



Nuneaton's Footballing Heritage

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# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1

# Contents

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	Page No.
Introduction .....	<b>3</b>
1919-1920 .....	<b>5</b>
1920-1921 .....	<b>27</b>
1921-1922 .....	<b>54</b>
1922-1923 .....	<b>79</b>
1923-1924 .....	<b>105</b>
1924-1925 .....	<b>135</b>
1925-1926 .....	<b>156</b>
1926-1927 .....	<b>181</b>
1927-1928 .....	<b>204</b>
1928-1929 .....	<b>226</b>
Acknowledgements .....	<b>254</b>



# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1

## Introduction

### Nuneaton Town Football Club: Ground Purchase

We are informed that there is every prospect of the directors and committee of the Nuneaton Town F.C. obtaining a playing ground within a very short time. The club has an offer of purchase on three sites and the decision is to be taken at a special meeting of the management. It is felt that a ground must be purchased, and not leased, as in previous years. Otherwise the same difficulty, of obtaining a playing space might crop up again in the future. A club of the standing of Nuneaton ought to possess a ground of its own. But the scheme involves a big outlay, and in order to fully equip and lay out a football arena the sum of between £3,000 and £4,000 will be necessary. Now Nuneaton is in the Birmingham and District League, it is necessary to have a first-class ground.

The matter of finance has given much anxiety to the management and the directors feel that they would like some criterion of the amount of public support upon which they can rely. It has, therefore, been decided to call up the capital of the company, and any person desiring to take up shares or subscribe financially, are asked to acquaint the officials with their applications. It is hoped that supporters will subscribe their £1 as well as the businessmen and tradespeople their large sums. Promises of financial support can be sent to the secretary, Mr W. A. Thompson, Attleborough Road, Nuneaton or to "True Blue", "Observer" Office.

## Letter from The Birmingham League

Birmingham, March 28th, 1919.

Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your letter of the 26th inst., and note that your Club is negotiating for a centrally situated ground which you intend to equip for football. I wish your venture every success, and trust the public will heavily support your efforts to provide good class football, which can be witnessed under comfortable conditions. I know your Club has made great endeavours to provide better football in Nuneaton, and now that it has secured membership of this League, I feel certain the public will endorse the enterprise and provide the necessary support to enable your Club to continue its membership. I have carefully considered your request, and, in the circumstances, I am prepared, on behalf of the League, to extend the time for notification of your continuance of membership or withdrawal until April 14th.

Yours faithfully A. W. Cooknell

### Ground Purchase: March 1919

The Directors of the Nuneaton Town Football Club have, I understand completed the purchase of Wash Lane Farm Estate. Time is very short and the work of preparing the ground will have to be hurried on if it is to be ready for play next September.

We are to have one of the best football grounds in the Midlands and Nuneaton is, I venture to predict, going to be brought prominently to public notice. The club will be a good way of making Nuneaton known to the outside world.

### **NUNEATON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB, LIMITED**

Application for Shares will close on Monday Next.

Cut this out, fill it up with full particulars, and enclose your remittance to the Nuneaton Observer Ltd, Bond Gate, Nuneaton. The "Observer" will then hand on your application and money to the secretary of the Company, or send to one of the Officials of the Company.

### **NUNEATON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB LIMITED APPLICATION FOR SHARES.**

Please allot me ..... ten shilling shares in the Nuneaton Town Football Club Limited.

Signed .....

Address .....

Date.....



## Public Spirited Chairman of Directors

We are informed by Mr. J. Moore, of Queen's Road, Nuneaton, that he has purchased the estate at the back of the Cock and Bear Hotel from the executors of Messrs. Turner, Son and Nephew, of Birmingham. His object is to secure the land (consisting of about 24½ acres and farmhouse and buildings known as the "Wash Lane Farm") for the Town Football Club.

Mr Moore gives the option of the whole or part of the land for a time to the Nuneaton Town Football Club, Ltd. The price paid for the estate is, we understand £4,000.

Mr Moore is the Chairman of the Directors of the Town Football club, Ltd. He has always taken a great interest in the Club, and his desire to secure the land for the Club has induced him to take this step.

It now remains for the public of Nuneaton to take up the necessary share capital in order to secure a permanent playing ground for the town club. This excellent site ought to become the property of the Club, and the Directors will, we trust, resolve the necessary financial support.

The Club has already decided to continue in the Birmingham and District League, and if the ground is secured and prepared in time, some excellent football — attracting huge crowds to Nuneaton — ought to be witnessed.

The number of shares taken up is not altogether satisfactory, and it has been decided to extend the time for applications.

Applications may be sent to the "Observer" Office with remittances, and will be handed over to the Secretary, when the directors will issue the necessary share certificates.

We understand that Mr Moore has promised to negotiate favourably with the Demobilised Soldiers' and Sailors' Association regarding the land they require and the farm for the proposed Institute.

## Football Club Shareholder's Meeting

On Monday evening a meeting of the shareholders of the Nuneaton Town F. C. was held at the Bull's Head Hotel, Abbey Street. The business was entirely formal, a resolution being passed to give powers to the directorate for borrowing purposes under the articles of association of the Company.

## Canal Bridge Widening

I notice that the work of widening the Queen's Road Canal Bridge has commenced, though only in a preparatory way. The fence along the football field has been commenced and the public can already form an idea of the great improvement which will be effected. The traffic situation, particularly on a Saturday evening, will be considerably eased when the work is completed.

## New Ground Name

Now that alterations are being made to the Cock and Bear site in order to equip the ground as a football arena for Nuneaton Town F.C., I should judge the moment opportune for the Council to widen the canal bridge near the spot. At present it is much too narrow for the amount of traffic which passes over it, and the fact of the Council School being close by makes the bridge almost dangerous. Often when I have been walking down the hill about noon I have been anxious for the safety of the little children running to and fro. I hope the Council will consider the matter.

The mention of the new football ground brings to my mind a question which was asked some little time ago, viz. whether the Town Club could not find a better name for the ground than the "Cock and Bear". Certainly the name is far from picturesque and the matter is well worth the attention of the officials. Why not call it "Manor Park"? "After all, there's a lot of dignity in a name," wrote my correspondent when he introduced the question. I am inclined to agree with him in this instance.

## Preparations Being Hurried

It is good to know that the work is now proceeding at a satisfactory pace. Fortunately the playing pitch itself will require little attention. It is exceedingly level, and the turf excellent. In one or two places only will there have to be a slight relaying, and this will be done as soon as possible.

Permission will almost certainly be obtained to divert the footpath at present running from Manor Court Road to the canal. The path in future will pass into Varnum's Lane. This alteration will completely enclose the football field, and make it private. A corrugated iron enclosure has been created along the bottom end of the field, from the public house to the hedge. At the opposite end along the canal side covering stands are being erected. These will serve two purposes. They will conceal the view from the roadway and the canal side, and therefore enclose the ground and will also accommodate several thousand spectators. It is proposed to build the stands on tier fashion so that all spectators can see.

Supporters must not confuse these proposals with the grand stand idea. At the present time it is doubtful whether the grandstand will be erected this season, but the matter is down for further consideration. At present the extraordinary high price of material is a serious question. Arrangements have been made for the players to dress at the Cock and Bear. There will be several entrances on Manor Court Road, and also an entrance on the canal bridge.





## 1919-20

### Building A Squad and Past Players

The new season will see the club rebuild the playing staff, with a number of players who have cut their teeth in local junior football being under consideration by the committee. During the review of possible targets, mention has been made of the players who won the 1914-15 Birmingham Combination championship, including George Morrell, who is featuring for Hull City and had scored for his new club against Coventry City the previous Saturday. Coincidentally, the half-back opposing Morrell in that game was no other than former Nuneaton captain Emmin Dunn.

Another old Nuneaton player, Joe Norton, has been playing outside right for Leicester Fosse, whilst locally Billy Ball was still playing for Newdegate Colliery, ten years after being written off in certain quarters. Playing with Billy Ball in the Newdegate team is Dick Jarvis, who has represented Sheffield Wednesday and Luton.

A witness at a game between Atherstone Town and Hinckley United had reported that Billy Barratt was still showing good form. Other players in that match included "Muzzer" Moore and "Taddy" Stringer.

The first practice match took place on August 16th, between the Blues and the Stripes. There was a charge of 3d, which was donated to charity, and the kick-off was set for 3.30pm. Two notable absentees were goalkeeper Taylor, who was running in a sports day, and Dunkley.

The teams selected were as follows:-

Blues: Nicholls; Pritchard and Taylor; Merrick, Hartwell and Parsons; Freeborough, Fellows, Straughton, Downs and Dunn.

Stripes: Hodgkins; Field and Craig; Warner, Everton and Allcock; Chattoe, Ralphs, Day, Layton and Partington.

Of those playing in the practice match, the club has great hopes of Downs, signed from Long Eaton, who is said to be a fine forward. Other players appearing included Dunn, from Ward End Works; Hodgkins from Sparkhill; Warner who has been playing the Leicester Town League team; Partington and Freeborough have both had promising football careers in Army football.

Supporters will be pleased to welcome back Harry Field, captain of the 1914-15 championship winning side. Other players have featured in English and Southern League football.

### First Goalscorer at Manor Park

Stripes centre-forward Bernard Ralphs scored the first-ever goal at the Manor Park ground in a practice match, Blues v Stripes, on August 16th 1919.

## New Club for Nuneaton

Steps are being taken to form another football club in Nuneaton, and hopes are entertained that a good game will be seen in the town every Saturday. The team will be known as Nuneaton United FC, and will play on the Manor Park ground. The club will be altogether a separate organisation from Nuneaton Town FC, but will be run in conjunction with the premier club, and one of the objects in view is to train promising players for the Town team. The best of local amateurs have already promised their services, and other players of repute have expressed a desire to play. The team will enter for the various cup competitions within a good radius, and will also take part in some attractive friendly games. It will be the wish of all local football enthusiasts that the venture will meet with success.

Between 1,000 and 1,100 spectators gave their support to the first post-war appearance of the Nuneaton Town Association football team at the Manor Park ground, Queen's Road. True, it was only a practice match, but a crowd of over a thousand persons at such a performance gives promise eventually of a "gate" approximating to five figures.

The new ground is, of course, far from its finished condition, though the playing area is in good form, and it will need very little else to make it one of the finest arenas in the West Midlands. The accommodation for the spectators is not in so forward a state, and no attempt has been made to erect a stand. Dressing rooms are in course of erection and in conjunction with the Corporation, who are widening the Queen's Road bridge approach, the work of enclosing the ground is proceeding satisfactory.

## Wolves Reserves v Nuneaton Town 30-08-1919

**Wolves: Rostance; Baugh and Parfitt; Blunt, Riley and Davies; Whitehouse, Green, Basford, Richards and Lane.**

**Nuneaton: H. Taylor; Field and A. Taylor; Craig, Dunkley and Allcock; Chattoe, Merrick, Searby, Ralphs and Ford.**

Wolverhampton Wanderers beat Nuneaton Town in their opening match of the season by three goals to one, but it was one of the Nuneaton players who brought about Wolves' victory. Out of the three goals scored by the home side, two were scored by Town's left-half Allcock.

At the interval Wolves were leading 1-0 and Nuneaton had high hopes for the second half, but disappointment visited them in the first minute after the interval when the ball was centred at a nice angle from the Wolves' left-wing. Allcock, Green and Whitehouse all dashed forward to intercept, but Allcock reached the ball first and kicked wildly at the ball and flashed it past his own keeper and into the corner of the net.

For the next half an hour Nuneaton pressed strongly and Searby reduced the lead midway through that period. Then, the



second misfortune befell the visitors when following an attack from the right wing, Allcock tried to relieve the pressure by passing back to Taylor, but kicked it too hard and found the net.

Despite the defeat, Nuneaton had accomplished a really good performance. In fact, if the result had been a draw, neither side could have had cause for complaint. There was no suggest of Nuneaton being outplayed, in fact, the team fully held their own and gave the Wanderers continued anxiety.

In summary, although Nuneaton had good periods in attack, the forwards were far too slow to cause Wolves any real problems. By contrast, in defence Nuneaton were exceptionally strong and H. Taylor had comparatively little to do, and was only severely tested on a few occasions. Harry Field had an absolutely amazing game, and resumed his previous role as captain of the side. Naturally, he lost the toss.

## Nuneaton Town v Atherstone Town 01-09-1919

**Nuneaton: Tattersall; Bladen and Taylor; Dunn, Payne and Allcock; Chattoe, Reader, Day, H. Ford and E. Ford.**

**Atherstone: Briggs; Evans and T. Hargrave; A. Hargrave, Homer and F. Goode, Canner, E. Paul, Longland, B. Goode and Barlow.**

Memories of the old rivalry which existed between Nuneaton and Atherstone were restored on Monday, when the teams met in a friendly encounter at Manor Park. Some time ago the suggestion was made that it would be fitting for Atherstone to open the new enclosure, and negotiations were promptly commenced. Satisfactory financial arrangements were come to, and the rivals thus enabled to engage in a worthy contest.

