy.**

Borough welcomed Imperial Airways to Manor Park for a Nuneaton Combination fixture.

From start to finish there was only one team in the hunt, and it was difficult to keep check on the score, because of the pace at which the goals arrived. Borough were without Billy Bond, who cried off during the morning. This enabled Knight, formerly of Manor Rangers, to be brought in at inside-left, while another newcomer was Clamp, who has played for Courtaulds. Hunt, who has been troubled with an injured leg, returned to the side at inside-right, while Wannacott filled the vacant left-half position.

It was a very young forward line but against such weak opposition one would be foolish to attempt an assessment of the real value of their display; but they got fifteen goals and crowded round Light, the unfortunate Airways goalkeeper, like hungry wolves in search of prey. Hunt, who still seems not quite certain of his injured leg was, nevertheless, his side's chief goalscorer, his haul being six. The irrepressible Paul came along with four, Knight three, while Jeremy and Hardy rounded off the scoring with one each.

Clamp gave a promising display at outside-right, while Knight, after a season's absence from the game, did well as Jeremy's partner. Joy was very unfortunate not to figure among the goalscorers. On one occasion he netted with a fine drive only to see the goal disallowed through two of his colleagues in the attack being offside; and then he saw another of his shots strike the post and rebound to the feet of Knight, who only had to touch the ball into the net.

Airways had a few good chances but lacked steadiness at close quarters. Gibb was an industrious centre-half, while Cooper showed clever ball control at inside-right. Jack Townsend, the former Nuneaton and Coventry City outside-left assisted the losers.

The goals were as follows: Knight (3), Hunt (6), Jeremy, Paul (4), Hardy.



## Nuneaton Borough v Arley Rectory 08-11-1941

**Nuneaton (from):** Townsend; Topp, Hopkins, Joy, Hardy, Bond, Clamp, Hunt, Paul, Knight, Jeremy.

Borough welcomed Arley Rectory to Manor Park for a Nuneaton Combination game. Both sides are unbeaten in the league.

There were certainly plenty of fireworks in this match. The players, the spectators, the referee, in fact everybody got thoroughly explosive; and it culminated in Healey, the Rectory goalkeeper, getting his marching orders a few minutes after half-time. During a Borough attack – and after the ball had safely been got away – Healey ran out of goal and caught hold of Hunt, the Borough inside-right. Why he should have picked on Hunt nobody can understand, for the Borough youth had been nowhere near the keeper during the attack.

Off Healey went and Arley lost the game. At that moment the Rectory were leading 4-1 and seemed to have the game well within their keeping. After sending the goalkeeper off the referee awarded a penalty, and cool-headed George Hardy safely piloted the ball into the net to make the score 4-2.

That penalty goal was the tonic the Borough side so badly needed. A hitherto jittery defence began to take a much firmer grip on the game, while the young forwards began to get into their stride. Paul quickly made the score 4-3, then equalised and in the last minute Jeremy obtained the winning goal after Hunt had missed a perfect sitter. Although it was such a storming finish, the real thrills were crowded into the first 15 minutes. In their first attack Knight gave Borough the lead. Two or three minutes later Ben Wannacott, who had to deputise for Townsend in goal, failed to hold a simple shot and Finney scored a gift goal to level the score.

Arley were playing whirlwind football and Aston quickly put them ahead. Then came two more shocks for the Borough. Inside five minutes the referee had awarded two penalties against them and Tommy Ison obliged on each occasion with unstoppable shots. Borough players were thoroughly rattled. They lost all grip on the game and how they managed to keep the score down only they know. George Hardy laid the foundation for Borough's astonishing recovery. He not only converted the penalty at the most vital stage of the game, but threw all his weight into the attack until his younger and less experienced colleagues got over their acute attack of nerves. It was not until his side had drawn level that Hardy resumed his normal third back activities.

## Griff Colliery v Nuneaton Borough 15-11-1941

**Nuneaton (expected team):** Townsend; Topp, Hopkins, Joy, Hardy, Bond, Clamp, Hunt, Paul, Knight, Jeremy.

Borough travelled to play Griff Colliery in a Nuneaton Combination game.

For nearly three-quarters of this match at Griff the Borough were deservedly in arrears, and so feeble had been their

scoring efforts that it seemed they never would get a goal. The long grass was an obstacle which, it seemed, the Borough never would overcome – especially the forwards. In such conditions it was obvious that the ball must be booted freely; but it was not until the concluding stages of the game that the visiting players began to appreciate this fact.

The Griff players pointed the way by hitting the ball hard and often; but the Borough persisted in short passing moves, nine times out of ten up the centre of the field. Now and again the ball was sent out to Clamp, but generally speaking both wingers, especially Jeremy, were left out of the scheme of things far too long. Instead of drawing the Griff defence by bringing the wingers into action, the inside men crowded out each other in scrambling efforts to nullify an early Griff goal.

And this went on until the last 15-20 minutes. By this time it had dawned on the visiting players that their tactics never would produce a goal and that unless they did something about it, defeat would be their lot. At long last the wingers were given the ball, the home defence was spreadeagled – and an equalising and winning goal quickly followed. But they very nearly left it too late, for it was only a couple of minutes from the end when the decisive goal came.

The home side took an early lead when Townsend, going to collect a harmless-looking long range shot, saw the ball bounce awkwardly, strike his legs, and roll over the goal-line. They led by this goal until about 15 minutes from the end, when a pass from the Nuneaton right was driven hard and low past Archer, by Knight. Then came the most hectic few minutes of the game. Archer saved brilliantly at full length from a free-kick by Bond. The ball was pushed out to Jeremy who lifted it right over the goalkeeper's head on to the top of the bar from which it went behind. The next minute, Bond drove in another fierce shot; Archer again got to the ball in brilliant style, but could only push it out to the feet of Jeremy. Taking deliberate aim the outside-left scored with ease – and so the Borough got both points. But it was a very near thing!

## Nuneaton Borough v Bucks Hill WMC 22-11-1941

**Nuneaton (from):** Townsend; Topp, Hopkins, Joy, Hardy, Bond, Clamp, Hunt, Paul, Gunn, Jeremy.

Borough welcomed Bucks Hill WMC to Manor Park for a Nuneaton Combination match.

Borough made two changes, Hopkins returned to the left full-back position, while in the absence of Knight, who received a knock at Griff, a trial was given to a young boy named Gunn, from the Hinckley district. Considering his youth and lack of practice, Gunn performed fairly well at outside right. He displayed some neat touches and is worthy of another trial when the opportunity arises.

Hardy was again the outstanding player on the field. For three-quarters of the game he had the Bucks Hill inside men in his pocket; and in the other quarter he joined in the attack and scored a splendid trio of goals, all being object lessons in the



art of clever positioning and controlled shooting. His last goal was a real gem; it was doubtful that the keeper saw the ball until it was in the net. It was an easy afternoon for the Borough forwards, even though they were without Hunt for most of the second half. The Bucks Hill defenders were easily drawn out of position with the result that the way to goal was easy.

I thought, however, that once again the Borough inside men played too close, and in the first half Gunn did not see a great deal of the ball. In these sort of matches individualism is all very well; but against teams of the calibre of the RAF and Arley they are much less likely to succeed.

The goals were as follows: Paul, Hunt, Paul, Hunt, Clamp, Hardy, Jeremy, Jeremy, Clamp, Jeremy, Hardy, Paul, Hardy.

## **Morris Motors v Nuneaton Borough 29-11-1941**

Borough travelled to Courthouse Green to take on unbeaten Morris Motors in the Chapel End Nursing Cup.

Morris opened the scoring eight minutes before half-time. After McKeeon had made all the running, Moreton was left with Hardy to beat. The latter half slipped up in going in for a tackle and the Morris centre-forward shot. Walker had the ball well covered, but it glanced off Hopkins and entered the other end of the net. It was fortunate goal though well deserved. Borough were not long behind, for after Thacker had saved from Murdin, Paul drove the ball hard along the ground into the net. The home side went ahead again in the early stages of the second half, McKeeon cleverly beating Walker with a first-timer following a corner kick by Whiteford. The score remained 2-1 in Morris' favour until about 15 minutes from the end. Bond pushed the ball towards goal; Paul was after it like a flash and, to save an awkward situation, one of the backs impeded him. The referee immediately awarded a penalty – and Thacker never saw George Hardy's penalty.

Morris were the heftier team and were better suited to the heavy going. The diminutive Borough forwards found the conditions trying, but always kept pegging away. The home attack were more menacing, with McKeeon a scheming and thrustful inside man. But Borough had one plus – at centre-back. George Hardy dominated the game. He was positively brilliant throughout and the rock on which most of the Morris attacks foundered. Walker, in goal, did creditably, while Murdin showed up very well at inside-left until injured.

## **Nuneaton Borough v Haunchwood Inst. 13-12-1941**

**Nuneaton: Walker; Topp and Hopkins; Joy, Hardy and Bond; Clamp, Knight, Paul, Murdin and Jeremy.**

Borough welcomed Haunchwood Institute to Manor Park for a Nuneaton Combination game.

Haunchwood scored first, early in the game when Hannaby banged home a good shot from a left-wing pass. Knight equalised with a perfect header from Jeremy's centre. The

same player put the Borough ahead from another of Jeremy's passes, and before half-time Paul made the score 3-1 with a hot shot just inside the post.

The score remained 3-1 until ten minutes from the end, when E. Cooper reduced the lead, but in the last two minutes Murdin got two more for the Borough.

Haunchwood were penned in for long periods, but so poor was the finishing of the forwards that Phillips had few really decent shots to handle. The same might be said of Walker, in the home goal, who had little opportunity of displaying his real worth.

Until two minutes from the end Borough were only leading 3-2, but a couple of quick goals made the final score – on paper, at least – look more convincing. It did not actually represent their superiority in midfield, but it exaggerated their near-goal work, which on the whole, was very weak.

The home side's plan of campaign was difficult to appreciate, for whereas Jeremy was always getting the ball, sometimes doing sparkling things and on other occasions making a mess of things, Clamp, on the opposite wing, was starved for long periods. Paul and Knight, though getting three of the goals between them, lacked their usual fire, and Murdin, who got the other two goals, usually made far better use of the ball.

### **Borough Ruled Out of Chapel End Cup**

The Chapel End Nursing Cup Committee has announced that Nuneaton Borough FC has been ruled out of the competition for playing ineligible players against Morris Motors a fortnight ago.

It is understood that Morris protested with regard to Hardy, Bond, Jeremy, Murdin and Walker – the last two named on the grounds that they had not previously played for the club in a league match in accordance with the competition rules.

## **Imperial Airways v Nuneaton Borough 20-12-1941**

**Nuneaton: Walker; Topp and Hopkins; Joy, Hardy and Bond; Clamp, Knight, Paul, Murdin and Jeremy.**

Borough travelled to Stoney Road to face Imperial Airways in a Nuneaton Combination game.

When half-time arrived in this League match, the score was one each; indeed, so poorly had the Borough forwards played that it was only through the medium of a goal by Paul, which looked suspiciously like offside, that the visitors had been able to nullify an earlier Airways goal.

Borough had previously beat Airways 15-0 at Manor Park, and as in the previous encounter, Borough practically monopolised play right from the kick-off and there were many exciting incidents round the home goal, but the bungling efforts of the forwards seldom looked like producing results. After the change of ends, however, Paul and his colleagues found their



feet. They quickly went ahead – and from that point onwards there ensued a terrific battle between the Borough attackers and the home goalkeeper. The latter was undoubtedly, the outstanding player on the field. He made many grand saves, but he was powerless to keep the score down below six. On several occasions the ball struck the woodwork of the Airways goal.

Thomas gave Airways the lead mid-way through the first-half with a shot which went off Hardy's leg and into the net. Paul equalised just before half-time. Knight quickly sent the Borough ahead, and shortly afterwards netted again with a fine shot. Paul made the score 4-1 with a lucky goal; Hunt netted neatly for number five and just before the end Jeremy scored the final goal of the game.

## Nuneaton Borough v Griff Colliery 27-12-1941

**Nuneaton: Walker; Topp and Hopkins; Joy, Hardy and Bond; Clamp, Knight, Paul, Murdin and Jeremy.**

Nuneaton welcomed Griff Colliery to Manor Park for a Nuneaton Combination match.

Although lacking the services of Walker, Topp and Clamp, for whom Anderton, Wannacott and Hunt deputised, Borough were too good for Griff Colliery. It was far from being a one-sided affair and the Borough defence had some anxious moments but generally speaking, the game went largely in favour of the home side.

Borough got an early goal through Hunt, who scored with a good shot following an excellent combined movement. Paul got a clever second goal and Bond added a third from a free-kick. Before half-time, also from a free-kick, Ward reduced the lead. With a fine shot early in the second half, Paul made the score 4-1, but Knight replied for Griff. In the latter stages Murdin scored two more for the Borough to make the final score 6-2.

Borough were a long way short of being at their best. They were inclined to over-elaborate and this fault could be traced to the halves, who used the short cross-pass far too much. In any case, however, the Borough wingers did very little. Hunt was definitely poor at outside-right and we saw a very timid Jeremy on the opposite flank. By contrast the inside men were good, especially considering the poor support they received from the wings. Murdin was the best forward on the field and crowned a very capable display with two goals. Paul also got a couple of excellent goals – and would have got more had the wingers put the ball in front of him instead of behind, as in the majority of cases.

Wannacott, on his return to the side, gave a capable display. Griff did well up to a point, but the forwards were not good in their finishing. Their defenders did well on the whole, but at times their tackling was more robust than skilful. The veteran Sidney Spare did as well as anyone else in the Griff side and Archer was sound in goal.

## Nuneaton Police v Nuneaton Borough 03-01-1942

**Nuneaton: Walker; Topp and Storer; Hopkins, Hardy and Joy; Howard, Biddle, Paul, Murdin and Jeremy.**

Nuneaton Police hosted a home game at Manor Park against Nuneaton Borough in the Nuneaton Combination.

With Bond, Knight and Clamp absent for a various reasons, and Hardy not being well enough to play football, the Borough, although winning with a fair amount of ease, gave what was undoubtedly their most inept display of the season.

There was nothing clear-cut about their victory; they just muddled through to success, which was not surprising in view of the enforced choppings and changes in the team. Storer, one of the trainers, had to turn out at left full-back; Joy crossed over from right-half to left-half; Hopkins filled the right-half vacancy; while the absence of the usual right wing pair, Knight and Clamp, saw Howard and Biddle operating on the right wing.

Small wonder it was a dismal affair. Lucky it was that the defence had little to do, while the forwards, after getting four goals in the first 20 minutes muddled practically everything afterwards. Even the three regular forwards – Paul, Murdin and Jeremy – fell far below their usual form. They got one more goal in the closing stages – and it was a fortunate goal too.

Police were best served in defence and after conceding four goals in the early stages, found little difficulty in dealing with the aimless Borough attacks. Their best forward was Roberts, a sixteen-year-old outside right. The other forwards did little. The veteran, Ron Talbot, did all that was required of him in goal. He certainly is versatile.

Paul got the Borough's two opening goals; Howard got two more in as many minutes; and the same player got a fifth – the ball rebounded off his body into the net – in the closing stages. It was desultory affair – a game that seldom raised a cheer from the spectators.

## Brick and Tile v Nuneaton Borough 10-01-1942

**Nuneaton: Walker; Topp and Hopkins; Joy, Hardy and Bond; Roberts, Knight, Paul, Wannacott and Jeremy.**

Borough visited Haunchwood Brick and Tile for a Nuneaton Combination match.

Revealing their best away form this season, the Borough overcame what everyone imagined would be a stiff obstacle in comfortable style when they visited Brick and Tile. The final score did not flatter the Borough. Indeed, it would not be unfair to say that the home side were lucky to get away so lightly, for in addition to scoring six times, Paul, Knight and Wannacott all missed sitters in the second half.

It was Borough at their best. They mastered their opponents from the start, and the only period when Brick and Tile ever looked like causing them any real difficulty was in the early stages of the second half, when they got a goal to make the



score 3-1. For a short time their forwards caused trouble – but Borough came back again and got three more goals.

Smart, the Brick and Tile goal-getting centre-forward, had a most unhappy match against George Hardy, who held him as though in a vice. The only time the centre-forward looked like getting the better of Hardy, the referee awarded a penalty against the Borough pivot. But from the spot the unhappy Smart could only shoot straight into Walker's hands, and the goalkeeper cleared smartly.

The success of the match was Roberts, the 16-year-old youth whom the Borough played at outside-right. He revealed not only speed but was neat in all he did. If I am not sorely mistaken this lad has a bright footballing future. Another outstanding player was Lovell, the Brick and Tile goalkeeper. Here is another player with a future. He undoubtedly saved his side from a heavier defeat. One save of his from a Billy Bond special just after half-time was a masterpiece.

Borough played well to a man. They revealed form which the Brick and Tile could not stand up against – form which, if produced against the Air Force and Arley, must sorely trouble the opposition.

Knight gave the Borough a good start with a finely taken goal early on; Hardy increased their lead from a penalty when Jeremy was fouled, and before half-time Wannacott added an easy third. Early in the second half Lavering reduced the lead with a fine shot. Hardy replied for the Borough from a second penalty, and Jeremy and Knight took the score to 6-1. Brick and Tile put up a good fight, but were well and truly mastered by a finely balanced side.

## **Bucks Hill WMC v Nuneaton Borough 17-01-1942**

**Nuneaton: Walker; Topp and Hopkins; Joy, Hardy and Bond; Roberts, Knight, Paul, Wannacott and Jeremy.**

Borough travelled to Bucks Hill to face Bucks Hill WMC in a Nuneaton Combination game.

Borough again revealed irresistible form and fine team play earned them two more easy points. Bucks Hill were three goals down in the first 12 minutes and never looked like recovering from the Borough's early blitzkrieg tactics. Indeed, curious though it may seem the losers played better when they were seven goals down than at any period in the game.

At this stage – in the last 20 minutes or so – Bucks Hill showed signs of fight and ought certainly to have scored. One storming attack of theirs saw the ball bobbing about dangerously in the Borough penalty area, and after several shots had been blocked another struck the bar and rebounded to safety. Shortly afterwards a shot by the outside right struck the post.

But apart from these two incidents, the WMC seldom looked like breaking down the resolute defence put up by Hardy, Topp and Hopkins. Playing between the backs, Hardy completely blocked the way down the middle of the field,

and with the backs kicking and tackling soundly. Joy and Bond were generally going into the attack with the forwards, with the result that the Bucks Hill defenders had a very uncomfortable afternoon.

Given plenty of the ball by the wing halves, the Borough inside forwards, especially Paul, were a constant source of menace, and did pretty well as they liked. Paul was irresistible and scored four of his side's nine goals.

Bucks Hill were triers – but were no match for their opponents. They were unfortunate to lose the services of one of the Flavel's in the early stages of the game, but stuck to their guns gamely. The goals were as follows:- Hardy (pen), Paul, Knight, Paul, Bond (pen), Paul, Murdin, Jeremy, Paul.

## **RAF v Nuneaton Borough**

**21-02-1942**

**Nuneaton: Walker; Topp and Hopkins; Joy, Hardy and Wannacott; Jones, Knight, Paul, Wannacott and Bott.**

The RAF played host to Nuneaton Borough at Manor Park in a Nuneaton Combination match.

The first-half was fairly well contested, but Borough were always the more workmanlike and led 2-0 at half-time, Jones and Paul being the scorers. After the change of ends Borough completely outshone their opponents and the go-ahead Paul scored four more goals.

Borough played bright, purposeful football, their forwards being altogether too fast for the opposing defence, while their own defenders gave the RAF forwards little scope. Hardy safely held McCafferty, and was strongly supported by Joy, Wannacott and the two full-backs, with the result that Walker, in goal, was seldom seriously troubled. On the other hand, Wilson had a very busy time in the RAF goal and did not seem so certain of himself as usual. He appeared at fault when Paul headed one of his five goals in the second half; but he was in no way responsible for his side's defeat.

RAF's chief weakness was in attack and their disjointed methods made little impression on the sound Borough defence. Paul led the Borough attack in his usual dashing style and that he wasted few chances is shown by the fact that he got five of his side's six goals. But he was well supplied with the ball by his inside men and Murdin in particular rendered clever form. Jones was a capable winger, and in addition to scoring his side's first goal smashed another hard drive against an upright.

## **Nuneaton Borough v Wolves**

**17-01-1942**

**Nuneaton: Walker; Topp and Hopkins; Joy, Hardy and Bond; Jones, Knight, Paul, Murdin and Jeremy.**

Borough welcomed Wolves Reserves to Manor Park for a friendly game.

The visitors snatched victory in the last two minutes of the game, a misunderstanding between Hardy and Walker, who both left a harmless looking centre to each other, enabling





Crook to score a simple goal. It was a disappointing finish to what had been a most interesting game.

Borough were much the better side in the opening half and well merited their 2-0 interval lead. They had given a polished display; but the visitors were evidently given some sound advice during half-time, for when they again took the field it was noticed that positional changes had been effected, and that an entirely different plan of attack had been decided upon. Instead of playing mostly down the centre of the field, where Hardy had completely barred the way to goal, the ball was kept on the wings. Hardy was constantly drawn out of position – and then the trouble started.

Defensive mistakes were common, and the Wolves quickly drew level. Walker should certainly have stopped one of the scoring shots, going down to the ball much too late. Borough came back again, and were soon leading 4-2. Then Topp sliced his kick and enabled the visitors to reduce the lead. A few minutes later Walker was again at fault when a cross shot from an awkward angle beat him. And then came the crowning disaster – the misunderstanding between Walker and Hardy which enabled the visitors to score a simple winning goal.

Taken on the whole, Borough proved themselves the capable side they really are, for it was only a shocking piece of bad luck that enabled Major Buckley's youngsters to win.

Borough were at their best in the opening half, when their go-ahead young forwards, ably led by the dashing Paul, gave the Wolves defence a warm time. Wolves were definitely the better side after the change of ends – but even so it is difficult to imagine how they could have won had it not been for the home side's defensive mistakes.

Pritchard (2), Grainger, Crump and Crook scored for the winners and Paul, Knight (2) and Jones for Borough.

**NEW CO-OPERATIVE HALL, NUNEATON**

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**DANCING TONIGHT**  
Friday, Mar. 13, from 7.30 till 10.30. Admission 1/3  
**H.M. FORCES IN UNIFORM 9d.**

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**A GRAND DANCE  
TOMORROW NIGHT**  
Saturday, March 14th.  
Dancing 6.30 till 10.30. ADMISSION 2/-  
**H.M. FORCES IN UNIFORM 1/-.**

**Billy Broadway & His Full Band**  
playing both evenings

two goals in front. Borough then seemed to realise they must change their ideas if they were to get goals. They began to move the ball about. Jeremy soon reduced the lead and a little later made the scores level. At half-time the teams were on level terms. Fairly early in the second half Jeremy put the Borough ahead and they seemed well set for victory.

Yet in spite of having seen the success of the open game, they then reverted to their old tactics – and from that point onwards they began to lose their grip on the game. About a quarter of an hour from the end, Bond failed to clear his lines and Arley equalised. And then, four minutes from the end, they got the winning goal.

Before Arley scored the winner, both Murdin and Walker had chances of at least saving the Borough from defeat. Murdin, after going right through on his own, failed to control the ball when only about three yards from goal, and the ball was scrambled away. Had he shot a fraction before he could scarcely have failed to score. Walker put high and wide with a yawning goal at his mercy.

Jeremy played his best game for many a Saturday and was the one and only marksman in the Borough side. His three goals, especially the third, were all good efforts. Finney (3) and Jackson scored for Arley. Stain was the Rectory's best forward.

## Nuneaton Borough v Arley Rectory 21-03-1942

Nuneaton welcomed Arley Rectory to Manor Park for the semi-final of the Footballers' Bed Cup.

There was a thrilling end to the match when, with only a few minutes to go and the score 1-1, Borough were awarded a penalty. Hardy took the kick and made no mistake to give Nuneaton a 2-1 lead. When everyone was expecting the referee's whistle to go for time, Arley made a last desperate attack, and one of their inside men was forging his way towards goal. As he closed in, with two Nuneaton defenders at his side, Quinney brought him down.

The referee awarded a penalty, and Worton was entrusted with the kick. His first shot went straight at Peach, Borough's goalkeeper. Peach stopped the shot, but failed to hold the ball, which rebounded to Worton, who promptly slammed it into the net – and the players began to leave the field.

The majority of the spectators, naturally assumed that the result was a draw of 2-2, but in the excitement they had failed to hear the referee's whistle sound for time between Peach saving and Worton netting from the rebound.

Thus Borough won 2-1, but if ever a team deserved to win, Arley did. They were the better team throughout, and in the second half, particularly, literally ran their opponents off their feet. Borough never looked like settling down, and what little good football there was in this kick-and-rush game, it certainly came from the Arley players.

Quinney, who deputised for Hardy at centre-half, was the best man in defence. The forwards were at sixes and sevens

## Arley Rectory v Nuneaton Borough 14-03-1942

Nuneaton: Peach; Topp and Hopkins; Joy, Hardy and Bond; Mott, Walker, Paul, Murdin and Jeremy.

Nuneaton made the journey to Arley to take on Arley Rectory in the final Nuneaton Combination fixture of 1941-42.

Arley started with their usual storming tactics and were soon



all the way through; Murdin was crooked, Jeremy and Paul were quite ineffective and Roberts got precious few passes to his liking. Hardy got both the Borough's goals, the first from a perfect Roberts' corner kick, and the other from a penalty. Stain obtained Arley's goal with a shot from off the wing.

## Borough Winger Plays For Wolves

Roberts, Nuneaton Borough's boy outside-right, played for Wolverhampton Wanderers against Birmingham last Saturday, and in a Birmingham League match for the Wolves a fortnight previously

## Nuneaton Borough v Imperial Airways 06-04-1942

**Nuneaton (from): Peach, Topp, Hopkins, Joy, Hardy, Bond, Quinney, Roberts, Knight, Paul, Murdin, Jeremy, Mott.**

Borough welcomed Imperial Airways to Manor Park for the final of the Footballer's Bed Cup.

A most interesting first half ended with the score at two each, the Airways giving a good account of themselves. Borough went ahead early in the second half, and although they continued to attack with great persistency, it was not until the last ten minutes or so that they put the issue completely beyond doubt. In that brief period they got three more goals.

Despite the fact that the winners registered four of the goals in the second half, play was not nearly so entertaining as before the interval, for the proceedings really developed into a fight between the Borough forwards and the Airways defenders. The latter gave a very plucky exhibition, especially the goalkeeper, who made many fine saves, but towards the end they collapsed under almost continuous raids – and Borough piled on the goals.

It took Borough a long while to find gaps in the Airways defence in the second half, largely through their loose attacking moves, which generally broke down through faulty positioning or erratic placing of the ball. In the end, however, their perseverance brought them a well merited success.

Airways played with no little polish in the first-half and often caused the sound Borough defence trouble. They were unfortunate to lose the services of Carr, their inside left, early in the second half, that player being unfortunate enough to break a wrist. Borough too had their misfortunes, for comparatively early in the game, Murdin damaged his leg and for the rest of the game hobbled about at outside-left.

Borough's young outside-right Roberts, was the best forward on the field. He presented Paul with his first two goals. On the first occasion he drove in a terrific shot which rattled the crossbar, then struck the far post, and finally ran along the goal-line. All Paul had to do was to touch the ball into the net. On the second occasion Roberts ran through the defence and from almost off the goal-line centred so perfectly that Paul just had to nod the ball into the net. Knight (2), Jeremy and Murdin got

the other Borough goals. Jack Townsend, the former Nuneaton and Coventry City pro got Airways first goal – the first of the match – and showed that he can still use that left foot of his. Carr got their second goal, and a good one it was too.

## Nuneaton Borough v Armstrong-Siddeley 25-04-1942

**Nuneaton (from): Peach, Topp, Hopkins, Joy, Hardy, Bond, Roberts, Knight, Paul, Wannacott and Jeremy.**

Borough welcomed Armstrong-Siddeley to Manor Park for a friendly game in aid of the Aid for Russia Fund.

The match was little more than a leg-stretcher for the home side. The only time the visitors ever looked like scoring, George Hardy finished off the move for them with a shot which left his own goalkeeper standing. Later in the half Hardy again obliged the visitors by missing a penalty.

Armstrong-Siddeley were never in the hunt and were defending for more than ninety per cent of the game. Buswell, their goalkeeper, was the busiest man on the field – busy picking the ball out of the net. He was obviously discouraged long before the end of the game.

The extent of the Borough's superiority may be gleaned from the fact that it was practically a shooting-in match from start to finish. This was especially so in the second half, when even the Borough full-backs were operating in the Siddeley half of the field; and as fast as the ball was got away from one attack on the visitors' goal it was put back again in the goalmouth. And it is true to say that although the Borough scored ten goals, they missed at least half as many other easy scoring chances.

It was by far the most one-sided encounter seen at Manor Park this season; but the losers took their heavy drubbing in sporting style. Their pluck was their best quality.

Ben Wannacott returned to the Borough side in place of the injured Murdin at inside-left, and celebrated the event by scoring four of his side's goals. Paul got three, Jeremy two and Bond the other. Bond's goal was the best of the match – a shot that the goalkeeper probably never saw until it was in the back of the net.

## Condition Of Manor Park Football Ground

At the meeting of the Nuneaton Town Council, Coun. H. T. Deeming drew attention to the condition of the old stand on the Manor Park Football Ground.

People living nearby, he said, were disturbed by the noise caused by the loose timber. Coun. J. Wood said it was very dangerous indeed.

The Mayor (Ald. J. Bates) said he was on the ground the previous evening and the ground and fencing were in a terrible condition.

Coun. W. R. Chamberlain also spoke of complaints he had heard, and the Mayor promised that the matter would be discussed at the next meeting of the Emergency Committee.



## Nuneaton Borough v Arley Rectory 02-05-1942

Nuneaton welcomed Arley Rectory to Manor Park for a game in aid of the Mayor's Hospital Appeal Fund.

Arley lacked the cohesion of the Borough, but if anything, seemed more likely to get goals than the Borough. It was really a tribute to the Nuneaton defenders that they did not get those scoring chances.

All the goals were good ones. When Borough opened their account, Wannacott put the ball out to Jeremy, the latter centred, and as Heeley left his goal, Paul headed the ball over him into the empty net. When Finney got the equaliser early in the second half, he raced through and drove the ball hard and low past Townsend. It was a fine opportunist goal. A delightful passing movement in which several Borough players took part, produced the winning goal. When the ball was eventually put into the goalmouth, Jeremy was left with only Heeley to beat – and he did the job easily.

The inclusion of Billy Townsend in goal and Quinney at left-back considerably strengthened the Borough defence. Townsend was his old self, and though not seriously tested made one or two grand saves, including one from a penalty kick in the first-half, which Whiston obligingly placed into those big hands of his. Quinney gave the back division new strength.

Indeed, Borough's defence gave its soundest display of the season. Hardy was a dominating centre-half, and kept a strict watch on Finney. Which was a good thing, for just after half-time the Rectory centre-forward, with about the only real scoring chance he had, ran through the home defence and scored a gem of a goal to level the scores. Bond and Joy gave Hardy grand support and there were times when this strong middle line completely dominated the proceedings.

Borough's inside-men worked indefatigably, and kept Aston and his colleagues busy. With better support from the wings, they would undoubtedly have shone better in the goalscoring department. There was no doubt as to the superiority of the winners on the day's play. They outshone their opponents in the finer arts of the game.

### Nuneaton Combination Final Table 1941-1942

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nuneaton Borough	16	13	2	1	100	22	28
Arley Rectory	16	12	1	3	99	30	25
RAF	14	8	3	3	56	42	19
Haunchwood Brick	15	9	1	5	51	29	19
Imperial Airways	16	6	0	10	46	79	12
Haunchwood Institute	15	5	1	9	55	68	11
Griff Colliery	15	4	3	8	29	43	11
Bucks Hill WMC	16	4	1	11	31	86	9
Nuneaton Police	15	1	3	11	39	79	5

## Borough Worthy Champions

### A Review Of The Season

Borough brought a most successful first season in the Nuneaton Combination to a close on Saturday, when they inflicted yet another defeat – this time by the odd goal in three – upon their keenest rivals, Arley Rectory.

That they deserved the championship cannot be denied; they played soundly all through the season after dropping two points in their first two home games. How well they shaped afterwards is shown by the fact that they did not taste defeat until their last League match. That was at Arley, where they were beaten 3-2 – but by that time the League honours were already well within their keeping. They also won the Bed Cup, defeating Airways convincingly in the final.

Containing a happy blending of youth and experience, the team, after that inconspicuous beginning, played so soundly that it had only two serious rivals – RAF and Arley. But the pace they set these two teams proved too hot. RAF's rivalry petered out about three-quarters of the way through the season, and though Arley clung on desperately they, too, in the end, had to give way.

### Strong Middle Line

There is little doubt that the Borough's successes were largely built around the ability and experience of a fine half-back line – Joy, Hardy and Bond. Hardy, as was to be expected, was an outstanding pivot, his skill, coolness and resource proving too much for most of the teams. Bond and Joy gave him grand support.

Had not Billy Townsend, the goalkeeper, been injured midway through the season, the team would have been even more formidable, as afterwards a custodian of his standing could not be found, though Peach played some very useful games. Topp was an outstanding success at right full-back, and had no superior in the League. Hopkins was a good club player.

### The Attack

Until young Roberts came into the side at outside-right, the club never was adequately served in that position; nor for that matter has Jeremy, on the opposite wing, reached expectations. He was far too inconsistent. The inside men were undoubtedly good. Knight and Murdin were indefatigable in their efforts, but both were often in the wars and were several times on the injured list. Fortunately, the evergreen Ben Wannacott was always available to fill a gap, and proved indispensable. A grand veteran and fine clubman is Ben.