Though the teams are this season taking part in different tournaments, the match was regarded with interest. The "Adders" relied on practically the same team that beat Rugby, the chief changes being Tom Hargrave for G. Paul at back, and the introduction of Barlow at outside-left. Nuneaton made no less than seven changes from the side which lost to the Wolves. Bladen was given a trial at right back, and the three inside forward positions were all altered. H. Ford (Newdigate Colliery), George Reader (the former centre-forward), and T. Day (Atherstone Town 1914-15 season) were given an opportunity of showing their abilities. H. Taylor and Dunkley were indisposed and Tattersall (Newdigate Colliery) and Fred Payne occupied their respective positions. Craig was unable to turn out and Emmin Dunn, who chanced to come in the role of a spectator, turned out for his old club. Mr. R. O. Evans was referee, and when the game started a crowd estimated at 4,000 to 5,000 lined the ropes. Nuneaton won the toss and kicked towards Manor Court Road.

Early on a centre from Ford saw Day hit the crossbar. Atherstone's defence were having some anxious moments and Briggs had to save from Payne and Day just grazed the upright. Reader shot wide from a good chance before Chattoe put in a good centre, which Ford headed home, but the goal was ruled offside. Ford shot just over the bar from distance

before Atherstone finally brought some pressure to bear on the Nuneaton defence, with Taylor defending well for the home side.

Briggs saved Reader's ground shot, while just after Dunn hit the post. Ford missed an open goal from Chattoe's centre before Atherstone broke on several occasions, with Taylor defending well. Nuneaton's forwards missed another open goal from Chattoe's cross before Barlow raised Atherstone's hopes when his shot hit the upright. Briggs cleared another Chattoe cross and then saved from the right winger at the expense of a fruitless corner. Longland brought Tattersall to his knees from Barlow's centre, while Paul shot over from the clearance. At the half-time whistle the score was 0-0.

Tattersall was tested on several occasions at the start of the second half, and won applause for one particularly fine save. Paul netted for Atherstone, but was ruled offside. Nuneaton went down to nine men when Day and Allcock both went off injured, and during their absence Paul tested Tattersall, who saved in style. Allcock returned to the fray as Atherstone continued to press, but Nuneaton hit back and Ford's centre was cleared by Hargrave, but only as far as Chattoe, who crossed to Allcock, but his shot was wide.

Excitement was raised by a prolonged attack on the Atherstone goal, during which Briggs pulled off another good save. Dunn's pass got Reader and Chattoe away but the latter shot wide. Atherstone countered and made several sorties into the Nuneaton area and Tattersall made several good saves. Taylor and Allcock were also to the fore with some good defensive work.

After several good centres by Chattoe and Ford had brought no reward, the Nuneaton right wing got away again and Reader swung in a good cross, which H. Ford met with his head and glided the ball into the net, giving Briggs no chance, for a beautiful goal. There were only four minutes remaining, but Atherstone pressed for an equaliser with F. Goode grazing the bar with a great drive. Nuneaton held on though, and at the final whistle the score was 1-0.

## Nuneaton Town v Wolves Reserves 06-09-1919

**Nuneaton: H. Taylor; Field and H. A. Taylor; Craig, Dunkley and Allcock; Chattoe, Reader, Dunn, Ralphs and Ford.**

**Wolves: Rostance; Baugh and Parfitt; Blunt, Riley and Davies; Whitouse, Fletcher, Skelton, Basford and Richards.**

Football in Nuneaton received a great stimulus last Saturday. The match between Nuneaton Town and Wolverhampton Wanderers raised enthusiasm to a standard which has never previously been attained. A fine day, a record crowd, a thrilling game, and a brilliant victory for Nuneaton! What more satisfying could the most critical supporter desire?

The play was of that type which makes football the fascinating pastime it is. Thrills were ten a penny. From the opening kick to the final whistle, there was hardly a dull moment. The game was fast and exciting throughout, and on occasions the play reached a point of real brilliance.



In all the many phases of the game, Nuneaton displayed marked superiority. Except for one or two short intervals the “blue and whites” were always on top of their opponents and before the interval had arrived it was clear that only cruel misfortune or a wonderful revival of the Wolves could defeat the intentions of the home team. Wholehearted endeavour and a fine standard of ability combined to provide one of the finest exhibitions given by a team wearing the Nuneaton colours.

Ralphs, who scored two of the goals, came into the team due to Prince’s absence, and he showed the crowd what he is capable of. His goals were gems, especially the second, which was a quick fire effort from 18 yards out that gave Rostance no earthly chance. The goal was so good that Ralphs received the congratulations of some Wolves’ players. Reader acquitted himself with credit, and also scored a beautiful goal with his head. The only disquieting feature about the forwards was the lack of complete harmony.

Nuneaton’s defence were superb to a man. Facing a set of speedy and hard-working forwards, the backs provided an impenetrable barrier with A. Taylor in goal making some great saves and Harry Field again in top form. H. A. Taylor was the best back on the field and gave a display that was virtually without blemish, with robust tackling and sure and well-timed clearances. The half-backs were the architects of Town’s win, with Craig, Dunkley and Allcock deserving high praise. The crowd reserved a special welcome for Emmin Dunn — his quickness and cleverness was a source of constant anxiety for the Wolves’ defence.

Rostance was brilliant in the Wolves’ goal and by half-time the home crowd despaired of him being beaten. The official attendance was give as around 4,500.

A match report on the FA Cup matches between Nuneaton Town and Tamworth Castle can be found on later pages.

## Nuneaton Town v Wrexham 20-09-1919

**Nuneaton:** H. Taylor; Pritchard and H. A. Taylor; Parsons, Dunkley (capt) and Allcock; Chattoe, Merrick, Ralphs, Craig and Ford.

**Wrexham:** Boxley; Simmonds and Davies; Matthias, Roberts and Griffiths; Lewis, Goode, Owens, Edwards and F. Roberts.

The opinions of the crowd respecting the Nuneaton versus Wrexham game were amusingly varied. It was really a delightful business to mingle amongst the spectators as they left the ground and listen to the comments. Some thought the game a splendid one and appeared thoroughly satisfied with the standard of football shown; others were superbly critical and loudly testified to their view that unless Nuneaton obtained a better team the gates would soon diminish.

Overall, the problem in the game is that there were no goals, which made the game less than exciting. Had Ralphs’ shot gone into the net rather than hit the post, it may have been a different story.

The truth of the matter is that Nuneaton’s forwards lack nippiness and the ability to convert the chances that are created. These problems were again evident against Wrexham and until there is a marked improvement on this front victories will be scarce. Emmin Dunn’s absence did not help matters as the forward line had to be rearranged. Youngster Ford needs to be coached and until that time he will never give the opposing defence the maximum amount of anxiety. Ralphs is a player of moods and by turn is good and bad. Merrick and Chattoe put plenty of work in, but their combination was too slow, especially against the splendid Davies.

Dunkley stood supreme in defence and gave a masterly display and his tackling was superb. Allcock accomplished some good work without being particularly conspicuous. H. A. Taylor played brilliantly at left-back and bore the brunt of the opposing attack. He cleared again and again with fine precision. Taylor in the Nuneaton goal made some good saves and gave every confidence.

For the visitors, Boxley did well and Davies, a Welsh International, played a magnificent game. It is only fair to mention that the slippery nature of the ground and a greasy ball made conditions far from ideal. Mr Lutwhyche, who is well known locally was as fussy as ever and stopped the game for the slightest offence.

A draw just about reflects the balance of the attacks, but Nuneaton had the majority of near attempts at scoring. Ralphs hit both crossbar and upright and Ford and Craig put efforts just over the bar. The attendance was given as 4,000, which was good considering the heavy downpour half an hour before kick-off.

## Nuneaton Town v Manchester United 25-09-1919

**Nuneaton:** H. Taylor; Pritchard and H. A. Taylor; Downs, Dunkley and Brookes; Richardson, Dunn, Roe, H. Ford and F. Ford:

**Manchester United:** Royal; Whitehead and Allman; Gumbley, Greenwood and Wilkinson; Robinson, Toms, Cooper, Smart and Hodgkins.

Manchester United sent a strong team to Nuneaton to play town in a friendly game. This match was part of an agreement made between the clubs when Norton was transferred from Nuneaton to Manchester some years ago. The war was responsible for the delay in the fulfilment of the fixture. Norton is now playing for Leicester City. Notwithstanding the fact that the match commenced at 3.30pm, a large crowd, estimated at 2,500 assembled. Nuneaton made several changes, introducing new players in Brookes, Downs and Roe. The former is an old Cradley Heath player recently demobilised, and the latter pair are from Derbyshire clubs.

Manchester United won the toss, and Roe started the game for Nuneaton. The Town were first to get away, but Dunn was dispossessed. Pritchard relieved with a big kick, and Williamson was responsible for some tricky play before being robbed by Taylor. Roe found Ford, who centred, but Allman cleared. Hodgkins put in a beautiful run for the visitors, tricking several



Town players before putting in a shot from a few yards out which Taylor saved magnificently. A tussle in Nuneaton's area was cleared after some excitement before some good passing by Manchester United ended with Smart shooting wide from Robinson's centre. Toms put in a surprise shot which Taylor saved and a minute later the same player grazed the upright.

Dunn put an effort just wide from Dunkley's pass and a minute later Dunkley shot over the bar. Taylor made a magnificent clearance at the expense of a corner, which was got away. Nuneaton came more into the game and winger F. Ford was given a good pass by his namesake, but centred behind. A glorious movement by Dunn gave Richardson a chance and he centred, but Ford could not get his shot in and had to pass back to Dunn, who shot wide. Taylor won applause for a series of great saves before a nice move by Nuneaton ended with H. Ford shooting over the bar. Dunn made a characteristic run and his shot narrowly missed before Taylor was forced into a brilliant save. At half-time the score was 0-0.

Nuneaton started the second half without H. Taylor, who had been injured. Pritchard went in goal and Manchester United scored with a shot from Smart, which went into the far corner. Taylor returned and was greeted with a round of cheers and play became evenly contested for a period of time. United's left wing carried out a brilliant move and Taylor made a fine save. A Nuneaton attack ended in a corner, which was saved before Hodgkins ran right through the Nuneaton defence, but the winger failed with his shot.

The visitors had a goal disallowed for offside, but were enjoying all of the possession and eventually overwhelmed Nuneaton. Cooper received the ball from the centre-half and threaded his way through all opposition and beat Taylor with a terrific drive from close in. Ford shot over the bar from a free-kick before Taylor punched away from Hodgkins' shot. Toms got in a cross after a mistake by Dunkley and Cooper converted with ease. A minute later Cooper scored again, with the final two goals coming in the last few minutes. The final whistle saw Manchester United run out 4-0 winners.

## Wellington Town v Nuneaton Town 04-10-1919

**Wellington:** Humphries; Thorneycroft and Littlewood; Morris, Wall and Rushton; Jones, J. White, Millington, T. White and Gregory.

**Nuneaton:** H. Taylor; Field and H. A. Taylor; Craig, Dunkley and Allcock; Bacon, Dunn, Skelly, Ralphs and Ford.

After leading three times, Nuneaton eventually went down 4-3, but if ever a team was defeated with honour it was Nuneaton. The visitors left the field to a rousing cheer from the home supporters, a sterling sign of the appreciation which Nuneaton's display had earned. Wellington are still unbeaten this year, but Nuneaton gave them an almighty fright.

The game was only a few minutes old when a nice movement by Nuneaton's right wing saw Dunn gain possession from Bacon's cross. The inside-right beat Humphries with a low drive to give the visitors an early 1-0 lead. Wellington's

centre-half Wall, crashed in an almighty shot, which Taylor saved in magnificent fashion, but White fastened on to the ball from the clearance and equalised with a first-time shot.

Nuneaton again took the lead with the best move of the game. Dunn passed to Bacon, who, to avoid being dispossessed ran towards his own goal before smartly back-heeling the ball up the line to Craig, who bore in towards goal, beating Littlewood in the process and centring for Skelly, who hit the ball first time into the corner of the net. A few moments later, Nuneaton all but made the game safe when Ford got clean away, bore in on goal and launched a shot that just grazed the upright. Wellington retaliated with a fine movement and Millington scored after slipping past Field and shooting past Taylor on the run. The half-time whistle arrived with the score at 2-2.

Nuneaton took the lead for the third time straight after the break when Dunn passed out to Bacon, who eluded the defence and centred beautifully. Skelly, with splendid judgment, met the ball first time and flashed in a shot which easily beat Humphries. The home supporters became anxious as Nuneaton pressed for the following 15 minutes, but Millington scored again to level the scores at 3-3, following good work by the Wellington forwards.

A titanic struggle ensued for the remainder of the game as both sides played desperately and the enthusiasm of the crowd was raised to great heights. The excitement was intense and thrills came fast and furious. Then Wellington forced a corner, from which Millington headed home a splendid goal. Only four minutes remained, but in that time the Wellington goal had two narrow escapes. Bacon received the ball from Dunn and sent in a shot which the goalkeeper saved in style. A corner to Nuneaton resulted in the home goal having a miraculous escape and with only seconds left Ford had a good chance from close in, but shot over the bar. At the final whistle the home side had won 4-3.

To be defeated after such a great exhibition was truly unfortunate. Nevertheless, it would be unfair to grudge Wellington their success. It was a match in which both sides played brilliantly all through.

## Nuneaton Town v Wednesbury Old Ath. 11-10-1919

**Nuneaton:** A. Taylor; Field and H. A. Taylor; Craig, Dunkley and Allcock; Bacon, Dunn, Skelly, Ralphs and Ford.

**Wednesbury:** Crutchley; Young and Goldie; Fieldhouse, Turner and Parkin; Cooper, Jenkins, Winstance, Yarrow and Clark.

After a most inglorious exhibition, Nuneaton Town were beaten by four goals to none. The score was humiliating enough, but the fact that the match was played at Nuneaton added to the humiliation. The game was not an attractive one. Wednesbury's victory was due more to Nuneaton's weakness rather than their own brilliance. Nevertheless, the visitors deserve praise for a fine exposition of the long passing game.





Nuneaton have given some poor displays this season, but surely never has so much lifelessness and incompetence been shown as was the case in the first half against Wednesbury. The players seemed in difficulties all the while and never got beyond the stage of running after the Wednesbury men. The visiting forwards ran through Nuneaton's defence with absurd ease, and the home team were bewildered. In the second half Nuneaton showed considerable improvement, but never inspired confidence.

The game was one which supporters of Nuneaton will not care to recall. It was more than a defeat, it was a debacle. The game requires little description. In the first half Wednesbury scored three goals. The first was a soft affair, and ought to have been prevented. The other goals were the results of good shots. Just before the end of the game, after Nuneaton had put in a spell of fruitless attacking, Wednesbury broke away, and with the home defence in a quandary, another easy goal was scored. To the visitors, scoring seemed the simplest thing possible. Clarke, Winstance (2) and Yarrow were the scorers.

One point the spectators would do well to remember is that no individuals feel the disappointment more than do the players themselves. They realise as much as anybody their failings and shortcomings, and they are just as genuinely regretful as any official. It is no pleasure to the players to be on the losing side; they are always keen to win, but if the fates decree that they should give a poor display and lose heavily, they cannot help themselves.

## Wednesbury Old Ath. v Nuneaton Town 18-10-1919

Wednesbury: Crutchley; Young and Goldie; Fieldhouse, Turner and Parkin; Cooper, Jenkins, Winstance, Yarrow and Clark.

Nuneaton: A. Taylor; Pritchard and H. A. Taylor; Allcock, Brooks and Gumbley; Bacon, Dunn, Skelly, Ralphs and Ford.

Football is a game largely at the mercy of Dame Fortune. Very often a stroke of luck — good or bad — completely alters the course of the game and provides the basis of the ultimate result. This is what happened at Wednesbury on Saturday. Before a goal had been registered by either side, Dunn missed the easiest chance of putting Nuneaton ahead. A centre from the left found him unmarked, and Crutchley out of goal. He failed to gather the ball the first time, but recovered, only to shoot weakly into the goal. By this time Crutchley had got back to position, and stopped the shot — if shot it could be called.

Apart from this solitary misfortune, Nuneaton had no reason to complain of anything except their own exhibition. To be quite candid Nuneaton did not deserve a better result. Nevertheless, the victory was a trifle flattering to Wednesbury, whose display certainly did not warrant much self-satisfaction. There was a poverty of cleverness which reflected little credit to either side. Wednesbury employed the long passing game as usual, but wild kicking and

untimely rushes robbed this style of any attraction it might have possessed.

Nuneaton certainly played a better game than they did the previous week at home, but the weak spots were again emphasised. It is no use hiding the fact that every department of the team needs strengthening. Neither at back, half-back or forward is there sufficient reliability or competence, and further alterations are required before matches can be won.

Regarding individual players A. Taylor played well until he was hurt with 15 minutes to go, and had to leave the field. Pritchard's kicking and tackling left much to be desired. H. A. Taylor at left back was in good form and gave a sterling exhibition. Allcock was the most outstanding player on the field and Jack Gumbley's re-appearance is to be welcomed. Little needs to be written about the Nuneaton forwards, except that they failed.

## Another Prominent Player Secured

The Nuneaton Town FC officials yesterday secured the signature of a well-known outside left who has recently been demobilised. The new player's name is Pointon, a Junior International, who at one time played for Redditch and Birmingham. Several big clubs made him tempting offers, Nuneaton's terms were also good. Negotiations have been going on for some days. In spite of his fine display at outside left last week, Ralphs will have to return to an inside position.

## Nuneaton Town v WBA Reserves

25-10-1919

Nuneaton: Tattersall; Dyson and Taylor; Allcock, Brooks and Gumbley; Ralphs, Dunn, Skelly, Cooper, Coley.

Though Nuneaton Town lost to West Bromwich Albion at home by two goals to one, few supporters were heard to complain of the display given by Nuneaton with many being of the opinion that the home side did not deserve to lose, with the result not being a fair reflection of the balance of play or the merits of the respective teams.

The new line-up gave a much-improved performance and it was possibly the best performance since the game against Wolves at Manor Park. The game itself was of a good quality with some good play from both sides, and plenty to hold the supporters' interest. It was creditable to Nuneaton that they should play the "Throstles" at their own game.

Nuneaton started in promising fashion with Ralphs making a good run, but the visitors' defence held firm. Several subsequent raids by the home forwards brought the team within an ace of success, but West Bromwich gradually assumed the upper hand, and brought pressure to bear on the Nuneaton goal. Albion scored the first goal when Newall



headed past Tattersall after the keeper had punched the ball away. For some time after the goal, the visitors kept up the pressure and it seemed that Nuneaton were destined for another heavy defeat. The players reasserted themselves, however, and before the interval the game had developed into a hard tussle.

Albion mounted a raid on the home goal at the start of the second half, but Nuneaton gradually assumed the upper hand, and so relentless was the pressure that it appeared probable that the visitors' lead would be short-lived. Nuneaton received a setback, however, when Taylor received a kick in the thigh and had to leave the field. He returned, but was obviously unfit and became an easy target for Albion's forwards and during a sudden attack the ball was sent across from the right wing to the left, and Hobbs flashed in a swift ground shot which beat Tattersall. Taylor immediately left the field for the rest of the game.

This reverse seemed to take some of the heart out of the Nuneaton side, but to their credit they continued to have the best of the play, but shots struck the crossbar or narrowly missed. A section of the crowd had left the ground by the time Skelly pulled a goal back with the last kick of the match.

Regarding individual players, Tattersall was excellent, saving many difficult shots. Dyson was an improvement at right-back and the other back Taylor, was in splendid form until his injury. Gumbley was the pick of the half-backs and Brooks' passing was of a high quality. The forward line was much improved, but there is still room for improvement. Ralphs showed up well, as did Cooper. Skelly was not altogether pleasing, but his goal was a gem, and several of his other efforts went close.

## **WBA Reserves v Nuneaton Town** 01-11-1919

**Nuneaton: Tattersall; Dyson and Taylor; Allcock, Brooks, Gumbley; Coley, Ralphs, Cooper, Skelly, Pointon.**

As in the previous week's match a goal was scored with the last kick of the match. In the game at The Hawthorns, Nuneaton were leading 2-1, as the referee had his watch in his hand and was about to blow his whistle for time. Edwards raced down the left, rounded the defence and centred to Newall, who crashed in a terrific shot, which gave Tattersall no chance. The ball was kicked back towards the centre, but before a restart could be made, the referee signalled the end.

Taken as a whole, the game provided much satisfaction from the Nuneaton point of view. The team was quite as good, if not better, than West Bromwich. There was a much larger measure of cohesion, and the combination reached a splendid level. After taking the lead half way through the second half, Nuneaton played some brilliant football, in fact, the best they have played for some time.

At this period an easy win for Nuneaton seemed probable and on one occasion Ralphs secured a good position and

flashed in a beautiful shot which Irwin saved in great style. Five minutes later a cross from Ralphs left Skelly with an open goal, but he shot high over the bar.

In the first-half the game was even, with each side doing their share of attacking, and play swinging from end to end. The first goal of the match went to Albion as Newall slipped through the Nuneaton defence and scored with a shot that went high out of Tattersall's reach. Nuneaton retaliated and equalised just before the break. The ball hovered about in the home team's area for some time and the sustained pressure yielded success as Pointon headed home for a good goal, to make the score 1-1 at the break.

Tattersall made several good saves at the start of the second half, but Nuneaton responded well and after several attempts on the home goal, Cooper seized on a miskick, raced through and netted a great goal. The remainder of the play saw Nuneaton on top and looking likely winners — until the last seconds of the match.

The performance of Brooks at centre-half was magnificent, as was Gumbley's, who nullified the threat of Bassett. Allcock was again the weakest of the half-backs. Nuneaton's defence was exceptional with both Taylor and Dyson in outstanding form, as was Tattersall in the Nuneaton goal.

## **Nuneaton Town v Stourbridge** 15-11-1919

**Nuneaton: Tattersall; Dyson and Taylor; Dunn, Brooks and Gumbley; Ralphs, Cooper, Morris, Pointon, Coley.**

Nuneaton Town now occupy the unenviable position of bottom of the Birmingham and District League table, and unless a surprising reversal of form and results is experienced an improvement will not be effected. It is many years since Nuneaton have performed so miserably. Match after match brings unaccustomed defeat, and the playing reputation of the club has never been at such a low ebb.

The supporters have refused to give up hope and have philosophically accepted continued defeat, writing each one off as a run of bad luck. There was a feeling that the run would come to an end at the expense of Stourbridge, and despite the wintry weather a good crowd attended.

As on the previous Saturday, Nuneaton started in flattering fashion, and Pointon all but scored with a terrific shot. However, as the game wore on the promising opening was not maintained and the visitors began to exert their talents. The score was 0-0 at the break, but Nuneaton had missed some easy chances, with Morris being guilty of an unpardonable blunder, when he shot wide of an open goal, and the same player conspired with Pointon in getting in each other's way from another glorious opportunity.

Stourbridge scored the only goal of the game a minute after the break when the visitors broke away on the left and Haynes converted Oakes' cross. Dyson was off the field when the goal



was conceded, but this does not excuse the easy way in which the home defence was out-manoeuvred. Nuneaton finished the game as they had started, attacking strongly, but the pressure they exerted came too late. Nevertheless, the game ought to have been saved, as with just five minutes to go, Town were awarded a penalty. Ralphs took the kick, but missed in glorious fashion, sending the ball yards wide. This was the incident that filled the cup of disappointment to the brim. Two late corners were cleared and the final whistle sounded.

The problems were familiar, a lack of ability in front of goal with Cooper being totally ineffective and new man Morris, not nearly good enough. The only two players to come out of the game with any merit were Tattersall, who was again brilliant in goal, and Taylor who performed valiantly at the back.

The defeat proved to be the straw that broke the camel's back, and it is safe to assert that a despondency has laid its hold upon the club officials, players and spectators alike.

## Kidderminster Harriers v Nuneaton Town 22-11-1919

**Nuneaton: Tattersall; Craig and Taylor; Allcock, Brooks and Gumbley; Ford, Dunn, Cooper, Ralphs, Coley**

It is many years since Nuneaton Town met with such a big defeat as the team did last Saturday when Kidderminster Harriers trounced them six goals to one. Even the bad record of the club this season did not rob the result of its surprise. The team is going from bad to worse, the league position is precarious and the most disquieting fact of all, confidence has been entirely shattered.

Against Kidderminster the team was practically beaten before the game commenced. There was a prevailing air of hopelessness and it was only after strenuous efforts that a complete team was got together. Dyson was injured and Pointon sent a late telegram saying that his doctor had forbidden him from playing. Efforts through the week to sign new players had been unsuccessful. Fortunately, the precaution had been taken to take Craig, Allcock and H. Ford along. The team was thus disorganised before they went on the field with nearly half the players being out of position.

The first-half was quite even, but the football was of a poor quality with both teams being ragged in their methods. Nuneaton's efforts to score were woefully weak, and they never seemed likely to achieve success. The first goal of the match came from Marshall, who following an attack on the left wing, scored for the Harriers with a great shot. Later on, Nuneaton were awarded a penalty and Taylor made no mistake, beating the keeper with some ease. Five minutes from the break Marshall again gave Kidderminster the lead when he crashed in a terrific shot which Tattersall got a hand to, but the shot was too powerful and knocked his hand aside on its way into the net.

Nuneaton attacked after the break, but their work close to goal lacked ability. In marked contrast, Kidderminster notched a third goal from their first attack of the half, with Handley

shooting past Tattersall. The ball hit the post and bounced into the goal. Then followed a debacle, the like of which Nuneaton have not experienced for many a long day, when a minute later Nightingale received and went past all opposition before centring for Marshall, who had little difficulty in scoring number four. Two minutes later Harriers again swept forward and from another Nightingale centre, Nicholls took advantage of some weak defending to make the score 5-1. After a brief excursion to the other end Nuneaton were again pushed back and Handley scored yet another goal to make it 6-1, with four goals being scored by the home team within 15 minutes.

Nuneaton have lost some games this season after playing a creditable game, but even this consolation did not apply in this match. The team gave a miserable exhibition throughout, and played as though they regarded defeat inevitable. There was a painful lack of both dash and cleverness, and the efforts of the forwards were pathetic in the extreme.

## Nuneaton Sign English League Player

Drastic changes have been made in the Nuneaton Town team to play Darlaston tomorrow, at Darlaston. One or two notable captures have been made, and the long series of negotiations by the club officials are now showing results.