Ray Paul has proved himself one of the best of the youngsters – this quite apart from the fact that he has been such a consistent goalscorer. He has his faults – one of them is that he plays too much with his back to his own goal – but these faults are far outweighed by his good points.

Late in the season another good man was unearthed –



Quinney. A versatile player, Quinney played in three positions in three games – left-half, centre-half, and left full-back – and he was equally at home in all of them. He should be a big success in future seasons.

## The Goalscorers

The goalscorers were as follows:

Paul .....	42
Knight .....	16
Jeremy .....	16
Wannacott .....	14
Hunt .....	12
Hardy .....	10
Murdin.....	6
Bond .....	4
Plant.....	3
Howard .....	3
Roberts .....	2
Clamp.....	2
Spacey .....	2
Alston.....	1

## Manor Park Stand

On Wednesday, Nuneaton Town Council decided to dismantle the damaged portion of the old stand at Manor Park.

It had been stated that the repairs to the stands and fences were estimated to cost £144.

## Police Boxing Tournament

If knock-out thrills were lacking – there was not a single K.O. in the twelve bouts – the crowd attracted to the Nuneaton Police Boxing Tournament at Manor Park Football Ground, on Saturday evening, enjoyed some close tussles in which several of the leading amateur boxers in the country were on view.

The tournament was in aid of the Mayor of Nuneaton's £20,000 Hospital Appeal and, with their usual thoroughness the Police put over the show in a big way. It was a star studded programme, A.B.A. champions and ex-champions being the rule rather than the exception.

Henry Hall (Sheffield), recent winner of an all-England welter competition and North Counties welter champion, 1941-42, gave a superb exhibition of ringcraft against a formidable opponent in Tom Walsh, the Welsh welter champion, to win narrowly on points over six rounds. Another well-matched couple were Sergeant-Instructor Shackleton, middleweight champion of the British Army, and Pte. W. Dreezer, North-East A.B.A. champion. Dreezer gave the army champion a hard fight, but Shackleton's strategy and cunning earned him a points verdict...

## Stay At Home Holiday Begins Next Week

Observer: July 17 1942

A musical treat in connection with Nuneaton's stay-at-home holiday will be the visit of the London Sextet, all six of whose members are serving in the N.F.S. and two of whom have been awarded the George Medal for conspicuous gallantry.

The London Sextet will give two concerts, at 3 and 7pm in Riversley Park, on Sunday, August 2. The members of the Sextet, all professional musicians of the top rank, are William Hulson (violin), George Maxted (viola), Robert Lewin (violin), Willen de Mont (cello), Terence MacDonagh (oboe) and Richard Bird (piano). They will be accompanied by Janet Howe (contralto) and Alex John (tenor).

## Living In Cities Exhibition

Arrangements have also been made for the exhibition, "Living In Cities," to be held on the first floor of the Art Gallery from Sunday, August 2, to Sunday, August 16, inclusive. This exhibition has been designed and organised for the 1940 Council which is a group of specialists working to promote the planning of social environment on a national scale.

Next Sunday, the Royal Warwickshire Regiment Band will play in Riversley Park in aid of the Carnival effort.

## BOROUGH OF NUNEATON STAY AT HOME HOLIDAYS ATTRACTIONS IN RIVERSLEY PARK FOR WEEK ENDING THE 8th AUGUST 1942

**SUNDAY, 2nd AUGUST:-**

**3 p.m. Opening Ceremony by His Worship the Mayor (Ald. J. Bates).**

**3.5 and 7 p.m. SPECIAL CELEBRITY CONCERTS by the LONDON SEXTET and Special Vocalists.** If wet, Concerts will be given in the Co-operative Hall, Queen's Road.

**MONDAY to SATURDAY, 3rd to 8th AUGUST. EACH DAY:-**

**10.30 a.m. to 12.45 p.m. Dancing, Novelty Sports and Games.  
2 to 2.45 p.m. Music**

**3 to 4.30 p.m. MIDLAND REVELLERS CONCERT PARTY.**

**4.30 to 6.15 p.m. Novelty Sports, Games and Music.**

**6.30 to 8 p.m. MIDLAND REVELLERS CONCERT PARTY.**

**MONDAY, TUESDAY and WEDNESDAY, 3rd, 4th, 5th AUGUST:-**

**8 to 9 p.m. Gymnastic Display by the Youth Centre – and Dancing.**

**Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 6th, 7th, 8th AUGUST, 8 to 9 p.m. DANCING.**

If wet, the Midland Revellers will give their performances in Hall and Phillips' Canteen, Abbey Street.

CAFE IN MUSEUM. Please bring your own cups.

**The British Restaurant (Merevale Rd. Entrance) will be Open during the week.**

**AUGUST 2nd to 15th inclusive. OPEN DAILY from 3 to 8 p.m.:-  
"LIVING IN CITIES" EXHIBITION and NUNEATON ART SCHOOL  
EXHIBITION in Riversley Park Art Gallery.**

T. OLDROYD, Town Clerk.

## Nuneaton Referee Promoted

Mr E. T. Jarvis, the well-known Nuneaton referee, has received notification from Mr Howarth, secretary of the Football League, that his name has been placed on the English League referees' and linesman's list.

He is the second Nuneaton man to be so honoured, the first being Mr B. C. White. Mr Jarvis has received a letter of congratulation from Mr E. W. Baker, secretary of the Association of Football League Referees' and Linesmen, and informing him that he is now entitled to become a member of the Association.

## Borough FC Annual Meeting

July 16th 1942

If the Nuneaton Combination again functions next season, Nuneaton Borough FC, the champions and Bed Cup winners, will again compete.

This decision was taken at the annual meeting of the Borough FC, held at the Peacock Hotel last night. Mr Harry Watkins (chairman) presided, and was supported by Mr F. J. Perry (vice-chairman), Mr R. Carris (hon. secretary), and members of the committee.

The balance sheet, which revealed a loss of about £10, was adopted.

Reviewing the past season, the chairman said they could look back upon the decision to compete in the Nuneaton Combination without any regrets. He expressed thanks to the Nuneaton Corporation for loaning them Manor Park free of charge, without which the balance sheet would have revealed a very different story. He thanked the members of the committee, especially Mr Reg Carris, for all the help they had given him, also the trainer and coach Ben Wannacott and Mr Storer, for their very valuable assistance.

In conclusion, the chairman voiced thanks to the players and congratulated them on having won the championship and the Bed Cup. He wished the club every success in the future.

## Secretary's Report

The secretary said the team started the season rather "stickily," but with the help of old players they quickly pulled together and did not lose a league match until their final Combination game of the season at Arley. They also succeeded in carrying off the Bed Cup. He thanked the members of the committee for the way they had supported him, remarking that he had never appealed for help but that help was always quickly forthcoming.

Mr M. Judkins was re-elected president and the vice-presidents were re-elected en bloc. Mr Harry Watkins was re-elected chairman, Mr F. J. Perry vice-chairman, and Mr R. Carris secretary. The Committee – Messrs. E. Carris, J. G. Till, F. Watkins and W. Barrs – was also re-elected.

## If Hitler Comes

### This Is What Your Invasion Committee Asks You To Do

Another Committee to "Win the War."

Many areas throughout the Region have one; if it is in your area, this is your Committee.

It is a small one so you, personally, may not sit on the Board, but your interests will be represented and you will be vitally concerned in its doings. In short, it is an Invasion Committee.

It is obvious that with the many activities that will be set in motion by the landing of the enemy (if they ever land) it is necessary to have some focal centre to which everybody who needs help can apply. You may need information as to how to hinder the invader. Your own local defenders, the Home Guard, may need assistance in digging trenches and removing earth excavated in digging trenches and other debris. Food may be running short and fresh supplies necessary. Barricades may have to be built. Communications may be necessary, by bicycle or on foot. Tools will be required. The military will want information. As far as possible the normal life of the community must go on. Someone must, therefore, prepare plans of what will have to be done when the emergency comes (if it ever does), or direct you to the spot where your services will be most needed, or help you in your need. And bear in mind, although no enemy foot may have been placed on home soil, a very bad raid may result in cutting your village off from its neighbours. Your Invasion Committee will be ready for that too.

You will, of course, carry on with your civilian duties as long as possible, without waiting for orders from the military...



# Nuneaton Borough 1937-1945



1941						
Date	Opponent	Venue	Comp	Result	Scorers	Attendance
09.20	RAF	A	NC	3-3	Paul, Wannacott, Hunt	
09.27	Haunchwood Brick and Tile	H	NC	2-2	Wannacott, Spacey	
10.04	RAF	H	FBC 1	6-2	Wannacott (3, 2pens), Paul (2), Spacey	
10.11	Haunchwood Institute	A	NC	5-1	Paul (3), Hunt, Wannacott	
10.18	Nuneaton Police	H	NC	9-1	Paul (3), Wannacott (2), Paul (2), Bond	
10.25	RAF	H	NCC F	1-4	Wannacott	
11.01	Imperial Airways	H	NC	15-0	Hunt (6), Paul (4), Knight (3), Jeremy, Hardy	
11.08	Arley Rectory	H	NC	5-4	Paul (2), Knight, Hardy (pen), Jeremy	
11.15	Griff Colliery	A	NC	2-1	Knight, Jeremy	
11.22	Bucks Hill WMC	H	NC	13-0	Paul (3), Hardy (3), Jeremy (3), Hunt (2), Clamp (2)	
11.29	Morris Motors	A	CEC	2-2	Paul, Hardy	
12.13	Haunchwood Institute	H	NC	5-2	Knight (2), Murdin (2), Paul	
12.20	Imperial Airways	A	NC	6-2	Paul (2), Knight (2), Hunt, Jeremy	
12.25	Leicester City	H	Friendly	2-1		
12.27	Griff Colliery	H	NC	6-2	Paul (2), Murdin (2), Hunt, Bond	
1942						
01.03	Nuneaton Police	A	NC	5-0	Howard (3), Paul (2)	
01.10	Haunchwood Brick and Tile	A	NC	6-1	Knight (2), Hardy (2), Jeremy, Wannacott	
01.17	Bucks Hill WMC	A	NC	9-0	Paul (4), Hardy (pen), Knight, Bond (pen), Murdin, Jeremy	
02.21	RAF	A	NC	6-0	Paul (5), Jones	
02.28	Wolves	H	Friendly	4-5	Knight (2), Paul, Jones	
03.14	Arley Rectory	A	NC	3-4	Jeremy (3)	
03.21	Arley Rectory	H	FBC S-F	2-1	Hardy (2, 1 pen)	
04.06	Imperial Airways	H	FBC Final	6-2	Paul (2), Knight (2), Jeremy, Munding	
04-25	Armstrong Siddeley	H	F1	10-1	Wannacott (4), Paul (3), Jeremy (2), Bond	
05-02	Arley Rectory	H	F2	2-1	Paul, Jeremy	

KEY: NC – Nuneaton Combination; FBC – Footballer’s Bed Cup; NCC – Nuneaton Charity Cup; F1 – Local Aid for Russia; F2 – Mayor’s Hospital Appeal; CEC –

The RAF had a ground-share with Nuneaton Borough and played their matches at Manor Park  
The away game with Nuneaton Police on January 3, 1942, was also played at Manor Park.

Nuneaton Borough were thrown out of the CEC competition for playing an ineligible player, George Hardy of Aston Villa.



## 1942-43

*All team line-ups are announced in Friday's newspaper and sometimes bear no relation to the team that actually took part.*

### Nuneaton Borough v Attleborough Mills 19-09-1942

Borough welcomed Attleborough Mills to Manor Park for a pre-season practice match.

Both sides made changes during the course of the game. From Borough's point of view the result was, of course, pleasing, but there was little in the game which enabled the officials to be satisfied as to the filling of one or two positions in the team. The forward line, however, is the only part of the side likely to cause them any trouble, and it would appear that the inside-left and outside-right positions will need attention.

Wannacott, of course, can always be relied upon as inside-left, but at the moment the outside right berth may cause trouble. Of the two wingers tried in this game, Spiers, a former Nuneaton schoolboy player, was the better. He was far from being a Roberts, but may do better with further practice. Paul, Knight and Hannaby, the last-named, an outside-left, are certain of their places.

The half-back line, Joy, Hardy and Bond was naturally, the strong part of the side. Topp is also a certain starter at full-back, as also will be Quinney, who was unable to turn out in this game. A new goalkeeper may be on view next Saturday.

Judging the prospects as a whole, the Borough should be very strong in defence, but the forward line may, for a time, not be so settled.

Borough's 12 goals were scored by Paul (5), Hardy (3), Joy, Knight, Bond and Mott. Plant got the Mills only goal.

### Griff Colliery v Nuneaton Borough 26-09-1942

**Nuneaton (from): Roberts (or Smith); Topp, Quinney, Joy, Hardy, Bond (or Davis), Spiers, Knight, Paul, Wannacott, Hannaby.**

Borough made the journey to Griff Colliery for the opening Nuneaton Combination game of the 1942-43 season.

Borough had no difficulty in gaining full points in the game at Heath End on Saturday. But the forward line obviously needs strengthening before such teams as Arley and the RAF are encountered. As expected, the backs and halves more or less dictated the course of the game. The Griff forwards caused a little trouble at the start and Bonner gave them an early lead, but once Hardy and his colleagues settled down the home side seldom looked likely to extend the champions.

Curiously enough, Griff's outstanding player was Smith, a goalkeeper loaned to them by the Borough. There were times, especially in the second half, when he stood between his side and a very heavy defeat. He was lucky with some of his saves but, generally speaking, he was completely confident of himself.

Borough's new wingers did rather well to start with, but later faded out of the picture. Hannaby should have had a good match, for he was spoon-fed by Wannacott, but he tired quickly, and in the second half was quite ineffective. Spiers on the other wing, will have to cut out the shooting business and learn to get the ball into the middle more. He wastes many opportunities through trying shots from impossible angles, while his inside men were waiting unmarked for the expected centre.

Wannacott made most of the openings, and Paul, who got four of the five goals, generally finished them off. Wannacott registered the other goal himself. Paul's goals were neatly taken, the third – he met the ball with his left foot before it reached the ground and smashed it home – being the best of the bunch.

Griff started well and gave the Borough a good first half, and were only 2-1 down at half-time, but afterwards they were run off their legs, so much so that Joy and Bond, the visiting wing halves concentrated almost wholly on attack. Hardy, Quinney and Topp were strong defenders; Churms was Griff's most enterprising forward.

### Nuneaton Borough v Courtaulds 03-10-1942

**Nuneaton (from): Smith; Topp, Quinney, Joy, Hardy, Bond, Stain, Spiers, Knight, Paul, Wannacott, Hannaby.**

Borough welcomed Courtaulds to Manor Park for a Nuneaton Combination game.

It took all the best in the Borough's defence to keep the lively Courtaulds attack in check. They had more punch on the wings than their opponents and moved to the attack with greater speed. Until the last half-hour of the game the Borough had muddled their way through, and it seemed they never would get a goal.

Courtaulds' goals were both scored by Stringer, the first from a lobbing shot from the wing which, in the opinion of many, Smith should have saved, and the second from close in when the home defence was all at sixes and sevens.

At long last Borough got a goal after they were awarded a corner. Hardy went up among the forwards and headed the well-placed ball against the bar, from which it rebounded to Paul, who found the net. That goal changed the whole course of the game, for from that point onwards the Borough panned in their opponents.

It was not long afterwards that Paul levelled the score, this time with a neatly placed drive. Then, about five minutes from the end, Paul was fouled in the penalty area and Hardy obliged from the spot.

Probably due to the general ineffectiveness of the attack, the Borough defence did not do so well as expected. Boon and his front line colleagues found Hardy plenty to do, and but for the excellent full-back play of Topp and Quinney, particularly the latter. Courtaulds were a good side, based on this game and should do well in the league.



## Arley Rectory v Nuneaton Borough 10-10-1942

Nuneaton made the journey to Arley Rectory for a Nuneaton Charity Cup first round tie.

Borough were a man short for almost all of the second half, as Joy badly injured his knee and had to be taken to hospital. The visitors had a hard task in protecting their 2-0 lead after the break, and it was mainly due to the splendid work put in by the Borough defence, particularly by Hardy, Bond and Smith, the goalkeeper, and to a slightly lesser degree, the uncontrolled shooting of the Arley forwards.

With a full side and with the conditions in their favour, Borough did 90 per cent of the attacking in the first-half and should have crossed over with a bigger lead, but with a man short and the conditions against them, they were practically penned in their own territory. Knight having dropped back to fill Joy's position at wing half, the Borough attack, which had shown up well in the opening half, was disorganised and unable to take the weight off the harassed defence. No sooner had an Arley attack been dealt with than it was returned into the Borough goalmouth again.

Still, with all their second half attacking, Arley only got one goal and, in consequence, suffered defeat at the hands of their greatest rivals at the first-time of meeting this season. While the Rectory might have considered themselves a little unfortunate not to have earned for themselves the right of a replay, considering the Borough were without one of their soundest defenders during a period in the game when his keen defensive play would have been most valuable, the visitors did a good job of work in preventing the Rectory from forcing a draw.

Joy's accident was doubly unfortunate, as the withdrawal of Knight from the forward line upset an attack which had promised good things. An entirely new left wing was on view – the experienced Dixon, a former Nuneaton Town outside-left, and Ryan, a 17-year-old youngster from Coventry. The pair had worked extremely well together and gave much needed punch to the attack. Ryan got the first goal 21 minutes from the start. Hardy started the move with a down-the-middle pass; Paul slipped it across to Ryan who, meeting the ball first-time, beat Archer with a glorious shot. The Borough's other goal came five minutes later, when Whiston saved a certain goal by deliberately knocking the ball out with his hands. A penalty was awarded and, as usual, George Hardy obliged.

Arley's only goal came 20 minutes after half-time, and was scored by Aston. The ball hit the bar and was caught by Smith as it dropped, but the referee signalled a goal.

## RAF v Nuneaton Borough 17-10-1942

**Nuneaton (from): Smith, Topp, Quinney, Stain, Hardy, Bond, Townsend (or Spiers), Knight, Paul, Ryan, Wannacott.**

The RAF played host to Nuneaton Borough at Manor Park for a Nuneaton Combination fixture.

Borough did not win this game so easily as the score might

suggest. RAF lost their left full-back, Campbell, who injured his knee and had to be taken to hospital by ambulance, but fought on in plucky fashion, and it was not until about a quarter of an hour from the end that Borough increased their single goal lead and made the issue reasonably certain. It was not until the final minute that the winners got their third goal.

Borough's first goal, which came about 20 minutes after half-time, was a rather lucky one. Quinney, from near the half-way line, slammed the ball high into the goalmouth. Paul put his foot to it – and it found the net. The second goal, about 15 minutes later, was scored by Ryan, who netted with a neat shot; and the third goal, scored in the last minute, was obtained by Paul, who, after being sent through, found the net with a low drive.

Once again the Borough attack failed to function at all smoothly. Ben Wannacott was not happy at outside left. Townsend, a young lad at outside-right, was quite fair, but Knight seems to have lost his shooting boots completely. Punch, such as was shown last season, is conspicuous by its absence this campaign. The inside men must learn to keep the ball on the ground. Constant ballooning of the ball seldom gets a team anywhere.

## Nuneaton Borough v Bucks Hill WMC 24-10-1942

**Nuneaton (from): Hill; Topp, Quinney, Stain, Hardy, Bond, Hannaby, Knight, Paul, Ryan, Lapworth.**

Borough welcomed Bucks Hill to Manor Park for a Footballers' Bed Cup first round tie.

Borough's unbeaten record was tottering ominously up to half-time in this keenly fought encounter. Bucks Hill had earned their 3-2 half-time lead, but the change of ends saw a much-improved Borough side, which convincingly turned the tables. It was a game of exciting ups and downs. Borough were at sixes and sevens in the first-half, the forward line once again functioning fitfully, whereas Bucks Hill, shaping confidently and showing capital understanding, became even more menacing when Bailey turned in a left-wing pass across the goalmouth after only five minutes play. When Jones increased Bucks Hill's lead, the outlook for Borough became decidedly gloomy, but then came a dramatic interlude – a powerful cross drive by Ryan hit the far upright, the ball glancing in, before Paul got an equaliser when he slammed the ball at short range past the goalkeeper to put an unworthy Borough on equal terms. But Bucks Hill forged ahead again when Hill slipped in gathering and lost the ball, Bailey darting up and making no mistake.

It was Bucks Hill who were at the receiving end for shocks in the second half. By a curious coincidence a re-shuffle of Borough players because Hardy had an injured knee, produced a more aggressive coherent home team. Stain quickly equalised by nodding in a perfect centre from Wannacott. Borough raided non-stop for several minutes, but missed easy chances by dismal finishing. Then followed a





ding-dong struggle for the lead with honours fairly even. Just when thoughts were turning to a replay, Borough pulled out of the bag a really rousing finish. At last their moves clicked like clockwork. Wannacott put Paul through to score with a glorious drive, and Stain put the issue beyond doubt, scoring from a crowded goalmouth.

It was tough luck on Bucks Hill, after such a promising beginning, but Borough won mastery in the second half and tied up the lively visiting attack in which inside-left J. Ison had been the shining light. Apart from Hill, who had some shaky moments and should have prevented two of the Bucks Hill goals, Borough defence was sound. The forward line was the weak link, but the new player, Lapworth, did not turn up and Paul, who had cried off owing to an injury, had to be called in at the last moment.

On top of that, the injured Hardy was a passenger at outside-left until the last few minutes of the second half. Bond went centre-half, with Ryan falling back to right-half, and Wannacott moving to inside-left. Knight was again ineffective and missed several sitters. So far as team-work was concerned, Bucks Hill outshone Borough, but the strength of the home defence blunted their efforts in the second half.

## Nuneaton Borough v Imperial Airways 31-10-1942

**Nuneaton (pre-announced as): Hill; Topp, Quinney, Stain, Hardy, Wannacott, Hoverd, Knight, Paul, Ryan, Murdin.**

Borough welcomed Imperial Airways to Manor Park for a Nuneaton Combination game.

Short of five of their regular players – Bond, Quinney, Wannacott, Knight and Hill – Borough fielded a strange side. The start was delayed while a goalkeeper was brought from his home, and eventually the side was completed by reserves and two spectators.

Despite this and the fact that Airways included RAF players, Borough put up a good show and well deserved the full points. The two spectators were as good as most of the players in the side. One, a former Griff player, Ward, was on leave from the Army, and gave an excellent display at left full-back. The other, Palmer, played left-half, and did some very useful work. On the whole the defence, with George Hardy at his best, gave a sound display.

The attack looked very strange. Stain was at outside-right, Hoverd inside, Paul centre, Murdin inside-left, and Hannaby outside-left. And curious to relate this odd-looking attack served up some good stuff; in fact it would be no exaggeration to say that their football was superior to that of the more regular forward line. This was in no small measure due to the presence of Murdin at inside-left.

All told the winners did well, for the side fielded by the Airways was a strong one. They played sound football, and in Goodwin, of the RAF, had a capable pivot. He kept a very close watch on Paul, allowing him very little scope. Jack Townsend, their captain, proved that he is by no means a

spent force. He was conspicuous in most of his side's attacks and twice was unlucky not to score. Hardy was once again the strong man of the side. The Airways' inside men seldom got the better of him, although he took risks in the second half by joining in his side's attacks when Borough were only one goal to the good and with the visiting forwards always on the lookout for scoring chances. Fortunately for the Borough their finishing was anything but good.

Borough got their first goal about 30 minutes after the start. One of the Airways defenders fouled Paul inside the penalty area and, as usual, Hardy made no mistake from the spot. The other goal came in the dying stages of the game, Hoverd closing in from the wing to beat Hern with a hard cross-drive. Next to Hardy, Hern was the outstanding player in the game, making many fine saves and getting his side out of many awkward predicaments.

## Sphinx v Nuneaton Borough

07-11-1942

**Nuneaton (pre-announced as): Smith, Topp, Quinney, Stain, Hardy, Bond, A. N. Other, Knight, Paul, Ryan, Murdin.**

Borough met Sphinx in a Nuneaton Charity Cup second round tie at the Pingle Fields

Borough were poor in the first-half and led by a single goal at the break. Even this goal, scored by Stain, was debatable, as he appeared to put the ball in with his arm. Borough did most of the pressing and gave the home defence a warm time, but their finishing was generally dismal.

It was a different story after half-time when Borough played Sphinx to a standstill, thanks largely to the inspiration of Murdin at outside-left. He got a couple of goals with hard cross-shots and, but for the fine work of Batchelor in goal, would have got others. Knight, too, got a fine goal, but none of the inside men possessed the same punch and spirit of determination as Murdin. Paul was unusually quiet, Ryan vainly tried to find the net with first-timers, while Knight has still not recovered his form of last season.

Next to Murdin, Moore was the best forward. He was supported well in the first-half and essayed a series of fine runs and centres, but after the change of ends he saw little of the ball. Borough's defence had an easy time with Smith seldom being troubled.

Batchelor was outstanding for Sphinx, but for his fine work in goal, especially in the second-half, the score would have been much heavier. Bailey, Greensmith and Smith defended well. The forwards were moderate, and about the only time they looked like scoring was when a hard drive hit the underside of the bar and one of the inside men missed a sitter from the rebound. Sphinx lacked wingers. Godderidge, the former Nuneaton player, figured prominently in what few dangerous attacks they made.

Although Sphinx have strengthened their team, by no stretch of the imagination can they be described as a good side.



## Bernard Ralphs Dies

Bernard V. Ralphs, one of the greatest players ever associated with Nuneaton Town, and one of the most popular during the palmiest days of the club, died at his home at Handsworth, Birmingham, last weekend. He had suffered from internal trouble for six years, but had only been bedridden for five weeks.

Ralphs came from a Birmingham junior club to Nuneaton for the season 1919-20 as a centre-forward, but soon discovered his real position on the wing. He was equally at home at outside-left or right, but it was at outside-right that he achieved fame. His brilliance did much to give the club an excellent position in the first year of its participation in the Birmingham and District League.

The next season he was the outstanding winger in the league, and a dozen first-class clubs tried to get his transfer. But was loath to go, as he was a skilled craftsman and preferred his football to be a part-time occupation.

Finally, however, pressure became too strong, and on the last Monday in January, 1921, he yielded to the offer of the Blackburn Rovers directors. That evening Nuneaton played Wolverhampton Wanderers Reserves, at Wolverhampton and won by one goal to nil, scored by Sambrooke. At the close of the match Blackburn offered Nuneaton £1,500 for Ralphs' transfer, and the Nuneaton directors, led by Ald. C. Reader and the late Coun. G. Taylor, agreed to accept it.

But there was a stumbling block. Ralphs, at first refused to sign. He was not keen on a whole-time professional career. A local Pressman saved the day. Ralphs was kept in debate in the hotel while the reporter in question was found. He called with Ralphs and then it was announced that he would sign. A week later he was in Blackburn Rovers' first team in the position vacated by the great Jock Simpson.

The £1,500 transfer fee paid still remains a national record for a junior player. After maintaining his place in the Rovers team for several seasons, Ralphs was transferred to Stoke, for whom he rendered valuable service.

Sturdy of build, quick of pace, capable of superb ball control, Ralphs was a pioneer of the present practice of wingers cutting into the centre and shooting. He was a prolific scorer for an outside man.

A great player who belonged to a great side has passed. Nuneaton football enthusiasts will remember him with pride, and their sympathies will be with the widow and family.

### Nuneaton Borough v Sphinx 14-11-1942

**Nuneaton (pre-announced as): Smith, Topp, Quinney, Stain, Hardy, Bond, Moore, Knight, Paul, Ryan, Murdin.**

Borough welcomed Sphinx to Manor Park for a Nuneaton Combination fixture.

The home side had no difficulty in overcoming Sphinx, and taken overall the visitors were lucky to escape an even

greater defeat, for although Borough found the net on eight occasions, they also hit the woodwork on several occasions and missed a number of chances.

Without being unfair to the Sphinx, it may truthfully be said that they were literally swamped. This was especially so in the second half, when the home forwards indulged in shooting-in practice, not always with outstanding success. They got some neat goals, but on other occasions they failed with ridiculously easy openings. And it was slovenly defensive work that gave Sphinx their two second half goals.

One incident in the first half is likely to cause a good deal of controversy. Borough were awarded a penalty and as they were already leading 4-0, Hardy did not take the kick himself, but allowed Bond to. The latter shot with tremendous force against the underside of the bar. Batchelor, the Sphinx keeper, got his hand to the ball, which then rebounded to Bond, who then put it into the net. But the referee disallowed the goal.

Generally speaking, the game was too one-sided to be really interesting. Borough did much as they pleased. The defence had an easy afternoon and the forwards were too good for the opposing defenders. For a change, the home side played better in the first half than the second, probably because the game had already been won and lost. The attack worked well before half-time, Moore putting across many fine centres, but afterwards the inside men crowded each other out, and there was much bungling near goal. Paul (3), Knight (3), Murdin and Hardy scored the goals for the winners and Plant and Robinson for Sphinx.

### Borough's Match Cancelled

Borough FC had to cancel their league match with Arley Rectory, at Arley, as no fewer than seven of their players cried off.

### Nuneaton Borough v Brick and Tile 28-11-1942

**Nuneaton: Smith, Topp, Quinney, Stain, Hardy, Bond, Moore, Knight, Paul, Wannacott, Murdin.**

Borough welcomed Haunchwood Brick and Tile to Manor Park for a Nuneaton Combination game.

Despite fine defensive work by Rouse and Aston, Brick and Tile were outplayed. They were on the defensive for nine-tenths of the game and there were some hectic scrambles in front of goal. Little was seen of the Tile forwards and even when they got close, their finishing was poor. Smith did not have one single hard shot to save in the whole 90 minutes.

Borough were at full-strength except that Ryan was absent. Wannacott took his place at inside left, and his presence there brought an improvement in the football of the forward line. He, Murdin and Bond indulged in some clever triangular passing moves, but sometimes overdid it, especially in the second half when Moore on the opposite wing, saw much less of the ball than his ability warrants. Knight and Paul should



see that he gets more of the ball, for the outside right makes ground quickly and gets across some judicious centres. Hardy was not really fit enough and that was the reason he took things so quietly. The defence generally had an easy match.

Borough got four goals in the first half and three in the second, the scorers being Paul (3), Murdin, Knight, Moore and Wannacott. Paul's first goal was a gift; he only had to touch a centre from Wannacott which would in any case have crossed the line. His second was a beauty, swinging round sharply and driving the ball home with terrific force. His last goal was clever; he put the ball into the net with the side of his foot when the keeper and a defender were apparently covering him. The goals of Wannacott, Knight and Moore all came from nicely-placed shots. When Murdin scored he only half-hit the ball, but it was sufficiently well placed to beat the keeper.

## Nuneaton Raided By Accident Or Design

The following extracts are from "Front Line, 1940-41," the official story of the Civil Defence of Britain." The last visit of the Luftwaffe in great force to any area was to the Midlands on May 16...

Thus six months elapsed from the first great attack on Coventry to the Luftwaffe's parting blow in the middle of May. In all that half year, its bombers were over Britain five nights out of six. The ports and a few armament cities were hit hard many times.

"But besides such spectacular attacks there were many other raids, not referred to in the communiqués because of uncertainty whether its target was bombed by accident or design. There is no doubt it was sometimes by accident – a case of mistaken identity.

"Names were never mentioned in the British announcements until it was certain that the enemy knew where he had been. Often our reticence was strikingly justified by the German communiqués, which boldly claimed the destruction of a target that had not, in fact, been touched. So these spill-over attacks, or near misses, were apt to visit on some small town a great weight of bombs that was part, or even the whole, of a load intended for a bigger target.

"Whether by accident or design, there were raids on Nuneaton, on Jarrow, on areas of Tyneside, on Newark, Scarborough, Brighton, Weston-super-Mare, and other towns not officially acknowledged at the time, which will live long in the minds of their citizens. By the giant measuring-rod of the raids on big cities, they do not show as very great affairs. But to those who lived through them even if only once, they loom up in the memory like a major earthquake, to be gossiped about for years to come, and used as a mark in the calendar for dating other and lesser events of the war..."

## Bucks Hill v Nuneaton Borough

05-12-1942

Nuneaton (pre-announced as): Smith, Topp, Wannacott, Stain, Hardy, Bond, Moore, Knight, Paul, Ryan, Murdin.

Borough travelled to Galley Common to play Bucks Hill in a Nuneaton Combination game.

With conditions as they were last Saturday, surprises were not to be unexpected. But even so it was scarcely anticipated that Bucks Hill would be the first team to beat the Borough this season. Victory went to the better side. They won because they adapted themselves better to the conditions.

Borough reaped the reward of slack and uninspired play; it was by far their poorest exhibition in this league. They had everything in their favour in the first half, but failed to master the lively and quick-travelling ball. There were no constructive ideas behind their moves; they vainly tried to bungle their way through to goal – and failed wretchedly.

They led 2-0 until five minutes before half-time and then Clarke reduced the lead. That goal sealed Borough's fate, for it was obvious a 2-1 half-time lead was not nearly good enough. Sensing that they had the opportunity of overcoming the champions, the home side went all out for the kill – and made no mistake. Jones quickly put them level, the same player gave them the lead and J. Ison put the issue beyond doubt.

It is difficult to say just how much Smith's poor display in the Nuneaton goal influenced the course of the game, but there can be no doubt that he made Bucks Hill's path to victory much easier than it might otherwise have been, for he might have saved three of their four goals. But Smith was not wholly to blame, there was not an outstanding player in the side, not one of them revealed customary form. Nor would it be fair to the winners to play on the fact that Borough were without Quinney, Bond and Murdin. It certainly did not improve matters, but the team appeared strong enough on paper.

Wannacott replaced Quinney; Ryan, Bond, C. Ison and Lapworth formed the left wing. Much was expected of the latter, but so badly did the whole team shape that it would be foolish to judge him on this showing. The goals were scored by full-back Topp with a long shot which Phillips fumbled, and by George Hardy from a penalty – and even he nearly spoiled his penalty kicking record, having failed once in a season and a half. The ball just trickled over the line.

It was a poor match for the Borough, but this defeat will probably do them good.

## Nuneaton Borough v Griff Colliery

12-12-1942

Borough welcomed Griff Colliery to Manor Park for a Nuneaton Combination match.

As though to prove that their display at Galley Common was just too bad to be true, the Borough, despite the absence of Hardy and Bond, gave a scintillating display and indulged in a positive orgy of goalscoring. The forwards were brilliant,



especially in the second half, when they scored no fewer than 11 of their 15 goals, which averages out at about a goal every four minutes.

Griff did not do so badly in the first-half and were only 4-2 down at the interval, but afterwards Topp, in the Colliery goal, did little else but pick the ball out of the back of the net. In no way could the goalkeeper be blamed; indeed, his alertness on many an occasion saved the visitors from an even more crushing defeat.

Without doubt the forwards gave their best display of the season, due in no small measure to the work of the left-side pair, Murdin and Lapworth. Murdin is definitely the best man for inside-left. Lapworth ran rings round the Griff defence and practically every time he had the ball the danger flag went up. He scored three neat goals himself and paved the way for the scoring of several others. After missing two sitters early on, Paul put in some grand work and scored four fine goals. Joe Knight, too, found his shooting boots and got four goals. The others were obtained by Murdin (2), Moore and Stain.

The forwards' play in this game would have upset better teams than Griff; let us hope they can produce some of this form against Courtaulds on Saturday. It will be needed.

The defence was not so good as the attack, for once. Claffen, who deputised for Hardy as centre-half, did some useful work and filled the bill quite satisfactorily. Generally speaking, the backs and halves did not have a hard match, but should not have conceded three goals. Smith, in goal, was not entirely blameless. Preston, Churms and Douglas got the losers' goals.

## Courtaulds v Nuneaton Borough 19-12-1942

Nuneaton (pre-announced as): Smith, Topp, Quinney, Stain, Hardy, Ryan, Moore, Knight, Paul, Murdin and Lapworth.

Borough visited Courtaulds for a game at Higham Lane in the Nuneaton Combination.

Borough displayed clever – and vigorous – form throughout. They started like winners, and it was a shock when they found themselves a goal down inside ten minutes, for from the kick-off the visitors attacked strongly and caused the Courtaulds defence many anxious moments. That opening goal, however, taught the Borough that they could not afford to take risks – and it put them on the winning track.

Although against the run of the play, the Courtaulds goal was a good one. Borough had been attacking and the defenders were on the half-way line. The ball was put out to Golby, who side-stepped Hardy then put the ball into the middle, for it to be quickly transferred to Butcher, the outside-right. The winger went through and beat Smith with a cross-shot.

Undismayed, Borough increased their pressure on the home goal and Lapworth soon put the scores level with a header from a right-wing cross. To all intents and purposes that equalising goal settled Courtaulds' fate, although the visitors were once lucky when Butcher struck the upright with a very

good effort. From that point onwards the Borough piled on the pressure and the forwards, playing sound football, and making full use of their two wingers, gave the Courtaulds' defenders a tough time.

Closing in to another right-wing cross, Stain put the visitors in front with a header and before half-time Lapworth again scored, this time with a delightful drive. Shortly after half-time, while the Courtaulds' defenders were appealing for offside, Knight went through on his own to make the score 4-1.

As was the case with the home side's first goal, a left-wing forward pass sent Golby racing through on his own and the outside-left reduced the lead to 4-2 with a grand shot. If Courtaulds had any hope of a revival at this success, they were quickly disillusioned, for another strong Borough attack ended in Murdin scoring their fifth goal. Carrying on the good work, Paul, who had been a forceful leader throughout got two more goals to make the final score 7-2.

Borough, taking the game all through were thoroughly masters of the situation. They were much too good for their strong rivals and taught them a lesson in positional play. There was not a weak link in the side. The defence was tightened up considerably as a result of the re-appearance of Hardy, who kept the Courtaulds inside men very quiet. Quinney was outstanding at right-back and Stain at right-half. The forwards were excellent to a man, and were always on the lookout for openings. Their work was full of pep and with the least bit of luck would have got even more goals.

## Nuneaton Borough v Army XI 26-12-1942

Nuneaton (pre-announced as): Smith, Topp, Quinney, Stain, Hardy, Ryan, Moore, Knight, Paul, Wannacott, Lapworth.

Borough welcomed an Army XI to Manor Park for a Boxing Day friendly match.

It had been anticipated that this unbeaten Army side, containing several well-known players, would have given the Borough a very hard game, but their form proved most disappointing and they were outplayed from start to finish. Poor goalkeeping by Flowers had a good deal to do with the Army's heavy defeat, for some of the simplest shots beat him, but it did not altogether explain away the visitors' weak display generally.

They made a few moves which caused the strong Borough defence much trouble, and Smith, in goal scarcely had a decent shot to save throughout the whole game. And the only goal they got was practically presented to them for when about to tackle an opponent Quinney slipped and allowed the Army centre-forward, McHenry to score an easy goal.

Borough literally won the game in the first 15 minutes, in which brief period they got three goals. Whether these early shocks put the visitors off their game only they can say, but the fact remains that they never at any period looked like making a fight of it. By half-time Borough were leading 6-0 – and they got another seven after the change of ends.



Several of the goals were of the gift variety, due to the weakness of Flowers in the Army goal. Really, he made some very bad blunders, none being more glaring than when he carried a harmless-looking centre from Lewis over his own line.

Other Borough goals were well planned and executed, for throughout the home side played well and kept the Army defenders on tenterhooks. Deputising for Lapworth at outside-left, Arthur Knight, home on leave from the Army, had a field day, scoring no fewer than six of his side's goal but, generally speaking, his wing play was not nearly so good as that of Lapworth. On the other wing, Lewis, of the RAF, deputised most successfully for Moore. His speed was a menace to the Army defenders throughout and his centres were far more effective than those of Knight.

The home defenders had an easy match, and most of the second half Hardy was up with the forwards, leaving young Ryan to deal with the Army's occasional thrusts down the middle. As stated, Arthur Knight got six of the Borough's goals, and the others were scored by Paul (2), Wannacott (2), Lewis (2), and J. Knight. It was a disappointingly easy match for the Borough.

## Brick and Tile v Nuneaton Borough 02-01-1943

Nuneaton (pre-announced as): Smith, Topp, Hopkins, Stain, Hardy, Ryan, Moore, Wannacott, Paul, Murdin, Lapworth.

Borough faced Haunchwood Brick and Tile at the Griff Colliery Ground in a Nuneaton Combination match.

Due to last minute changes, it was a strange looking line-up that took the field. It was known that Quinney and Knight would be absent; then Topp cried off – and when the officials reached the ground it was discovered that Lapworth and Wannacott were not available. And, to cap things off, Hardy had not been well during the week, and played left-half. Hovert took Topp's place, Hopkins deputised for Quinney, Parkes for Knight, and Hannaby for Lapworth. Ryan occupied the centre-half position for most of the game.

Conditions were just about as bad as they could have been, but Borough did not make the mistake they did at Galley Common. They cut out the fancy work and from the kick-off made it their business to get goals. Moore quickly put them ahead with a centre that curled in under the bar. Then Murdin delightfully converted a centre by Stain with his head.

Later Styles, the Brick and Tile goalkeeper, was pulled up for carrying, just outside his goal. Hardy tapped the ball to Paul, and the latter easily scored the Borough's third goal. And towards half-time Paul was sent through to easily beat Styles once again, this time with a hard cross-shot. Thus Borough crossed over with a 4-0 lead.

Shortly after half-time Paul registered his hat-trick with another good effort. Apparently satisfied with their lead, Borough then went on the defensive – and Brick and Tile had more of the game. They reduced the lead when Smith allowed

a simple, bouncing shot to beat him. Boon was the marksman, and the same player scored again later in the half. On another occasion the ball hit the upright of the Borough goal.

During Brick and Tile's pressure, Borough's defence did not shape too confidently, Topp and Quinney being badly missed. The halves did well. The forwards lost their fire after half-time, Hannaby and Parkes doing very little. Paul was easily the best forward and his down-the-middle thrusts were always a great menace. Brick and Tile did fairly well in the second half and in Rouse had the best defender on the field. Both goalkeepers were shaky.

## Nuneaton Borough v Arley Rectory 09-01-1943

Borough welcomed Arley Rectory to Manor Park for a Nuneaton Combination game.

It was not an ideal setting for so important a game, for the conditions underfoot were just about as precarious as they could have been. On such a hard and slippery surface, accurate control of the ball was out of the question, and hurried first-time kicks and passes were more times than not hopelessly wide of their intended destination.

The game was divided into two distinct phases. In the first-half Borough were undeniably the better side, and for quite 80 per cent of that period kept their opponents on the defensive. But somehow the Nuneaton forwards seemed quite unable to get in a telling shot. Indeed, in spite of all the attacking they did Ayres who, I understand plays for Norwich, had only one good shot to save – that a pile-driver from Paul in the early stages.

The home side also started well in the second half, but then came a couple of incidents which seemed to alter the whole course of the game. In attempting to put the ball back to Morton, the ex-Villa and Everton goalkeeper, who was assisting the Borough. Hardy badly misfired. Morton dashed across to prevent the ball going for a corner, slipped, and left an Arley forward with a possible open goal – and the goalkeeper stopped him by grabbing hold of his foot. It was an obvious penalty. McKenzie, stated to be a Scottish League player, took the kick, but shot straight at Morton, who easily saved.

Then about five minutes later, Hardy tried to hook the ball into Morton's hands, but Morton wasn't there and Stain prevented a certain goal by heading off the goal-line. Those two incidents seemed to put the home side off their game. A previously sound defence became panicky, the forwards faded right out of the picture, and the rest of the half was definitely Arley's, their long passes causing Hardy and his colleagues many anxious moments. And yet, for all that, Morton was not extended. Indeed, both sets of forwards were goal-shy and seldom looked like causing either goalkeeper much trouble.

Arley's winning goal was scored seven minutes from the end, when a pass down the middle found Worton, the Arley centre-forward unmarked only a few yards from goal. He looked to be offside and the Borough defenders made no attempt

# Nuneaton Borough 1937-1945



to challenge him, as the linesman waved his handkerchief. But the referee waved play on and Worton easily netted. The Borough defenders were badly at fault in anticipating the whistle, rather than playing to it.

Taking the game all through, the defences definitely held the whip hand, with the Arley men holding out longer. But the real truth is that neither side deserved a goal, and a draw would have been a more agreeable result.

## Nuneaton Borough v RAF 16-01-1943

**Nuneaton (selected from):** Smith, Topp, A. N. Other, Stain, Hardy, Bond, Ryan, Moore, Knight, Paul, Murdin, Lapworth.

Borough welcomed the RAF team to Manor Park for a Nuneaton Combination match.

The only really exciting incident at Manor Park on Saturday was midway through the second-half, when the referee ordered a RAF supporter to be escorted from the pitch. The game itself raised little enthusiasm and it was not until this incident that the Borough made the issue safe, as until then they were hanging on perilously to a single goal lead – a goal scored by Paul eight minutes before half-time.

On the actual play to that point Borough just – and only just – deserved to be in the lead. Both sides had missed easy scoring chances and had had bad luck when the ball struck the woodwork. Generally speaking, however, both sets of forwards revealed a tantalising goal-shyness. Twice before his goal, Paul had missed two easy chances, the second one being a sitter, for after racing clean through and only having literally to touch the ball to score, he tried to walk it into the net – and was dispossessed practically on the goal-line.

Just after that miss, Paul again burst through the RAF defence and neatly turned the ball into the net, well out of Smith, the RAF keeper's reach. Borough hung on to that slender lead with the skin of their teeth until half way through the second half, when Moore, with his first really good centre of the match, put the ball right in front of goal and Wannacott did the rest with his head. That goal beat the RAF and inspired the Borough, who got two more goals, the next by Hardy, who beat Smith with a cross-shot and the other by Wannacott, who broke through and planted the ball well out of the goalkeeper's reach.

The winners did not properly get going until late in the second half, and had the RAF showed more ability near goal – well it might have altered the final score, though there is no doubt that Borough, in the end were good value for their win.

## RAF B v Nuneaton Borough 23-01-1943

**Nuneaton (pre-announced as):** Smith, Topp, Ryan, Stain, Hardy, Bond, Moore, Knight, Paul, Murdin, Lapworth (or A. N. Other).

Borough travelled to Stoney Road to face the RAF B, who have taken over the fixtures of Imperial Airway, in a Nuneaton Combination fixture.

There were gaps as wide as a field in the Airmen's defence and, exploiting these holes, the visiting forwards ran riot. This big victory was achieved by probably the weakest side the Borough had put out this season. Hardy, Bond, Quinney, Lapworth and Ryan all being absent, and as a new goalkeeper, Dixon, a new left-half, Coley, and a new outside-left, Clarke, a young local Sea Cadet player, were in the team a strange-looking Borough side took the field.

Hopkins partnered Topp at full-back, Wannacott was at right-half and Stain at centre-half. Despite all these choppings and changes, Borough romped home; indeed, had the score against the home side been much heavier it would have surprised no-one for, in addition to scoring ten goals, the visitors hit the woodwork on several occasions.

The RAF defence was very shaky and poor covering of the goalkeeper, Clarke, led to some easy goals. Let it be said that Clarke was in no way to blame for his side's heavy defeat, for there was only one scoring shot he might have saved – the first goal of the match which was scored by Murdin. On that occasion the keeper appeared slow in getting across to a shot from outside the penalty area.

Goal-scoring so far as the visiting forwards were concerned, was an easy matter. By hanging back and holding the ball, Murdin drew the home defenders, and more times than not when he put the ball forward to Paul, who was waiting in the inside-left position, he had little more to do than run in and beat the goalkeeper. This he succeeded in doing on five occasions – and he should have scored more goals.

Generally speaking, however, Paul made the best of the chances he was given, and mixed his scoring efforts well. Some were powerful drives, other just taps, while two were in the nature of acrobatic overhead kicks, one from a lying down position. Had Knight been as successful as Paul with his shooting, the score might have reached a cricket total.

Clarke, the young Sea Cadet, gave a promising display at outside-left. After a nervous start, he settled down to play a useful game and was unlucky not to score. The defence generally speaking had an easy time and the Borough's new goalkeeper, Dixon, did not have a single good shot to save.

The goals came as follows: Murdin (1-0), Paul (2-0), Moore (3-0), Reeves (3-1), Paul (half-time 4-1), Paul (5-1), Murdin (6-1), Paul (7-1), Moore (8-1), Knight (9-1), Paul (10-1).

## Nuneaton Borough v Bucks Hill 06-02-1943

**Nuneaton (pre-announced as):** Dixon, Topp, Ryan, Stain, Hardy, Bond, Moore, Knight, Paul, Murdin, Hales.

Borough welcomed Bucks Hill to Manor Park for a Nuneaton Combination game.

As with the game at Galley Common, Borough kicked off with a strong wind at their backs and finished the half two goals ahead. As also happened on that occasion, Bucks Hill quickly reduced the lead after the change of ends. For a short



period the Borough players became rattled and it looked as though history might repeat itself. Fortunately, they quickly pulled themselves together and the Galley Common match similarities ended there. In the short space of three minutes Borough obtained two more goals to make the score 4-1. But the visitors were by no means finished. They again reduced the lead about eight minutes from the end, and only a bit of good luck enabled Dixon to beat out another effort which looked another goal all over. So the Borough won 4-2, but they made a very hard job of it.

That they had to struggle at all was the fault of the Borough forwards. They had enough scoring chances in the opening half, when they did 90 per cent of the pressing to put the issue beyond doubt, but their finishing was woefully weak. Their first goal was presented to them by an opponent, D. Flavel, who left his own goalkeeper, Phillips, standing with a poorly placed back pass which entered the opposite end of the net. The other goal two minutes' later, came as a result of a foul on Moore, the Borough winger, midway between the box and the corner flag. Moore took the kick himself and placed the ball right in front of the net and Paul did the rest, heading the ball into the net.

Only two goals in arrears and the wind behind them, Bucks Hill opened the second half menacingly, and within three minutes had reduced the lead, Jones netting with a smashing cross-shot. For a period things looked sticky for the champions, but at long last, Murdin began to get the forwards together and a neat attack presented the inside-left with an easy chance, which he made full use of. Three minutes later the Bucks Hill defence was again all at sea, and Moore put the ball through Phillips' legs, into the net. Thus in three minutes Borough had pulled themselves out of a hole and put themselves in a strong position.

Bucks Hill fought back, however, and from a corner kick, T. Ison reduced the lead. In the very next minute Paul should have got a fifth goal for the Borough, for after bursting through and with only Phillips to beat, he shot recklessly high and wide. A little level-headedness would have given him a goal. There was no further scoring.

## Sphinx v Nuneaton Borough 13-02-1943

**Nuneaton (pre-announced as): Dixon, Topp, Ryan, Coley, Hardy, Bond, Moore, Knight, Paul, Murdin, Hales.**

Borough played Sphinx at the Pingle Fields in a Nuneaton Combination game.

This was little more than shooting-in practice for the Borough. They monopolised play from start to finish, with the match being only 35 minutes each way. They had practically as much of the play against the wind in the first-half as in the second and yet all they could show for their opening half superiority was a solitary goal.

Borough forwards fiddled about and got themselves in a tangle in the first-half. They imagined they could get goals by

walking the ball past the goalkeeper instead of shooting, but results showed the poverty of their ideas.

Fortunately, they had realised by half-time the errors of their ways, and immediately on resuming went out for goals in real earnest. In the first minute of the second half they got a second goal – and from that time until the final whistle Batchelor, in the home goal, was given a hectic time. He became definitely worried as the score mounted, but made one grand save from a smashing shot by Bond. But shortly afterwards the Borough right-half beat him with another fine effort – a fast, low shot from a good range which he made no attempt to get across to. Batchelor may have had a warm second half, but no warmer than the backs, Hollis and Move who, long before the end, had given up trying to keep the Borough forwards in check.

Knight got Borough's first goal about 20 minutes from the start with a nicely-placed, low shot. Murdin got the second a minute after half-time with an equally good effort from a pass by Paul. Shortly afterwards Paul slammed the ball through from close in. Knight got the fourth and in the next minute a fifth after Batchelor had twice saved. A sixth was obtained by Murdin, who raced through, dribbled the goalkeeper and took the ball into the empty goal. Bond got the seventh with a fast, low drive just inside the far post, and before the end Murdin screwed the ball in from what appeared an almost impossible scoring angle. Thus the scorers were Knight (3), Murdin (3), Paul and Bond.

## Arley Rectory v Nuneaton Borough 20-02-1943

**Nuneaton (from): Dixon, Topp, Ryan, Stain, Coley, Hardy, Bond, Moore, Knight, Paul, Murdin, Hales and Lapworth.**

Nuneaton made the journey to Arley Rectory for a Nuneaton Combination match.

Less than ten minutes from the end of this vital League match the teams were level pegging at 2-2 and the Arley defence had just extricated itself from one or two awkward situations. Once Carey had only partially saved and the ball rolled slowly all the way across the goal-line – but no Borough forward was near enough to just tap it over the line for a goal. Then Paul twice narrowly missed with two grand efforts, one shot flashing inches wide of the post and another skimming the bar.

It seemed at that point that Arley would probably drop their first league point of the season, if not more. Then an Arley defender banged the ball hard up the centre of the field. Brittain was on the spot and raced after the ball. Borough players appealed for offside, but the referee waved play on – and Brittain beat Dixon with a grand shot. Three minutes later the same move saw Martin race through and from the inside-left position, he beat Dixon with an equally fine shot. Three minutes earlier the result had hung in the balance; now Arley had won the game – and the league championship.

Those last two goals were typical of Arley's tactics throughout. They cut out all fancy work, made direct tracks

for goal, and the forwards generally finished by bringing the best out of Dixon. It was the first real testing Dixon had had since coming into the side, and he proved his ability time after time. The quick-thinking and hard-shooting Rectory forwards gave him a warm time, and against a less accomplished goalkeeper would have got more goals.

The opportunism of the home forwards turned the scales in their side's favour. The efforts of the Nuneaton attack, with the notable exception of Lapworth, who was easily the most polished forward on the field, paled in comparison. Borough certainly produced the better football – it was a joy to watch the play of Coley and Lapworth, who executed some brilliant left-wing moves, especially in the first-half, but the other forwards failed to finish.

There was no questioning Nuneaton's first-half footballing superiority; the halves fed Lapworth with great persistency, and the outside-left's speed and splendid centring of the ball often put Whiston and his colleagues in Queer Street. There were many exciting tussles in front of the Arley goal, but when half-time arrived the score was one-all. True, Borough forwards did not always enjoy the best of luck; once Paul headed against the bar with Carey out of goal, and on another occasion a shot glanced off the upright but, generally speaking, despite all the work he had to do, Carey was not seriously troubled.

Still, for all that, Borough had played well and another close finish was anticipated. Yet strange though it may seem, Borough dropped the tactics that had given them first-half superiority. Lapworth was neglected for long periods on end. The right wing was brought more into the picture, but seldom looked like causing serious trouble. The defence too, failed to get the ball away so cleanly as in the first-half, and Arley gradually increased their pressure. They took a well-deserved lead, only to be pegged back again, and the score remained two-all until ten minutes from the end. You know the rest.

It should be said quite definitely that Arley deserved their success because of their superior finish. Borough played the more attractive football, but had no forward to come up to Martin in the art of shooting. The Arley leader persistently broke through and shot so accurately that only the smartness of Dixon prevented him getting more than a couple of goals.

Borough have no excuses to offer. With the exception that Hardy was still absent – and Quinney was no mean substitute – they fielded their strongest possible side. And still they could not win. All praise to Arley. They fought like lions throughout and those two spectacular goals in the last ten minutes crowned a fine afternoon's work.

All the Arley goals were opportunist efforts. Martin got the first. The ball was pushed through the middle. Quinney seemed to have it covered, but the centre-forward nipped round him and beat Dixon with a hard drive. Their second, midway through the second half came as a result of a perfect header by Boffin from a right-wing corner kick. The other two are as previously described.



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### Nuneaton Borough v Brico

27-02-1943

Nuneaton (pre-announced as): Loveridge, Topp, Ryan, Stain, Coley, Bond, Moore, Knight, Paul, Murdin, Hales.

Borough welcomed Brico, a Coventry Works' side to Manor Park for a friendly match.

Borough lacked the services of their best-known and experienced players, but were much too good for Brico. The Borough won easily, not because of outstanding football ability, but more as a result of the very moderate form displayed by the visitors, who seldom produced form likely to greatly disturb anything approaching a sound defence.

Though scoring six goals and failing with a couple of penalty kicks – Borough did not show much improvement over their display at Arley in the shooting department. There was still too much fiddling about with the ball near goal – too much





eagerness to get almost on top of the goal before shooting. Obviously they had failed to take a leaf out of the Arley forwards' book.

Paul obtained a hat-trick in the first-half – a neat header, a hard, low drive on the run, and a clever flick from a Stain pass. Wannacott got a couple of goals after half-time, both neat efforts, and in between those two goals Murdin got one – another good shot.

The two penalty kicks both for handball, were awarded in the first-half. Paul took the first but shot straight at Farndon, who beat the ball out, and Wannacott the second. The latter was off the mark altogether, shooting well wide.

## Nuneaton Borough v Courtaulds 06-03-1943

Nuneaton (from): Loveridge, Topp, Ryan, Hopkins, Stain, Coley, Bond, Moore, Knight, Paul, Murdin, Clarke.

Borough welcomed Courtaulds to Manor Park for a friendly match.

Courtaulds opened the scoring in the first minute. They went straight down the field for Butcher to score from close range. Loveridge got the ball, but could not prevent it going into the net. About midway through the half, following a period of sustained pressure, Knight slammed the ball into the net in fine style. The visitors took the lead about five minutes after half-time, when Topp handled in the penalty area and Bennett easily scored from the spot.

About ten minutes later Borough were also awarded a penalty for handball, but Bond's shot struck the upright and the ball was got away. Eventually, Clarke was sent away on the Borough left and after moving inside took deliberate aim and beat Richardson all the way. The goalkeeper could only help the ball further into the net with his fingertips. It was a good effort for so young a lad.

About ten minutes from the end Borough got the winning goal. Following a right-wing move the ball was put into the middle and swinging round sharply Murdin shot hard and true past Richardson.

Courtaulds played far more direct football and moved much more quickly to the attack but, like the Borough, they had no really efficient marksmen. Richardson had plenty to do in their goal, but showed he still knows what a goalkeeper's job is. Seventeen-year-old Loveridge, in the Borough goal gave another promising display. Another lad, Clarke, was given a trial at outside-left and did very well, especially in the second-half when he netted a neat goal.

## Nuneaton Borough v RAF A 20-03-1943

Borough welcomed RAF A to Manor Park for the semi-final of the Nuneaton Charity Cup.

Borough took the lead after 30 minutes when Lapworth netted from close range, after Smith had pushed out a header from Hardy. But within ten minutes of the re-start, Borough

had, to all intents and purposes, put the result beyond doubt. Five minutes after the change-over, immediately after Hardy had shot against an upright with Smith well-beaten, a RAF defender handled the ball in the penalty area and, as usual, Hardy made no mistake with a smashing drive into the roof of the net. Less than five minutes later Borough were three up. A delightful right-wing move, one of many such moves in this half, ended in Hardy planting the ball in front of goal, and like lightning Paul had the ball in the net.

It was a grand game from start to finish and play in the first half was notable for the rapidity with which the ball travelled from one goal to the other. No sooner had the defenders on one side got the ball away than the defenders at the other end were in action. Well as the Airmen played – and they certainly did play well – Borough played better, and it was only the stout work of the RAF defence that kept the winners from scoring more than one goal in the first-half.

## The Mayor And Manor Park

### Persists The Clubs Are Responsible

Who is responsible for Manor Park football ground, described by Ald. B. K. Roper, at last week's Town Council meeting, as "going to rack and ruin"? This week the Mayor (Ald. J. Bates) informed an "Observer" reporter that he stood by what he declared at the Council meeting – that the Borough FC and RAF clubs, who jointly shared the ground, were responsible for its supervision.

In support of this contention the Mayor quoted the agreement made with the clubs by the Finance Committee on September 21, 1942.

This stated it was agreed to let the ground to the Borough Football Club and the RAF for 1942-43 season free of rent, the teams to be responsible for the payment of water and electricity charges and for the supervision of the ground.

The Corporation, said the Mayor, had always agreed to repair fair wear and tear and damage done to fences, but the clubs were responsible for supervising the ground and seeing that it was maintained in decent order.

### Visit To Ground

On Wednesday morning the Mayor, accompanied by the Borough Surveyor, Mr R. C. Moon, visited Manor Park ground and, to use his own words, found it "in a scandalous and deplorable condition."

Small sheds were knocked about and broken very badly; lavatories were in a filthy state; in the boiler room there was a barrowful of ashes (it had not been cleaned out and made tidy); a nuisance had even been committed in the baths used by the players; the doors of the Beaumont Road entrance had been taken off their hinges; windows were smashed and electric light fittings torn down



## A Contrast

The Mayor contrasted the state of affairs at Manor Park with the Pingle Fields ground. The Corporation let the Pingle Fields to Youth Centres and school teams which paid 30s. a year rent – and these junior teams kept the Pingle Fields dressing accommodation much more tidier and respectable than the clubs using Manor Park – clubs which had the use of Manor Park free of rent. If small clubs could look after the Pingle Fields like that surely, argued the Mayor, the clubs using Manor Park free of charge could do something to keep Manor Park in a fairly respectable condition.

Following the inspection of Manor Park on Wednesday morning the Mayor said he would make proposals to the Council for certain repairs to be carried out. He had asked Mr Moon (Borough Surveyor) to obtain an estimate for repairs and the putting of doors on the hinges. If that work was done he would propose that, in future, the Borough FC, and RAF clubs must apply to the Corporation for keys to the ground before they had a match and return them immediately after the match. The gate used by wardens would be fenced off and the wardens would be held responsible for the locking of the gate.

That the repair of the ground would be an expensive item was admitted by the Mayor.

## Nuneaton Borough v RAF A

03-04-1943

Borough welcomed RAF A to Manor Park for the semi-final of the Footballers' Bed Cup.

After a quiet start Borough settled down nicely and once they had taken the lead twenty minutes after the start, there was never really any doubt how the game would go. By half-time they had established a three goal lead. Then, after the break they proceeded to riddle the Airmen's defence.

Borough opened their account when, following clever work by Roberts, both Hardy and Paul had a scoring chance. They failed to get in a telling shot, but when the ball came out again Paul slammed it home. About five minutes later Hardy had little difficulty in beating Clark, when a beautifully placed Lapworth corner kick dropped right at his feet. Before half-time Roberts made the score three. Paul went through and when challenged got the ball back from a most awkward angle. It trickled slowly towards the net, but Roberts made doubly sure of a goal by pouncing on the ball and putting it into the net.

In the first ten minutes of the second half Murdin twice found the net with good efforts. Paul got a sixth; Murdin headed a seventh from a delightful centre by Roberts; Lapworth shot hard in the net for the eighth. A shot by Lapworth was diverted into the net, by Ousley for the ninth goal, and five minutes from the end Paul drove hard to make it double figures. Borough meet the winners of the Arley-Courtaulds match in the final.

Stain gave another very satisfactory display at centre-half. Bond excelled both in attack and defence.

## Courtaulds v Bucks Hill WMC

Courtaulds beat Bucks Hill WMC by four goals to two in the Nuneaton Charity Cup semi-final at Manor Park and go through to meet Borough in the final.

## Nuneaton Borough v Courtaulds

23-04-1943

**Borough:** Loveridge; Topp and Ryan; Bond, Stain and Quinney; Roberts, Clarke, Paul, Murdin and Lapworth.

**Courtaulds:** Richardson; Saunders and Ashby; Bennett, Elliott and Moreton; Golby, Bishop, Boon, Butcher and Ison.

Borough welcomed Courtaulds to Manor Park for the final of the Footballers' Bed Cup.

Courtaulds played only as well as their opponents allowed them – and seeing that Borough did 90 per cent of the attacking it will be appreciated the losers had little chance to show their paces. Although kicking against a fairly strong cross-wind in the first-half, Borough dictated the course of play right from the kick-off and by half-time had established a winning lead.

Borough took an early lead when following a defensive blunder, Lapworth closed in from the wing and beat Richardson with a fast, low cross-shot. After about 27 minutes' play Borough went further ahead when Clarke easily netted from a square pass by Lapworth.

A few minutes later clever passing by Clarke and Roberts and a quick inter-change of positions enabled the latter to net the third goal, while two minutes later Roberts was forcing his way through when he was fouled in the penalty area. Bond took the kick and shot straight at Richardson, but following up quickly netted from the rebound. The half-time score was 4-0.

About five minutes after the change of ends came the Borough's fifth and only goal of the second half. A strong left-wing move saw Lapworth put the ball right in front of goal, and swinging round sharply Paul completely beat Richardson, the goalkeeper diving full length in a vain attempt to save.

In the absence of George Hardy, the young Clarke, who had previously played two games at outside-left, was included at inside-right, and made a surprisingly good partner for Roberts, revealing many clever touches. Stain blotted Boon out altogether, while Quinney and Ryan completely subdued Golby. The Courtaulds left-wing pair, Butcher and Ison never got the better of Bond, who played a real captain's part.

After the match Mr George Moore, J.P., presented the cup to Bond, who captained the Borough side.



## Nuneaton Borough v Courtaulds 25-04-1943

**Borough:** Loveridge; Topp and Ryan; Bond, Stain and J. Clarke; Roberts, M. Clarke, Paul, Murdin and Lapworth.

**Courtaulds:** Richardson; Saunders and E. Moreton; Bennett, Elliott and Moreton; Golby, Bishop, Boon, Butcher and Ison.

Borough welcomed Courtaulds to Manor Park for the final of the Nuneaton Charity Cup on Easter Monday.

The high cross winds played havoc with the form of both sides and there were few notable moves throughout the whole game. With the wind helping them in the first-half, Borough established a three clear goals lead, but for the most part their scoring efforts were of a muddled character. They made the obvious mistake of keeping the ball on the left-wing when the conditions were all in favour of right wing play.

Courtaulds held the advantage in the second half but, like the Borough, made many mistakes in front of goal. They had their scoring chances but the nearest they actually got to getting a goal was when E. Moreton hit the upright with an open goal, midway through the half. Boon also misses an easy chance just before half-time. Still, the Borough defence had to be very much on the alert in the second half to keep their opponents out. There were no outstanding players.

Borough opened their account about six minutes from the start when an awkward, curling corner kick by Lapworth was headed through by Murdin. The second goal was scored by Clarke, who netted from close range, following a neat attack, and the third goal came from a penalty for handball just before half-time. Lapworth making no mistake from the spot. There was no scoring in the second half.

The football generally was not nearly so good as that served up in the youths' match in the morning. After the match Mr George Moore J.P. presented the cup to the winners.

## Nuneaton Combination Final Table 1942-1943

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Arley Rectory	15	15	0	0	76	7	30
Nuneaton Borough	16	13	0	3	85	24	26
RAF A	16	9	0	7	48	40	18
Courtaulds	16	8	1	7	57	43	17
Bucks Hill WMC	16	8	0	8	49	38	16
Griff Colliery	16	5	3	8	40	75	13
RAF B*	15	4	1	10	35	70	9
Haunchwood Brick	16	3	1	12	34	58	7
Sphinx	16	3	0	13	22	80	6

## Season Review 1942-43

### Borough Again Do Well

Nuneaton Borough failed this season to retain the championship of the Nuneaton Combination, but they did the next best thing by finishing runners-up – and winning two

cups as against one last season. So that it may again be said that the club has had another most successful season.