Foremost amongst the new men secured is Sambrooke, the Coventry City centre-forward. He has played in most of the Second Division matches Coventry have played this season, but he was placed on the transfer list, and Nuneaton immediately sought his services.

An inside-left, name Brookbanks, has also been signed. He played 27 matches for Bristol City in the Second Division in 1914-15 season, and proved a prolific scorer.

Burton, a new inside-right, has just been demobilised. He played in Southern League football before joining up.

A new left-half named Webb will appear. He played for Aston Villa in Victory football last season. Ralphs will be placed at outside-right and Dennis will appear at right-back..

## Darlaston v Nuneaton Town

06-12-1919

**Nuneaton: Tattersall; Dennis and Taylor; Dunn, Craig and Webb; Ralphs, Burton, Sambrooke, Brookbanks and Pointon.**

The unfortunate spell has been broken and Nuneaton have won their second league match of the season. Darlaston were beaten on their own ground by three goals to two. There was no fluke about Nuneaton's victory; it was the well-merited reward for good play and ceaseless effort.

Early in the game it was apparent that the changes to the Nuneaton team were going to make a difference and there was a sparkle about their play that promised well. Ralphs was a forerunner of several attacks and the first goal of the game came after 15 minutes play. Pointon was careering down the

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



wing when he was fouled. The inside left took the resultant free kick and placed in the goalmouth where Ralph scored a beautiful goal from a narrow angle. Darlaston retaliated in spirited fashion, but their equaliser had a slice of luck about it. Weston and Taylor rushed forward as Twyford pushed a pass forward, which struck Taylor on the hand, for which a penalty was awarded. Gregory beat Tattersall from the spot.

Play was both fast and exciting and scrimmages took place in both goalmouths. The most thrilling incident before the interval was a brilliant run by Sambrook, who on receiving the ball from Burton, swerved past the backs and crashed in a terrific shot which struck Waite and almost knocked him over the line. He brought off a fantastic save, however, and the team went in for the interval on level terms.

Nuneaton had the advantage of a pronounced slope in the second half and were first to attack. Burton missed a good chance before Ralphs put in a run, sending in a fast low shot which Waite pushed round the post. For the next 15 minutes Darlaston had the best of the play, but Nuneaton's defence stood firm. Burton and Ralphs swapped positions after the former had received a nasty kick. Darlaston's second goal came about 20 minutes from time, when Dennis slipped and W. Hughes picked up on the error and crashed home a great shot.

Nuneaton strove hard after this setback and the forwards and halves combined in many attacks. The equalising goal came as a result of the finest movement of the game. Craig initiated the effort, passing the ball to Webb, who gave it to Pointon. The latter passed to Brookbanks, who put across to Ralphs, whose oblique pass to Sambrooke saw him dash between the backs and fire a rising shot into the goal. Five minutes later Pointon got away again and went past two opponents and centred from the touchline. Sambrooke met the ball with his head and scored what proved to be Nuneaton's winning goal.

There was only ten minutes left to play and there was a lot of excitement with Thomas grazing an upright and Weston missing a good chance in the last minute. It was a ding-dong finish, but Nuneaton held on to win 3-2.

## Nuneaton Town v Darlaston 13-12-1919

**Nuneaton: Tattersall; Dennis and Taylor; Dunn, Craig and Webb; Ralphs, Burton, Sambrooke, Hubbard, Pointon.**

A great crowd assembled at Manor Park and had the pleasure of watching Nuneaton Town gain a fine victory over Darlaston. The three goals to one victory was a refreshing tonic after a long period of disappointment.

Nuneaton set about their task in promising fashion, and the opening goal was well deserved, though it happened to be scored by one of the visiting defenders. A series of attacks culminated in Pointon swinging the ball into the centre with decided force. Towers rushed in to meet it, but it cannoned off his body and into the net. Sambrooke grazed the bar for Nuneaton, as did Hall for Darlaston, while Waite made a good

save from Pointon. Ralphs looked certain to score with the ball arrowing towards the top corner, but Waite scooped the ball out in terrific fashion. At the break, Nuneaton were 1-0 up.

The opening of the second half saw Sambrooke go on a series of runs, but the real thrill came just after when Dunn passed to Burton, who sent across a good centre, which found Hubbard who put in a terrific shot which flashed into the top of the net. The same player put in a terrific run a few moments later, but he was tackled and Sambrooke picked up the ball and fired narrowly wide. Sambrooke again went close before a brilliant shot by Dunn was well saved by Waite.

Darlaston were encouraged by their narrow escapes and frequently attacked down the left. On one occasion Weston got away and, easily eluding Dennis, centred to Hughes who beat Tattersall with a shot from close range. For a time it looked as though Darlaston would equalise and Tattersall made several good saves, with most of the danger coming from Weston and Arblaster. The home players responded to encouragement from the crowd and a remarkable incident took place near the Darlaston goal when a shot from Pointon hit the crossbar, and a scrimmage ensued. With the ball looking to be on its way into the net, Ralphs ran in to make sure and managed to kick the ball away from danger.

The third and final goal was not long in coming, and Hubbard was once again the scorer. He passed the ball out to Pointon, who centred and Hubbard picked up the cross, slipped between the full backs and shot brilliantly into the net. Soon after Ralphs hit the upright and Waite was forced to save yet again, when Nuneaton looked likely to score. The final whistle saw the home team run out winners by three goals to one.

Hubbard, who scored two of Town's goals had only arrived at the game as a spectator, but due to Brookbanks absence was asked to play. He had never played in an affiliated league before and to put in such a performance was remarkable.

## Worcester City v Nuneaton Town 20-12-1919

**Nuneaton: Tattersall; Dennis and Taylor; Dunn, Craig and Webb; Burton, Ralphs, Sambrooke, Pointon, Hubbard.**

Nuneaton gave a brilliant display at Worcester and their five goals to two victory over the City team was one of the outstanding performances in the Birmingham League.

Worcester pressed strongly for the opening ten minutes, but for the rest of the match Nuneaton had the home team under their total control. However, intermittent rallies by the City prevented play from becoming absolutely one-sided, and so preserved interest in the competition. The game was remarkably fast and well contested and Nuneaton's overwhelming victory was down to their own form rather than weakness on Worcester's part.

The game had only been in progress for fifteen minutes when Nuneaton scored the first goal. Hubbard passed out to Pointon, who centred for Sambrooke to head on to Ralphs, who eluded





the full back and ran on to score with an excellent shot. Shortly after the Worcester left back miskicked and Ralphs fastened on to the ball and dashed forward with Sambrooke alongside him. The inside right took the shot and scored again. Worcester retaliated and from Treherne's centre, Goldie, who stood unmarked notched City's first goal.

Nuneaton increased their lead when Webb was fouled about 20 yards from goal. Craig took the kick and shot high into the corner of the net with a first-class drive. Ralphs and Burton got away on the right for the visitors, and from the latter's centre, Sambrooke headed home in great style, but the referee disallowed the goal for offside. At half-time the score was 3-1.

After the interval, Nuneaton maintained the pressure and eventually a pass by Dunn gave Sambrooke a chance, and without hesitation he sent in a screw shot which easily beat Hobday. Worcester cut the deficit when Milton launched a clearance upfield where the ball cannoned off a defender and into the path of Crabtree, who had no problem in beating Tattersall. About ten minutes from time, Sambrooke brought the total up to the "old five". Receiving a centre from Pointon, he crouched down and headed the ball into the net. Nuneaton had several more chances through Sambrooke, but at the final whistle Nuneaton had won by five goals to two.

## Wrexham v Nuneaton Town 26-12-1919

**Wrexham:** Boxley; Trevor Jones and Simpson; Matthias, E. D. Roberts and Griffiths; Jardine, Goode, Owen, Edwards and F. Roberts.

**Nuneaton:** Tattersall; Alcock and Taylor; Dunn, Craig and Brooks; Burton, Ralphs, Cooper, Hubbard and Pointon.

Nuneaton met with a heavy defeat at Wrexham on Boxing Day, losing four goals to nil. The margin, however, was ill-deserved, as Nuneaton gave quite a good display and Wrexham had to work hard to get the points.

At half-time Wrexham led by two goals to nil, with Edwards and Owen being the scorers. After the break Edwards and Matthews scored further goals for the home team. The fourth goal resulted from a highly debatable penalty. Even the home players and supporters wondered at the decision.

Nuneaton played with a weakened side with Sambrooke, Webb and Milton all missing. Cooper, Brooks and Alcock coming in as replacements. Despite the changes, Nuneaton played some good football and the result was decidedly flattering to the home side. If Nuneaton had been sharper in front of goal, the game may have taken a different direction. Still, Nuneaton made a favourable impression on the home supporters, who gave them a hearty reception.

## Nuneaton Town v Hednesford Town 27-12-1919

**Nuneaton:** Tattersall; Alcock and Taylor; Dunn, Craig and Milton; Burton, Ralphs, Sambrooke, Hubbard and Pointon.

There were 5,000 in attendance for the game against Hednesford, and they witnessed 90 minutes of action packed

football, which generated a crescendo of noise and excitement.

Ralphs immediately won the ball, tricked two opponents and passed to Sambrooke, who raced round the backs and sent in a beautiful ground shot, which was saved by Wykes. This was followed by relentless pressure from the home side as time and again the forwards attacked the Hednesford goal, and it was a miracle that Nuneaton only scored three goals in this period, as they could have had half a dozen.

The loudest cheer of the first-half came when Craig passed the ball back to Tattersall to give him his first touch of the afternoon. Nuneaton's three first-half goals all came from the left-wing, with the first being the result of a delightful movement initiated by Hubbard, who drew the defence and passed to Pointon, who flashed a great shot past Wykes. A similar move between Hubbard and Pointon brought about the second goal, but this time Pointon's shot was partially saved, but Sambrooke, following up, put the ball into the net.

Pointon scored the third after an opening was created by Craig. Town had the advantage of a strong wind in the first half, which made defending difficult for the visitors. After the break, positions were reversed and Heard headed in a centre to cut the deficit to 3-1 and two minutes later, Taylor miskicked and let in J. Lyons who made it 3-2. Five minutes later, Nuneaton scored a fourth, with one of the best goals seen at Manor Park. Sambrooke got away and swept a pass out to Burton. The outside-right returned to Sambrooke, who drove a low ground shot into the net. The crowd roared their approval.

Hednesford reduced the lead when Nuneaton conceded a free-kick on the edge of the area. J. Lyons took the kick and took advantage of the poorly positioned wall to score with a high shot into the net. With ten minutes remaining, a ding-dong battle ensued, but Nuneaton held the whip hand and at the final whistle they had won 4-3. Nuneaton missed several chances with Sambrooke and Ralphs going close. Sambrooke was the hero of the hour with a display of dash and cleverness.

## Nuneaton Town v Brierley Hill Alliance 03-01-1920

**Nuneaton:** Tattersall; Milton and Taylor; Dunn, Richmond and Craig; Burton, Ralphs, Sambrooke, Cooper and Pointon.

**Brierley Hill:** Adams; Hanbury and Fisher; Kimberley, Parkes and Kidd; Chance, Picken, Griffiths, Brooks and Westwood.

Nuneaton gained a runaway victory over Brierley Hill Alliance, but the game was only a moderate one, due to the treacherous nature of the pitch and a greasy ball following a downfall of sleet and rain during the morning. In addition, the game was too one-sided.

Nuneaton kicked into a slight wind in the first half, but in the opening minute Ralphs just failed with a solo effort. The first goal came after five minutes from a movement initiated by Sambrooke, and a centre from Pointon, which was punched away by Adams. The ball fell to Dunn, who sent in a ground shot, which beat the keeper all the way. The second goal also

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



involved Pointon, who ran the ball to the touchline before centring to Sambrooke, who shot past Adams. Pointon scored the third himself and the three goal lead was by no means flattering, as Town monopolised the play.

The second half was even more one-sided and Nuneaton practically toyed with the opposition, with all three half-backs joining in the attack. The fourth goal was the result of a shot from Dunn that was helped into the net by Brierley Hill defender Fisher. Soon after, Brierley Hill reduced the deficit when Chance put in a fine centre for Westwood, who crashed in a terrific shot, which was well saved by Tattersall, but Brooks picked up the loose ball and steered the ball past the keeper. Nuneaton retaliated and a melee developed in front of the Alliance goal. Sambrooke headed the ball into the goalmouth and Fisher tried to punch the ball clear, but only succeeded in punching into his own net.

Richmond had an impressive debut at centre-half and dominated the game, playing with consummate coolness and cleverness. Dunn and Craig both gave masterly displays.

## Nuneaton Town v Wellington Town 10-01-1920

**Nuneaton: Tattersall; Milton and Taylor; Dunn, Richmond and Craig; Burton, Ralphs, Sambrooke, Webb and Pointon.**

Nuneaton were the architects of their own downfall, having missed numerous opportunities to score in the opening fifteen minutes. Ralphs shot wide when well placed before Sambrooke shot high into the net to open the scoring. The ball was hit with such power that it bounced back out of the net. Webb, however missed another glorious chance just minutes later, shooting over the bar with only the keeper to beat. Hedgecox, in the Wellington goal distinguished himself with several fine saves before Wellington attacked and Price found the net with a long, dipping shot, which Tattersall looked as though he might have saved. Hedgecox had many difficult shots to save during the game, but he gave a sound display of goalkeeping.