As last season, Borough's chief rivals in the league were Arley Rectory, who deservedly wrested the championship from them by virtue of their consistency. Borough have been reasonably consistent, but failed to pull out their best form when it was most needed. They lost both their league matches with the Rectory by a disputed goal at Manor Park and by four goals to two at Arley. There was no disputing the Rectory's superiority in the latter game; they were the better team without doubt.

When the teams met at Arley in the Charity Cup, Borough won 2-1 after a hectic second half tussle between home forwards and the visiting defenders. In that game the visitors had the misfortune to have Joy badly injured – and he was absent for the remainder of the season.

The only other side to beat the Borough in the league was Bucks Hill WMC, who won 4-2 at Galley Common in a gale.

Borough's other chief rivals were Courtaulds, whom they defeated in both league games and in both cup finals. Borough's display at Higham Lane, when they defeated Courtaulds 7-2, was probably their best of the season. They played some delightful football.

### The Players

It was unfortunate for Borough that George Hardy, their captain, was unable to assist them in many of their important games. Hardy had a most unfortunate season, being injured on several occasions. His generalship was missed. Another player who was unable to play regularly, was Quinney, whose fearless tackling and strong kicking featured in many a game in which he played.

Until towards the end of the season when Lapworth and Roberts came into the side, it could scarcely be said that the Borough attack functioned at all satisfactorily. The wing positions were never satisfactorily filled until these two players came into the side. Moore started well at outside-right but faded away. Joe Knight completely failed to reproduce his form of the previous season, and for most of the time too heavy a burden was placed on the shoulders of Paul and Murdin. Although he is not the perfect centre-forward, Paul's enthusiasm has been infectious – and once again he has got the goals. And, after all, its goals that count. Murdin has never played a bad game; his form throughout the season has been most consistent.

When Hardy and Joy were out of the team, a good deal of work fell upon Bond, Stain, Coley and Topp. Bond could always be relied upon (except when it came to a penalty kick); Stain, both at right-half and centre-half (especially at centre-half) rendered consistently good service; while Topp has been a most valuable defender throughout the season. Ryan, too, has played some extremely good games, especially



at left-half and left full-back. As usual, whenever called upon Wannacott proved his versatility and general worth.

Coley did not come into the side until very late in the season, and his clever wing-half play quickly captivated the crowd. His ball control and skilful passes were a delight. It was not until late in the season, too, that young Loveridge came into the side as goalkeeper. Despite his inexperience, he did well and never let his side down. There is no reason at all why he should not be a good keeper, he has everything in his favour.

Another young local player who shows distinct promise is Clarke. After twice giving satisfactory displays at outside-left he was called upon to figure at inside-right in the two cup final games against Courtaulds, and he filled the bill to everybody's satisfaction.

## The Goal Scorers

The goalscorers were as follows:

Paul .....	46
Murdin .....	20
J. Knight .....	18
Lapworth .....	10
Wannacott .....	8
Hardy (five penalties) .....	8
Moore .....	5
Stain .....	5
A. Knight .....	5
Ryan .....	3
Clarke .....	3
Bond .....	2
Lewis (RAF) .....	2
Roberts .....	2
Topp .....	1
Hoverd .....	1

## Manor Park: Letter to the Observer April 1943

Dear Sir

Having read the reports in the papers about the destruction at Manor Park Sports Ground, it grieved me to see it on Saturday last, when Arley Rectory and Courtaulds played in the semi-final of the Bed Cup. It came to my notice when I asked where was the groundsman who used to look after the ground and keep the children off the playing area.

I feel sure if the Council had made a charge for all who used the ground and paid the groundsman the few shillings a week they used to pay him, they would have saved a lot of the ratepayers' money. It is a nicely situated centre for any sport to suit all purposes.

Yours, etc.,

George Moore, J.P.

## Manor Park Football Ground: April 30, 1943

When the Finance and Estates Committee recommended to Nuneaton Town Council on Wednesday that necessary repairs be carried out at Manor Park Sports Ground, that Mr. J. Poultny be appointed part-time groundsman, and that consideration be given at an early date to fixing a charge for use of the ground, Ald. B. K. Roper asked if the measures suggested were regarded as satisfactory and likely to prove satisfactory in the future.

The Mayor replied he hoped so. It would cost a tremendous amount of money to put the destruction right.

Coun. C. J. S. Dickens mentioned that Mr Poultny was being considered for an appointment by another department, and the Mayor said if that was the case they would have to contact someone else...

...Coun. G. C. Comley felt that if they could not make the teams responsible, they should make the team officials responsible. He attended a final on Monday morning and no individual appeared to be looking after the ground and children were carrying tins from one end of the field to the other...

...Coun. Dickens said that they should appreciate the difficulties of club officials. What authority had they got and the children today took no notice of them. It was necessary to have a regular groundsman...

## Borough FC Annual Meeting

### Chairman Speaks of Difficult Season

The annual meeting of the Nuneaton Borough Football Club was held at headquarters, The Nag's Head, Queen's Road, the chairman, Mr H. Watkins, presiding, supported by the members of the committee.

The balance sheet, which was presented by the vice-chairman, Mr F. J. Perry, showed a balance in hand of 16s. 1d. on the season's working. This, in view of the small income, was considered most satisfactory, and showed how economically the club had been run.

The balance sheet was adopted.

Reviewing the past season, the chairman remarked that it had been a most difficult one for all concerned, and it was most pleasing to note they had made a small profit.

The committee men might wonder why the secretary had not arranged matches with English League clubs during the past season, but it was felt they could not possibly consider this owing to the state of the dressing rooms and the ground generally.

Referring to a Town Councillor's remark that they might have a professional team in the town again after the war, Mr Watkins reminded the members that they were still a registered professional club; they were still members of

the Birmingham Combination and also of the English Cup competition.

## Damage To Kit

The chairman spoke of the wilful damage done to the club's private property by mischievous children. New goal nets had been torn to pieces, seven footballs had been stolen (nowadays they could not get a new ball without a permit), and all the lockers had been burst open and kit damaged or stolen. The dressing rooms had often been found in a disgusting mess, the baths sometimes being unuseable.

The Chairman praised the work of the secretary, Mr Reg Carris, and expressed thanks to him on behalf of the committee and himself. He also thanked the Corporation for allowing them the free use of the ground, and hoped it would be possible for the Council to carry out repairs to the ground and stand so that they might be able to entertain English League clubs who might care to give them fixtures. If they would help them in this way, he was sure the club could give Nuneaton a team they would be proud of. He expressed thanks to the trainer and assistant trainer for all their work and also to the committee men for the way they had supported him.

## Secretary's Report

The secretary also referred to the many difficulties experienced during the past season, especially so far as it concerned players and transport. Taking the season all through, he did not think the team had done too badly in winning the Bed and Charity Cups. With a bit of luck they might again have won the league championship, but it was probably better that the honour should go round. He thanked the chairman for the help he had always given him, and it had always been a pleasure to work with the committee as at present constituted.

### Arley Rectory FC Celebration

Arley Rectory FC, champions of Nuneaton Combination, celebrated their achievement of going through the season without a league defeat on Saturday, when Mr George Moore, JP, founder and chairman of the club, presided over a good company at the Wagon Load of Lime, who enjoyed a repast provided by the lady supporters of the club.

Mr Moore, in thanking the players and supporters of the club, said it had been going for 32 years and he himself could look back to 40 happy years spent in trying to brighten the life of the village. Arley was well-known as a sporting village for football, cricket and tennis and he hoped their future would be a bright one.

Capt. P. Lyon, an old player, seconded the vote of thanks.

### Gloating Over Raids On Germany

A tendency to gloat over RAF raids is condemned by Dr Mervyn Haigh, Bishop of Winchester, who was Bishop of Coventry during the period when the city suffered its heaviest air attacks.

He complains in the April issue of his Diocesan leaflet that signs are not wanting of a tendency to more deterioration in more than one direction.

"Many people," he says, "have noticed a growing tendency in some newspapers, in the news bulletins, and in some speeches, to speak about our raids on Germany and their effects in a rather callous and brutal way, as though the necessity of these raids with the appalling suffering they must bring, were no longer regrettable, but rather something over which we may rightly gloat.

"We can all do something to discourage and discountenance this tendency if only by remembering how much we owe to our intrepid airmen without forgetting that what is horrible and lamentable in Coventry and Southampton is also horrible and lamentable in Wilhelmshaven and Cologne..."

## Borough FC Dinner

### Committee Entertain Players and Other Club Representatives

Players and officials of Nuneaton Borough Football Club gathered together at the Nag's Head Inn, Nuneaton, and participated in a supper and entertainment.

Mr Harry Watkins, Chairman of the club, presided, supported by Mr M. Judkins, president; Mr F. Perry, vice-chairman; Mr Reg Carris, secretary; Mr George Moore, J.P., chairman of Arley Rectory FC; and other members of the Borough FC committee. Several other visitors were also present.

Mr M. Judkins, proposing the toast of "Nuneaton Borough FC," congratulated the players on their very excellent season. They came second in the league and won both the Bed Cup and the Charity Cup. It was definitely no mean achievement. He congratulated Arley Rectory on winning the league. Mr Watkins and Mr Carris had worked hard during the season and had kept things going. In wartime it was no easy thing to do, and he thought they had done a very useful job of work indeed for the borough. Football was a grand game, and ought to be kept going at all costs.

### Manor Park Ground

Unfortunately the Mayor was not there, continued Mr Judkins, but they were not at all satisfied with the way the Manor Park ground had been kept. It was the borough's obligation to keep it straight, and, putting it politely, it was an absolute disgrace...

# Nuneaton Borough 1937-1945



1942						
Date	Opponent	Venue	Comp	Result	Scorers	Attendance
09.19	Attleborough Mills		Friendly	12-1	Paul (5), Hardy (3), Joy, Knight, Bond, Mott	
09.26	Griff Colliery	A	NC	5-1	Paul (4), Wannacott	
10.03	Courtaulds	H	NC	3-2	Paul (2), Hardy (pen)	
10.10	Arley Rectory	A	NCC 1	2-1	Ryan, Hardy (pen)	
10.17	RAF	A	NC	3-0	Paul (2), Ryan	
10.24	Bucks Hill WMC		FBC 1	5-3	Paul (2), Stain (2), Ryan	
10.31	Imperial Airways	H	NC	2-0	Hardy (pen), Hoverd	
11.07	Sphinx	A	NCC 2	4-0	Murdin (2), Stain, Knight	
11.14	Sphinx	H	NC	8-2	Paul (3), Knight (3), Murdin, Handy	
11.28	Haunchwood Brick	H	NC	7-0	Paul (3), Murdin, Knight, Moore, Wannacott	
12.05	Bucks Hill WMC	A	NC	2-4	Topp, Hardy (pen)	
12.12	Griff Colliery	H	NC	15-3	Paul (4), Joe Knight (4), Lapworth (3), Murdin (2), Moore, Stain	
12.19	Courtaulds	A	NC	7-2	Paul (2), Lapworth (2), Stain, Knight, Murdin	
12.26	Army XI	H	F1	13-1	A. Knight (6), Paul (2), Wannacott (2), Lewis (2), J. Knight	
1943						
01.02	Haunchwood Brick	A	NC	5-2	Paul (3), Moore, Murdin	
01.09	Arley Rectory	H	NC	0-1		
01-16	RAF	H	NC	4-0	Paul, Wannacott (2), Hardy	
01.23	RAF B	A	NC	10-1	Paul (5), Murdin (2), Moore (2), Knight	
02.06	Bucks Hill WMC	H	NC	4-2	Flaven (o.g.), Paul, Murdin, Moore	
02.13	Sphinx	A	NC	8-0	Murdin (3), Knight (3), Paul, Bond	
02.20	Arley Rectory	A	NC	2-4	Paul, Moore	
00.00	Brico		F2	6-0	Paul (3), Wannacott (2), Murdin	
00.00	Courtaulds	H	NC	3-2	Knight, Clarke, Murdin	
03.20	RAF A		NCC S-F	5-1	Paul (2), Lapworth (2), Hardy (pen)	
04.03	RAF A	H	FBC S-F	10-2	Paul (3), Murdin (3), Lapworth (2), Hardy, Roberts	
04.23	Courtaulds	H	FBC Final	5-0	Lapworth, Clarke, Roberts, Bond, Paul	
00.00	Courtaulds	H	NCC Final	3-0	Lapworth (2), Murdin	

KEY: NC – Nuneaton Combination; FBC – Footballer’s Bed Cup; NCC – Nuneaton Charity Cup; F1 – Local Aid for Russia; F2 – Mayor’s Hospital Appeal; CEC –

The RAF had a ground-share with Nuneaton Borough and played their matches at Manor Park

RAF B took over Imperial Airways fixtures in January and RAF became RAF A in January.

Nuneaton Borough were thrown out of the CEC competition for playing an ineligible player, George Hardy of Aston Villa.



## Mr Ron Talbot Appointed

Mr Ron Talbot, the well-known Nuneaton referee, has been appointed secretary of Nuneaton Borough FC.

Mr Talbot has been a member of the FA Council since 1935 and a lecturer for the FA at instruction classes for referees since 1930. He is secretary of the Birmingham County Area Committee for the National Association of Referees,

secretary of the Nuneaton and Tamworth Referees' Association, vice-chairman of the Tamworth and Trent Valley League and a member of the Council of the Nuneaton Combination.

In October, 1942, he was one of the linesmen for the England-Wales international match at Wolverhampton, while in February, 1941, he refereed the match between the Czechs and Holland at Leamington. He has been a registered referee since 1918 and prior to the war refereed in the Midland Mid-Week League, the Birmingham and District League and the Birmingham Combination League.

## Twelve Clubs In Nuneaton Combination

Though Courtaulds and Haunchwood Brick and Tile have withdrawn, five more teams have applied for membership and twelve clubs would be competing during the coming season as against nine last season.

This was reported at the annual meeting of the Nuneaton Combination Football League on Monday (August 9th), when Mr B. Jarvis was in the chair.

The secretary, Mr F. J. Perry, in his twenty-fourth annual report, said it was pleasing to be able to state that the League was still able, after four seasons under war conditions, to fully discharge its many duties and obligations. The clubs, he said, had assisted several charitable institutions, including the handing over of £20 to the Nuneaton Charity Cup, and 15 guineas to the Footballers' Bed Fund.

The financial position of the League was satisfactory, as the season was started with a balance of £69 3s. 3d. and ended with £71 7s. 5d. credit.

Mr Perry congratulated Arley Rectory, Nuneaton Borough and Courtaulds Sports club on their achievement in the season under review and said it was not too much to ask that all would unite in one effort to keep the League in being as evidence of their belief in certain victory and the restoration of the game to its former status. In conclusion, he expressed his thanks for the loyal support he had received.

Mr H. Watkins was elected president in place of Mr F. Payne, who resigned; Mr W. J. Shaw was elected chairman; Mr R. Jarvis as vice-chairman, and Mr F. J. Perry as honorary secretary.

Courtaulds and Haunchwood Brick and Tile had withdrawn this year, but five more teams had applied for membership. These were: Haunchwood Institute, Bulkington Rangers, Ansley St. John's, Anseley Social Club, Coton Rangers and RAF. These in addition to Arley Rectory, Bucks Hill, Griff Colliery, Nuneaton Borough, RAF, Sphinx, made a total for the season of twelve clubs against nine last season. The fixtures will commence on September 6.

## Old Footballer's Letter

Sir,

I hope you are well and keeping fit and giving all your energies and direction to create, when peace comes, a football team that will keep up the "True Blue" spirit.

I wonder if you could forward me photos taken with Town team, for I have lost the ones I had and those days were good old days; and, by the way, could you find out the name of the Scottish Junior International team whom I opposed when playing for Birmingham Junior International team at Coventry, 1928-29, along with Pearson and Trentham, late of West Bromwich.

Well, I will close, wishing I was walking the Nuneaton roads and streets and reading local news and not in the heat-infested North Africa. So cheerio, all the best and good luck.

Yours, etc.,  
Pte. George E. Johnson

## Borough's Practice Match

Nuneaton Borough's first practice match at Manor Park on Saturday did not reveal any new players of outstanding ability. One or two of them did well, but generally speaking, the old and tried players took the eye most.

It would seem that Borough will again have a useful defence, in which Topp, Ryan, Rouse and Davies did well in practice. Rouse if, of course, already well known to spectators for he has assisted the club before, and there is no doubt as to his capabilities. Davies, a player of experience, shaped satisfactorily at wing-half but needs practice.

The position with regard to attack is not so good. Paul and Wannacott were the best of the bunch. The best of the newcomers was Hall, who showed useful form at outside right.

In the first-half the probable first team defence opposed the probable first team attack and the defence carried off the honours, their side leading 1-0 at half-time as a result of a goal scored by Hoverd.

In the second-half the probable first-team turned out against the rest, and in this half scored four goals without reply through Wannacott, Paul (2) and Davies.

# Nuneaton Borough 1937-1945



Topp, a brother of the full-back, shaped confidently in goal, but seemed at fault when Davies scored with a long shot.

## Season 1943-44

*All team line-ups are announced in Friday's newspaper and sometimes bear no relation to the team that actually took part.*

### Haunchwood Inst. v Nuneaton Borough 18-09-1943

**Nuneaton (from): Taft, Topp, Quinney, Bond, Rouse, Ryan, Hall, Hoverd, Boon, Booton, Lapworth, Wannacott, Davies, Hopkins, Cook and Reardon.**

Borough made the journey to face Haunchwood Institute in the Nuneaton Combination.

Taft, the new goalkeeper was badly at fault when Johnson opened Haunchwood's account. He was much too slow getting down to a low shot from long range and the ball passed into the goal under his body. Borough equalised about ten minutes before half-time when both Lapworth and Boon seemed to force the ball through off an upright following a goalmouth scramble, but Lapworth was credited with the goal.

Bailey put the home side ahead after going right through unchallenged and Wannacott once again levelled the score when a square pass right in front of goal presented him with an easy chance. After Cart had put the 'Stute ahead again, Borough fell to pieces and Parkinson put on two more goals, the second of which was easily the best of the match.

Generally speaking, the Borough forwards' big fault was lack of finish. Their moves went fairly well until everything went wrong. The right wing pair were poor throughout and seldom caused much trouble. Boon worked hard in the centre, but did not receive the right kind of support.

Haunchwood played much better together, were more methodical and seemed much quicker on the ball. Parkinson led the attack well and was adequately supported by his colleagues. Their defence was sound and gave little away.

### Arley Rectory v Nuneaton Borough 25-09-1943

**Nuneaton (from): R. Topp, L. Topp, Hopkins, Rouse, Ryan, Clarke, Boon, Paul, Booton, Lapworth, Quinney, Bond, Butcher and Dale.**

Nuneaton made the journey to Arley Rectory for a Nuneaton Combination game.

Arley started well and heartened by an early goal, kept the Nuneaton defence occupied, but they were lucky to be on level terms at half-time. Afterwards they were more or less outplayed and penned in their own half. Only occasionally did they get away – and when they did the Borough defence generally held them without much difficulty. Stain was easily Arley's best player.

Arley's only goal came three minutes after the start when Finch, the outside-left, scored with a grand shot after Ryan had failed to clear his lines. About 16 minutes from the start

Borough drew level, Lapworth easily converting a penalty kick after Stain had handled in the area. The score was 1-1 at half-time.

A quarter of an hour after half-time Borough went ahead when, following a strong attack, Lapworth headed to Murdin, who, in turn headed past Bullock. The Arley goal had a number of narrow escapes after this, but it was not until about 14 minutes from the end that Murdin made the issue safe with a grand header from a perfectly placed Lapworth corner kick.

The return of Paul and Murdin to the Borough attack put new life into it; and the new right-wing pair, Clarke of Nuneaton Youth Centre, at outside-right, and Booton, of Warton, as his partner, both revealed most promising form. Clarke is but a lad, yet performed most creditably. The only real fault that could be found with the forwards was that they were inclined to dilly-dally in front of goal. Though they got three goals they missed a number of much easier chances.

The only player in the defence who did not do well was Ryan at left full-back. He never seemed sure of himself and his kicking was most erratic. R. Topp displaced Taft in goal and did his job most capably. L. Topp and Rouse were always in the thick of the fight, while the two ex-Courtaulds' players, Boon and Dale, shaped well in the wing-half positions.

### Nuneaton Borough v Bulkington Rangers 02-10-1943

**Nuneaton (pre-selected team): R. Topp; L. Topp, Ryan, Dale, Rouse, Bond, Clark, Booton, Paul, Murdin, Lapworth.**

Borough welcomed unbeaten Bulkington Rangers to Manor Park for a Nuneaton Combination game.

Borough took the lead following a free-kick just outside the penalty area. Lapworth's hard drive rebounded to Murdin from a defender and he slammed the ball into the net. A quarter of an hour from half-time a short inside pass gave Murdin another chance and the inside-left again made no mistake with another hard drive.

Within ten minutes of half-time Borough had put the issue completely beyond doubt. Paul made the score 3-0 with a delightful first-time hook shot from Booton's cross, and shortly afterwards Lapworth worked his way into the goalmouth after taking a pass from Clark and shot hard and true into the net. Golby reduced the lead with a doubtful goal, when he sent in a high dropping shot from the wing and it seemed as though it fell behind R. Topp into the net. The referee awarded a goal, but Nuneaton's defenders claimed that the ball had dropped through a hole in the top of the net. Borough added another goal just before the end when Booton scored.

Borough lost Dale to injury just before half-time and although he came back, he remained a passenger at outside-left. Prior to Dale's injury Borough played with fine understanding and their forwards were much more convincing than those of the Rangers, but with Dale injured and Booton having to drop to



# Nuneaton Borough 1937-1945



half-back, the balance of the attack was upset and afterwards they were inclined to be ragged, though dangerous in spasms.

## **Ansley St. John's v Nuneaton Borough 09-10-1943**

**Nuneaton (pre-selected team): R. Topp, L. Topp, Ryan, Bond, Rouse, Boon, Clark, Booton, Paul, Murdin, Lapworth.**

Borough travelled to Ansley St. John's to play a President's Cup first round tie.

Ansley went ahead after five minutes' play. Whitcroft putting through from close in, following a free-kick. Seven minutes later, after a shot had rebounded off a post, G. Grant easily increased the lead. Seven minutes after that Lapworth reduced the lead from a penalty awarded for handball.

Early in the second half after Ryan had failed to check F. Grant, the latter centred and, meeting the ball first time, Whitcroft made the score 3-1 with a great shot. J. Grant got Ansley's fourth goal with another fine shot, although seemingly offside, and the same player made the score 5-1.

Eight minutes from the end, from Clark's perfectly placed corner kick, Paul headed through neatly to reduce the lead; two minutes later from another corner kick accurately placed by Clark, Lapworth made it 5-3 – and two minutes from the end, Paul, after driving through to within a couple of yards of goal and with the goal at his mercy, screwed the ball wide.

Borough's forwards, until those last few minutes, seldom seemed likely to get goals. There was no understanding between them and their sluggish moves generally broke down long before the penalty area was reached. Even Murdin could do nothing, which is very unusual for him.

Ansley were superior in both defence and attack. But it was in attack that they held the bigger pull, for led by Whitcroft and F. Grant, two particularly smart wingers, they were always too nippy for the slow-moving Borough defenders. Indeed, but for the sterling work of Rouse and Boon they might have got more goals. For all that there were times in the second half when even Rouse was glad to get the ball away anywhere. Boon was probably the best footballer on the field.

## **Nuneaton Borough v Ansley St. John's 16-10-1943**

**Nuneaton (pre-selected team): Richards, Topp, Ryan, Bond, Rouse, Boon, Clark, Booton, Paul, Murdin, Lapworth.**

Nuneaton welcome Ansley St. John's to Manor Park for a Nuneaton Combination game.

Borough opened the scoring after about 18 minutes' play when, following a neat pass by Clark, Hood got away and put the ball into the centre. Murdin fastened on to the ball and beat Wood with a well-placed shot. St. John's equalised about eight minutes later when Boon lost the ball through over-dribbling and the ball came into the middle from the right. Whitcroft was on the spot and defeated Richards with a low drive.

Eight minutes after half-time Borough again went ahead. A right-wing move speadeagled the Ansley defence and when the ball was placed in front of goal by Hood, Lapworth, from an unmarked position, steered it past Wood into the net with his head. Two minutes from the end Borough got their third goal. Paul broke away and veered to the right wing, drawing two defenders with him. At the right moment he squared the ball across goal. Lapworth was again unmarked and again beat Wood – this time with a left-foot drive from close range.

Borough won, despite not playing well, but neither did St. John's. Had the visitors played as well – or finished as well – as they did the previous week, they would have won this game. But the truth is that Ansley were not good enough this time to beat a much weaker side than they defeated at Ansley, for the home side had to be chopped and changed at the last minute owing to the absence of both Rouse and Ryan.

Borough had to make no fewer than four late additional changes. Those changes were bound to upset the balance of the team; but there was no excuse for Ansley; they were playing on a ground where football skill was certain to triumph, yet they were unable to rise to the occasion and were beaten on merit by a very mediocre side.

## **Nuneaton Borough v Arley Rectory 23-10-1943**

**Nuneaton (from): Richards, Topp, Hopkins, Bond, Rouse, Clark, Paul, Murdin, Lapworth, Booton, Dunn (AWA Baginton), A. N. Other.**

Borough welcome Arley Rectory to Manor Park for a Nuneaton Combination match.

Borough took the lead early in the game when a neat bout of inter-passing gave Paul a chance. The centre-forward took it eagerly, beating Bullock with a hard shot into the roof of the net. Not long afterwards Coley put Murdin through with a delightful pass and running close in the inside-left easily beat the goalkeeper.

Less than five minutes after half-time, following a Clark corner kick, Murdin seized on a loose ball and slammed it past Bullock in grand style. Number four came when Bond got one of his pile-drivers straight – and Bullock probably never saw the ball until it hit the back of the rigging. Then Clark rounded off the scoring, with a goal that was obviously intended as a centre, but Bullock came across too far to meet it and allowed it to sail over his head and into the far corner of the net.

The re-appearance of Coley in the Borough team, not in his usual position of left-half, but at inside-right, revitalised the whole side. Although several of the Borough players shone in this game, Coley stood out from everybody. His clever ball control and shrewd passes made holes in the Arley defence and as if thoroughly enjoying Coley's performance, the other forwards, with the possible exception of Booton at outside-left, joined in heartily and the Arley defenders had a gruelling afternoon. Coley was the mastermind behind most of the Borough's attacks, but it was some excellent shooting by his colleagues that rounded off his initial efforts.



## Gift Of Land To Corporation

### To Be Used As Pleasure Grounds Or Public Walks

It was reported to Nuneaton Town Council on Wednesday that a letter had been received from Messrs. Clay and Cocks, solicitors, acting for Mr E. A. Paul, and Miss E. G. Paul, offering to the Corporation approximately 30 acres of land off Lutterworth Road, Attleborough, to be used as public walks or pleasure grounds, the land to be conveyed to the Corporation free of cost subject otherwise to the terms and conditions set out in the letter.

The General Purposes Committee resolved that the offer of Mr and Miss Paul be accepted, that the best thanks of the Council be conveyed to the donors for their generosity in the matter and that Mr and Miss Paul be invited to attend the next meeting of the Council.

Coun. B. Mayo described this as one of the best gifts they had had, and certainly the best so far as Attleborough was concerned. He was sure that the younger generation would appreciate the gift of this land very much indeed. They were all most grateful for the gift.

Coun. C. J. S. Dickens said he understood Mr and Miss Paul were invited to attend that meeting. Did they not wish to attend? The Mayor, Ald. Bates, replied that they were deaf and if they did attend would not be able to hear what was said. "We do intend to make a statement on the matter later on," he added.

### Nuneaton Borough v Sphinx 30-10-1943

**Nuneaton (pre-selected team): Richards, Topp, Chapman, Bond, Rouse, Ryan, Clark, Paul, Goffin, Murdin, Lapworth.**

Borough welcomed Sphinx to Manor Park for a Nuneaton Combination match. The home side included Goffin of Aston Villa in the team.

Without unduly exerting himself, Goffin led the attack with quiet efficiency, scored a couple of goals himself and paved the way for the scoring of others. Although the left-wing pair, Lapworth (3) and Murdin (2), got half the goals between them, they were actually not so effective in creating openings as Paul and Clarke on the opposite wing. The latter pair, backed up by Bond, combined effectively and made some first class moves. Paul was more at home at inside-right than centre-forward, and if he would only keep his head when near goal he would quickly find his old shooting form.

There was not a weak spot in the Borough team, with a very strong half-back line forming the backbone of the defence. Sphinx had a capable right-winger in Smith and a foraging leader in Jakeman. For the first 20 minutes Sphinx gave Borough a good game and at the end of that period were only two goals down. A snappy goal by Clark, the Borough outside right, after only a couple of minutes, gave Sphinx a foretaste of things to come. But they were not in the least deterred and fought on gamely right up to half-time when they were 4-0 down.

And what is more they played some good football. Their forwards indulged in some neat passing and had their finishing been in keeping with their approach work there is little doubt they would have scored before the interval. They had two distinct scoring chances but wild shooting proved their downfall. After half-time, for a short period they withstood persistent Borough pressure but later fell to pieces and goals came at regular intervals until the final whistle.

Borough's scorers were Lapworth (3), Murdin (2), Goffin (2), Coley, Clark and Paul. Coley's was the best of the match – a glorious drive from just outside the penalty area which the Sphinx goalkeeper never saw. Clark's was another good effort – a slashing cross-shot. Lapworth got one of his trio from a penalty kick for handball, and another with a cleverly executed punch with his fist when the referee was unsuspected. Jakeman got both the visitors' goals.

### Coton Rangers v Nuneaton Borough 06-11-1943

**Nuneaton (pre-selected team): Richards, Topp, Chapman, Bond, Rouse, Coley, Clark, Paul, Boon, Murdin, Lapworth.**

Borough played Coton Rangers at the Pingle Fields in a Nuneaton Combination game. There were several last minute changes to the Borough side. Arthur Knight, home on leave, came into the side and a player named Curtis came in at right-half.

Borough opened the scoring midway through the first-half, when Knight slipped the ball through to Boon, who was after the ball in a flash and drove it past the Coton goalkeeper, Carey, with a left foot shot. It was a neatly worked and nicely taken goal.

After that reverse Rangers put on strong pressure and several times looked like drawing blood but muddled finishing proved their downfall. They had several corners but failed to improve upon them – and so the visitors crossed over with that one goal lead.

Very early in the second half Rangers should have equalised. A nice attack had the Borough defence beaten and when the ball was put right in front of goal, a goal seemed certain, yet with the goalkeeper at his mercy, a Rangers' forward lifted the ball over the bar.

That was their last scoring chance. From that point Borough pressed heavily and quickly went further ahead. Following a corner kick the ball went back to Bond. The latter fired in one of his specials and realising that it was a winner all the way, Lapworth, who was in the line of flight, jumped and the ball sped beneath him into the opposite end of the goal to where the unsuspected Carey was standing.

Shortly afterwards Lapworth again beat Carey from close in. A few minutes later, in trying to clear a Clark corner kick, Coton's Clarke harassed by Boon, headed the ball neatly into his own net. Boon completed the "nap" of goals by netting easily from close in.



## Nuneaton Borough v Bucks Hill WMC 13-11-1943

**Nuneaton (pre-selected team): Richards, Topp, Chapman, Bond, Rouse, Coley, Clark, Paul, Boon, Murdin, Lapworth.**

Borough welcomed Bucks Hill WMC to Manor Park for a Nuneaton Combination game.

Borough registered their highest score in the Nuneaton Combination when they piled on the agony to the tune of 16 goals to nil – and Boon, the Borough leader, established another record with a personal bag of seven goals. The other goals were scored by Murdin (4), Paul (3), Lapworth and Coley.

It was not a record score for the ground, as I have vivid recollections of an old Town side beating Gresley Colliery by a much higher total in a preliminary round of the English Cup. But that was years ago, probably before some of the present Borough players were born.

In conditions which were hardly conducive to good football, the Borough revealed sparkling form and the forwards did much as they desired with the Bucks Hill defence. Backed up by a splendid half-back line in which Coley shone with his delightful passes, the forwards carried everything before them.

Some of the Borough's goals were works of art. There was that grand shot by Coley; that equally fine effort when Paul got his second goal; Murdin's two cleverly-obtained goals from Lapworth's corner kicks; there was a delightful header by Boon, again from Lapworth; and there was that goal which followed a cool bit of side-stepping when a defender came racing up to challenge him.

Bucks Hill's best play was provided by the left wing pair, Wykes and Pagett, and behind them was the best player on their side – Clarke. The goalkeeper, Wilson, may or may not have saved some of the goals but generally speaking, he had little chance.

## Sphinx v Nuneaton Borough 20-11-1943

**Nuneaton (pre-selected team): Richards, Topp, Chapman, Bond, Rouse, Coley, Clark, Paul, Boon, Murdin, Lapworth.**

Borough made the short journey to Weddington to play Sphinx in a Nuneaton Combination game. Borough lacked the services of Lapworth and Chapman. Hopkins was a satisfactory deputy for Chapman, but Curtis was obviously not at home at outside-left.

Clark opened Borough's account after about 15 minutes when Morgan went out a little too far to deal with a dangerous centre, failed to hold the ball and allowed it to drop behind him. There was no luck about the second goal, a pass by Bond to Clark, a short inside pass by Clark to Paul, and a delightful centre by the latter enabling Boon to head through, well out of the goalkeeper's reach. The centre-forward increased the lead with another fine cross-shot before half-time.

Paul got the fourth goal early in the second half, easily beating Morgan with a screw shot after finding a hole in the

Sphinx defence. Boon made it five. Paul provided the pass, though Boon did not get hold of the ball as he intended, his shot was too well placed to be stopped. And then just before the end, a lobbing shot from the same player found the mark. Morgan again advanced too far and failed to hold the ball which dropped behind him just underneath the bar.

Sphinx defenders had a warm time. They certainly did, and it was probably fortunate for them that the Borough forwards and halves preferred pattern weaving to taking the direct route to goal. Sphinx seldom got to close quarters and when they did, they lacked finishing and their occasional attacks generally petered out harmlessly. Richards has had a holiday since he came into the side as goalkeeper, but when Borough come up against Ansley Social Club and RAF A, he will doubtless get his chance.

## Nuneaton Borough v RAF B 27-11-1943

**Nuneaton (pre-selected team): Richardson, Topp, Chapman, Bond, Rouse, Coley, Clark, Paul, Boon, Murdin, Lapworth.**

Borough welcomed RAF B to Manor Park for a Nuneaton Combination fixture.

Kiddel, in the RAF goal, was not faultless, but most of the goals were in no way due to any real weakness on his part. Most of them were made easy by clever combined play by the Borough forwards, the scorers being left with easy scoring chances; but others were the result of fine opportunism. Bond got another of his "specials" – a smashing low shot which flashed past the goalkeeper after being very slightly deflected by an opponent.

Boon's first goal was the outcome of a perfect centre by Lapworth and an equally perfect header by the centre-forward. Lapworth's first goal was also a fine effort – another delightful header from a perfect Clark centre. Then Boon got another good one – this time he hit a centre from Lapworth first-time into the net. Paul's second goal was another clever piece of work, cutting in from the right and beating Kiddel with a left-footed drive.

The goals came as follows: Harris (own goal), Boon, Bond, Boon, Lapworth, Clark, T. Evans (RAF B), Paul, Paul, Lapworth, Murdin. Evans scored from close range after Frost had missed a sitter. It was one of the few occasions that the Borough defence was really beaten.

The visitors had really only themselves to blame for losing so heavily, for although they played some good football in midfield, they seemed hopelessly muddled near goal. Richards in the Borough goal, had a little more to do than in some recent games, and while not seriously extended proved himself equal to all the demands made upon him, Coley, playing for Northampton against Coventry, was missed by the home side, or at least his judicious passes were. Curtis was a capable substitute though lacking in the craft of the more experienced Coley.



## Griff Colliery v Nuneaton Borough 04-12-1943

**Nuneaton (pre-selected from):** Richards, Topp, Chapman, Curtis, Rouse, Clark, Paul, Boon, Murdin, Lapworth, Charles, Ryan, Hopkins.

Borough travelled to Griff Colliery to play a Nuneaton Combination fixture.

Borough went ahead after about ten minutes when Boon ran in from the right and beat Smith from an acute angle. About eight minutes later Paul put them further ahead, hooking the ball in. Lapworth made the score 3-0 from directly in front of goal, and after the ball had come off the bar, Clark cut in and drove the ball in from off the underside of the bar. The score was 4-0 at half-time.

Early in the second half Paul made the score 5-0 after a warm assault on the Griff goal. That ended the scoring, although the home goal had a number of subsequent escapes, especially when Boon drove the ball against the near upright and the ball travelled slowly all across the face of the goal without a Nuneaton forward being near enough to tap it over the line. Borough's superior team play brought about their success.

Murdin and Paul, Borough's inside men, played a big part in their side's success. Both played with fine determination and no small amount of skill, and carved out many openings for their forward colleagues. But after having established a five clear goals lead, there is little doubt Borough were content to rest on their laurels. It was not till then, in fact, that Griff caused much trouble.

Even then their finishing was poor. Ward, at centre-half, was their best player. He played a most useful spoiling game throughout. Smith, in the Colliers' goal did not have a very good game.

Taking the game all through Borough were much the better tacticians. They played like the good team they are – and this in spite of the absence of both Coley and Bond, their regular wing-halves. Curtis played soundly at right-half, while a new player, Charles, although not having played before this season, showed neat touches.

## Nuneaton Borough v Coton Rangers 11-12-1943

**Nuneaton (pre-selected team):** Richards, Topp, Chapman, Curtis, Rouse, Bond, Clark, Paul, Boon, Murdin, Lapworth.

Borough welcomed Coton Rangers to Manor Park for a Nuneaton Combination game.

The game had only been in progress a few minutes when Murdin was brought down inside the penalty area. Lapworth, as usual, took the spot kick, and for the first-time for several seasons failed to score, his shot going straight at Henton. Two minutes later Boon ran through to beat the goalkeeper with a smart shot. After that a Coton defender saved a certain scoring shot from Lapworth by using his hands in goalkeeper style. This time, from the resultant penalty, Lapworth made no mistake with a powerful drive.

Borough did not score again until five minutes before half-time, when Boon netted with a shot which Henton was too slow in getting down to. A couple of minutes later Lapworth centred perfectly for Boon to find the net with an unerring header.

In the early stages of the second-half Murdin put Paul through and on this occasion the inside-right raced on to beat Henton with a smart low drive. Lapworth got the sixth by screwing the ball in after Henton had pushed one shot away and Murdin rounded off the scoring with a smart hook-shot from Paul's pass. Henton did some fine work in the Rangers' goal, his only mistake being when Boon got his second goal.

The Rangers gave a much better display than the score might suggest; indeed, their only real fault and of course, a most vital one, was an inability to round off their attacks. Moreton often found his colleagues in unmarked positions, but they just seemed unable to get in a telling shot.

Except in the two matches when they lost – at Galley Common and Ansley Hall – Borough have never given a more inept display than in this match. The forwards have seldom given a more indecisive exhibition. Indeed the whole side gave a most muddled display.

## Nuneaton Borough v Coton Rangers 11-12-1943

**Nuneaton (pre-selected team):** Richards, Topp, Chapman, Curtis, Rouse, Bond, Clark, Paul, Boon, Murdin, Lapworth.

Borough visited RAF B in a Nuneaton Combination fixture.

Lapworth made all the running for the only goal of the first-half. After getting the better of a defender he swung across a glorious centre which had Fairey in trouble. The best the goalkeeper could do with it was to push the ball against the bar. He then made a frantic dive to complete the clearance, but Boon was there first and hooked the ball through.

Borough showed all their best form in the second-half – largely due to the untiring efforts of Paul, who was constantly going through on his own. In fact, had Boon played up with the other forwards instead of operating in a kind of mid-centre-half position, more goals must have come, for several times the ball came right across the goalmouth with nobody up to apply the finishing touch.

Borough kept their positions better after the break and became a more effective force. They quickly established a two goal lead and little more than a minute later were three up – and from that point onwards it was largely Fairey v the Borough forwards. Actually, Borough did score a fourth goal – and that was when Fairey made the only mistake he ever looked like making. Following a hot attack Curtis shot hard along the ground. The goalkeeper went down to the ball which, however, slipped through his hands and went through. But the referee's whistle had gone for offside. He had failed to observe a RAF full-back standing right behind him and yards nearer the goalkeeper than any Borough player.

# Nuneaton Borough 1937-1945



It was Boon who provided the opening from which Lapworth got the second goal. The centre-forward drew the defence over to the right and then squared the ball across the goalmouth. Lapworth was there and put the ball into the net. Boon himself got the third goal. He ran through on his own and gave the goalkeeper no chance with a hard drive. Borough deservedly won, but RAF B are a vastly improved side.

## Nuneaton Borough v RAF A 26-12-1943

**Nuneaton (pre-selected team): Richards, Topp, Chapman, Bond, Rouse, Hopkins, Clark, Paul, Boon, Murdin, Lapworth.**

Borough welcomed RAF A to Manor Park on Boxing Day for a friendly match.

Borough took the lead about 18 minutes from the start. Lapworth was fouled about three yards outside the penalty area and taking the free-kick himself netted with a grand shot. Less than two minutes later, they got a second. Murdin heading the ball home from a Lapworth corner kick.

About 15 minutes after half-time RAF reduced the lead, North putting through from close range from a left-wing pass. Borough immediately restored their two goals' lead. Lapworth shooting in from Bond's free-kick. Not long afterwards following neat passing by Boon and Paul, Murdin easily beat Ivey. Near the end, after Murdin had missed a sitter, the visitors got their second goal, Lewis scoring direct from a corner kick.

Borough had the steadier defence and certainly the more persistent attack. In fact, it was the persistence of the Borough forwards that really troubled the RAF defence, they didn't give them hardly a minute's respite.

The game was never an easy one for the Borough, they had to fight every inch of the way and never dared relax for a moment. They won largely through their ability to create openings – and use them. Territorially there was little in it. In fact, there were times when RAF appeared on top, yet Borough always came back again as strong as ever.

For example, Borough, after crossing over with a two goal lead, were hard pressed in the early stages of the second half, and RAF deservedly reduced the lead – but no sooner had the cheers died down than the ball was in the RAF net again. That was typical of Borough's fighting spirit; and it was their fighting qualities that earned them success.

## Bulkington Rangers v Nuneaton Borough 01-01-1944

**Nuneaton (pre-selected team): Richards, Topp, Chapman, Joy, Rouse, Bond, Clark, Paul, Boon, Murdin, Lapworth.**

Borough made the journey to face Bulkington Rangers in the Nuneaton Combination league. Wannacott deputised for Murdin, who was down with flu. Chapman was also unavailable and was replaced by Joy, home on leave.

After a promising start, Bulkington faded out of the picture

and on the whole were thoroughly outplayed. Occasionally in the second half they got away, but usually found Rouse and his fellow defenders too good for them.

The feature of the match was Borough's rapid-fire goalscoring midway through the first-half. After an indifferent start which suggested anything but a goal-scoring riot. Borough astounded everybody by netting five goals in eight minutes. Wannacott, who was deputising for Murdin, started the ball rolling with a grand shot from just outside the penalty area which left Bolton helpless to save.

Two minutes later Boon completed a hat-trick in as many minutes and less than two minutes later Lapworth got a fifth. Boon's first two were made easy by his colleagues and he drove the ball through very hard on each occasion from close range. His third goal was a header from Lapworth's perfect cross; and Lapworth's was another header from a Clark centre. Paul completed the first-half scoring by running through and defeating Bolton with a hard low drive, the score at half-time being 6-0.

Early in the second-half Boon was presented with another chance close in and he again beat Bolton with a hard shot. With the Nuneaton backs on the half-way line, a punt down the right wing caught them on one leg. Coupland outpaced Joy and as Richards came out he shot and the ball entered the untenanted net, to make the score 7-1. Borough quickly made the score 8-1, when Paul headed through from a corner kick which looked suspiciously as though it had gone outside before curling in, in front of goal.

Curiously enough Lapworth, who provided the openings for most of the goals, was himself the worst offender so far as missed chances were concerned. Several times he was left with only the goalkeeper to beat, but always contrived to put the ball anywhere except between the posts. Quite the tit-bit of the match was a great shot by Wannacott. Meeting a centre from the right first-time with his left foot, he crashed in a terrific drive. Bolton threw himself across goal and the ball struck his hand and was deflected. But the goalkeeper had to have his hand attended to before he could carry on.

## Nuneaton Borough v Haunchwood Inst. 08-01-1944

**Nuneaton (pre-selected team): Richards, Topp, Chapman, Curtis, Rouse, Bond, Atkins, A. N. Other, Boon, Murdin, Lapworth.**

Borough welcomed Haunchwood Institute to Manor Park for a Nuneaton Combination match. Ray Paul was out injured and Clark had been called up.

The game was half an hour old when the visitors took the lead, Cart netting with a fine, low drive from a free-kick near the corner of the penalty box. A quarter of an hour after that, what seemed to be a harmless lob, dropped in front of goal. Richards moved across to save, but Finney got his head to the ball and it entered the other end of the net.

Less than ten minutes from the end a Haunchwood defender



was penalised for pushing and Lapworth scored from the spot. If they had any fight in them, now was Borough's chance to save the game – but they just couldn't get an equaliser. And then, two minutes from the end, a faulty back pass to Richards caught the goalkeeper on one leg. He dropped the ball and while he was still on the floor, Johnson put the ball into the empty net.

It may be argued that the absence of the regular right-wing pair, Paul and Clark, upset the whole balance of that hitherto goal-scoring machine. Unquestionably, Paul was badly missed and nobody missed him more than Boon, but it by no means explains the total lack of team work and inability to turn easy goalscoring chances to account – a phase of the game in which previously they had almost been past-masters.

Haunchwood completed their well-deserved double because they played as a team and failed to be perturbed by Borough's goal-getting triumphs. Indeed it only made them all the more determined to go all out to be the first team to win at Manor Park this season. And that they succeeded speaks for itself.

While giving every credit for their unexpected victory, nobody appreciated more than the Borough players themselves that it was their own poor showing that brought about their eclipse. For as bad as they played – and they certainly did shape badly – they had chances enough, certainly to have at least saved a point.

## RAF A v Nuneaton Borough 15-01-1944

**Nuneaton (from): Richards, Topp, Chapman, Curtis, Rouse, Bond, Ryan, Paul, Boon, Murdin, Lapworth, A. N. Other.**

Borough were the guests of the RAF A for a Nuneaton Combination match. It was Richards' last game before joining the RAF and the rest of the side was the subject of last minute changes as Bond, Topp and Ryan were all unavailable. Fifty-one-year-old club secretary, Ron Talbot, came into the side at outside-right.

Borough's prospects looked gloomy and when the Airmen quickly went ahead, this view seemed to be borne out. But the Borough players were evidently out to prove that their display the previous week was much too bad to be true.

For despite the last-minute chopping and changes they proceeded to show their paces. Quickly they drew level and soon were in front. RAF fought back and got an equaliser. Borough were not to be denied, however, and before half-time they went in front again. And after the change of ends, the Airmen were well and truly collared – and hammered.

The RAF took an early lead when Lewis broke away on the right and centred for North to shoot into the net. A few minutes later Lapworth equalised with a smart header from a right wing cross and it was not long before the visitors were in front. Lapworth swung over a neat centre from the left, Paul cleverly lifted it back over the keeper's head in front of goal,

and Murdin had an easy task to head through. The Airmen drew level when following a corner, two Nuneaton defenders hesitated in going for a clearance and North scored again with a simple-looking shot. But Borough went straight up the field and after Murdin had struck the bar, Boon scored from the rebound. Before this Wannacott had hit the woodwork with a grand shot.

The home side's fate was settled early in the second half, when Murdin was brought down in the penalty area and, once again, Lapworth made no mistake from the spot. Only occasionally afterwards did the losers show any signs of fight, whereas the visitors' forwards went full steam ahead. When Lapworth put the ball down the middle, Paul, Murdin and Boon, were all at hand, but Paul got there first and steered it into the net as the goalkeeper advanced. The sixth and final goal was the best of the match. Paul found Talbot in an unmarked position and when the latter centred, Murdin dived headlong to well and truly plant the ball into the back of the net with his head. Just before the whistle sounded for time, Lapworth hooked the ball over the keeper's head on to the bar and the ball was scrambled away.

## Nuneaton Borough v Griff Colliery 22-01-1944

**Nuneaton (pre-selected team): Garner, Topp, Chapman, Curtis, Rouse, Bond, Adams, Paul, Boon, Murdin, Lapworth.**

Borough welcomed Griff Colliery to Manor Park for a Nuneaton Combination match.

The visitors' only goal came from a corner, which was headed home by Moore. Lapworth equalised with a shot that looked as though it was meant as a cross, and was carried into the net by the wind. Boon smashed the ball home to give Borough a 2-1 interval lead.

Early in the second half Boon, with a good opening found the net just inside the post. When Smith tried to punch away a Lapworth corner kick, Murdin headed the fourth goal; from a corner by Adams, Lapworth hooked the ball through for number five; Murdin ran through on his own to make it six while the defenders were appealing for offside; Lapworth got the seventh, taking the ball on and easily beating Smith after Paul had been checked just outside the penalty area; and Lapworth rounded off the scoring with a neat header from Wannacott's free-kick on the fringe of the penalty area.

As against the RAF the week previous, Lapworth and Murdin again played a big part in their side's success, getting six goals between them. Lapworth netting four and his partner two. Boon, who got the other two, does not seem to be playing so well since the head injury he received at Bulkington. Paul, as usual was a great worrier, Rouse and Curtis shone among the halves and Chapman did well at full-back.

Borough showed very indifferent form early on, form which was too much like that which they showed against Hauchwood Institute to be comfortable.



## Bucks Hill WMC v Nuneaton Borough 29-01-1944

**Nuneaton (from): Garner, Topp, Chapman, Curtis, Rouse, Bond, Adams, Paul, Boon, Murdin, Lapworth, Clark, Hopkins.**

Borough travelled to Bucks Hill WMC for a Nuneaton Combination match. Nuneaton had an anxious time before the match when Lapworth, Chapman and Adams all failed to put in an appearance, while Topp was on the injured list. Lapworth eventually arrived and Curtis moved from right-half to right-back, Hopkins deputised for Chapman and Charles took the right-half position. Clark, home on leave from the Army took Adams' place at outside-right.

Paul ran straight through from the kick-off and scored in the opening minute of the game, beating Jones all ends up with a grand shot. Two minutes later, Golightly, attempting to clear from Lapworth, put the ball past his own goalkeeper, the home side had to all intents and purposes, lost the game.

However, for quite a while after this, the visitors pressed steadily and Lapworth once headed against an upright and Bond hit the bar from a free-kick. Bucks Hill tried hard and it was not until the 28th minute that Borough got their third goal. Boon headed through from a Lapworth centre after a corner kick by the outside-left had only been partially cleared. At half-time the visitors led 3-0.

Shortly after the re-start Lapworth increased the lead when what was probably intended for a centre, beat Jones all the way. From a neat through pass by Bond, Boon ran through to score just inside the post for the fifth. He followed up with the sixth not long afterwards with a left-foot drive and he completed his hat-trick about five minutes from the end when he shot past Jones from Clark's well-placed corner kick.

The Bucks Hill goalkeeper, Jones, cut a sorry figure at the end. The goalmouth was inches deep in mud and slush, and constantly he was having to make headlong dives to save from the persistent Borough forwards. So much so that at the end of the match he was plastered with mud from head to feet.

## Nuneaton Borough v RAF A 05-02-1944

**Nuneaton (from): Garner, Topp, Chapman, Curtis, Rouse, Bond, Hammersley, Charles, Paul, Murdin, Lapworth, Hopkins.**

Borough welcomed RAF A to Manor Park for a Nuneaton Combination match. Both Boon and Murdin were absent from the Borough attack. Lapworth started at centre-forward, Paul at inside-left, Curtis inside-right, Hammersley at outside-right and Charles at outside-left. Beale, of Glascote, started at right-half.

Hammersley, Borough's new winger, gave a good account of himself. After an uncertain start due, no doubt, to being with a new side, he settled down to give a thoroughly workmanlike display and enjoyed the satisfaction of scoring his side's opening goal. The winger scored early in the second half. He closed in when the ball came across and though he

did not appear to get in a proper shot, he got the ball over Ivey's head into the net. The second goal came about ten minutes' later when Curtis netted with a fast, low drive. Paul got the third. He dashed through and shot hard. Ivey made a valiant attempt to save, but the shot was too strong for him and it escaped his grasp and went into the net.

The game, though lacking in artistry, was nevertheless most interesting, and Borough never thoroughly mastered the opposition. There was a marked improvement following a reshuffle after half-time when Paul went to centre-forward, Lapworth returned to his proper position and Charles moved to inside-left. The result was that Borough quickly established a two goal lead and then, to tighten up the defence, Curtis went back to his usual place at right-half, Beale going into the attack. Had the RAF taken their chances, Borough might have found themselves in trouble, but they too, wasted many opportunities.

## Leicester City Colts v Nuneaton Borough 12-02-1944

**Nuneaton (from): Garner, Topp, Chapman, Curtis, Rouse, Bond, Hammersley, Paul, Boon, Murdin, Lapworth, Wannacott, Hopkins.**

Borough travelled to Filbert Street to take on Leicester City Colts in a friendly match.

Borough were seven goals behind at half-time and in the early stages of the second-half the Colts got two more. Curious though it may seem, Borough had much the better of the exchanges after that, and it is no exaggeration to say that they might easily have scored three or four goals. They did get a couple, but missed several easy chances both before those two goals and afterwards. More punch near goal during this period would have put a much better complexion on the game.

What happened to the side in the first-half nobody can tell. They were so completely out of their depth that no-one could possibly foresee when the Colts would stop scoring so badly did the defenders shape.

The whole trouble was that the team never seemed to get organised. When they did get over their nerves, it was much too late; but in the last half-hour the visitors did sufficiently well to prove that their first-half behaviour was just too bad to be true. The defence tightened up appreciably and from that point onwards goal-getting was not nearly so easy for the Colts. Indeed, while they failed to score again, Borough had many chances, but by now goals meant really nothing.

It should be explained in fairness to the Borough that the Colts were by no means a team wholly composed of youngsters. In fact, it was the experience in the side that beat the Borough. Cheney, the inside-left has been playing regularly with the City first-team, while Phillips, the inside-right, is the Plymouth player. Another experienced player was Kendall, at wing-half, while Major, their goalkeeper, has played for one of the Nottingham clubs. Cheney and Phillips were the brains behind most of the Colts' attacks, but there was no better player on the field than the Colts young outside-right Farrow.

Garner had little chance with any of the goals, for the City players generally got too close for him to know much about it. On the other hand he made a number of very fine saves and he was probably his side's outstanding player.

Two others who did well were Paul and Hammersley, the right-wing pair. Paul was the only forward who seemed able to hold the ball and that brilliant shot of his in the first-half, which Major saved grandly near the post at the expense of a corner, was one of the best efforts of the match. Hammersley put in a lot of good wing play, especially in the second half.

Hammersley and Murdin scored for the Borough, and though heavily hammered the Borough players enjoyed the game. It was an experience.

## Retirement Of Well-Known Nuneaton Licensee



The good old days of football in this district are recalled by the retirement from the licensing trade of Mr Fred Carris, mine host at the Plough and Ball, Nuneaton, for the last eighteen years.

Mr Carris kept goal for Nuneaton, Atherstone, Foleshill Great Heath, Coalville Albions and the old Stockingford club.

In fact, he kept goal for the Nuneaton club longer than any other goalkeeper, for he was in the side for no fewer than 12 seasons in the Coventry and North Warwickshire League.

He was a member of the Nuneaton team which won the Hinckley Hospital Cup in the season 1897-8. In that game Nuneaton beat the holders Coalville Albions 3-0, scoring 17 and only conceding one goal throughout the competition.

Mr Carris, who was the first life-member of the Nuneaton Town FC, played for the old Stockingford Club when they won the C and NW League Championship, the Nuneaton Charity Cup and were joint holders of the Atherstone Cup – all in the same season.

In one semi-final – in the Polesworth Cup – against Atherstone which the latter won 1-0, the only goal of the game was scored by his brother, Mr Bert Carris, who captained the Atherstone side.

“I stopped his first shot,” Mr Carris told our reporter, “but Bert scored from the rebound.”

Before going to the Plough and Ball, Mr Carris was a blacksmith at the Old Pit, in Whittleford Road, and afterwards at the Tunnel Colliery.

Their many friends will wish Mr. and Mrs Carris a long and happy retirement.

## Ansley St. John's v Nuneaton Borough 19-02-1944

**Nuneaton (pre-announced team):** Garner, Topp, Chapman, Curtis, Rouse, Bond, Hammersley, Paul, Boon, Murdin, Lapworth.

Borough travelled to Ansley Hall to play Ansley St. John's in a Nuneaton Combination fixture.

The first-half was not too bad and had Borough taken their chances during this period, Ansley would have needed more than three goals to have saved them. But the Borough's finishing was shocking. They were swarming round the Ansley goal for most of this half and yet the St. John's goalkeeper scarcely had one decent shot to save. Borough always seemed to be trying to walk the ball into the net.

The standard of play during the first quarter of an hour of the second half was wretched in the extreme, but Ansley took the lead 15 minutes after half-time, and that goal seemed to settle Borough's fate. Before the end Ansley got two more goals, but meanwhile the visitors had every chance of saving the game. First, Paul headed onto the underside of the bar and the ball dropped safely into Wood's hands. Then Charles, with an open goal, fired the ball right across the face of the goal, when a mere touch would have meant success. And on other occasions a little more coolness in finishing would have spelt goal.

There were only two good shots worthy of that description throughout the game. Simpson, the Ansley outside left put across a grand shot from the wing which struck the bar and rebounded out of danger. And the other one came just before the end when Lapworth hit a ball first-time and somehow or other the goalkeeper beat it out.

The goals were simple affairs. When Grant got the first, Garner came out to somewhere near the edge of the penalty area and all the scorer had to do was to guide it past him into the untenanted goal. The second came from a free kick by Allen from near the touchline. It was certainly a good shot but how Garner came to be beaten from such a long range and from such an angle is a mystery. Boffin got the third, the ball bouncing past the goalkeeper.

Borough should have had a penalty in the first-half when Paul was fouled – but the referee ruled otherwise.

## Nuneaton Borough v Birmingham Works 26-02-1944

**Nuneaton (from):** A. N. Other, Topp, Chapman, Smith, Rouse, Bond, Hammersley, Curtis, Richmond, Murdin, Lapworth, Boon, Hopkins.

Borough welcomed the Birmingham and District Works AFA to Manor Park for a friendly game.

Borough led 1-0 at half-time, the only goal of the half coming after 30 minutes play. Lapworth swung the ball in front of goal. It was only partially cleared and the winger again placed the ball squarely before the net. It seemed that Boon had missed his chance, but he recovered and put the ball past Yewen.



Twenty minutes after half-time Brown had brilliantly saved one shot by throwing himself full-length, the ball went out to Wagstaffe who shot hard into the bottom of the net. Borough went ahead again, following good work by Bond, who cleverly hooked the ball over an opponent's head and then headed the ball forward. The ball was then slipped across into the middle and Murdin made no mistake from close range. The home side went further ahead when Boon was a little too quick for Yewen and lifted the ball over his head and into the net.

In the last minute it seemed that Pearce had shot into the side net and that the ball had gone through into goal. But the referee awarded a goal. Brown was under the impression that it actually had gone through the side net, but after the match Rouse and other Nuneaton players said that it was a perfectly legitimate goal.

Borough could never match the skill of the Works XI, but they persevered and, what is more, succeeded where their opponents had failed – in the important art of accepting their scoring chances. Actually the home side had few scoring chances and that they eventually won was due to the alacrity with which they accepted those openings. The home defence had a tough time throughout. They were often thrown out of position by the skilful manoeuvring of the Works' attack.

## Death of Ernest Kester



In his day one of the best goalkeepers outside English League football in this district, Mr Ernest Kester passed away at his home, Watling Street, Dordon, last Thursday after a short illness.

Kester started his football career with Dordon Institute FC and was then signed on as a professional by Nuneaton Town FC and played for that club for many seasons in the

Southern League and in the Birmingham League.

During that lengthy period he served the club grandly and it is true to say that he had no superior in either the Southern or the Birmingham District Leagues.

After leaving Nuneaton he played for Hinckley United in the Birmingham Combination and finished his career with the Atherstone Town Club, also in the Birmingham Combination. He leaves a widow and four children

As a token of respect to the late Ernest Kester, in their match against the Birmingham and District Works AFA at Manor Park on Saturday, the Borough players wore black armbands and before the kick-off both teams lined up in the centre of the field and stood for two minutes' silence. The spectators joined in the tribute.

## Arley Rectory v Nuneaton Borough 04-03-1944

**Nuneaton (pre-selected team):** Brown, Topp, Chapman, Curtis, Rouse, Bond, Clark, Paul, Boon, Murdin, Lapworth.

Borough travelled to Arley Rectory to play a Nuneaton Combination fixture.

The first goal came after 18 minutes' play, Bridges finding the mark with a fine long shot. Brown was slightly out of his goal and although he reached for the ball, it went over him and entered the goal just underneath the bar. Bridges repeated the performance about a quarter of an hour later. Brown had come out near the edge of the penalty area to save at full-length. The ball went back to Bridges who, again from long range shot for goal. Both Brown and Hopkins dashed back to try to prevent a goal but the ball beat them both and went through the untenanted goal.

Arley's third goal, which came in the last minute, was easily the best of the match. Following a hot Borough attack the ball was punted well down field. An Arley forward seized on it and when challenged slipped the ball across to Jackson who had moved into the middle. He raced forward a few yards and then fired in a grand shot which beat Brown all the way.

Borough still had hopes of annexing the Nuneaton Combination championship before the game, but these hopes look to be over. The Rectory were certainly not a great side, but they were always just a little bit too keen for the Borough. The visitors had many scoring chances, but if there was one thing they seldom looked like doing it was converting those chances into goals.

The whole team was ill-at-ease throughout. The defence was shaky while the forwards made few moves worthy of the name. And their finishing – well, it was just about as crude as it could have been.

## Nuneaton Borough v Ansley St. John's 11-03-1944

Borough welcomed Ansley St. John's to Manor Park for the semi-final of the Footballers' Bed Cup.

It was obvious from the start that referee Bates was going to handle the game firmly – and handle it firmly he did. The result was that the only course the match could take was football skill versus football skill and no nonsense; and the result speaks for itself.

The game was won and lost in the first-half. Aided by a strong, following wind, St. John's attacked steadily from the start and kept the Borough defence working at high pressure. They had a number of anxious moments, never more so than when Boffin fired in a grand shot which Brown saved at the foot of the post; but where St. John's failed was in the all-important art of keeping their heads near goal. It seemed that if Borough could only hold out until the interval, it would be plain sailing afterwards.

But the Borough did much better than that. After holding

their rivals during that hectic first half-hour, they sailed in with determination. Clark was sent away on the right and when he put the ball in front of the Ansley goal, Lapworth sent it into the net with his head. That was Shock No. 1 for the visitors and Shock No. 2 was not long delayed. Less than a minute later Arthur Knight deputising for Murdin at inside-left, cracked another one past Wood and before half-time Paul put St. John's well and truly out of the competition with a hard low cross-shot after Lapworth had bamboozled the defence with a back-heel pass.

It was all over bar the shouting, and although St. John's were encouraged by a goal in the early minutes of the second half, when Boffin took advantage of a defensive slip to defeat Brown from close in, the visitors' fighting spirit had long since departed. Quickly Borough restored their three clear goal lead when Wood got himself all tied up when hotly pressed and punched the ball into his own net while lying full-length in the goalmouth. Boon had no difficulty in making it 5-1 after Wood had only partially parried a hard drive; the same player made it 6-1 when he had the simplest of tasks in converting a beautifully placed Lapworth corner kick; and before the end, Lapworth rounded off the scoring with a shot from close in.

## Ansley St. John's Protest Dismissed

The protest of Ansley St. John's alleging that Nuneaton Borough FC had played an ineligible player – Brown, the goalkeeper – in the Bed Cup semi-final, which Borough won 7-1, was dealt with at a meeting of the League Committee on Monday night.

The complaint was that Brown had played against two other teams in the competition.

On evidence being given it was found that the dates produced by St. John's did not coincide with the matches concerned, and the Borough FC secretary, Mr Ron Talbot, produced written evidence from the RAF that Brown had not taken part in any matches connected with the Bed Cup.

The protest was therefore dismissed and St John's ordered to forfeit their protest deposit.

## Nuneaton Borough v Harry Hibbs' XI 18-03-1944

**Nuneaton (pre-selected team): Richards, Topp, Chapman, Curtis, Rouse, Bond, Clark, Paul, Boon, Murdin, Lapworth.**

Borough welcomed a Harry Hibbs' XI to Manor Park for a friendly match.

The visitors scored the first, and best, goal of the match. Hibbs slipped the ball down the middle to Vinall, who headed it down to Johnson, the outside-left, and after running only a few yards the winger beat Brown with a really grand shot.

There was a bit of luck about all the Borough's goals. When Lapworth made the score 1-1 – that was the half-time

score – Chard had failed to hold the ball following a cross by Wannacott and Lapworth seized on the ball to slam it hard into the bottom of the net. The goalkeeper failed to hold the ball when Paul put the Borough ahead; and when they got their third goal in the last minute, Chard could only beat down a hard drive by Paul – and Murdin shot hard into the roof of the net from the rebound. Having said all that, the visitors' keeper was one of their best performers.

Borough's attack failed to function and Paul was not at home in the middle. After half-time Paul changed places with Murdin, but the home line worked anything but smoothly.

The attack was lacking in finishing power, as Borough had enough chances in the second half to have made it double figures. All the forwards missed sitters, not once but in some instances two or three times. Both Paul and Murdin, after completely outwitting the defence, went right up to the goalkeeper and then failed to beat him.

Both teams were below strength. On Hibbs' side a notable absentee was Richmond, who has played for Walsall several times this season. No doubt his absence upset the visitors' attack which, on the whole, lacked venom, in no small measure due to Rouse's close shadowing of Vinall, the Sunderland and Norwich centre-forward. Rouse did his job so well that Vinall had precious little chance to shine.

## Nuneaton Borough v Ansley Social 25-03-1944

**Nuneaton (from): A. N. Other, Topp, Chapman, Curtis, Rouse, Bond, Clark, Smith, Rosbrook, Paul, Murdin, Lapworth, Hopkins.**

Borough welcomed championship contenders Ansley Social to Manor Park for a Nuneaton Combination match.

Although Borough had a two goal start, they were not good enough to beat their opponents, and dropping another point probably meant "goodbye" to the League championship. Ansley, too, lost a valuable point – a point which might very easily have it repercussions later on.