The game was made more difficult by a torrential downpour half way through the first half. The players were drenched and an already difficult pitch was made worse. The consensus seemed to be that the team to score the next goal would be the winner, and so it proved, when twenty-five minutes from the end Wall punted the ball upfield to Gregory, whose centre was met by J. White, who steered it past Tattersall. Nuneaton appealed for offside in vain. Town played desperately for an equaliser, but Wellington were in good form and play was fairly even. There were some exciting tussles in the visitors goalmouth towards the end, but Hedgecox came out of the ordeal with flying colours, and it was down to him that Wellington triumphed.

For Nuneaton, both Dunn and Taylor gave brilliant performances, with nothing in the game surpassing Dunn's clever strategy, while Taylor was a robust and reliable

defender. Richmond and Craig both put in creditable performances for the home side. Hedgecox's display of goalkeeping was one of the finest seen at Manor Park, with great handling of a greasy ball and excellent anticipation.

## Brierley Hill Alliance v Nuneaton Town 17-01-1920

**Brierley Hill: Adams; Hanbury and Nicholls; Peters, Parkes and Kimberley; Chance, Kidd, Stone, Brooks and Westwood.**

**Nuneaton: Tattersall; Milton and Taylor; Craig, Richmond and Webb; Ralphs, Dunn, Sambrooke, Robinson and Pointon.**

Nuneaton put in an exceptional performance at Brierley Hill, and stamped their authority on the game throughout, notwithstanding an early setback. The home side started with real intent and the visitors' defence had to be on their guard. This changed after just ten minutes, when Nuneaton took the game to Brierley and after a period of pressure Sambrooke flashed a shot into the net to give Town a 1-0 lead.

Not long after the first goal, Brierley Hill's left-back miskicked and the ball went over his head to Dunn, who trapped the ball and placed it past Adams and into the net. Sambrooke scored a third from Pointon's centre, putting the ball into the net from close range. Brierley Hill had hardly had an attack by this stage and Tattersall was rarely troubled.

There was a change after the break as the home team took advantage of the slope, but their attacks came to nothing as the Nuneaton defence held firm and re-established themselves for a significant period. However, a Brierley Hill attack saw them awarded a dubious penalty, when Richmond breasted the ball down, but was adjudged by the referee to have handled the ball. Parkes took the penalty, but hit the crossbar and when the ball rebounded into play, an exciting melee took place in front of the Nuneaton goal.

Brierley Hill did score soon after, when Webb attempted a short pass to his forwards, which was intercepted by Peters, and his centre was headed home by Stone. Webb made up for this by making three terrific clearances. Nuneaton hit back and Dunn broke free and tested Adams with a great shot, which was so well struck that the keeper could only push the ball out and Pointon had the simple task of putting the ball into the net.

Sambrooke made an excellent break and tried to trick keeper Adams as he ran out, but the ball struck the keeper's arm and bounced off to a defender, who cleared the ball. No further goals were scored and at the final whistle Nuneaton were clear winners by four goals to one.

Richmond had an exceptional game for Nuneaton, both in defence and attack, and his play won applause from both sets of supporters. Emmin Dunn was also outstanding and had his best game of the season as Nuneaton provided an exhibition of trickery and fine passing. New centre-forward Robinson tended to over-elaborate at times, but proved himself a capable footballer.

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



## Willenhall Swifts v Nuneaton Town 24-01-1920

**Nuneaton:** Tattersall; Milton and Taylor; Craig, Richmond and Webb; Ralphs, Dunn, Sambrooke, Robinson and Pointon.

The highlights of the first half included two excellent goals, one to each side. Nuneaton took the lead through Richmond, who powered the ball through a host of players following a corner from Pointon. The Willenhall equaliser was also of good quality — Lally heading past Tattersall from Harvey's accurate centre.

At one point during the game, it seemed that Nuneaton were destined to lose, but they rallied in brilliant style and ended the game with both points. It was just after the break, when Town seemed to be heading for defeat, after Butler put in a long shot, which left Tattersall rooted, having misjudged the curl of the ball. Richmond was then knocked unconscious, after the home centre-half sent in a powerful drive, and the ball, made heavy by the rain, struck Richmond full on the head and he collapsed in a heap. He was carried from the pitch and received treatment, and did not return until ten minutes later.

During Richmond's absence, the Nuneaton goal was subjected to a terrific bombardment and the defence was hard pressed. Tattersall made up for his earlier misjudgment by making several saves, with one being especially brilliant. When Richmond returned, Nuneaton slowly got back into the game and launched some dangerous attacks. After a period of pressure on the home goal, Ralphs was given the ball just over the halfway line and beat several players in succession before shooting past Richards in the Willenhall goal.

There was a remarkable finish to the game when, with two minutes remaining, the referee blew his whistle, loud and long. Most thought he had signalled the end of the game, but he had awarded a free-kick to the home side. The kick was intercepted by Craig, who passed up to Dunn. The latter tricked the defence and passed out to Ralphs, who centred the ball into the goalmouth, where Sambrooke passed to Pointon, who put the ball into the net. A minute later time was called and Nuneaton had secured a 3-2 win.

The whole of the game had been a contrast in styles, with Nuneaton playing a short passing game, while Willenhall swung the ball about in traditional Black Country manner.

## Nuneaton Town v Willenhall Swifts 31-01-1920

**Nuneaton:** Tattersall; Milton and Taylor; Craig, Richmond and Webb; Ralphs, Dunn, Sambrooke, Robinson and Pointon.

**Willenhall:** Richards; Reading and Earp; Silvers, Probert and Hodgkiss; Davey, Lalley, Vaughan, Butler and Bagnham.

Five thousand people assembled to welcome Willenhall to Manor Park and most will have left happy, although they may have wondered how the home team had managed to score

so few goals, being completely dominant from start to finish. The first goal came as early as the first minute when Dunn picked up a loose ball and made down the wing. He threw off the visitors' defence by doubling back on himself, before passing the ball through the centre to Sambrooke, who darted past the backs and beat Richards with a rousing shot.

The next ten minutes saw the Willenhall goal subjected to a terrific bombardment with shots galore raining in on the visitors' goal. Unfortunately for Town, they either just missed the target or Richards pulled off a save. The Willenhall goal continued to be a target for innumerable shots and the home of several scrimmages. The one-sided nature of the play was such that it almost made the game monotonous. Despite the siege, no further goals were scored before the break and at the half-time whistle Nuneaton had a 1-0 lead.

The second period started in much the same vein, with Dunn receiving a ball from Craig before working his way toward goal and beating Richards with a beautiful shot. Nuneaton extended their lead following a sustained spell of pressure. Dunn passed the ball out to Ralphs, who ran with the ball to within six yards of the goal before passing to Sambrooke, who shot coolly past the keeper.

After this, Willenhall showed some improvement and Tattersall was tested on several occasions before Butler and Vaughan set up a nice movement which ended with Butler breaking clean through the Town defence and scoring a good goal to make the score 3-1. Nuneaton then had further defending to do and a scrimmage in front of the home goal was cleared with difficulty.

Nuneaton's supporters encouraged their favourites to attack with shouts of 'Play Up Nuneaton', which seemed to encourage the home side and they again took play to the Willenhall half, where Robinson shot over the bar. A corner kick was won just after, which Ralphs placed superbly for Sambrooke to head home, extending Nuneaton's lead and completing his hat-trick.

Following the fourth goal the game became more even and although there was another scrimmage in the home goalmouth and good shots put in by Dunn and Sambrooke, the game ended 4-1 to the home side.

Nuneaton's half-back line again performed well and Richmond was again in top form, and as well as performing his defensive duties he found time to put in a few solo runs, in which he



**Hugh Richmond**

tricked several opponents with classic ease. Craig and Webb were both solid and the defenders kicked and tackled well when they had to. The real plaudits, though, go to Dunn, who gave a brilliant display that was brainy, thrustful and tricky. His passes to Sambrooke and Ralphs bore the stamp of genius.



## Nuneaton Town v Birmingham City Res 07-02-1920

**Nuneaton:** Tattersall; Milton and Taylor; Craig, Richmond and Webb; Ralphs, Dunn, Sambrooke, Robinson and Pointon.

**Birmingham:** Commander; Wilson and White; Evans, Hawley and Daws; Roberts, Roe, Hampton, Elkes and Davies.

The game against Birmingham was a terrific spectacle and there were many thrilling incidents in one of the best games seen at Manor Park. The fact that Birmingham missed three penalties also contributed to the game standing out as a memorable one. The visitors sent a strong side, and although the score may be flattering, the home side were worthy winners.



**Harry Hampton**

There was great excitement when the crowd learned of the inclusion of Harry Hampton, who was transferred from Aston Villa to Birmingham the previous evening. Possibly no other footballer has had such glamour attached to his name as "Happy Harry". But Hampton wasn't the only first-class player in the Birmingham side, as the forward line included Elkes, Roe and Davies, all of whom had played first team football.

Nuneaton were the most dangerous in front of goal, although there were many missed chances on both sides, with Robinson's being the worst, just before the close. Davies and Elkes both missed penalties for Birmingham with poor efforts. The third missed penalty was taken by Hampton, who struck an accurate drive which was well saved by Tattersall.

Nuneaton's first goal was scored in the opening minutes of the game. Webb won a tackle and passed the ball up to Pointon, whose well-placed centre was driven past Commander by Dunn, giving the home side a 1-0 lead. The Nuneaton captain had another well-struck drive saved, while Sambrooke broke through and skimmed the bar with a good shot. Ex-England player Hampton shot yards wide when well placed before Davies put a penalty over the bar.

The second half was more thrilling than the first and just after the break Dunn set Ralphs going and the the winger made his way towards goal and unleashed a shot that Commander saved at the expense of a corner. Ralphs took the corner and a scramble ensued in the Birmingham box and eventually Robinson drove the ball into the net. The third Nuneaton goal was scored by Dunn, who drove a fine ground shot into the net. Birmingham won a second penalty, which was also missed, with Elkes shooting miserably wide. The third penalty was a travesty, Richmond being penalised for a fair charge.

## Birmingham City Res v Nuneaton Town 14-02-1920

**Nuneaton:** Tattersall; Milton and Taylor; Craig, Richmond and Webb; Ralphs, Dunn, Sambrooke, Robinson and Pointon.

Birmingham changed their side considerably from the previous week, with four different forwards and a new

goalkeeper. The game itself did not reach the same high standard as the game at Manor Park, but the visitors came out of the game with honour in defeat.

The home side won the game in the opening seven minutes. With just two minutes gone, Town's defence got in a complete tangle and Short scored the easiest of chances. Five minutes later Davies passed to Thompson, who sent in a low shot from long range, which found its way into the far corner, giving the home side a 2-0 lead. Tattersall should have done better, and why he failed to judge the angle is a complete mystery.

Birmingham continued to have things their own way and Nuneaton's defence appeared bewildered at times, with both Milton and Taylor showing hesitancy in the tackle, as well as misjudging the bounce of the ball time and again. The main reason the home side failed to benefit is Richmond, who gave a fine defensive display. At the other end, the Birmingham half-backs, particularly Hawley, stopped any promising moves in their tracks. A change did come about, though and just before the break more pressure was put on the home defence.

The second half brought about a complete change in the game's character and the home side were outplayed for the greater part of the second half. Nuneaton's backs improved and Richmond was free to instigate some attacks, which almost bore fruit on more than one occasion. A goal was accrued eventually, with just 15 minutes to play Dunn sent in a great shot that Godfrey tipped over the bar just before he was charged by Sambrooke, both players ending up in a tangle in the rigging and receiving a word from the referee.

The corner was nicely placed by Ralphs and Sambrooke headed the ball into the net. Just before the end Dunn and Sambrooke combined in a nice run and the former sent in a magnificent ground shot that looked destined for the net. Godfrey, however, pulled off a miraculous save, just as Nuneaton supporters had the word 'goal' on their lips. The goalkeeper raced after the ball to prevent a corner and Sambrooke went after him, trying to charge him off the ball. The referee awarded a corner and ordered Sambrooke off the field.

## Nuneaton Town v Walsall

21-02-1920

**Nuneaton:** Tattersall; Milton and Taylor; Craig, Richmond and Webb; Ralphs, Dunn, Sambrooke, Robinson and Pointon.

**Walsall:** Palmer; Corbett and Smith; Wilkins, Buttery and Johnson; Ingram, Benton, Radford, Fellows and Hayes.

The game against Walsall at Manor Park was played in windy conditions, which made the ball difficult to control and resulted in the ball being out of play a great deal. There were an extraordinary amount of throw-ins, which meant that the game suffered as a spectacle. Nuneaton's game suffered greatly and Walsall showed more bustle than brilliance.

The home side scored a goal in each half, with the first being



# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



scored by Sambrooke in characteristic fashion. He received a centre from Ralphs and eluding a back, crashed in a magnificent shot which left the goalkeeper wondering how it happened. The second goal was also really Sambrooke's, though it was actually scored by Robinson. A terrific shot from Sambrooke struck the crossbar and Robinson seized on the rebound and shot into the net.

The Town goal had several lucky escapes, with Milton heading out fierce shots. During several melees fortune smiled on the home side, but although Walsall had many good opportunities, their shooting was woefully weak. Town also went close on several occasions, chiefly through Sambrooke, who missed by inches time after time.