Borough were slightly the better side in the first-half, but on the actual run of the game were probably a trifle fortunate to be leading by two clear goals at half-time. A single goal just about represented their superiority. But, after the change of ends it was Ansley's turn to hold the upper hand.

Borough took the lead after 13 minutes when following a centre by Rosbrook, a defender fumbled a clearance and left Turner with an easy task to beat Loveridge. About a quarter of an hour later Turner neatly back-heeled the ball when it seemed to be going wide, and this time Rosbrook scored from close in. A quarter of an hour after half-time, Stain reduced the lead with a header from Veasey's corner kick, and after 25 minutes Mason levelled the scores from a penalty kick after Rouse had handled the ball in the penalty area.

A draw was a good result. It just about represented the merits of the two teams. Had Borough been good enough they would have won, for a two goals' lead is a good start; but they

# Nuneaton Borough 1937-1945



petered out after half-time and it took them all their time to finish all square. There is no doubt about it, poor forward play let the home side down, with Rosbrook and Turner being poor substitutes for Boon and Clark.

## Nuneaton Borough v Harry Hibbs' XI 01-04-1944

**Nuneaton (from): Richards, Topp, Chapman, Curtis, Rouse, Bond, Clark, Paul, Murdin, Lapworth, Liggins, Wannacott, Hopkins.**

Borough travelled to Tamworth to play Harry Hibbs XI in a friendly match.

On paper the home side looked good winners; in practice things were not quite so easy. Indeed, it was not until two minutes from the end that Hibbs' team drew level. Topp, Boon, Paul, Murdin and Lapworth were all absent from the visiting side and the forward line in particular looked stranger-like.

Clarke was at outside-right, Spacey, a Bedworth youth, at inside-right, Rouse at centre-forward, Hood at inside-left, and Liggins, of the Sea Cadets, at outside-left. Bond returned to the right-half position and Richards again kept goal – but the biggest and most pleasant surprise was the appearance of Les Latham, the Aston Villa man, at centre-half. Latham is back in this country after three years' service abroad, and this was his first game in England since he joined the colours.

Hibbs had several well-known players in his side this time. There was Smith, of Leicester City, at centre-half, Hibbs himself at left-half, Lycett, of Leicester City, at inside-right; Vinall, Sunderland and Norwich at centre-forward, and O'Brien, the Irish international at inside-left.

Territorially, the home side had the better of matters and their forwards gave Nuneaton's defenders many anxious moments; but as at Manor Park, their finishing was again very patchy.

With far fewer scoring chances, Borough were much the more impressive side in front of goal – this despite an early injury to Rouse which rendered him almost a passenger for most of the game. The real artiste was Spacey. He displayed neat ball control and greatly worried Hibbs' defenders with his choice down-the-middle passes.

Borough's goal was a neat piece of work. Clark got away on the right-wing and slipped the ball inside to Rouse. When challenged, the latter, in turn slipped it to Hood, who, closing in, beat Chard with a well-placed shot. O'Neil got the home goal. The ball came over from the left and meeting it first-time, the outside-right shot hard into the net.

## Nuneaton Borough v Higham Lane YC 08-04-1944

**Nuneaton (from): Topp, Wannacott, Paul, Murdin, Lapworth, O'Grady, Liggins, Marshall, Moreton, Jakeman, Lovell.**

Borough welcomed Higham Lane Youth Club, champions of the Senior Bible Class League, to Manor Park. Fielding a side which included several youngsters Borough had to fight hard to beat the visitors.

Higham Lane were every bit as good as, and at times better, than the Borough, until late in the game – and then under constant pressure they cracked up and in the end were well beaten. Of the young players, L. Jakeman, aged 14, playing at inside-left, and Liggins, at outside-right, were easily the pick, the former, especially, catching the eye.

Higham Lane, who lost the services of F. Wooding early on – he injured his arm and had to be taken to hospital – and were allowed to field Tallis as substitute, played well in midfield, but lacked finish. They neglected many easy scoring chances. Allen and Smith shone.

Borough went ahead with goals by Wannacott and S. Jakeman, but Allen (2) and Bates gave the Youth Centre a 3-2 half-time lead. In the second half Murdin equalised and then put the Borough ahead. L. Jakeman made the score 5-3. Tomlinson reduced the lead but, before the end Liggins and Murdin made the score 7-4.

## Nuneaton Borough v Ansley Social 10-04-1944

**Nuneaton (pre-selected team): Machin, Topp, Chapman, Curtis, Latham, Bond, Clark, Paul, A. N. Other, Murdin and Lapworth.**

Nuneaton welcomed Ansley Social to Manor Park for the final of the Footballers' Bed Cup. There was a large crowd.

The result was a good one despite all the arguments about disallowed goals. Ansley might have considered themselves unlucky in having an early goal disallowed, but equally, Borough might complain that Lovering, the Social goalkeeper fetched a shot back from over the goal-line.

The goals were good ones and Wannacott set the ball rolling with a grand shot from about 25 yards out. And, strange to relate, while Lovering, their goalkeeper, was off the field injured, the visitors not only drew level, but went ahead. Hall made all the running for the first goal by dribbling his way through and then slipping the ball across to Martin who made no mistake with a clear chance. Two minutes later, the same player put his side ahead with another well-placed shot. Social led 2-1 at half-time.

About a quarter of an hour after half-time George Hardy deputising for Paul, send Murdin through with a delightful pass, and the inside-left shot hard past Lovering from close range to level the scores. Not long afterwards, Hardy put his side ahead with a well-judged shot, but some time later, not to be denied, the Social broke away and when the ball was sent down the middle, Martin fastened on to it and went on to complete a clever hat-trick of goals. That ended the scoring.

Two young lads did well in the Borough side. Machin, in goal, gave a good account of himself. One save of his curiously enough, from one of his own players, a header by Wannacott, was first-class. The other lad, Liggins, also came through a trying ordeal with no little credit. He only had one clear scoring chance, and was unlucky in seeing his shot hit the underside of the bar.



## Nuneaton Borough v Higham Lane YC 30-04-1944

**Nuneaton (pre-selected team):** Machin, Topp, Chapman, Curtis, Latham, Bond, Clark, Paul, A. N. Other, Murdin and Lapworth.

Borough welcomed Higham Lane Youth Club, champions of the Senior Bible Class League, to Manor Park. The game was for the benefit of R. Wooding, who fractured his elbow when the teams met previously.

There was nothing at stake and Borough played a mixed team, but there was no excuse for giving a woefully weak and completely uninspiring exhibition. The winners played as a team, which was more than could be said of the losers. Borough's forward line, with Charles and Wannacott on the extreme wing and 14-year-old Jakeman at inside-left, never looked like getting goals because, instead of playing as a combined force, they all seemed to be obsessed with the idea of getting goals by individual efforts. Through this reason chances galore were missed while, in goal, Machin must have had one of his easiest afternoons of the whole season.

Against a strong Youth Centre defence, in which Naylor, of Herberts, was always outstanding at centre-half, he was the best player on the field on the day's showing – these tactics were doomed to failure, as indeed they deserved to be. The Borough defence was shaky, with Rouse trying out his injured knee, obviously still not fit. Cooper, from the Earl Shilton area, was moderately successful at left-half. Goodwin, of the Sea Cadets did some useful work in goal and could not be blamed in any way for his side's defeat.

Topp found Langford of the RAF, who has had trials with the Arsenal Colts, an elusive and speedy customer, and Phillips of the Youth Centre, who deputised for Chapman at left-back was as good as any in the defence.

The Youth Centre led 1-0 at half-time as a result of a goal by Langford. Morris (2) and K. Cartwright made their lead 4-0, and it was not until near the end that Charles reduced the lead with a hard drive from close range, which Machin allowed to go through his legs into the net.

## Nuneaton Borough v Harry Hibbs XI 06-05-1944

**Nuneaton (from):** Machin, Topp, Chapman, Bond, Naylor, Wannacott, Clark, Lapworth, Boon, Murdin, Langford, Liggins, Charles, Hopkins.

Borough welcomed a Harry Hibbs' XI to Manor Park for a match in aid of the Mayor's Red Cross Fund. Harry Hibbs donated one of his international caps as a gate prize.

The visitors prove too strong for a weakened Borough side, who were without their two regular full-backs, Topp and Chapman, for whom Brockhouse and Hopkins deputised. Curtis was absent from right-half and Wooding, of Higham Lane Youth Centre, took his place. And, to make things worse, Lapworth had to leave the field just after half-time through injury, and for most of the second half the home side had only ten men.

The visitors played excellent football throughout and indulged in some neat passing movements which kept the Borough defenders working at full stretch. Simpson was prominent at full-back and Smith at half-back. Their attack was a strong one and was well led by Boonham. Hibbs and Lycett made many openings for their colleagues.

Borough stuck to their task well until they lost Lapworth. then they were always fighting an uphill battle. Boon led the attack strongly and gave the visiting defence many anxious moments. Naylor gave a good display at centre-half.

The first-half was goalless but three minutes after the change of ends Boonham opened the visitors' account with a header from Tierney's centre. The same player got a second with an easy opening and then completed his hat-trick. Clark reduced the lead and from a penalty for a foul on Murdin, Bond made the score 3-2, but in the last ten minutes Smith twice netted for the visitors.

## Nuneaton Borough v Fire Service 13-05-1944

**Nuneaton (from):** Machin, Topp, Hopkins, Wooding, Naylor, Wannacott, Liggins, Boon, Murdin, Lapworth, Higginson, A. N. Other.

Borough welcomed the Coventry and Nuneaton Fire Service to Manor Park for a game in aid of the NFS Benevolent Fund.

In the last match of the season, Borough beat the NFS by four goals to one. There was little to choose between the teams in the first-half, Borough leading 1-0 at half-time as a result of a goal scored after 25 minutes' play by Murdin.

Six minutes after half-time Brown levelled the scores, but afterwards the home side had matters much their own way. Sixteen minutes after the interval Murdin headed through from Wooding's centre to put the Borough ahead again. Six minutes later Murdin completed his hat-trick with another header, and Wannacott completed the scoring from a penalty awarded for handball.

## Nuneaton Combination Final Table 1943-1944

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Haunchwood Institute	22	17	3	2			37
Nuneaton Borough	22	17	1	4			35
Ansley St John's	22	16	3	3			35
Ansley Social	21	16	2	3			34
RAFA	22	12	1	9			25
Arley Rectory	22	11	2	9			24
Bulkington Rangers	22	9	1	12			19
Griff Colliery	22	7	2	13			16
Sphinx	21	4	2	15			10
Coton Rangers	22	4	2	16			10
RAF B	22	3	3	16			9
Bucks Hill WMC	22	3	0	19			6



## Borough FC Review 1943-44

### Three Players Obtain Over 30 Goals

Three seasons ago, Borough FC, in their first wartime venture in the Nuneaton Combination Football League, won the championship and the Bed Cup. Two seasons ago they finished runners-up and won both the Bed and Hospital Cups; in the season just ended they again finished runners-up by virtue of their superior goal-average over Ansley St. John's – and are fifty-fifty holders of the Bed Cup, in the final of which they drew 3-3 with Ansley Social Club on Easter Monday.

Though there has been a steady decline therefore, in their success during these three seasons, taken by and large the side has again played a leading part in the League's activities. One imagines it will be conceded that no team in the league could match the Borough side when at full strength, in the real art of football accomplishments. Yet it was their persistency in attempting to play the same type of game on grounds obviously not suited to accurate football that cost them valuable League points – and the championship. But it is all for the good of the game that the honours should go round, and no one associated with the Borough Club will begrudge Haunchwood Institute their championship success.

In any event, the champions proved their merit by being the only side in the League to take four points out of the Borough. That speaks for itself quite apart from the fact that the 'Stute always played thoroughly sporting football.

At Manor Park only the champions succeeded in lowering the Borough's colours in the League. Here they even overcame the talented Birmingham and District Works' League side, undoubtedly the best team they met throughout the season. Ansley Social was the only side to hold them at Manor Park – 2-2 in the League and 3-3 in the final of the Bed Cup

### Indifferent Away Form

Away, the team displayed indifferent form, largely because they failed in the all-important art of playing according to the state of the pitch. Their worst displays were in their two away matches (in the League and first round of the President's Cup) with Ansley St. John's, who deservedly beat them 3-0 and 5-3 respectively; at Galley Common where, in their first game of the season, they were beaten 5-2 by Haunchwood, and against Leicester City Colts, who beat them 9-1.

The club's best displays were against the Birmingham and District Works' League side and against RAF and Ansley Social, both away. And in the last two named games the visitors took the field with sadly weakened sides.

Injuries to players and callings-up played no small part in the club's variable form towards the end of the season. Those three stalwarts, Boon, Rouse and Paul, were absent for several weeks. Bond missed a number of games when his presence was most needed, while those two extremely promising youngsters, Clark, the outside-right, and Richards, the goalkeeper, received their calling-up papers. Clark was

able to appear occasionally afterwards, but Richards only managed to get in a couple of games during a leave.

### No Superiors

Several of the Borough players had no superiors in the League – Topp, at right-back, Rouse, at centre-half, Bond, at left-half, Boon, at centre-forward, and Lapworth at outside-right. Probably the League's leading goalscorer with 39 goals to his credit, Boon was always a good leader, his only real fault being an inclination to over-dribble. But he certainly knew where the net lay.

Another remarkable performance, judged by any standard, was that of Lapworth, who netted 33 goals. For an extreme winger that is good going, though quite a dozen of those goals came from penalties. He only failed once from the spot during the whole season. The other principal goalscorer was Murdin with 31 goals. Paul's tally of 18 goals was an insignificant contribution, viewed in the light that in the two previous seasons he bagged over a hundred goals. But this season he did not settle down at centre-forward and preferred the inside-right berth, where he gave some fine displays of forceful foraging, though lacking his previous finishing qualities. He missed several games towards the end of the season.

### Good Defence

Borough had a consistently good defence, in which the three most regular halves, Curtis, Rouse and Bond, played a prominent part. Topp, the skipper, was always prominent at right full-back. Chapman, too, gave some useful displays, though there were times when he failed effectively to mark the opposing wingman. Richards was a thoroughly capable young goalkeeper, and the club seems to have unearthed a worthy successor in Machin, of Higham Lane Youth Centre.

One cannot conclude this summary of the season's activities without a word of praise for Ben Wannacott. As trainer and coach he has done invaluable work and when called upon to play, always graced the proceedings with his football artistry. Hopkins, too, has rendered the club yeoman service.

### Goal Scorers

The goalscorers were as follows:

Boon.....	39
Lapworth .....	33
Murdin.....	31
Paul .....	18
Clark.....	7
Wannacott .....	5
Bond .....	4
Coley .....	2
Liggins.....	2

Booton, Goffin, Curtis, Hammersley, A. Knight, Rosbrook, Turner, L. Jakeman, C. Jakeman, Hardy and Charles one each.

## Prefab Houses To Be Built

Post-war housing, particularly with regard to prefabricated houses and Coventry's experiments in that direction was dealt with by Mr D. E. Gibson, MA, Coventry City architect, when he addressed the members of Nuneaton Rotary Club on Monday.

Mr Gibson said that in their present experiments with new prefabricated houses they were finding out ideas which would probably find their way into the ordinary housing in years to come.

Referring to the type of prefabricated house they were working on at Coventry, he said it had a metal frame which carried all the loads, roof, floors and walls. There was on the outside an outer skin which took care of the water and an inner lining. With brick houses the bricks had to do three jobs, namely, carry load, keep water out and heat in. In this new experiment they had sub-divided into three parts, with one material for each job. They could double the heat insulation of the ordinary brick house...

## Nuneaton Borough AGM

### Team To Again Compete in Nuneaton Combination

The annual meeting of the Nuneaton Borough Football Club was held at the Nag's Head, Queen's Road, and was presided over by Mr Harry Watkins (chairman of the Directors).

The financial statement showed a balance of £9 on the past season's activities. The Directors Messrs. H. Watkins, F. Watkins, F. J. Perry, B. Carris, R. Carris, W. Barrs and J. G. Till were re-elected.

Mr R. A. Plant was re-elected auditor and was thanked by the secretary (Mr. Ron Tablot) for all the assistance he had rendered him during the past season. A discussion took place regarding the club's future activities.

Mr Talbot reported there was no prospect of the Birmingham Combination functioning next season.

Satisfaction was expressed at the likelihood of clubs having to sign players in the Nuneaton Combination next season and the club again decided to compete in that league.

With regard to the proposed formation of a boys' team next season, it was agreed, before making any decision, that enquiries should be made regarding the availability of the Manor Park football ground.

Mr Leslie C. Hale was appointed solicitor to the club in place of the late Mr T. Finch.

### Borough FC and Boys' Team

At a meeting of the Nuneaton Borough FC directors on Monday night the question of running a boys' team next season was discussed and it was decided to call a meeting

of boys under 17 years of age in the near future to hear their views on the project.

Mr Harry Watkins was re-elected chairman of the Board and Mr F. J. Perry vice-chairman. Mr J. G. Till was proposed and seconded for the position of vice-chairman, but declined to accept office, and himself proposed the re-election of Mr Perry to that position. Mr Ron Talbot was re-elected secretary.

## Nuneaton Combination AGM

A strong financial position was revealed at the 25th annual meeting of the Nuneaton Combination at the Nag's Head Inn, Nuneaton.

Mr B. Jarvis presided in the absence, through illness, of the chairman, Mr W. J. Shaw.

Presenting his 25th annual report and financial statement, Mr F. J. Perry (hon. secretary), said: "It is pleasing to be able to report that the League, after five seasons under war conditions, is still able to discharge its many duties and obligations. We commenced the season with twelve clubs and with the exception of one club, all carried out their obligations to the other clubs and the League. The defaulting club was dealt with according to the rule. The League championship was won by Haunchwood Institute, and Ansley Social Club were termed runners-up on a percentage basis according to rule.

### Credit of £90

"The financial position of the League is one to be proud of. We commenced the season with a balance of £71 7s. 5d. and finished with £90 5s. 8d. to our credit. Ansley Social Club and Nuneaton Borough are joint holders of the Footballers' Bed Cup. A drawn game was the result of the final match, with a record attendance and £30 was handed over to the Bed Fund and a balance of £19 3s. 1d. carried forward. Arley Rectory won the President's Cup, with Ansley Social Club runners-up. It is not too much to ask that all will unite in one effort to keep the League in being as evidence of their belief in our certain victory and the restoration of the game to its former status. In conclusion, may I return my very best thanks to all for the loyal support given me as your secretary."

Officers for 1944-45 were elected as follows: President, Mr H. Watkins; chairman, Mr W. J. Shaw; vice-chairman, Mr B. Jarvis; hon. secretary, F. J. Perry (26th year). The resignation of Bucks Hill WMC was accepted.

### Registration of Players

With regard to Rule 9 (registration forms), it was agreed to revert to the pre-war rule which will mean that all players will have to sign a registration form for the club he intends to play for.

New clubs and referees should apply for membership before July 31.

# Nuneaton Borough 1937-1945



## 1943-44

Date	Opponent	Venue	Comp	Result	Scorers	Attendance
09.18	Haunchwood Institute	A	NC	2-5	Lapworth, Wannacott	
09.25	Arley Rectory	A	FBC	3-1	Lapworth, Murdin (2)	
10.02	Bulkington Rangers	H	NC	5-1	Murdin (2), Paul, Lapworth, Booton	
10.09	Ansley St John's	A	PC 1	3-5	Lapworth (2, 1pen), Paul	
10.16	Ansley St John's	H	NC	3-1	Lapworth (2), Murdin	
10.23	Arley Rectory	H	NC	5-2	Murdin (2), Paul, Bond, Clarke	
10.30	Sphinx	H	NC	10-2	Lapworth (3), Murdin (2), Goffin (2) Coley, Clarke, Paul	
11.06	Coton Rangers	A	NC	5-0	Boon (2), Bond, Lapworth, Clarke (o.g.)	
11.13	Bucks Hill WMC	H	NC	16-0	Boon (7), Munding (4), Paul (3), Clark, Lapworth	
11.20	Sphinx	A	NC	6-0	Boon (4), Clarke, Paul	
11.27	RAF B	H	NC	10-1	Harris (o.g.), Boon (2), Paul (2), Bond, Clarke, Murdin, Lapworth (2)	
12.04	Griff Colliery	A	NC	5-0	Paul (2), Boon, Lapworth, Clarke	
12.11	Coton Rangers	H	NC	7-0	Boon (3), Lapworth (2, 1pen), Paul, Murdin	
12.18	RAF B	A	NC	3-0	Boon (2), Lapworth	
12.26	RAF A	H	Friendly	4-2	Lapworth (2), Murdin (2)	
01.01	Bulkington Rangers	A	NC	8-1	Boon (4), Paul (2), Wannacott, Lapworth	
01.08	Haunchwood Institute	H	NC	1-3	Lapworth (pen)	
01.15	RAF A	A	NC	6-2	Lapworth (2, 1pen), Murdin (2), Boon, Paul	
01.22	Griff Colliery	H	NC	8-1	Lapworth (4), Murdin (2), Boon (2)	
01.29	Bucks Hill WMC	A	NC	7-0	Boon (4), Paul, Golightly (o.g.), Lapworth	
02.05	RAF A	H	NC	3-0	Hammersley, Curtis, Paul	
02.12	Leicester City	A	Friendly	2-9	Boon, Murdin	
02.19	Ansley St John's	A	NC	0-3		
02.26	B'ham & District Works League	H	Friendly	3-2	Boon (2), Murdin	
03.04	Arley Rectory	A	NC	0-3		
03.11	Ansley St Johns	H	FBC S-F	7-1	Lapworth (2), Boon (2) A. Knight, Paul, Wood (o.g.)	
03.18	Harry Hibbs' XI	H	Friendly	3-1	Lapworth, Paul, Murdin	
03.25	Ansley Social	H	NC	2-2	Turner, Rosbrook	
04.01	Harry Hibbs' XI	A	Friendly	1-1	Hood	
04.01	Higham Lane Youth Centre	H	Friendly	7-4	Murdin (3), L. Jakeman, Wannacott, S. Jakeman, Liggins	
04.10	Ansley Social	H	FBC Final	3-3	Wannacott, Murdin, Hardy	Trophy Shared
04.14	Ansley Social	A	NC	5-2	Clark (2), Boon (2), Liggins	
04-29	Higham Lane Youth Centre	H	Benefit	1-4	Charles	
05.06	Harry Hibbs' XI	H	Friendly	2-5	Clark, Bond	
05.13	Coventry & Nuneaton Fire Service	H	Friendly	4-1	Murdin (3), Wannacott	

KEY: NC – Nuneaton Combination; FBC – Footballer's Bed Cup; PC – President's Cup

## Boys' Trial Match At Manor Park

Nuneaton Borough FC are holding a practice match on Saturday, in connection with their boys' team.

Two teams will be selected from: Barnsley, Clarke, Wilson, Holland, Yorke, Moore, Heritage, Lapworth, Crampton, Bate, Stanford, Walton, A. Paul, Higginson, Albrighton, Morrow, Scoffham, Davies, Jakeman, Jackson, Griffiths, White, Beresford, Hollings, Saunders, Farmer, Gazeley and Arnold.

Players meet at Manor Park at 3pm. Kick-off 3-30pm. The first team will be having a trial game the following Saturday.

## Tarran Houses



"I wouldn't mind living in one myself," the Mayor, Ald. J. Bates told an "Observer" reporter after visiting Hull, with the Borough Surveyor, Mr R. C. Moon, and Mr G. E. Wincott, the well-known Nuneaton builder, to inspect the Tarran show houses.

The Tarran House is a unit-construction dwelling, consisting of wood and concrete, and can be assembled in eight hours. One skilled man and a team of unskilled men or women can erect it and it is said to be simpler than building a Meccano toy.

"My impression was that it is a fine achievement," said the Mayor. In his opinion it would last for 50 years and more if well maintained..."

## Borough FC's Practice Match

Blue and Whites beat Red and Whites 3-2 at Manor Park on Saturday in Borough FC's practice match.

As only Curtis and Machin of the probable first team were available, the match was really a run-out for new players and juniors.

The two goalkeepers Machin and Powell, both did well, whilst a most promising display was given at centre-half by Higginson. Wilson, at centre-forward and Wooding, at right back, also did well. An outside-right from the Sea Cadets showed promise, while a number of lads from the boys' team were seen to advantage.

## The Black-Out To Go

The Government has given an unmistakable hint as to what they think of the war situation by abandoning restrictions to which they were clinging tenaciously but a few weeks ago.

As from September 17 the black-out is to be relaxed; in a very large part of the country Fire Guard duties are to be suspended as from September 12; and as from Monday next compulsory drills and training of the Home Guard, including assistance in Civil Defence, is to be discontinued.

All this is most welcome news, but none more so than the relaxation of the black-out, a dreadful infliction that has symbolised all the horrors of modern war – a restriction that has weighed so heavily upon the spirits of the nation for so long and weary a period of time.

It is all most heartening and a sure sign that the war in the West is, in the opinion of the Government, drawing to its close, or, in any event, has reached a point when the enemy's power to attack this country has waned to the point of being negligible. But should Hitler, in sheer desperation, care to try his luck again, the people of this country will not be found lacking. They will rise as one man to combat the danger.

## 1944-45

*All team line-ups are announced in Friday's newspaper and sometimes bear no relation to the team that actually took part.*

### Nuneaton Borough v Higham Lane YC 02-09-1944

**Nuneaton (from):** Machin, Topp, Muggleton, Naylor, Curtis, Higginson, Williams, Paul, Crummack, Lapworth, Wooding, Albrighton, Coles.

Nuneaton Borough's friendly match with Higham Lane Youth Centre was abandoned a quarter of an hour after half-time with the Borough leading 3-2. Lapworth completed a hat-trick for Borough and Taylor got both goals for Higham Lane.

Wannacott made all the running for Borough's first goal, beating two men and then passing to Lapworth, who cut in to open his side's account. Taylor got an equaliser with a shot from 20 yards. The score was 1-1 at half-time.

Taylor gave the visitors the lead shortly after half-time, following a scramble in the Borough goalmouth. Lapworth equalised with a hard drive, which Watkins pushed against the upright from which the ball rebounded into the net and shortly afterwards the outside-left beat all opposition to give his side the lead with another fine shot.

### Nuneaton Borough v RAF B 09-09-1944

**Nuneaton (from):** Machin, Topp, Wannacott, Curtis, Rouse, Naylor, Williams, Paul, Hardy, Crummack, Freeman, Hopkins.

Borough welcomed RAF B to Manor Park for the opening league game of the 1944-45 season.



# Nuneaton Borough 1937-1945



Although it was a convincing win, the Borough side had some obvious defects. The most patent being on the extreme wings where Williams and Freeman operated with very moderate success, although there were times when the latter did some neat things. Still, there is no need to worry about the extreme left position as Lapworth will be there next week. He, Crummack and Naylor should quickly strike up a happy association.

Despite any weaknesses, Borough settled down to play some neat football. The visitors flattered to deceive. They struck off on a high note, swinging the ball about freely and making direct tracks for goal. Twice they took the lead in the early stages, quite deservedly, too, but when once Borough had got ahead – well, the result was never in doubt, although the Airmen never stopped trying.

In Harris, at outside-left, they had the best winger on the field and in Watkins an intelligent partner. Chigwell put in a good deal of hard work at left full-back. The visitors' first two goals both scored by Watkins, one with a neat header, were good ones; their third obtained by Diss, was the direct outcome of a misunderstanding between Machin and Topp, who both left the ball to each other.

Borough got some smart goals too, none being better than the one scored by Wannacott, who netted with a delightful shot from 25 yards range. Hardy's first goal was smartly taken for, as the goalkeeper came out to meet him, he coolly lifted the ball over his head into the untenanted goal. Paul and Williams also got nice goals. Paul (3), Hardy (2), Williams (2) and Wannacott scored for the Borough and Watkins (2) and Boyd for the losers.

## Coton Rangers v Nuneaton Borough 16-09-1944

**Nuneaton (from): Machin, Topp, Freeman, Higginson, Rouse, Naylor, Liggins, Paul, Hardy, Crummack, Lapworth, Williams, Hopkins.**

Borough took on Coton Rangers in a Nuneaton Combination game played at the Pingle Fields.

Borough started off with a rush, Paul netting twice in the first five minutes. Hardy made all the running for the first goal, with the inside-right just having to touch the ball through; and it was from a delightful centre from Naylor, that Paul headed his second. After Hardy had headed against the bar, Crummack scored a neat third goal from a centre by Lapworth; and Hardy made it 4-0 with a header from Crummack's centre.

In the second half Hardy made an opening for Lapworth to score number five with a hard cross-shot. Hardy got the sixth goal by shooting past the goalkeeper and Paul the seventh, heading home to complete his hat-trick.

Hardy, who led the attack with great ability and steadiness, must have despaired at times whether he would ever get a good centre. Despite this he scored two goals himself and made the openings for many others. He was well-supported by Paul, who again got three goals, and Crummack.

Naylor was again the best half-back; he always continued to control the ball before making a pass, but he would do well now and again to get a ball over to the other wing. Higginson made a promising debut at right-half, but there were times when his passes were a little too obvious. If he introduced a little variation into this play he would quickly develop into a very useful wing-half. In the absence of Wannacott, Freeman appeared at left full-back and made a good job of it.

## Nuneaton Borough v RAF A 22-09-1944

**Nuneaton (from): Machin, Topp, Curtis, Naylor, Rouse, Higginson, Lycett, Paul, Hardy, Crummack, Lapworth, A. N. Other, Hopkins.**

Borough welcomed RAF A to Manor Park for a Nuneaton Combination game. The home side included two Leicester City players, Lycett and Eric Smith, in their side.

Lycett got two of the Borough's goals, the first in the first five minutes when he beat Ivey from a narrow angle and the second early in the second half, when he dribbled in from the wing and scored with a shot which found the only spot where it could have got by the goalkeeper. Paul got the other in the first-half when, from a pass by Lycett, he shot through from close range. The Airmen got their first when in trying to head away a centre from the right, Topp steered the ball past his own keeper. McDougal obtained the other with a neat header from a clever centre by Wright.

On paper, the Borough side looked good enough for anything, but as things turned out they had to struggle – and mightily hard too. In many respects the visitors were the better side. After a first-half which produced some exceptionally clever football, Borough fell away and the RAF improved so much so, indeed, that during the last half-hour the home team were definitely struggling and were fortunate to have held on to a single goal lead after being 3-0 up at one period.

That they had to struggle so hard to prevent the visitors drawing level, was largely the Borough's own fault. Although in midfield the Airmen were superior tacticians and at times overplayed the Borough wing-halves, with the result that Rouse, the two backs and goalkeeper scarcely had a moment's respite, Borough had enough chances to have won the game decisively. But a more ineffective display in front of goal is difficult to imagine.

## Nuneaton Borough v Sphinx 30-09-1944

**Nuneaton (from): Machin, Topp, Freeman, Smith, Higginson, Rouse, Naylor, Lycett, Paul, Hardy, Crummack, Lapworth.**

Borough welcomed Sphinx to Manor Park for a President's Cup tie. Paul was absent, as he was leading the Coventry City attack against West Bromwich Albion at the Hawthorns. Hardy was injured.

It was not a one-sided game by any means and there were times when the visitors played reasonably well in midfield, but their approach work generally lacked method and punch. Their defence stood up pluckily to the rather over-elaborate

Borough attack and though W. Cotton blundered badly when Naylor got the home side's first goal – he allowed a simple forward punt to pass through his hands – taking the game by and large, he did his side good service and made a number of excellent saves. Middleton tackled well at right-half and did not allow Lapworth to have matters all his own way.

A feature of the Borough's play was the intelligent exhibition of 14-year-old Morrow at outside-right. This lad has a future. Against defenders twice his size, he held his own manfully, and more often than not beat them by sheer football skill. Wilson, aged 17, at centre-forward, was hardly so successful, but he got a couple of goals. His second was a fine effort. Receiving a down-the-middle pass, he forced his way past several defenders and beat W. Cotton with a hard drive.

Lycett, at inside-right, was the brains behind most of the Borough's moves, but there was a tendency on the part of the inside men to shoot too often instead of making openings. The defenders, generally speaking did not have a hard match and Freeman, at left full-back was as good as any of them, for he never neglected to get the ball away first time.

Lapworth got three of his side's goals, one with a hard drive from a free-kick outside the penalty area. Wilson got two and Naylor and Crummack one each. Lycett failed with a penalty kick awarded for handball, shooting straight at the goalkeeper. Why Lapworth did not take the kick one cannot understand, for though he missed from the spot the week before, he is still the safest penalty kicker in the league. A. Cotton got the visitors' only goal and a neat effort, too. It was one of the few occasions that a Sphinx attack really had the Borough defenders in a quandary.

## Nuneaton Man Again Honoured

A former Nuneaton Town footballer, Mr George Reader, is to referee the international match between England and Scotland at Wembley.

He refereed the England and Wales international match at Wembley on February 27 of last year.

A native of Nuneaton, Mr Reader attended the Coton C. of E. School and later King Edward VI School, Nuneaton, for whom he played soccer.

He was a member of the Nuneaton Town team which won the championship of the Birmingham Combination in the season 1914-15, playing centre-forward.

Later he assisted Hinckley United and then Exeter, and afterwards turned professional and played for Southampton in the English League from 1919 to 1922.

During the last war he saw service with the Nuneaton Fortress Company, afterwards taking a commission in the Royal Artillery. Mr Reader is now headmaster of a senior school at Southampton.

## 131 People Killed and 229 Injured In Raids On Nuneaton

### 10,485 Houses Damaged. 380 Totally Destroyed Churches and Schools Suffer

Now that the ban on publishing air raid details has been lifted it can be revealed that the total number of recorded casualties in all raids on the Borough of Nuneaton were 131 killed and 229 injured. Out of the 13,644 houses in the borough when war broke out, no fewer than 10,485 were damaged, 380 being totally destroyed or so seriously damaged as to be beyond repair.

The first air raid message – a preliminary warning – was received by the Report Centre at 3.14 a.m. on the 4th September, 1939 and it was not until 12.42 a.m. on the 25th June, 1940, that the first alert was sounded. The first bombs fell in the borough on the night of the 25th/26th August, 1940, in the Gipsy Lane district.

The first incident in the borough when casualties were caused occurred in Weddington Road on the 28th August, 1940, when six houses were destroyed and fifty damaged. The casualties were three people killed and six injured. The last incident occurred on the 28th July, 1942, when damage was caused in Coton Road opposite the Red Bus Garage and Council House.

Minor damage and casualties were caused from time to time when raids were made on Coventry and Birmingham.

### The Heaviest Raids

The heaviest raids on Nuneaton occurred on the 17th May, 1941, and the 25th June, 1942. The raid on the 17th May, 1941, caused widespread damage throughout the borough and 100 people were killed and 170 injured. The raid on 25th June, 1942, was mainly confined to the Manor Court district. In this raid 18 people were killed and 30 injured.

The total recorded casualties in all raids were: 131 killed, 229 injured, total 360. Altogether 913 air raid messages have been received to date by the Report Centre including 376 alerts.

### 10,000 Houses Repaired

In 1939, there were 13,644 houses in the borough. The total number of houses affected by war damage in the whole of the borough (including superficial damage caused by blast) was 10,485 of which 380 were totally destroyed or so seriously damaged as to be beyond repair. More than 10,000 houses have been repaired under the first-aid repairs scheme and nearly 100 of these had extensive permanent repairs carried out on them. For some considerable time as many as 600 men were engaged on first-aid repair work to houses.

### Many Churches Damaged

The Churches were particularly unfortunate. Chilvers Coton Parish Church was, apart from the tower, totally destroyed, and the Parish Church of St. Nicolas, St. Mary's Abbey Church and

Holy Trinity, Attleborough, were all seriously damaged. The Roman Catholic Church in Coton Road also suffered damage.

The Nonconformist Churches were just as unfortunate; the Edward Street Methodist was totally destroyed and grave damage was suffered by the Wesleyan Reform Church and Sunday Schools in Heath End Road. The PSA Hall in Harefield Road was completely destroyed and the site has now been cleared. The following churches received damage in varying degrees: Manor Court Baptist, Attleborough Baptist, Abbey Street Wesleyan, Queen's Road Methodist, and the Whittleford Church. The Salvation Army Citadel and the Spiritualist Church in Norman Avenue also received damage.

## Schools Damaged

The school activities of the town were seriously handicapped. The Grammar School suffered extensive damage, and fourteen elementary schools were affected, the most serious of which was Vicarage Street. The Mining School in Frank Street also suffered serious damage. One cinema, the Regal, at Attleborough, was totally destroyed.

The General Hospital was badly damaged and the Nurses' Home destroyed, but fortunately other public buildings such as the Council house, Police Station, Post Office, Emergency Hospital, the Railway Stations, and the Bus Garage received superficial damage only.

The central shopping centre, fortunately, escaped serious damage.

This brief record – perhaps the full story will be written later for posterity – would be incomplete if it did not pay tribute to the fortitude and courage of the townspeople, and to the magnificent work of all sections of the Civil Defence during the borough's long and trying ordeal.

## Griff Colliery v Nuneaton Borough 07-10-1944

Borough made the journey to Heath End to take on Griff Colliery in a Fooballers' Bed Cup second round tie.

Deputising for George Hardy, still on the injured list, the evergreen Ben Wannacott, himself returning to the side after injury, scored a personal triumph, bagging seven of his side's thirteen goals. He would be the first to admit that four of those goals were presented to him through the skilful and unselfish work of his colleagues, who kept the centre-forward abundantly supplied with choice centres and adroit down-the-middle passes. Lapworth (3), Lycett (2) and Liggins, on leave from the Navy, got the other goals.

At one stage it seemed as though the Colliers were going to make a fight of it, for after the Borough had got away to a three goals lead in the first 20 minutes, the home side scored a couple of goals in quick succession and also had a shot hit the woodwork. But back came the Borough and by half-time they were again three goals ahead.

After half-time it was almost one continual onslaught on

the Griff goal, which capitulated another seven times, this despite the fact that five minutes after the interval Rouse, the centre-half, suffered a knee injury and went off, leaving Borough with only ten men.

Griff were badly overplayed and the wonder is that the score was not even heavier, for their goal had some alarming escapes, especially in the second half. The Borough forwards were in a devastating mood and there were times when they so utterly bewildered the home defence that Wannacott was repeatedly left with nothing more to do than merely touch the ball past the harassed Carey in the Griff goal. However, two of his goals came from grandly placed drives. Lycett's goals were both the result of smashing shots, one from a very narrow angle; Lapworth got three neat goals; and Liggins got the other from almost off the goal-line when Carey only partially cleared from Crummack.

Liggins gave a bright display at outside-right, but Lycett was the brains behind most of Borough's moves and it was Wannacott's ripe experience which always seemed to place him in the right spot at the right moment.

## Coton Rangers v Nuneaton Borough 14-10-1944

**Nuneaton (from): Machin, Topp, Freeman, Higginson, Curtis, Naylor, A. N. Other, Lycett, Hardy, Crummack, Lapworth, Wannacott, Hopkins.**

Borough took on Coton Rangers in a President's Cup game at the Pingle Fields. Hardy and Curtis failed to put in an appearance and Wannacott turned out in place of Hardy. The side took the field with ten men, but were made up to full-strength by 52-year-old secretary Ron Talbot.

Higginson took over the centre-half berth with Liggins, who should have played at outside right, at right-half. Despite all this Borough won with ease.

Lapworth was the star of the Borough attack and scored a hat-trick in the first-half. Five minutes from the start Crummack slipped the ball down the middle and racing on to it and shaking off a challenge, he outstripped the Rangers' defence and beat Clark with a well-placed shot. Five minutes later, when another ball was put down the middle, Lapworth repeated the performance and nearly did it again just afterwards, but this time his hard drive was well-held by Clark. Not to be outdone, accepting a pass from Wannacott, the outside-left again closed in to score his third goal with another good shot.

Two more goals were scored in the second half. Lycett got the first with a grand shot after dribbling round a couple of defenders and Mynard, the Rangers' left-back, in trying to hook away a free-kick well placed by Naylor, neatly put past his own goalkeeper for the fifth. Wannacott nearly made it six with a shot which struck the bar.

Considering their own difficulties and the fact that the Rangers are a better side than when the teams met earlier in the season, Borough did well. They were up against a vigorous set of tacklers, but skill told its tale.

## Sphinx v Nuneaton Borough

21-10-1944

**Nuneaton (from): Machin, Topp, Freeman, Curtis, Higginson, Naylor, D. Newbold, A. N. Other, Lycett, Crummack, Lapworth, Wannacott, Hopkins.**

Borough took on Sphinx in a Nuneaton Combination game at Weddington Cricket Ground. Borough found themselves a player short for the second week in succession and a spectator took the place of Topp.

It was largely through the efforts of Lapworth and Lycett that the Borough piled on the goals, for whereas the former displayed an enthusiasm which was most refreshing, Lycett, by delightful footwork, inspired most of the attacks on the Sphinx goal.

Lapworth again got three of his side's goals. The first was direct from a corner kick, the second after Watkins had failed to hold a shot, and the third from a pass by Crummack. Wannacott got two, the first being the opening goal of the match, when the ball was put through by Crummack and Wannacott steered it well out of the goalkeeper's reach, and the other, No. 5, when he headed through from Naylor's accurate centre. Crummack got the other two, the last two of the game. His first came from a hook shot which Watkins never looked like saving, and the second when he headed through following a free-kick put right on his head by Lapworth. Sphinx's goal was a neat one, McDonald heading through from an accurately placed right wing cross.

Newbold, the new player, was obviously out of position at outside-right, and it was remarkable that something was not done about it until the last ten minutes, when he and Lapworth changed positions. Had the change been made early in the game the visitors might have done better, for the attack seldom looked like functioning to the best advantage as composed in this game.

## Nuneaton Borough v Griff Colliery

28-10-1944

**Nuneaton (from): Machin, Topp, Freeman, Higginson, Rouse, Naylor, Lapworth, Lycett, Hardy, Crummack, Newbold, Wannacott.**

Borough welcomed Griff Colliery to Manor Park for a Nuneaton Combination fixture.

Griff were a different side by comparison with the team that Borough beat 13-3 at Heath End a few weeks ago. They served up some astonishingly good football on the heavy and treacherous ground, and in many respects were superior to the home side, especially in mastering the conditions, quickness of movement and keenness of tackling.

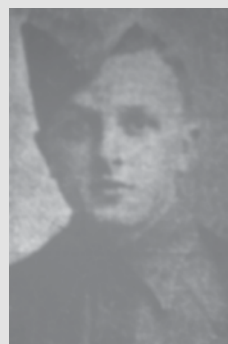
It was not until the last ten minutes that Borough really showed their superiority. Up to half-time the Colliery were every bit as good as the home side and held their own with surprising ease, and they thoroughly deserved to be on level terms at half-time which was reached without either side scoring.

Up to that time Borough never looked like scoring; they played the wrong type of football altogether, for whereas the

conditions called for the long swinging pass and the direct route for goal, they just fiddled about and more often than not their attacks fizzled out long before the goal area was reached. And when they did get in a shot it was usually directed straight at Smart, the Griff goalkeeper, who lived up to his name in every respect. His indeed was a smart display and it was not until about a quarter of an hour after half-time that he even looked like being beaten – and then, as usual it was Lapworth who set the Borough on the high road to victory.

In the very first minute that he crossed over from outside-right to his usual left wing position – he had gone there to make room for Newbold at outside-left – he accepted a through pass from Naylor and left Stuart standing this time with a hard, low drive. The very next minute Naylor came through and from about 15 yards range beat the goalkeeper with a grand drive, which went through from underneath the bar. The score remained 2-0 until about a quarter of an hour from the end when Lycett cut inside and registered a third goal with a swift left-foot drive. And in the last minute Naylor again sent Lapworth away and once again the winger made no mistake from close range.

## Borough Winger Wounded



Pte. Reg Clark, the Borough FC outside-right, has been wounded in Holland, and is now in hospital.

He is the son of Mr and Mrs Thomas Clark, of 7 Bridge Street, Chilvers Coton, and is eighteen years of age. Further details are awaited by his parents.

As a boy, Clark played for Swinnerton School, and later was a member of the Nuneaton

Youth Centre team which won the Bible Class league championship three seasons ago.

He joined the Borough FC and became the club's regular outside-right, playing many fine games.

He has a brother, Charles, in the Forces, serving with the RAF Regiment.

## Nuneaton Borough v Ansley St. John's

04-11-1944

**Nuneaton (from): Machin, Topp, Freeman, Higginson, Weir, Rouse, Naylor, Liggins, Lycett, Hardy, Crummack, Lapworth, Wannacott.**

Borough welcomed unbeaten Ansley St. John's to Manor Park for a Nuneaton Combination game.

There was no mistaking the visiting side's superiority and victory was quite clear cut. The final score perhaps flattered them slightly, but that does not in the least detract from the general merit of their performance.



Ansley were, without a shadow of doubt, the better side and it was easy to understand why – because they were superior tacticians; they realised the value of team work and gave the home side a lesson on how to make – and get – goals. Borough played in jerks and spasms; St John’s played like the well organised and ordered team that they really are.

The first-half was a good one and there was not much to choose between the two sides, but even so, the real difference between them was obvious. Borough were always inclined to over-elaborate; St. John’s were always progressive and deserved their two to one interval lead. Instead of making the ball move, Borough continued their pattern-weaving tactics with a persistency which was thoroughly irritating, for it never looked like getting them anywhere.

The winners played well to a man and in Mitchell had a highly capable goalkeeper. Their forwards were fast and clever, with Simpson, a livewire leader, though, for all that, no better than his colleagues of the front line. There were many times when their excellent moves left the Borough defenders standing. Their defence, too, was as solid as any defence could be.

On the other side of the picture we saw a painfully struggling Borough side – struggling because of their own faults and failings. They only had one outstanding player – Machin, the goalkeeper. This lad is certainly destined for better football.

Ansley opened the scoring early on when Cart beat Machin with a delightful shot which entered the net just inside the angle of the crossbar; the second, when he slammed home from a short range a right-wing cross which invited the treatment it received from the centre-forward. Lapworth reduced the lead when he back heeled the ball through after Mitchell had come out to try to check Hardy.

Simpson headed the visitors’ third goal in the second half after Machin had punched away a previous effort; and the same player rounded off the scoring with a shot from the inside-left position with the goal empty.

## RAF A v Nuneaton Borough

11-11-1944

**Nuneaton (pre-selected): Machin, Topp, Freeman, Wooding, Higginson, Naylor, Newbold, Lycett, Wannacott, Crummack, Lapworth.**

Borough visited RAF A for a Nuneaton Combination game.

Borough started out as though they intended winning this match. Right from the start the forwards got down to the business of getting goals by the shortest route for goal. And it paid them, as they were soon two goals up. Then they fell back on the bad ways, and the fancy football.

The Airmen began to show signs of fight and during one of their attacks Wooding, with plenty of time to clear, preferred to run about eighteen yards and try to dribble an opponent. He lost the ball and in a trice Wight had cut in and beat Machin with a neat shot just inside the upright.

That goal was a lesson to the Borough, for after that they

started swinging the ball about again – and from that point on the result was never in doubt. They got a third goal before half-time, and three more without reply after the change of ends.

Lapworth started the goalscoring early on when he beat a couple of defenders and planted the ball well out of Perry’s reach from out on the wing. About two minutes later Liggins put the ball down the middle. Both Lapworth and Crummack got right through, and the latter beat Perry with a neatly-placed ground shot which the goalkeeper had no hope of saving.

Then came Wright’s excellent goal for the Airmen, but the visitors pegged them back soon afterwards. Lapworth again burst through and planted the ball right in front of the net for Wannacott to apply the finishing touch with his head. The score was 3-1 at half-time.

In the first-minute of the second-half, Newbold, at outside-right, beat his man and squared the ball in front of goal. Wannacott back-passed to Lapworth and the latter shot through near the foot of the upright. Then came what was undoubtedly the best goal of the match. During another Borough attack the ball went back to Higginson and from quite 18 yards out, the centre-half crashed home a delightful shot which had the goalkeeper beaten all the way. About eight minutes from the end, Lapworth burst through down the middle, but when only a few yards from goal was sandwiched between two of the RAF defenders. It was a penalty without question – and Wannacott made no mistake from the spot. In the last minute Crummack again got the ball into the net, but the goal was disallowed for alleged dangerous play.

## Youngsters Sign Amateur Forms For Birmingham

Although Borough played so badly against Ansley St. John’s, three of the side’s youngest players took the eye of a representative of Birmingham City FC and Machin, the goalkeeper, and the two wing-halves Higginson and Naylor, have signed amateur forms for the “Blues”.

This makes four Borough players signed by English League clubs this season, as Ray Paul has already established himself as leader of the Coventry City attack.

## Nuneaton Borough v Arley Rectory

18-11-1944

**Nuneaton (pre-selected): Machin, Topp, Freeman, Higginson, Smith, Naylor, A. N. Other, Lycett, Wannacott, Crummack, Lapworth.**

Borough welcomed Arley Rectory to Manor Park for a Nuneaton Combination game.

The root cause of Arley’s defeat was that they failed at close quarters after having enjoyed a good share of the game in midfield. They have some excellent youngsters in their side, including two highly capable wingers, Finch and Shore; and it was really a pity that the inside men did not make better use of the opening provided for them.



There was not a weak man in the home side, with the only player deserving of criticism being Lycett, who will persist in trying to dribble round everybody on the field – and more often than not losing the ball without having gained a yard. Pickering, a new outside right introduced by Naylor, showed promise.

Borough took the lead through a fortunate goal after about three minutes' play when receiving a pass from Naylor. Crummack tried a speculative shot at goal. Bullock fell too soon and the ball bounced over his body into the net. After 18 minutes Worton handled the ball in the penalty area following a Pickering corner kick, but Wannacott shot weakly outside from the spot. A little later Freeman unnecessarily fouled Gill after safely making a back pass to Machin, and Shore went one better than Wannacott by crashing the ball home from the resulting penalty. Shortly before half-time Lycett was fouled just outside the penalty area and from the free-kick, Lapworth slammed a hard drive which Bullock got his fist to, but could only help further into the net. It was a grand shot.

The only goal of the second half came three minutes after half-time, when Pickering slipped the ball inside to Wannacott, who scored Borough's third goal.

## Home Guard 'Standing Down' Parade

The Nuneaton and District Home Guard "standing down" parade will be held on Sunday, December 3, and the Commanding Officer, Col. F. B. Leyland, DSO, MVO, MC, JF, is looking forward to a muster like that on the occasion of the third anniversary parade when 2,000 men turned out.

The parade will assemble at the Grammar School sports field at 10 a.m., and there will be a march past followed by a drum-head service conducted by the Home Guard padre.

## Nuneaton Borough v Sphinx

25-11-1944

**Nuneaton (pre-selected): Machin, Topp, Freeman, Pickering, Higginson, Naylor, Hall, Lycett, Wannacott, Crummack, Lapworth.**

Borough welcomed Sphinx to Manor Park for a Nuneaton Combination match.

For more than an hour in this match, Borough's play was every bit as dismal as the weather – and that was simply vile.

Until late in the second half the home side were struggling to maintain a two goal lead, for both when the score was 1-0 and then 2-0, Sphinx missed easy chances of levelling the score. Up to that period Borough played as though goals were off the ration and then, quite suddenly, they began to produce them as if they had just become a first priority. Four of them came in the last 20 minutes to make the final score something like what it should have been. Their trouble, of course, had been that they were always trying to walk the ball into the net and they were passing and interpassing

just as persistently in the Sphinx goal area as they were in midfield, with the result that their moves generally petered out quite harmlessly in front of the Sphinx goal.

The turn came just when everybody was feeling like making tracks for home and the fireside. Hall slipped the ball inside to Lycett and, swinging round sharply, the inside right smashed home a glorious shot. A few minutes later Hall provided another pass – and Lycett again netted with a good shot. Lapworth followed up with a pile-driver just inside the post; and Wannacott made the score 6-0 in the dying minutes. It was a rousing finish to what had undoubtedly been a distinctly poor exhibition hitherto.

The first goal was obtained by Lapworth early on when he accepted a pass from Wannacott and beat Cotton with a fast cross-shot. The second was obtained by Lycett after Cotton had pushed away a corner kick. By scoring a hat-trick, Lycett proved that he can shoot if only he will try. Perhaps these goals will convince him that shooting is better policy than just fiddling about with the ball.

After a long absence Deryk Hall made his debut at outside-right and, in the circumstances did all that was expected of him. Pickering showed distinct promise at right-half. With both Topp and Freeman absent, Scoffham from the Boys' team and Mullis, home on leave, were the full-backs, and performed creditably.

## 14-Year-Old Borough Players Given Trial By Wolves

Two members of the Borough Boys' team, who have not lost a game so far this season in the junior section of the Nuneaton Bible Class League, are being given trials by Wolverhampton Wanderers.

They are Jakeman (inside-left), and Morrow (outside-right). The latter is the son of a former Irish League player now living in Nuneaton. Jakeman was 14 last March and Morrow 14 last July. They will be accompanied to Wolverhampton by Mr Ron Tablot, the Borough FC secretary.

The Wolves have this week offered trials to Higginson and Naylor, of the first team but, of course, these two youngsters and Machin, the goalkeeper, have already been signed on amateur forms by Birmingham City.

## Nuneaton Borough v Coton Rangers

02-12-1944

**Nuneaton (pre-selected): Richards, Topp, Freeman, Pickering, Nicholls, Naylor, A. N. Other, Lycett, Wannacott, Crummack, Lapworth.**

Borough welcomed Coton Rangers to Manor Park for a Nuneaton Combination game.

Borough opened the scoring when Dewick, in attempting a pass-back, put the ball through his own goal, but Aston levelled the scores from a free-kick just outside the penalty area, the ball being deflected into the net by another player. Before half-time Lapworth put the home side ahead again



with a half-hit shot which Bray was far too slow in getting down to. Five minutes after half-time Lapworth cleverly beat Hopkins and swung across a delightful centre which Wannacott put into the back of the net with an equally clever header. The same player got the fourth goal when McIlvenny cut in and put the ball right on the end of his toe. The centre-forward made no mistake with a hard drive. Borough supporters were shouting for the “old five,” but they had a couple of shocks in store.

In trying to tackle Churms near the half-way line, Freeman slipped and the Rangers’ leader, from long range, beat Richards with a splendid shot which the goalkeeper vainly tried to punch out from just underneath the bar near the top of the upright. That made the score 4-2. And then, a minute later, Rangers again went through for Churms to score again. Fortunately for Borough, the visitors had left their rally too late.

Except for the two full-backs, Topp and Freeman, nearly all the other Borough players indulged far too much in close passing – and the sooner they realise that it is getting them nowhere, the sooner they will achieve an effectiveness which will save them a lot of headaches when they meet the stronger sides in the league.

## RAF B v Nuneaton Borough 09-12-1944

**Nuneaton (from): Machin, Topp, Freeman, Pickering, Higginson, Naylor, McIlvenny, Lycett, Sayers, Crummack, Lapworth, Wannacott.**

Borough travelled to RAF B for a Nuneaton Combination game. Ray Paul came back at inside-right in place of Lycett and Sayers, a new centre-forward, made his debut.

There is not sufficient space, nor is it necessary to describe all the goals. Sayers got some of his goals with hard drives, others with neat touches, and one with a header which temporarily knocked him out. Paul got two of his with headers, one with a shot just inside the post and the other with a hard drive. On one occasion, following a perfect centre by Lapworth he headed against an upright with Hotson at the other end of the goal. The ball went out again, was perfectly returned by the outside-left and this time Paul got the ball fair and square on his forehead and it flashed into the net.

The goals came as follows: Sayers, Paul, Sayers, Sayers, Paul, Lapworth, Crummack, Sayers, Sayers, Paul, Sayers, Paul, Crummack. Then the Borough had reached double figures they were awarded a penalty when the ball was punched out to save a certain goal. McIlvenny was asked to take the kick in recognition of his smart display. The lad shot hard but a little too near Hotson, and the goalkeeper managed to beat the ball out and another defenders completed the clearance.

Sayers combined dash with an ability to shoot from all angles and there were times when he literally threw himself through the air to get the ball into the net with his head. His play was utterly fearless – and if this is his usual form he’s certainly going to get some goals. Paul played grand

football throughout and no one benefited more from his reappearance than McIlvenny, whom he spoon-fed all the way through. And the youngster responded nobly, beating the defence many times by sheer football skill, for he is too small to get the top side of any opposition by any other methods. It was a real treat to see Borough forwards who made goal-scoring look easy, as for some weeks past goals have been hard enough to get, and movements leading up to them generally belaboured.

## Jee’s Sports v Nuneaton Borough 16-12-1944

**Nuneaton (pre-selected): Machin, Topp, Freeman, Pickering, Higginson, Naylor, McIlvenny, Paul, Sayers, Crummack, Lapworth.**

Borough travelled to meet Jee’s Sports in a Nuneaton Combination game.

Despite their big success and the fact that they again served up some fine football, there was one factor which rather took the gloss off their performance – and that was a marked tendency by the halves to dribble when under pressure. Perhaps it didn’t matter in this match, but it certainly will matter against the better sides, such as Haunchwood. For against a good side, this holding the ball and trying to dribble round opponents in one’s own penalty area is going to lead to trouble.

Paul worked the ball to perfection, but was inclined to look after the boy, McIlvenny too much. A pass down the middle and a kick across the field to Lapworth every now and again would have drawn the defence away from the outside-right and given him more room in which to work.

McIlvenny again gave an intelligent display and the goal he got, the first of the match, was a really good one, cutting in from the wing and beating Clay with a hard cross-shot.

Jee’s defenders set themselves out to keep Lapworth in check and in this they very largely succeeded – but only at the expense of giving Paul and Sawyers a good deal of rope in the middle. Pickering is improving match by match and in this game he was probably the most effective of the halves. The only time Jee’s ever really looked like making trouble was when the defenders dallied with the ball, or when a back pass intended for the goalkeeper failed to reach him.

The home side nearly scored twice through that cause. They broke away many times but lacked finish. The goals were scored as follows: McIlvenny, Sayers, Sayers, Paul, Sayers, Lapworth, Crummack, Ison, Sayers, Crummack, Sayers.

## RAF B v Nuneaton Borough 09-12-1944

**Nuneaton (pre-selected team): Machin, Topp, Hawkins, Pickering, Higginson, Naylor, McIlvenny, Paul, Sayers, Crummack, Lapworth.**

Borough welcomed Haunchwood Institute to Manor Park for a Nuneaton Combination game.

Grant opened the scoring for Haunchwood after 25 minutes play, when he put through from close range from Pagett’s

# Nuneaton Borough 1937-1945



square pass. Borough equalised five minutes later when a lob from the wing by Lapworth passed over Phillips' head into the far corner of the net. The score remained 1-1 until 21 minutes after half-time when a mistake by Hawkins let in Grant, and the outside-right scored with ease. Nine minutes later Lapworth sent Crummack away and the latter put the ball in front of goal for Sayers to score with the best shot of the match. After 36 minutes Hawkins again failed to check Grant and the winger centred for Linnell to put through from close range. And in the last few minutes Pagett cut in from the wing to beat Machin with a cross-shot.

A magnificent defence, in which Mason and Hodgkins were outstanding, played a big part in Haunchwood's victory. But well as the visiting defenders played, their work was made all the easier by the inaccurate passing of the Borough. It is no exaggeration to say that nine out of every ten of their passes went straight to an opponent, with the result that Sayers had a lean time in the middle, although with limited support, the centre-forward did quite enough to prove that he is made of the right stuff.

Actually it was a triumph for experience over youthful exuberance, for whereas seven of the Borough players are under 22 years of age (five are under 19), the Institute played a side composed mainly of seasoned campaigners, with Linnell of Bristol City leading their attack.

While Borough's style was the more attractive with Higginson and Naylor displaying delightful ball control, the 'Stute played the type of football most likely to produce goals – the open game with the ball always on the move.

## Nuneaton Borough v RAF A

26-12-1944

The friendly match at Manor Park on Boxing Day was abandoned because of fog, a few minutes after half-time with the score 1-0 in favour of the Combined RAF XI.

RAF had slightly the better of the exchanges and scored after about 18 minutes when a slip by Varden enabled Leadbeater to nip in and slip the ball past Machin.

## Nuneaton Borough v Ansley Social

30-12-1944

Nuneaton (from): Machin, Topp, Freeman, Pickering, Higginson, Naylor, McIlvenny, Paul, Sayers, A. N. Other, Lapworth, Clark.

Borough welcomed Ansley Social to Manor Park for a Nuneaton Combination game.

The bitter experience of the previous week, against Haunchwood, had evidently taught the Borough a well-deserved lesson, for they completely altered their tactics, playing much more purposeful football, they had the Social 'down and out' within half an hour. From the kick-off the Borough halves began to swing the ball about on a pitch that definitely called for it – the ground was soft on top and hard underneath, making foothold precarious and ball control an extremely difficult operation.

Borough took the lead after 15 minutes. Paul put the ball down the middle and running on to it, Sayers beat Morton with an unerring shot as the goalkeeper came out to meet him.

For a short period, the Social fought back and Martin actually got the ball into the net but the whistle had already gone for offside. Soon afterwards only a particularly smart save by Machin prevented Martin from equalising.

Backed up by the halves, Borough forwards gradually got the top side of the Ansley defence and once Sayers had added to their lead – he put through from close range after Morton had failed to hold a centre from Lapworth – the visitors had to all intents and purposes shot their bolt. It was not long before Sayers completed his hat-trick. McIlvenny put the ball inside to Liggins and the latter placed the ball into the goalmouth for the centre-forward to completely bamboozle the Ansley goalkeeper with one of those clever flicks of his. And before half-time Borough got a fourth goal. Following a centre by McIlvenny, Paul had a shot blocked, but dashing up Liggins flashed the ball into the back of the net.

Borough having established a comfortable lead and Ansley having had enough, the second half was a tame affair compared with an excellent first half. The home side became lethargic, did far too much fiddling about with the ball, and play generally lacked purpose. Borough got two more goals, both being of the lucky variety. Sayers got the first with a low drive which Morton fumbled and allowed to cross the line, and Paul the second, a long shot finding the net, possibly taking a slight deflection on the way.

## Griff Colliery v Nuneaton Borough

06-01-1945

Nuneaton (from): Machin, Beard, Freeman, Pickering, Higginson, Naylor, A. N. Other, McIlvenny, Paul, Sayers, Crummack, Lapworth, Topp.

Borough travelled to Heath End to take on Griff Colliery in a Nuneaton Combination match.

Borough players seemed disinclined to mix it with Griff on a treacherous ground at Heath End, with the result that they went perilously near to dropping their first away point of the season, a goal by Lapworth five minutes from the end giving them victory.

The honours really went to the Colliers for the dogged manner in which they stuck to their task and for going in where the visitors feared to tread. They realised the hopelessness of trying to control the ball on the hard and bumpy ground, and if they couldn't get the ball up the field they put it out.

Griff led 1-0 at half-time, their goal coming when Machin dropped an easy ball and allowed Jones to score with ease. Two minutes after half-time the Borough drew level when Sayers headed a perfect goal from Liggins' well-placed centre. The visitors went ahead through Lapworth with an easy chance, the winger hesitated thinking he was offside, but seeing Flanagan between himself and the goalkeeper





he recovered in time to beat Smith from close in. Twenty minutes from the end Moore levelled the score by hooking the ball through. The score remained 2-2 until five minutes from the end when Liggins, challenged by a Griff defender, doubled back and centred with his left foot. Lapworth cut in and headed the ball well out of Smith's reach.

There was a good deal of argument about this goal. Griff claimed that it was offside, but the fact remains that when Liggins centred he was only about three yards from the line and Lapworth ran forward quite five yards before heading home. It was a close shave for the Borough.

The team generally lacked inspiration, and probably Griff would have felt that they were entitled to a draw. There is no doubt that the Borough halves have got to learn to get the ball away much more quickly.

## Better Football Next Year?

The news that the Birmingham Combination Football League may resume its activities next season will be welcomed in this part of the Midlands, for several local clubs – Nuneaton Borough, Leamington Town, Hinckley United and Atherstone Town – are former members.

It is announced that should the league decide to re-start, seventeen teams have expressed their willingness to compete. But everything depends upon the war situation, and a further meeting is to be held later on.

If the football proves anything like what it was in the first season of the war, after which its activities ceased, there should be no grumbles, as there were notable players in most of the sides.

For instance, among those who assisted Nuneaton Borough were George Lowrie, Wood, Lauderdale, Bond and Ivor Lewis (Coventry City), George Dewis and Bowers (Leicester City), Kirkaldie (Doncaster Rovers), who is now playing for Port Vale, George Hardy (Blackburn Rovers and formerly of Aston Villa) and Harris (now of Northampton Town).

It is hardly likely that such talented players will be available next season, but there should be plenty of talent among the servicemen stationed in the various localities.

## One Point For Championship

Borough Boys, whose match last week with Arley was cancelled, have a chance of clinching the championship of the Junior Section of the Bible Class League when they entertain Hinckley Rangers.

A point from the game will suffice to give them the championship honours

## Coventry City And Notts Forest Wanted Paul

Yesterday, Ray Paul, the Nuneaton Borough FC player, received a wire from Coventry City saying that he had been selected to play at Walsall.

He also received an invitation from Billy Walker, the ex-Villa star, to play for Notts Forest Reserves against Leicester City Reserves at Filbert Street.

## Atherstone Referee Honoured

Mr Tom Smith, the well-known Atherstone English League referee, has been honoured by being selected to referee the international match between England and Scotland at Villa Park on Saturday.

A native of Atherstone, Mr Smith first began refereeing 22 years ago in the Nuneaton Bible Class League, the Nuneaton Combination and the Tamworth Trent Valley League, and afterwards in the Birmingham Combination, the Birmingham and District League and the Central League.

## Nuneaton Borough v Haunchwood Inst. 20-01-1945

**Nuneaton (from): Machin, Beard, Topp, Pickering, Higginson, Naylor, Clark, Liggins, Sayers, Crummack, Lapworth.**

Borough welcomed Haunchwood Institute to Manor Park for a Footballers' Bed Cup semi-final. Borough were without Paul, who was playing for Nottingham Forest Reserves, and Freeman.

There were two distinct phases in this game, which resulted in another defeat for the Borough, their fourth in a row at the hands of the Institute.

In the first-half Borough were literally overplayed and were three goals in arrears at half-time. It might have been more, for on other occasions the visitors struck the woodwork of the Borough goal.

But there was a different tale to tell after the change of ends, when the home side revealed greatly improved form. They attacked with great persistency and kept the Institute defenders working at full stretch. Sayers slammed the ball into the net after Phillips had only partially cleared a grand volley by Lapworth, and four minutes from the end Liggins made the score 3-2 with a neat cross-shot.

Although little time was left, Borough went perilously close to saving the game, Crummack going through and shooting just the wrong side of the post.

Linnell opened the visitors' account after only four minutes play with a good solo effort; two minutes later Grant increased their lead with a shot which Powell got to but allowed to escape his grasp; and after 27 minutes Pagett got a third with a long cross-shot.



## Arley Rectory v Nuneaton Borough 10-02-1945

Nuneaton (pre-selected team): Machin, Beard, Mullis, Pickering, Higginson, Naylor, Topp, Liggins, Sayers, Crummack, Lapworth.