The best performers for the home team were Milton, who was the outstanding back on the field, Richmond gave a superb and polished display. Dunn, although not getting into his usual shooting positions, was the initiator of many good moves. Best of all, was Sambrooke, who was the driving force and whose shooting was terrific.

<b>Walsall v Nuneaton Town</b>	<b>28-02-1920</b>
<b>Walsall:</b> Merrick; Corbett and Smith; Wilkins, Johnson and Whittaker; Ingram, Benton, Radford, Edwards and Bird.	
<b>Nuneaton Town:</b> Tattersall; Milton and Taylor; Craig, Richmond and Webb; Penton, Dunn, Sambrooke, Robinson and Ralphs.	

The Walsall club charged 1s. admission to the match with Nuneaton Town on Saturday. As events turned out the game was not worth 3d. Walsall won the game by three goals to nil, which flatters their ability and truth be told reflects their superior physique and vigour.

It is as well a team like Walsall does not achieve considerable success, otherwise the game would be a pastime in which cleverness would be at a discount and sheer strength the only passport to victory. Flinging yourself like a bull at the body of an opposing player might be beneficial to your team and appeal to a certain section of the crowd, but it isn't football.

The game requires little description, but had the making of an interesting contest in the first ten minutes when Town began to weave all sorts of clever patterns. The home club's spectators yelled with relief as Merrick tipped Sambrooke's shot over the bar, but a change in the game came about after 15 minutes, when Dunn received a nasty kick and had to leave the field. Although he returned briefly, he was clearly unfit and had to retire.

Whittaker, the home side's left-half also got injured, but stayed on the field just long enough to score Walsall's first goal, beating Tattersall with a good shot after Ingram had centred. Nuneaton had a couple of shots, with Merrick scooping out a shot from Penton and Sambrooke putting the ball narrowly wide. Walsall then scored another goal after a period of pressure, when Bird shot well out of Tattersall's reach. The interval came with Nuneaton 2-0 down.

In the second half Walsall simply overcame Nuneaton with physical force. The backs and halves tackled relentlessly and twenty minutes from time Richmond received a kick on the ankle and had to leave the field. Nuneaton finished the game with nine men and Sambrooke had to play centre-half, with Ralphs going to centre-forward.

Nuneaton were hopelessly beaten by this stage and it was simply a case of trying to keep the score down, which to the defence's credit they did, until three minutes from time when Benton scored Walsall's third goal. A minute later, the home side were awarded a penalty, but Radford shot high over the bar and to the relief of most people, the game ended.

Dunn's injury robbed Nuneaton's attack of its master mind. Richmond was apparently disgusted with the ankle-tapping tactics of Radford, but an appeal to the referee proved futile. To his credit Richmond showed the right outlook in trying to preserve his good temper, although he found it difficult on one or two occasions.

<b>Nuneaton Town v Worcester City</b>	<b>06-03-1920</b>
<b>Nuneaton:</b> Tattersall; Milton and Taylor; Craig, Dunkley and Webb; Penton, Richmond, Sambrooke, Robinson and Ralphs.	
<b>Worcester:</b> Hobday; Cook and Stockley; Tilbrook, Crabtree and Webb; Thomas, Pearce, Goldie, Lamb and Trehearn.	

The weather conditions were appalling, with rain falling throughout the match, making football very difficult with a greasy ball and difficult conditions underfoot. The rain dampened the enthusiasm of the crowd, which eventually fed through to the players.

Worcester put up a good fight, but Nuneaton had the edge throughout, especially before half-time, and scored the only goal of the first half. Richmond played a nice ball out to Penton, and when the ball was returned, Richmond went past a couple of defenders before slipping the ball past Hobday. Five minutes later, Nuneaton should have been two up when one of the Worcester defenders handled the ball in the area. Taylor was entrusted with the spot kick, but he shot straight at Hobday, who had little difficulty in clearing the ball.

Worcester improved after the break and Tattersall was forced into action, as Town's goal had several narrow escapes. City also came under attack and following a period of pressure, Sambrooke received the ball from Craig. The centre-forward raced past the defenders and hooked the ball over the goalkeeper's head and into the net, making the score 2-0.

Towards the end, Nuneaton slackened off considerably and the spectators were not surprised when Worcester pulled a goal back. With the last attack of the match, Pearce latched on to a centre from Trehearn and shot past Tattersall.

The experiment of playing Richmond at inside-right worked up to a point, but his absence from the half-back line was noticeable. Dunn was badly missed up front with the forwards looking somewhat unbalanced. The exception

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



was the left wing pairing of Ralphs and Robinson, who were superb throughout. Ralphs gave a dazzling exhibition of wing play, showing speed, trickery and accurate crossing.

## Nuneaton Town v Atherstone Town 13-03-1920

**Nuneaton:** Tattersall; Milton and Taylor; Craig, Richmond and Webb; Ralphs, Penton, Sambrooke, Robinson and Pointon.

**Atherstone:** Hall; Clewer and Evans; Cleaver, Homer and Powell; Kiteley, Loughland, Bennett, Paul and Hanson.

Atherstone escaped with a 2-1 defeat in the Atherstone Nursing Cup semi-final, mainly due to Chris Sambrooke, who missed a sackful of chances, including two open goals. The game itself was one of the duller of local derbies, as Nuneaton won without too many problems, even after conceding the first goal.

Atherstone scored following a quick pass from the right, which beat the backs, leaving Paul to race goalwards and beat Tattersall with a ground shot, giving the visitors a short-lived lead. During a strong Nuneaton attack, Ralphs was fouled by Evans in the penalty area, and Richmond scored from the penalty spot, placing the ball right into the far corner, well out of Hall's reach.

A few minutes later Nuneaton took the lead, with a beautiful goal. An attempted pass by the Atherstone halves to the left wing, was seized on by Ralphs, who proceeded to electrify the crowd with a magnificent run. He tricked several opponents and centred to Sambrooke, who shot into the corner of the net from an awkward angle. Few finer goals had been seen on the Manor Park ground.

Although no further goals were scored, Nuneaton attacked throughout the second half, and forced ten corner kicks within the first 20 minutes after the break. Nuneaton missed chance after chance, as Atherstone concentrated on packing their area to keep the score down.

Atherstone had a couple of chances and at one point, Paul broke through, but was dispossessed by Milton. Later, Tattersall only partially cleared and Atherstone pressed for some time and looked to equalise, but Taylor eventually cleared. After this there was little incident in the game and Nuneaton ran out 2-1 winners.

Ralphs was peerless among the ten forwards. His control of the ball was amazing, his repertoire of tricks seemed inexhaustible and his centres were accurate, almost without exception. Sambrooke was disappointing, but scored a great winning goal.

## Stoke City Reserves v Nuneaton Town 20-03-1920

**Stoke:** Gadson; Wootton and Milne; Pointon, Moorwood and Forrester; H. Page, L. Page, Chambers, Martin and Fellows.

**Nuneaton:** Tattersall; Milton and Taylor; Dunkley, Richmond and Webb; Ralphs, Penton, Sambrooke, Robinson and Pointon.

Nuneaton had an arrow escape in the first minute of the game, when Tattersall was forced into making a good

clearance. The team were outplayed for the first 20 minutes and could not get a grip on the game. Fortunately the backs were in top form and Tattersall made some excellent clearances, as Stoke came close on several occasions.

There was very little excitement or incident in the first half, but both teams finished the half with ten men, H. Page and Milton both having to retire injured.

The second half started off in a more promising manner, with more energy being introduced into the play. Nuneaton especially showed improved form and Ralphs put in a fine run and centre, from which Penton shot tamely at goal. Tattersall was called into action as Stoke pressed, forcing three corners in succession. The keeper tipped one fast shot over the bar, which won him applause from the crowd. At this stage both injured players returned to the pitch.

Nuneaton pressed for a little while and Sambrooke just missed following a centre from Ralphs, but the visitors took the lead when Webb swung in a beautiful centre, which Sambrooke neatly turned into the corner of the net. Town should have extended their lead, but Ralphs centred behind the three inside men, who were waiting in front of goal.

Nuneaton's defence was the most pleasing feature of the team, but Dunn's absence was still being felt. Sambrooke had a disappointing game, but scored the only goal.

## Nuneaton Town v Stoke City Reserves 27-03-1920

**Nuneaton:** Tattersall; Milton and Taylor; Dunkley, Richmond and Webb; Ralphs, Dunn, Sambrooke, Robinson and Pointon.

**Stoke:** Morris; Wootton and Brooke; Parker, Moorwood and Forrester; Spiers, Page, Boxley, Martin and Fellows.

Nuneaton suffered a novel and unpleasant experience in their match with Stoke on Saturday, when with just 15 minutes gone, they found themselves three goals down, which astonished Manor Park's large crowd. For a further ten minutes afterwards the players wandered about as if dazed by a sudden and violent blow.

Stoke won the toss and took advantage of the wind, playing fine football, and within minutes they had taken the lead. Martin shooting into the net after Richmond had failed to clear. Shortly after Moorwood tried a long shot, which curled into the far corner of the net. The crowd had hardly realised what had happened before Stoke scored again — Forrester scoring with a long dropping shot following a free-kick.

Nuneaton eventually woke up and got into the game, but crosses from Ralphs and Pointon, which ought to have been improved upon, went begging. Both Robinson and Sambrooke had easy chances, but shot weakly at the goalkeeper. The home side also forced several corners, but they came to nothing and at the break Stoke were leading 3-0.

Nuneaton attacked at the start of the second half and went close on a couple of occasions, but Morris in the Stoke goal



was in fine form and brought one brilliant save off, following Sambrooke's shot. It wasn't until the last quarter of an hour that Nuneaton showed their best form and Stoke were overwhelmed by continual pressure.

After two magnificent shots from Dunn and Richmond had been saved by Morris, a free kick just outside the penalty area formed the prelude to Nuneaton's opening goal. The kick was well taken and during an exciting tussle in the goalmouth, Richmond shot into the net. Rallying to the attack again, Nuneaton forced a corner, and from the kick Sambrooke headed a beautiful goal, with only a few minutes remaining.

Encouraged by the crowd, Nuneaton attacked strenuously, but could not get the equalising goal and Stoke held on to win 3-2.

Tattersall continues to be an enigma, sometimes brilliant and can do no wrong, while on other occasions displaying elementary ability. He should have saved two of the goals, but was let down by his judgement. Sambrooke is not the player he was, lacking his old time shooting ability and individual triumphs.

## Coventry City Reserves v Nuneaton Town 03-04-1920

**Coventry:** Jarvis; Binks and Roberts; Campbell, Gallagher and Clarke; Dougall, C. Smith, Lowes, Martin and Rodgers.

**Nuneaton:** Hartland; Milton and Taylor; Craig, Richmond and Webb; Ralphs, Dunn, Sambrooke, Robinson and Pointon.

The few hundred Nuneaton supporters who braved the elements and journeyed to Coventry on Saturday returned feeling proud of their team. Though Coventry City beat Nuneaton by two goals to one, the honours of the game went to the losers.

Coventry's goal had many lucky escapes and the ball was prevented from entering the Coventry net in a sometimes miraculous manner. In the first minute of the game Richmond sent in a glorious shot which struck the upright with the keeper beaten. Nuneaton did not have to wait too long for a goal, though, as Dunn scored following sustained pressure from the visitors, during which time they hit the crossbar on four occasions in a 20 minute spell.

Nuneaton's lead didn't last long, and two minutes after they scored Lowes equalised from three yards out. Shortly after Lowes scored again, following a fine individual effort. Town made some heroic attempts to equalise, but Coventry held out with Jarvis making some great clearances.

In general, Nuneaton were on top during the second half, although Coventry mounted some fine attacks and the Nuneaton goal had at least three narrow escapes. These were nothing compared to Coventry's charmed life and words cannot describe the numerous marvellous escapes the home goal had. Twice Sambrooke, after brilliant individual runs, shot fiercely for the net, but each time the ball cannoned off Jarvis, when he was apparently beaten.

Both Sambrooke and Pointon missed chances from four yards out and time and again the ball flashed past the post or into the side netting.

Both teams played brilliant football and there was not a real dull moment throughout the game, in which Nuneaton gave a great exhibition. Richmond was once again in magnificent form and Pointon had his best game since joining Nuneaton and Dunn gave a superb display, being full of resource and energy.

## Nuneaton Town v Hinckley United

05-04-1920

**Nuneaton:** Tattersall; Milton and Taylor; Craig, Richmond and Webb; Ralphs, Dunn, Sambrooke, Robinson and Pointon.

**Hinckley:** Pick; Foster and King; Warburton, Stevenson and Osborne; Stringer, Morley, Reader, Shinton and Kendall.

Special trains from Hinckley and Nuneaton were crowded with spectators headed for the Atherstone Nursing Cup final at Sheepy Road, Atherstone. The morning was wet and miserable and the rain was falling heavily.

Nuneaton were favourites to win and so it proved, as they waltzed round the "Tin Hatters" to the tune of seven goals to two. The match was remarkable for the fact that centre-forward Chris Sambrooke scored all seven Nuneaton goals, a record for the Sheepy Road ground and the competition.

The ground resembled a quagmire, being over ankle deep in mud in places. Dunn lost the toss and Hinckley kicked towards the Sheepy end. The "Tin Hatters" had their share of play early on and Reader shot wide of an open goal and Shinton and Stevenson both had ground shots saved by Tattersall. At this stage Hinckley had been the better side, but Nuneaton got away and from Pointon's centre, Sambrooke scored a beautiful goal. Hinckley equalised when Shinton's shot went in off the upright. Nuneaton's regained the lead when Dunn sent Ralphs away, the winger's cross being fumbled by Pick, and Sambrooke was well up to give Nuneaton the lead with a neat shot.

The game was full of incident and an electrifying run by Pointon brought Nuneaton's third goal. He centred for Sambrooke, who scored with a finely judged shot. Pick made several fine saves before Hinckley broke away and Reader scored with a header. At the half-time whistle Nuneaton were leading 3-2.

Straight after the break Sambrooke scored with a fine header from Pointon's cross, while two minutes later Dunn sent Ralphs away and his cross was converted by Sambrooke. Nuneaton won the ball back from the kick-off and Dunn passed to Sambrooke raced through the backs to score his sixth goal — three goals being scored in six minutes.

Hinckley came back into the game and Tattersall made a brilliant save from Kendall. Dunn shot wide from another Town attack, and shortly after the same player again got Ralphs away, and his centre was again converted by

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



Sambrooke. This completing the scoring and Nuneaton were content just to keep Hinckley at bay, which they did, despite conceding three corners in the closing stages.

After the game had concluded a large crowd gathered round the grandstand. Dr Power, of Atherstone, presenting the cup to Emmin Dunn, captain of Nuneaton, after making a few congratulatory remarks. Three cheers were given for the victors and the losers.



**Chris Sambrooke, Nuneaton's centre-forward, who performed the record local feat of scoring seven goals against Hinckley United. He was carried shoulder high by the crowd.**

## Nuneaton Town v Kidderminster Harriers 06-04-1920

**Nuneaton:** Hartland; Milton and Taylor; Dunn, Richmond and Webb; Kiteley, Ralphs, Sambrooke, Penton and Pointon.

**Kidderminster:** Brooks; Smith and Marson; Poole, Crooke and Roche; Fisher, Hooper, McCarthy, Handley and Biddulph.

Both teams were playing their third game in four days and this was reflected in the play, with the game being a low energy encounter. It has been some months since there was less cheering at Manor Park.

The first action of the game saw a terrific shot by Richmond bring a glorious save from Brooks, while at the other end Nuneaton's goal had a lucky escape. Penton slipped in front of goal when well-placed and just after, Ralphs put in a great individual effort, but his final shot was saved. Nuneaton were then awarded a penalty, but Richmond's shot was punched out by Brooks and though Nuneaton rushed the ball into the net, a free kick was given for impeding the keeper. Hooper just missed before half-time with a rasping shot.

Kidderminster had the better of the game in the second half, but the general play was of an uninteresting description, and neither side gave much hope of registering a goal. Pointon had one good chance, but shot weakly and both Sambrooke and Kiteley fired shots over the bar.

## Nuneaton Town v Coventry City Reserves 10-04-1920

**Nuneaton:** Hartland; Paul and Taylor; Craig, Richmond and Webb; Ralphs, Dunn, Sambrooke, Robinson and Pointon.

**Coventry:** Jarvis; Binks and Clarke; Campbell, Gallagher and Quinn; Stirling, Smith, Lowes, Jones and Rodgers.

The secret of the magic of football was revealed in the game between Nuneaton Town and Coventry City on the Manor Park ground on Saturday. A more sensational contest could

not be imagined, and 90 minutes of thrills and excitement produced a crop of 12 goals — six scored by each side. Incident followed incident in breathless rapidity and the crowd of over 5,000 found it almost impossible to keep pace with events.

The first minute provided the first thrill. Getting away in unison, the Coventry forwards by a good passing movement, presented Lowes with a fine opening, and the centre-forward shot the ball past Hartland. Nuneaton hit back strongly and only brilliant saves by Jarvis prevented an equaliser. Dunn and Sambrooke played cleverly together, and after twenty minutes, their play paid dividends when Sambrooke put in a ground shot that found the corner of the net.

Two minutes later Sambrooke again received a pass from Dunn, and raced into position, giving Nuneaton the lead with a glorious goal. The crowd cheered wildly, but their delight was short-lived, as Coventry raced away and Lowes equalised with a great shot. A little later Lowes scored again to complete his hat-trick. From the kick-off, Nuneaton attacked again and Sambrooke scored after making a great run between the backs, to complete his hat-trick.

Further goals followed with both Lowes and Smith scoring for Coventry. Incredibly, Sambrooke scored again from a melee following a corner, despite Coventry's appeals for handball. Nuneaton should have scored again before the break, but Jarvis made an extraordinary save.

The second half was just ten minutes old before Nuneaton had retaken the lead — a fine run by Ralphs ended with the winger putting in an accurate centre to Pointon, whose shot bounced into the net off the post. Immediately after, Nuneaton forwards broke in a line and Sambrooke passed to Dunn, who gave the ball to Robinson. The latter had a good chance, but passed to Pointon, who scored another glorious goal. Coventry then attacked again and forced a corner. During the resulting melee Quinn headed the equaliser, although Hartland was at fault and should have saved.

Play slackened off for a short time, but towards the end the game became intensely exciting. Hartland made a brilliant save and the Coventry goal had several narrow escapes. On one occasion a cross from Ralphs ran along the crossbar and fell at the feet of Pointon, but the referee ruled that the ball had gone out of play. Before the end Sambrooke put the ball a foot wide of the post, while a tremendous shot from Dunn was turned past the post. Nuneaton appealed in vain for a penalty, but the appeal was ignored. Sambrooke was racing past the backs when the final whistle sounded.

## Nuneaton Town v Tamworth Castle 15-04-1920

Atrocious weather prevailed for the semi-final of the Nuneaton Hospital Cup, against Tamworth Castle at Manor Park. There was a small crowd and the pitch was in use for the third consecutive evening, resulting in the pitch being a quagmire.



# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



Ralphs shot wide in the first minute following Richmond's pass, while the latter also shot over from a corner. Play was quite tame, but a run and centre by Ralphs increased the interest. The move ended with Sambrooke shooting just wide. Craig's shot cannoned off a defender, while Pointon narrowly missed from Ralphs' centre. Town were doing most of the attacking, but the forwards could not seem to get within shooting distance.

From a centre by Ralphs, both Hubbard and Sambrooke had shots charged down, with Castle having a lucky escape. A great shot by Pointon was well saved by Clement. The stand out player for Nuneaton was Ralphs, who was performing in brilliant style and had the Castle defence guessing.

From another Ralphs' centre, Sambrooke missed an open goal. Nuneaton were the better side and shots galore went wide with almost all of Tamworth's side defending.

Nuneaton pressed again after the break and the crowd roared their disapproval when the referee pulled Sambrooke up for offside as he was racing through. A minute later Hubbard came within an ace of breaking away. Tamworth broke away and from a centre by Thomas, they scored through Pearsall. The visitors then scored again, but it was disallowed.

Play became very dull and disinteresting and Nuneaton seemed to have given up trying. At the final whistle Tamworth had won by one goal to nil.

## Nuneaton Town v Shrewsbury Town 17-04-1920

**Nuneaton: Manley; Milton and Taylor; Webb, Richmond and Alcock; Ralphs, Penton, Sambrooke, W. Dunn and Pointon.**

**Shrewsbury: Cooksley; Griffiths and Jakeman; Jones, Morris and A. Roberts; E. Roberts, Rouson, Turton, Stephenson and D. Roberts.**

Despite the defeat against Tamworth, a crowd well in excess of 5,000 turned up for the final home League game against Shrewsbury Town. The game started well, with both sides combining cleverly, with exchanges being fast and interesting.

Nuneaton led at the interval by two goals to nil. Both of the goals being scored by Sambrooke. The first following a fine run by Ralphs, who centred to Pointon. The latter passed to Sambrooke who netted in style. The second goal was the result of a dart through the defence by the centre-forward.

Some time after the interval Turton reduced the lead for Shrewsbury with a grand shot from close range. Later on Dunn received from the right and beat Cooksley, who got a hand to the ball, but was unable to prevent it going into the net. Just before time Penton put in a shot, which was saved by Cooksley, but the ball cannoned into the net off Penton's body.

Nuneaton were by no means impressive in the second half, perhaps due to the absence of Emmin Dunn and Craig, and the consequent reorganisation. Triallist goalkeeper Manley from Little Heath looked to be a "find", with a good physique and a knowledge of the art of goalkeeping. Sambrooke did remarkably well, up until getting injured.

## Nuneaton Town v Leicester City 22-04-1920

**Nuneaton: Manley; Milton and Taylor; Webb, Richmond and Homer; Ralphs, E. Dunn, Payne, W. Dunn and Stringer.**

**Leicester: Smith; Barratt and Black; Thornton, W. Currier and Thomson; L. Harrold, Spittle, Paterson, McCauley and Walker.**

The match against Leicester City was in recognition of the services rendered to Leicester by "Billy" Barratt, the former Nuneaton Town full-back. Leicester sent a strong side with six first teamers and five players who have periodically played in the Second Division. Unfortunately, Town lacked the services of leading goalscorer Chris Sambrooke, Craig and Pointon.

Barratt captained Leicester and won the toss. Emmin Dunn set Ralphs going and the winger sent in a beautiful centre, but Black cleared. Paterson shot over the bar at the other end before fine work by Ralphs put the Leicester goal in danger with Smith having to save after Walter Dunn had headed goalwards. Paterson tested Manley with a stinging shot.

Play became tame, but a fine exhibition of passing by City gave pleasure to the supporters. Richmond headed the ball against an upright from a corner, while Ralphs also struck the upright with a fine shot. Smith made a great clearance from Payne. The first goal was scored by Leicester, Paterson working his way past the Town defence and easily beating Manley. A great run by Ralphs nearly brought an equaliser, but Smith made a lucky save. The winger had another effort charged down by the Leicester keeper, who also saved well from Stringer. Manley made a great save from Paterson.

Five minutes into the second half, Nuneaton equalised after Smith had made a brilliant save from Walter Dunn, the ball found its way to Payne, who levelled the scores. Richmond headed just wide of the posts and after Leicester had a spell of attacking Smith again saved magnificently from a brilliant shot by Emmin Dunn. Ralphs crosses put Leicester's goal under threat, but the backs defended well.

Leicester attacked strongly through Spittle and Harrold, and from the latter's centre Manley made a half clearance and the ball went to the foot of Walker, who shot into an open goal. A minute later Paterson struck the upright and shortly after, the international player made a solo run half the length of the field and scored again, and the final score was 3-1 to Leicester.

## Shrewsbury Town v Nuneaton Town 24-04-1920

**Nuneaton: Manley; Milton and Taylor; Craig, Richmond and Webb; Ralphs, Robinson, Sambrooke, Paul and Pointon.**

A good crowd assembled to witness Nuneaton's first visit to Shrewsbury. Early in the game Nuneaton's forward line, which lacked the services of Dunn, whose place was taken by Paul, gave some evidence of ability and there were some good combined movements. Shrewsbury also showed some clever play, which was of a high standard.

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



Manley made a number of saves in the first half, including a penalty. Nuneaton did their fair share of attacking, but like the home forwards, they found the opposing defence too good for them. Ralphs and Robinson on the right wing were responsible for some bright runs and the home goal had some narrow escapes.

The start of the second half was a ding-dong battle, with Nuneaton scoring the only goal of the match about 20 minutes from the end.

Ralphs got away on the right and centred beautifully for Sambrooke to head past Cooksley. Prior to the goal Robinson had also headed into the net, but for some reason or other, apparently on the grounds of offside, it was disallowed. Towards the end of the game, play fell away considerably. Although there was nothing at stake the players kept their concentration and provided a fine exhibition.

Nuneaton just about deserved their win, but were indebted to the goalkeeping of Manley. He saved brilliantly time after time, displayed good judgment, and not a little coolness. Ralphs was again the star of the forward line and treated the spectators to some tricky and fast runs, followed by accurate crosses.

## Hednesford Town v Nuneaton Town 29-04-1920

As Hednesford had not lost a match at home this season, and were strongly in the running for the Keyes Cup, the visit of Nuneaton Town was looked upon as likely to forward and enhance their ambitions.

The good thing came unstuck, however, for the Town played really good football and won on their merits by the odd goal in five. With Emmin Dunn and Chris Sambrooke on the crooked list, it was fortunate that the transfer had been secured from Leicester City of Whitfield. This well-built lad made a satisfactory debut at centre-forward, for he opened out the game well and shot with marked effect, bagging a hat-trick.

Thus the League programme ended on the note of victory, and Nuneaton Town asserted the right to a place amongst the foremost clubs in the competition, whilst, at the same time, being instrumental in securing the Keyes Cup for Wellington Town, the best non-reserve side of the season without a doubt.

## Nuneaton Town v Halesowen 01-05-1920

Football dies hard, and it was a striking tribute to the hold which the game possesses on the good folk of Nuneaton that some 3,000 spectators should have turned out on Saturday to witness the friendly match with Halesowen.