Borough made the journey to Arley Rectory for a Nuneaton Combination match.

Borough suffered their first away defeat of the season, going down by the odd goal in seven. Arley did not win because they are a good side, but because of an inept display by the Borough. Their form just about reached rock-bottom in this match, lacking all the qualities necessary to bring about success.

Until about 20 minutes from the end, Borough were 4-1 in arrears, which was the half-time score, and they never looked like making a fight of it. Then in about four minutes Sayers, who beautifully hooked into the net two high passes by Topp, gave them a good chance of pulling the game out of the fire.

There was still more than a quarter of an hour to go and with the Arley defenders rapidly showing signs of wear and tear vainly trying to defend, as Nuneaton had in the first half, in a goalmouth ankle deep in mud, things looked promising for the visitors. But those two goals did not even inspire them; they went on playing as though they still hadn't a dog's chance of winning.

Though on actual run of the game Borough were perhaps unlucky to lose, the truth of the matter is that they never played well enough to deserve anything but defeat.

Arley won because of the poorness of the opposition, and in the process were very largely helped along by Eric Stain, Osborne and Gill – and by a defence which in the last 15 minutes kicked the ball outside at every opportunity.

Osborne (2), Gill and Worton scored for Arley and Liggins and Sayers (2) for Borough.

## Haunchwood Inst. v Nuneaton Borough 17-02-1945

Borough made the journey to Haunchwood for a Nuneaton Combination game.

The Haunchwood “bogey” still holds good, as the Institute beat Borough for the fifth successive time in two seasons. Borough cannot lay this “bogey” simply because they are not good enough to do so. The experience and better team work of the home side again paved the way to victory, and adapting themselves to the heavy going much better than the visitors, they had the young Borough halves on the run, especially in the second half.

The first-half was a good one. Considering they had to face the wind and defend in a goal area which was inches deep in mud – once a defender had been passed he had no hope of recovering – the visitors did well to be only a goal behind at half-time. The Institute used the right tactics by getting the ball into the goalmouth and hustling the Borough defence into making mistakes. And but for the sterling defensive work of Beard and Topp, the visitors would have been in trouble.

In double-quick time the Institute were two goals up but, sticking it out gamely, Borough reduced the lead and from their point of view they had done really well to finish the half only a goal behind. Indeed many of the spectators must have thought the borough were in a position to win the game, for the conditions, after the change of ends, were all in their favour.

Borough started the second half as though they really meant business and for a little while kept the Institute defence working at full stretch. But after only seven minutes the home side broke away and made it 3-1. That goal finished the Borough. Haunchwood got another to make it 4-1; then Lapworth reduced the lead from a penalty after Murdin had been brought down in the area – but they were soon pegged back again, and before the end Haunchwood missed chances of increasing their lead.

The visitors had more of the game in the second half, than their opponents, yet Haunchwood scored three goals to their one. And there in lay the secret of the home side's success – their ability to exploit weak positional play and convert openings into goals.

Ison (2), Kendall, Linnell and Bailey scored for the Institute, and Sayers and Lapworth for Nuneaton.

## Nuneaton Borough v Ansley Social 24-02-1945

Borough welcomed Ansley Social to Manor Park for a President's Cup semi-final tie.

Helped by the wind in the opening half, Borough served up some clever football and but for some good keeping by Moreton, Ansley would have been hopelessly in arrears at the interval. Moving the ball about and bringing the wingers into the game much more than they have been doing of late, Borough made snappy attacks on the Ansley goal which, besides succumbing on four occasions, had several other narrow escapes.

During this period the Social only made infrequent incursions into the Borough half, yet for all that they caused an uncertain defence quite a lot of trouble. Both Beard and Topp made mistakes and despite the appearance of Eric Smith at centre-half, the way to goal was often wide open. Smith, apparently out of practice, was not the highly-efficient centre-half we know him to be and it was an initial mistake on his part that led to Ansley's only goal. With plenty of time to boot the ball away, the centre-half preferred to try to make a short forward pass to a colleague. The pass was intercepted by Martin, who slipped the ball to Lightfoot, who went through to score with ease.

Whereas the defence made mistakes, the Borough attack functioned smoothly with Crummack, at outside-right, revealing surprisingly good form. Well supplied with the ball by Wannacott and Naylor, Lapworth was more like his old self on the extreme left, and opened his side's account with a cleverly taken goal. Sayers slipped him the ball and taking it in his stride the winger beat Whiston and, closing in, placed the ball well out of Moreton's reach.

It was not long afterwards that the home side got their second goal. Receiving from Lapworth, Sayers shoved the ball forward to Wannacott who easily netted from close range. Then came Ansley's goal, but their success was short-lived for Wannacott sent Crummack away and the latter's return into the middle was easily converted by Murdin. The fourth goal came towards the end of the half. Moreton failed to clear a none too difficult shot from Sayers and, rushing up, Lapworth scored easily.

In the second half the boot was on the other foot. It was not the Social's turn to do practically all the attacking, but try as they would they could not beat Machin – not even when they were awarded a penalty. Martin, who took the kick, shot straight into the goalkeeper's hands. Though the Borough defence was still a little shaky they did better than in the opening half, with Topp making a number of fine clearances.

Ansley had only themselves to blame for not getting a goal. Their midfield play was good, but over elaboration near goal proved their downfall. They had their chances but neglected them.

## Paul Signs “Pro” for Notts Forest



Ray Paul, Nuneaton Borough's centre-forward or inside-right, who has been playing for Notts Forest recently, has been signed on professional forms by that club, of which Billy Walker, the famous ex-Aston Villa inside left, is manager.

Elder son of George Paul, who for several seasons played left full-back for the old Nuneaton Town club in the Birmingham League and later became the club's trainer, Ray Paul is 22 years of age.

After leaving school he played for Nuneaton Youth Centre in the Nuneaton Bible Class League and was then signed by Nuneaton Borough.

During the time he played for the Borough in the Nuneaton Combination, Paul, at centre-forward, proved himself a prolific goalscorer during the first two seasons, but later preferred the inside-right position.

Early this season he played for Coventry City, but after scoring eight goals in ten first team matches, was dropped.

He returned to play for the Borough, but on the same morning a few weeks later received a wire from Harry Storer asking him to play in the Coventry League side the following Saturday and also a letter from Billy Walker inviting him to have a run with Notts Forest's reserve side and stating there was an opening for him in the first team if he proved himself good enough.

Paul preferred to accept the Forest offer and has played several games in the reserve side and two in the first team – against Leicester City and Notts County. He bagged four goals in one of these games. Paul will continue to live in Nuneaton.

## Ansley St. John's v Nuneaton Borough 10-03-1945

Borough made the journey to Ansley for a Nuneaton Combination game against Ansley St. John's.

After holding a 3-1 interval lead against a Borough side which was hardly recognisable, St John's showed definite signs of wear and tear, and Borough got well on top. The visitors were not long reducing the lead and then drew level. There is little doubt that around this time the Ansley players and their supporters saw visions of defeat looming large on the horizon.

The Borough made a mistake which undoubtedly proved their undoing. Instead of going all out for the kill, which seemed almost inevitable, so poorly had St. John's reacted to these two goals, they preferred to be satisfied with a point.

Topp, who had been playing in the attack, went to left full-back. Davies went to outside-right, and Crummack moved inside. By doing this they surrendered the initiative and gave the home side the opportunity to pull themselves together. The bite had gone out of the Borough attack, but it was only bad luck that prevented them from going ahead. Crummack with a first-timer, shot wide of the post; next a high lobbing centre from Lapworth dropped on the face of the crossbar with Walker at the other end of the net; and then a full-back hooked the ball off the line with the keeper all at sea.

With only seven minutes to go everything seemed set for a draw. Then came the surprise of the match – Ansley were awarded a free-kick just outside the penalty area and right in front of goal. By his very demeanour it was obvious that Allen was not going to have a bang at goal. Yet the Borough defenders left a gap down the middle for Machin to see the ball. Allen simply pushed the ball through to Simcox, who completely unmarked, shot hard into the net.

Their flagging hopes revived, Ansley went away again and in the dying minutes got another goal. In trying to kick the ball off the goal-line after Machin had been floored, Beard kicked it against an upright from which it rebounded across the line and into the net.

On the Borough side Machin was outstanding. Beard kicked well at right full-back, while Horry, at right-half, made a most satisfactory debut. Higginson was sound. Leading the attack in the absence of the injured Sayers, Wannacott tried hard to keep a strange-looking attack working smoothly, but met with very little response until Crummack went outside-right and Topp inside. Naylor, at inside-left, was fair. Wannacott (2) and Lapworth scored for Borough.

## Nuneaton Borough v Army XI 10-02-1945

**Nuneaton (pre-selected team):** Machin, Beard, Mullis, Pickering, Higginson, Naylor, Topp, Liggins, Sayers, Crummack, Lapworth.

Borough welcomed an Army XI to Manor Park for a friendly game.

A fluke goal about four minutes from the end gave Borough



victory. The winning goal was really laughable. Crummack was put through with a down-the-middle pass. He slipped the ball past a back, himself rounded the defender, was left with only the goalkeeper to beat less than a yard out. Then, to everybody's amazement, he kicked completely over the ball which continued its slow course and trickled over the line into the net. Pollock, the Army goalkeeper, was just as astonished as Crummack, and made no attempt to get across to the ball. It was one of the simplest – and silliest – goals one could wish to see.

Borough should have won the game long before this incident, for in the first 15 minutes after half-time, Liggins twice shot outside with the easiest of chances. It was a pretty even affair, with the Borough having the better of the exchanges after an even first half.

The Army fielded a useful side with Beard always prominent at right full-back, although Lapworth kept both he and Horry working at full stretch throughout. They had two capable wingers in Binnie and Gumbridge, while Hawkins did a lot of hard work at centre-half. Pollock performed well in goal. The only fault with some of the Army defenders was that they were inclined to kick recklessly under pressure.

Borough gave trials to several new players, but the only one to catch the eye was Campbell at right-half. He was a terrific worker throughout, tackling smartly and distributing the ball to advantage.

The Army scored first through Powell, who touched through after Machin had saved at full-length from Gumbridge. Liggins equalised before half-time with a well-directed shot as Pollock came out of goal to meet him. Then, in the dying minutes came the fluke goal which gave the Borough victory.

## Four District League Clubs Apply For Combination

Four former Birmingham and District League clubs – Kidderminster Harriers, Stafford Rangers, Hednesford Town and Worcester City – have applied for admission to the Birmingham Combination, which will resume its activities “without a shadow of a doubt,” according to the secretary, Mr E. H. Spiers, next season.

The meeting at which it was hoped to get the League started again was provisionally fixed some time ago for last night, but it has now been decided to postpone the meeting until Friday, April 27, to give the clubs ample time to make all the necessary arrangements.

“You can say we shall be starting again next season without a shadow of doubt,” Mr Spiers told an Observer reporter over the phone this week.

He mentioned that most of the old Combination clubs had intimated their willingness to start up again with the exception of Halesowen and Redditch. Gloucester City were hoping to come back, said Mr Spiers, and said they would

send in their application. But their application had not been received as yet and a personal opinion was that they would not be starting until the season afterwards.

Mr Spiers mentioned that a strong junior club, Smethwick Highfield, had also applied for membership.

“I don't think, after all,” he said, “that we shall have sufficient teams to run two leagues, but we have enough teams for a very strong division of 20 clubs.”

He stated that Aston Villa, Birmingham, Walsall and Coventry would all be entering the league with their A teams as pre-war. Questioned about travelling facilities, Mr Spiers did not think there would be any difficulty on that score. He said they were allowed to travel up to fifty miles by the Board of Trade, and the only club outside that distance – it was 52 miles from Birmingham – was Gloucester.

### Nuneaton Borough v Jee's Sports

24-03-1945

**Nuneaton (pre-selected team): Machin, Cartwright, Topp, Pickering, Higginson, Naylor, Glaze, Crummack, Sayers, Wannacott, Lapworth.**

Borough welcomed Jee's Sports to Manor Park for a Nuneaton Combination game.

Borough found themselves a goal down at the interval, but after the break the home side revealed totally different form and finished the match as easy winners. The leading part in their revival was played by Lapworth. This was Lapworth at his best; and when at his best the outside-left is the best forward in the league. He scored five goals himself, two from penalties, made two others and in general contrived to make himself a positive nuisance to the visiting defenders, who long before the finish, had given up as a bad job the task of trying to keep him in check. Also, his corner kicks from both wings were always a menace.

Bircher, the Jee's goalkeeper, despite the fact that he had to pick the ball out of the net on eight occasions, is one of the top keepers in the league, and seven of the goals would have beaten any goalkeeper.

The least said about the winners' first-half exhibition, the better. They practically muffed everything they did and the only time Bircher was ever in trouble was when a Lapworth corner kick swung in violently and ran along practically the whole length of the crossbar. There was far too much tiffing and tinkering with the ball and passes went astray with monotonous frequency.

After the break, a different Borough side took over. Once Lapworth had levelled the score – well there was only one team in it, with the irrepressible outside-left playing ducks and drakes with the Jee's defenders.

Jee's played well in the first-half. Adopting more direct tactics than the home side, and using their extreme wingers, Ison and Rowley, to good effect, they often had the Borough defenders in a quandary. Although Machin seemed to have positioned himself badly when Ison got their first half goal with a lobbing

# Nuneaton Borough 1937-1945



shot from off the wing, the visitors merited the goal. Their other goal was a very good one, for when the ball was swung over from the left, Tranter headed it well out of Machin's reach.

## Nuneaton Borough v Humber-Hillman 31-03-1945

Borough welcomed Humber-Hillman to Manor Park for an Easter Saturday friendly game.

Four goals in six minutes early in the second half was the high spot of the game. A goal behind at half-time Borough sensationally turned the tables with two quick Jack Kirkaldie goals, one scored the other made. But Humber-Hillman replied with a couple of equally quick ones to retrieve the lead. There was no more scoring after that rapid-fire spate – but near misses at both ends kept the crowd keyed up until the finish.

Borough fought back magnificently but went under to a better, more polished and coherent side. Yet there was not much in it territorially. Only for 15 minutes in the second half did Humber-Hillman succeed in keeping Borough inside their own half. The rest of the game was exciting end-to-end play with both defences at full-stretch. In the dying minutes Borough stormed through in a gallant bid to draw level and the Humber-Hillman goal had a miraculous escape when, in a goalmouth melee, three Borough players somehow missed hooking the ball in from three yards' range.

Clever football, in spite of a boisterous wind which queered many shrewd moves, was served up by both teams. Humber-Hillman with Ryan (Coventry City), Hood (WBA), Dickie (Port Vale), Perry (Charlton) and Davies (Irish International and Tranmere Rovers), played attractive pattern-weaving stuff in which the tricky footcraft of Dickie (outside-right) and Davies (inside-left) was a feature. Bolton, their deaf and dumb inside-right had a good afternoon scoring two grand goals and making one for centre-forward Perry.

Head and shoulders above other Borough players was Townsend, at centre-half. Time and again his burly lumbering figure intervened to break up Humber-Hillman attacks. Archer, on leave, celebrated his appearance in goal with a sound display, making several fine saves and Pickering did well in his unaccustomed position at left full-back. It was some time before Kirkaldie began to receive any decent passes, but when he was brought into action he made some lovely runs. His goal from an acute angle was a gem, and it was from his centre in the next minute that Sayers nodded in Borough's second.

## Nuneaton Borough v RAF B 02-04-1945

Borough welcomed RAF B to Manor Park for an Easter Monday Nuneaton Combination league game.

Borough made a whirlwind start – three goals up in six minutes – but RAF dispelled any illusion that it was going to be a walk-over. In the second-half – Borough changed round leading 4-1 – the Airmen fought back with such determination that they drew level and, for a time, they were attacking with such tenacity that Borough seemed on the point of tottering.

But two late Townsend goals made the issue safe again. Townsend was again the hero of the Borough side. Centre-half before the interval, his grand defensive work threw the RAF attack out of gear and his intelligent distribution of the ball kept Borough forwards in the picture. When, after half-time, he had to move to outside-left because a strange pair of boots was causing him to limp badly, Borough sagged and became ragged. RAF seized their chance, began calling the tune, but after they had drawn level, Townsend delighted the crowd by pulling the game out of the fire for Borough.

He nodded in a high centre from Sayers to recover the lead and his popularity went sky-high with a smashing second goal in the last minute. Fastening on a pass nearly 30 yards out he coolly steadied himself and netted with a powerful drive, the ball glancing off an upright.

Sayers started the scoring with a neat angled shot from a pass by Paul. Taylor slammed in the second when McKenzie failed to hold a drive by Sayers. Sayers turned in, almost on the goal-line, a centre by Taylor to net the third, and Lapworth made sure of the fourth by running up and tapping in as McKenzie fumbled a shot from the outside-left. Leadbeater replied for the RAF by shooting past Machin who had run out. A penalty against Townsend provided Hickman with RAF's second, Brown netted the third and a miskick by Storer enabled Galloway to touch past Machin for RAF's fourth.

Borough's attack was below form and it owed much to the weakness in RAF goal of McKenzie. Crummack was a hard worker. Taylor, a 17-year-old Coton Ranger, at centre-forward, could have been given more to do for he showed keenness. Paul disappointed, for he showed more vim than skill, and hung back so much at times, that he might have been an extra half-back. Sayers, though affected by Paul's poor co-operation, did some good work but was inclined to fiddle with the ball too much. Machin was sound in goal and Ryan did grand work at right-half.

## Nuneaton Borough v Haunchwood Inst. 07-04-1945

**Nuneaton (from): Machin, Beard, Topp, Horry, Higginson, Townsend, Pickering, Naylor, A. N. Other, Kay, Sayers, Crummack, Lapworth, Coley, Stephens.**

Borough welcomed Haunchwood Institute to Manor Park for the final of the President's Cup. Borough had Coley and Stephens, of Northampton Town, in their half-back line, Townsend, the former Borough and Derby County goalkeeper, at centre-forward, and two new inside men in Leigh, from Coventry, and Kay, who is in the Army.

Borough made a good start and were two goals up in the first 15 minutes, and it should have been three. Lapworth, as Phillips left his goal, put the ball past him against an upright with the goal empty. This flying start gave Borough a sense of false superiority, for instead of trying to improve on their lead, they quickly fell into the fault of over-elaborating. It was probably good to watch but it got them nowhere – and



meanwhile the Institute recovered and began to get moving smoothly and effectively.

Before half-time the visitors reduced the lead and shortly after the change of ends drew level through the medium of a penalty kick. From that point on it was anybody's game. The Institute goal had some lucky escapes; so did the Borough's goal. Twice more the home side went ahead and twice more, too, Institute drew level. It was a very fair result. Neither side was good enough to win.

Townsend did not fit in at centre-forward, but when he moved to outside-right and Sayers into the centre a big improvement was wrought. Lapworth was the most dangerous raider and got a couple of good goals. Borough's other goals were scored by Sayers and Kay, while Kendall, Mason (2) and Grant replied for the Institute. The replay takes place on May 5.

## **Ansley Social v Nuneaton Borough 14-04-1945**

**Nuneaton (pre-selected team): Machin, Beard, Topp, Storer, Naylor, Pickering, A. N. Other, Sayers, Wannacott, Crummack, Lapworth.**

Nuneaton made the journey to Ansley Social to play the final Nuneaton Combination league game of the season.

Both teams were under-strength, but the visitors were the more badly placed in this connection as they were without Beard, Topp, Higginson, Naylor and Sayers. The team was made up by two of the Boys' team reserves, Comer and Jones, Storer from the Boys' side, Potter, Marshall and Davies.

None of these shone with the notable exception of Marshall, who played with judgment and no small amount of skill, at centre-half. It was a pity, therefore, that in the last minute he should have handled the ball in the penalty area. It was from the resulting spot kick that Harris gave his side full points with a shot which hit the underside of the bar before going into the net.

To all intents and purposes Borough only had two forwards – Wannacott and Lapworth. And but for the latter Borough might not have got a goal at all. He obtained the first when Whiston got in such a quandary with the outside-left's in-swinging corner kick, that the full-back finished up by catching the ball in both his hands. And to concede penalty kicks when Lapworth is about is certainly fatal – as usual the winger slammed home the spot kick.

He was also largely instrumental in getting the second goal, for a vicious shot of his swung in violently near the post and would undoubtedly have entered the net unaided, but to make sure Wannacott dashed up and put his head to the ball – and in doing so injured himself.

About the only other occasions that the Ansley goal was threatened was when Lapworth took corner kicks. All but one caused the Social defence a headache. Generally speaking, the Borough defence did well, with Machin and Marshall doing fine work. Pickering and Storer helped manfully.

The football was poor throughout and the game was a scramble from start to finish. Neither side was better than the other and a draw would have been a fair result.

Incidentally when Lapworth scored with that penalty kick, it was his fortieth goal of the season – a fine performance for an extreme winger. He netted 33 last season. Parkes, Reynolds and Harris got the winners' goals.

## **Season 1944-45 Review**

### **Weaknesses in Key Positions**

Although Borough FC has one more game to play – the replay of the semi-final of the President's Cup v Haunchwood Institute at Manor Park on May 5 – they have concluded their league programme and it is therefore not inopportune to discuss now the season's achievement and failures.

Actually there have been far more failures than achievements; indeed, if they fail to beat Haunchwood on Saturday week, they will have nothing whatever to show for their efforts.

In the league they have lost six of their 20 games – two each to Haunchwood and Ansley St. John's and losing away to Arley Rectory and Ansley Social. In cup-ties they have played six games, losing one and drawing one; while of four friendly games, two were won, one was lost, while the other against an RAF XI at Manor Park on Boxing Day was abandoned owing to fog, two minutes after half-time when the visitors were leading 1-0.

A number of factors have contributed to the team's mediocre performances. The injury to Rouse early in the season – an injury which kept him out of the side for the remainder of the campaign – proved most detrimental, for afterwards the position was never adequately filled. Higginson, it is true gave some good displays as pivot but, generally speaking, lacked experience. On the other hand, when playing in his true position at right-half, he was one of the few successes of the side.

### **Lacked Inside Men**

Then, the departure of the two key inside men – Paul to Coventry City and later to Notts Forest, and Murdin to the Forces – created difficulties which were never successfully solved. Crummack played some useful games but lacked shooting ability, while the outside-right position always gave trouble.

Indeed, the only two forwards who really did hit the high spots were Lapworth, the outside-left, and Sayers, the centre-forward, who between them dominated the scoring, the former netting 40 goals – a truly remarkable performance for an extreme winger – and the latter 25 (and he missed several games through injury).

### **Naylor Disappoints**

Naylor was one of the biggest disappointments of the side. Early in the season he played so well that several English League sides had him watched, but later he fell off appreciably, developing a tantalising habit of over-dribbling.



It was a great pity, for Naylor has undoubted football ability. On the other hand, Pickering, another of the young halves, started quietly, but finished up the season very strongly and was fast developing into a sound wing-half.

The Club's best pair of backs were Topp and Freeman and on the latter's departure, Beard and Topp. Machin served his side well in goal, but under pressure was inclined to get over-excited.

## Lack Of Team Play

As a result of many apparent weaknesses there was a lack of team play and without that no team can hope to succeed. Too much reliance was placed on certain individuals; these strove manfully but often the burden proved too heavy for them to carry. This was especially so in the important games. Lapworth, the key attacker was policed as no other forward in the league was policed – and with the outside-left effectively subdued the attack just faded out.

## The Goal Scorers

The goalscorers were as follows:

Lapworth .....	40
Sayers .....	25
Wannacott .....	20
Paul .....	13
Crummack .....	12
Lycett .....	10
Hardy .....	4
Liggins .....	4
Naylor .....	2
Williams .....	2
Townsend .....	2

Higginson, McIlvenny, Murdin, Kay, Kirkaldie and Wilson got one goal each.

## Nuneaton Borough v Haunchwood Inst. 05-05-1945

**Nuneaton (from): Machin, Beard, Topp, Pickering, Curtis, A. N. Other, Stephens, Coley, Dickie, Kay, Sayers, Crummack, Lapworth.**

Borough welcomed Haunchwood Institute to Manor Park for the President's Cup final replay.

It was obvious from the start that the Institute crowd was in a rattled state of mind because Borough were playing Stephens, Harris and Coley. "Come on Northampton," they kept shouting, but Borough were legitimately complying with the rules in playing three professionals.

It was a gruelling game, more so because of the atrocious conditions. The steady downpour throughout taxed every ounce of stamina of the players yet it remained a hard-hitting, end-to-end affair right up until the end. Territorially there was nothing in it. Haunchwood certainly got off the mark quicker and more confidently than Borough, dominating play in the first ten minutes and deserving their early goal. Then Borough settled down in businesslike fashion, wisely cut out an initial tendency to over-elaborate,

and swung the ball about with energy and determination.

Though a Sayers hat-trick gave Borough a 3-1 interval lead and there was no further scoring, play actually remained pretty even, and anything might have happened, until the last 20 minutes or so when Borough began to pile on pressure.

Norwood scored for Haunchwood and Sayers, who had Lapworth to thank for two of his goals, proved an opportunist centre-forward, being quick to seize on his chances. Coley was outstanding for Borough at inside-left; Crummack a keen forager, and Lapworth always a troublesome winger, but Pickering out of position at outside-right, was ineffective, but did better when Crummack went on the wing in the second half.

Sound defensive work was a feature of the game. Machin did well in the Borough goal, bringing off two particularly grand saves; Beard was rather better than his fellow full-back, Topp. The half-back line was dominated by Stephens in the centre, who tied up Linnell, the Haunchwood centre-forward and never wavered. Altogether it was a well-balanced Borough side.

Haunchwood too, were a well-knit, strong combination, equalling Borough in positional play and vim. A little more steadiness in front of goal and they might not have been disappointed. Mason was in grand form at centre-half; Jones prominent at left-half and Hodgkins did well at left full-back. In fairness to Linnell, it must be recorded that he did not get the support from his wings that Sayers enjoyed.

## Moaning Minnie's Last Wail

The "banshee wail" of "Moaning Minnie" will be heard no more – hip, hip, hooray!

She first disturbed the slumbers of Nuneaton people at 12.45 a.m. on June 25, 1940, became a positive nuisance during the period that the Luftwaffe was doing its darndest to shake the morale of the British civilian, then her mournful cry became less frequent.

The last alerts was sounded at 12.52 a.m. on March 4 this year. Good-bye "Minnie" – and good riddance!

## Nuneaton Ready for Victory In Europe Signal

### VE-Day Arrangements

### Days of Thanksgiving, Not Peace Celebrations – The Mayor

Nuneaton Council House will be floodlit, the fountain will be operated and illuminated from dusk until midnight, the flags of Allied nations will be displayed outside the Council House, and the Borough Band will play in Riversley Park, which will be floodlit for dancing from dusk until midnight – these are some of the arrangements already made for the celebration of VE-Day at Nuneaton.

The Peace Celebrations Committee of the Borough Council met



on Tuesday and decided on a programme for the two days' holiday which is to follow the Prime Minister's declaration over the wireless when the fighting in Europe has ended.

- 11 a.m. The Mayor to lay wreaths on behalf of the Corporation on the graves in the Nuneaton Cemetery, of H.M. Services, Police and Air Raid Victims.
- 3 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. Nuneaton Borough Band to play in Riversley Park.
- 7 p.m. The Mayor to make an announcement outside the Council House.
- 7.30 p.m. to 8.45 p.m. Nuneaton Borough Band to play in Riversley Park.
- 8.00 p.m. Thanksgiving Service at the Co-operative Hall, Queen's Road.
- 9.00 p.m. King's Speech to be relayed outside the Council House.
- 9.30 p.m. Dance music from gramophone records in Riversley Park.  
Fountain to be operated and illuminated from dusk until midnight.  
Council House to be floodlit.  
Flags of Allied Nations to be displayed outside the Council House.

## Day After VE-Day

3.00 p.m. and 7.30 p.m. Nuneaton Borough Band and Civil Defence Choir will give concerts in Riversley Park.

## Sunday After VE-Day

3.00 p.m. Drumhead service in Riversley Park. If wet, service in the Co-operative Hall.

The Mayor, Councillor C. J. S. Dickens, told the "Observer" that in no sense were they looking upon this as the peace celebrations, but more as days of thanksgiving. The Peace Celebrations' Committee would be meeting at an early date to discuss plans for the real peace celebrations when the war in the Far East was over. In the very near future the Peace Celebrations' Committee will be co-opting representative townspeople to assist in the welcome home and peace celebrations proper.

## Birmingham Combination Restarting Next Season

### League To Comprise Eighteen Clubs

The Birmingham Combination Football League is to resume its activities next season with a restricted membership, owing to war-time conditions, of eighteen clubs.

This decision was taken at a meeting at the Crown Hotel, Corporation Street, Birmingham, presided over by Mr W. Harper.

All teams in membership prior to the outbreak of war who had made formal application for membership were accepted.

These teams were Banbury Spencer, Birmingham City A, Birmingham Transport, Bromsgrove Rovers, Coventry City A, Darlaston, Hinckley United, Stourbridge, Nuneaton Borough, Tamworth, Walsall A, West Bromwich Albion A and Wolves A.

It was stated that Aston Villa were waiting to see if they would have to compete in the Central League, and that Atherstone Town FC was holding a town's meeting on May 1 to decide whether or not to compete. Extension of time was permitted to these two clubs so that they could reach a decision.

New applications were received from Dudley Town, Hednesford, Kidderminster, Stafford Rangers and Smethwick Highfield. Voting resulted in the election of Dudley, Kidderminster and Stafford Rangers, and these clubs were duly elected.

Should Aston Villa A and Atherstone Town decide not to run, the applications of Hednesford Town and Smethwick Highfield will be considered with other applications which might be received at the annual meeting to be held in June.

## Nuneaton Combination

### Final Table 1944-1945

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Haunchwood Institute	00	00	0	0	00	00	00
Ansley St John's	20	17	2	1	89	23	36
Nuneaton Borough	20	14	0	6	102	41	28
Arley Rectory	00	0	0	0	00	00	00
Ansley Social	00	0	0	0	00	00	00
RAF B	20	8	2	10	46	73	18
Coton Rangers	00	0	0	00	00	00	0
Jee's Sports	00	0	0	00	00	00	0
RAF A	20	4	2	14	48	80	10
Griff Colliery	20	3	1	16	38	83	7
Sphinx	20	3	0	17	24	102	6



# Nuneaton Borough 1937-1945



## 1944-45

Date	Opponent	Venue	Comp	Result	Scorers	Attendance
09.02	Higham Lane Youth Centre	H	Friendly	3-2	Lapworth (3)	Abandoned after 60 minutes
09.09	RAF B	H	NC	8-3	Paul (3), Hardy (2), Williams (2), Wannacott	
09.16	Coton Rangers	A	NC	7-0	Paul (3), Hardy (2), Crummack, Lapworth	
09.23	RAF A	H	NC	3-2	Lycett (2), Paul	
09.30	Sphinx	H	PC	7-1	Lapworth (3), Wilson (2), Naylor, Crummack	
10.07	Griff Colliery	A	FBC	13-3	Wannacott (7), Lapworth (3), Lycett (2), Liggins	
10.14	Coton Rangers	A	PC	5-0	Lapworth (3), Lycett, Maynard (o.g.)	
10.21	Sphinx	A	NC	7-1	Lapworth (3), Wannacott (2), Crummack (2)	
10.28	Griff Colliery	H	NC	4-0	Lapworth (2), Naylor, Lycett	
11.04	Ansley St John's	H	NC	1-4	Lapworth	
11.11	RAF A	A	NC	6-1	Lapworth (2), Wannacott (2), Crummack, Higginson	
11.18	Arley Rectory	H	NC	3-1	Crummack, Lapworth, Wannacott	
11.25	Sphinx	H	NC	6-0	Lapworth (2), Lycett (3), Wannacott	
12.02	Coton Rangers	H	NC	4-3	Dewick (o.g.), Lapworth, Wannacott	
12.09	RAF B	A	NC	13-0	Sayers (6), R. Paul (4), Crummack (2), Lapworth	
12.16	Jee's Sports	A	NC	10-1	Sayers (5), McIlvenny, Paul, Lapworth, Crummack (2), Ison,	
12.23	Haunchwood Institute	H	NC	2-4	Lapworth, Sayers	
12.26	RAF Combined XI	H	Friendly	0-1		Abandoned 50 Minutes
12.30	Ansley Social	H	NC	6-0	Sayers (4), Liggins, Paul	
01.06	Griff Colliery	A	NC	3-2	Sayers, Lapworth (2)	
01.20	Haunchwood Institute	H	FBC S-F	2-3	Sayers, Liggins	
02.10	Arley Rectory	A	NC	3-4	Sayers (2), Liggins	
02.17	Haunchwood Institute	A	NC	2-5	Sayers, Lapworth	
02.24	Ansley Social	H	PC S-F	4-1	Lapworth (2), Wannacott, Murdin	
03.10	Ansley St John's	A	NC	3-5	Wannacott (2), Lapworth	
03.17	Army XI	H	Friendly	2-1	Liggins, Scorer Unknown	
03.24	Jee's Sports	H	NC	8-2	Lapworth (5), Other Scorers Unknown	
03.31	Humber-Hillman	H	Friendly	2-3	Kirkaldie, Sayers	
04.02	RAF B	H	NC	6-4	Sayers (2), Lapworth, Taylor, Townsend (2)	
04.07	Haunchwood Institute	H	PC Final	4-4	Lapworth (2), Sayers, Kay	
04.14	Ansley Social	A	NC	2-3	Lapworth, Wannacott	
05.05	Haunchwood Institute	H	PC Final Replay	3-1	Sayers (3)	

KEY: NC – Nuneaton Combination; FBC – Footballer's Bed Cup; PC – President's Cup

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