The contest, while by no means a poor one does not call for very much comment. For the most part Jack was a good as his master, but in the latter stages the home team exercised a lot of pressure and should have won had their shooting been

equal to the occasion. Ralphs and Pointon presented their inside colleagues with bags of chances, which were missed without exception. The defence was sound enough, and Manley, who had signed professional forms, again impressed the onlookers by his cool and clean methods.

## Wellington Town v Nuneaton Town 08-05-1920

**Wellington: Hedgecock; Field and Robinson; Rushton, Gallagher and Whitaker; Sheldon, E. White, Deakin, J. White and Price.**

**Nuneaton: Manley; Paul and Taylor; Craig, Hamer and Thomas; Stringer, Thorneycroft, Sambrook, Smart and Pointon.**

Nuneaton Town took up the invitation to play in an end-of-season charity match in aid of Shrewsbury Hospital. The game served a double purpose, as it enabled Wellington, winners of the Keys Cup and medals to celebrate their success. A large crowd was present.

Nuneaton were forced to field a weakened side, being without Milton, Webb, Dunn and Ralphs. The most notable inclusion in the side was Smart, who played for Aston Villa at the beginning of last season, before being transferred to Wolverhampton Wanderers. Thomas of Tamworth Castle was also given a trial.

Both teams met with a hearty reception, none more than Nuneaton, who are popular visitors to the area, having built up a great reputation in the district. The first half was well contested with J. White opening the scoring for Wellington. Not long afterwards Sambrooke was given possession, and he scored a fine goal. The same player also missed an easy chance, shooting wide after racing past the backs.

Wellington were awarded a penalty, but Robinson shot over the bar. The second half was even and no scoring took place, although both sides attacked strongly at times.

After the game both teams and the officials were entertained to tea by the Wellington club. Complimentary speeches were delivered and mention made of Nuneaton's first visit, which saw one of the best games ever seen on the ground. The Nuneaton club congratulated Wellington on their success, and happy testimonies were made to the good relations existing between the two clubs.

### The Season's Work

A period of reconstruction must necessarily be a difficult one, and to a club like Nuneaton, which had been closed down entirely throughout the war, the problem was a more complex one compared to those organisations which had been enabled to carry on with makeshift sides during the terrible convulsion which beset the world.

A new team had to be built up and a new ground secured, and election to the Birmingham League secured.



## Birmingham League 1919-20

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
West Brom Reserves	34	18	9	7	61	45	45
Coventry City	34	19	3	12	96	57	41
Wellington Town	34	18	5	11	94	66	41
Wrexham	34	17	5	12	73	36	39
Hednesford Town	34	15	9	10	82	63	39
Birmingham Reserves	34	18	2	14	78	57	38
Stourbridge	34	16	5	13	77	77	37
Nuneaton Town	34	16	4	14	70	64	36
Wolverhampton W	34	16	4	14	75	85	36
Stoke Reserves	34	14	5	15	74	69	33
Willenhall	34	14	5	15	86	84	33
Darlaston	34	14	4	16	57	61	32
Worcester City	34	13	6	15	62	69	32
Shrewsbury	34	14	2	18	59	95	30
Kidderminster Harriers	34	11	7	16	55	75	29
Walsall	34	11	6	17	53	61	28
Wednesbury Old Ath.	34	11	5	18	42	72	27
Brierley Hill Alliance	34	7	5	22	42	88	19

### Attendance Query Letter

To the Editor of the "Observer"

Sir, Would you allow me a small space in your most valuable paper as regards spectators at the Nuneaton v Stoke match on Saturday last. I think everyone will hold with me as to what I have to say. If they had estimated the gate at 7,000 instead of 3,000 it would have been more correct for I think there is something wrong somewhere — Yours truly,

A Stockingford Spectator

The gate was never estimated at 3,000 by any responsible authority. Who gave you such an absurd figure? At the same time 7,000 is an equally absurd figure. Competent people who are used to estimating crowds know that 7,000 would be an exceedingly large crowd for Manor Park. Mr. W. A. Thompson (secretary of the club) has officially informed us that the attendance was 4,439. — Editor

## Season Overview

Nuneaton Town's first season in the Birmingham League was seen to have been satisfactory, with the club finishing in eighth place and having overcome some early trials and tribulations.

The team eventually finished eighth and were just six points off winning the Key's Cup, which was awarded to the top placed side not affiliated to a Football League club. This was

some going, as the team were bottom of the league at the beginning of December.

In the first few months of the season, the side lacked quality to compete with professional sides, which was addressed by the board at some expense, with the signings of Hugh Richmond from Leicester City, Chris Sambrooke from Coventry City and Bert Ralphs from Reading. Before the new signings were made Town had only four points to show for their efforts, but after the signings they won 17 out of the remaining 23 games.

Chris Sambrooke who made his debut on December 6th, away at Darlaston, managed to score an impressive 33 goals by the end of the season. It was said that Sambrooke was the finest centre-forward in the league and that Richmond had no superior in his position. Ralphs was the most consistent and brilliant player and his wing play was wonderful.

Other new players such as Milton, Webb and Robinson were secured, who complimented the older hands such as Dunn and Craig.

The purchase of the new ground was said to have been a stroke of genius on the part of the directors. Having paid £4,000 for the estate, a sum of £3,000 had been realised following the sale of the farm, leaving the club with roughly 17 acres, part of which is let to the tennis club, thus bringing in an annual rental. The work of Alderman C. Reader and Mr. George Taylor, along with the rest of the board, had laid foundations for the future prosperity of the club.

The laying out of the ground was not above criticism and a mistake was made in the first instance by the provision of temporary sheds, which did not serve any real purpose and marred the outlook.

However, it was said that steps were being taken to remedy the faults of the past and that great improvements to the ground would be forthcoming during the summer months.

A lack of finance was undoubtedly the reason for many of the mistakes. The fencing along the bridge and the erection of the turnstiles were the best attempts to make the enclosure worthy of the club and town.

## Selection From Nuneaton's Player — Past and Present By "Old Blue"

An interesting question has been put to me by a correspondent. "What is the best eleven which could be selected from Nuneaton players, past and present?"

...For instance, who is the finest goalkeeper Nuneaton ever had? The choice would seemingly be between "Dick" Jarvis and T. A. Hilditch, yet I fancy there will be a lot of support for Fred Carris. However, I think my vote would be given to Jarvis. He was brilliant and sound, and deal with high and low shot in equally sure fashion.

The full backs do not present so much difficulty of selection



# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



and my choice would unhesitatingly be Barratt and Glover. The former's ability we all know, and old supporters will recall the masterly tackling and calculated science of Glover.

The ideal Nuneaton half-back line provides the biggest problem of all. The club has always been amazingly fortunate in its centre halves. At least four players come to my mind — Dent, Ball, Finch and the present-day player, Richmond. Finch was a dominating and clever half-back, but, perhaps hardly so effective as "Billy" Ball.

Ball was a wonderful player, indefatigable, and strong, and possessing a faculty for headwork which has never been surpassed. Yet, I think even Ball must give way to Dent, the brilliant artiste, who gave such glorious exposition of the game with fine consistency. At left-half there is nobody to challenge Alf Smith, who played alongside Dent and to complete the trio, I should call in Nuneaton's present captain, Emmin Dunn, at right-half. Dunn has a tendency to over-elaboration, but there is no more brainy player in his class. He is adept at strategy and also a fine intervener.

There have been many great outside-rights in the Nuneaton team, and the greatest of all is the present one, Bernard Ralphs. His recent form has been well nigh bewilderingly dazzling. Yet no Nuneaton team would be complete without "Sandy" Sheldon,

Liverpool's winger. I should include both by transferring the versatile Ralphs to outside-left, in which position he shines just as bright. This would exclude such fine players as Griffiths and Bert Carris, but I think it is the best solution.

The centre-forward position finds three men in the running, Billy Gretton, George Warren and Chris Sambrooke, this season's prolific scorer. My choice would be George Warren, now lying on the battlefields of France. He was a great centre-forward, possessing an invaluable capacity for keeping opposing defences guessing. And while they were guessing he was scoring goals.

Inside-right is the position which leaves little ground for controversy, for surely George Moore never had a superior in that position. Indeed, Nuneaton never had a forward who combined trickery with such nippiness and shooting powers.

Two players came to mind for the inside left position, Morrell and Billy Holmes, the present trainer. The latter would receive my preference, for he was a most dangerous forward. The writer's ideal of a Nuneaton team would therefore be: Jarvis; Barratt and Glover; Dunn, Dent and Smith; Sheldon, G. Moore, Warren, Holmes and Ralphs.

What a team.



**Nuneaton Town 1919-20**



## FA Cup: Tamwoth Knock Nuneaton Out Early

Tamworth Castle: Clements; Dale and Morris; Harmer, Edge and Davies; Beck, Penton, Joyce, Owen and Thomas.

Nuneaton: W. Nicholls; Field and Taylor; Craig, Dunkley and Allcock; Chattoe, Reader, Dunn, Ralphs and Ford.

The game had been in progress for half-an-hour when a party of Nuneaton supporters arrived. "What's the score?" came the question, and on learning that their favourites held a 2-0 lead they griped "Is that all?" What might have been said at the end of the match can only be guessed at, but it may have included what a local worthy recently referred to as 'pit language'.

Most people thought Nuneaton would gain an easy win, and this was reinforced by the first half performance. Reader scored two goals in the first twenty-five minutes and Nuneaton played some excellent football. The first of Reader's goals came about when he charged through from a left wing centre and the second from a shot from an oblique angle.

Town, confidence boosted, started to play a game marked by its unproductive passing, with both forwards and half-backs taking pot shots at goal. Tamworth looked impressed by Nuneaton's superiority and looked a beaten team.

After the break, the game changed completely and straight from the kick-off Tamworth broke with a good passing movement, and within a few seconds Owen had placed the ball into the net without a Nuneaton player having touched the ball.

The home supporters cheered and the Nuneaton players smiled! Within two minutes, Owen had scored again, following a right wing cross. He looked to be offside, but the referee allowed the goal to stand.

Stung by this setback, Nuneaton reasserted themselves and took the game in hand for a period, during

which Ralphs gave them the lead, but a fantastic, if somewhat fortunate, strike by Beck brought Tamworth back on level terms. He won possession, eluded Taylor and tried to centre, but miskicked. He recovered and slipped past Field, and shot into the net.

That was all the scoring, and the game ended in a 3-3 draw. It was not a great game, but the play was relieved by exciting incidents in the second half. The only bit of real football was displayed by Nuneaton in the first half.

## The Replay

The replay took place on the following Thursday evening in front of around 3,500 people. Nuneaton kept the same team, but Tamworth made a couple of changes, bringing in Aberdeen and Duggins in place of Morris and Davies.

Nuneaton: W. Nicholls; Field and Taylor; Craig, Dunkley and Allcock; Chattoe, Reader, Dunn, Ralphs and Ford.

Tamworth Castle: Clements; Dale and Aberdeen; Harmer, Edge and Thomas; Beck, Penton, Joyce, Owen and Duggins.

Tamworth were first to attack, but Allcock checked Beck, before a moment later Dunkley was dispossessed by Penton, who put in a good shot that was saved by Nicholls.

Another Tamworth attack was repulsed by Taylor before a good move by Nuneaton's forwards saw Dunn and Reader go close before Dale cleared for Tamworth

Dale headed clear from Craig's shot, while at the other end Reader passed the ball out to Chattoe, whose centre was headed over the top by Reader.

Tamworth returned to the attack and Owen was fouled in the area. The referee awarded a penalty and Penton had little trouble in scoring to give the visitors a 1-0 lead.

Dunn and Ralphs changed places and Nuneaton attacked, but their forwards missed a good chance before Dunn struck the side netting with a sharp drive from an awkward angle.

Nicholls was called upon to save after Tamworth attacked and just after Joyce shot over the bar from close in.

The Tamworth forwards were looking dangerous and their long passing tactics often had Nuneaton in difficulties. Town won a free-kick on the edge of the area, but Craig's shot grazed the bar.

Ford crashed over a great cross, which was missed by Reader before Clements made a great save from Dunn. Reader then had a great chance, but shot weakly. Nuneaton pressed again and gained a reward when Craig crashed a shot into the net from a corner.

Reader missed another easy chance before Nuneaton were awarded a penalty, from which Clements saved Craig's shot. Another corner to Nuneaton was cleared and Tamworth raced away and Penton scored their second goal. The visitors went in at the break leading 2-1.

Penton shot wide at the start of the second half and Tamworth had another couple of attempts, Nicholls having to save from one of them.

Nuneaton were looking jaded and Tamworth looked far more dangerous, although Ford got in some good centres, they were not converted.

Nuneaton rallied and great work by Ralphs resulted in the same player equalising. Dunn was then responsible for some good play, but Reader was not able to take advantage. The same player brought a fantastic save out of the Tamworth keeper.

Duggins and Owen were having fine games on Tamworth's left and gave the Nuneaton defence a lot of trouble. Nuneaton attacked again and Ford and Ralphs put in great efforts which were saved by Clements, who saved again a moment later, this time from both Chattoe and Ralphs.

Then, with one minute to go, Beck broke away on the right and passed to Penton, who scored with a brilliant shot.

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



## Birmingham League: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1919-20

Date	Opposition	Competition	Venue	Score	Scorers
Aug. 30	Wolves Reserves	League	Away	1-3	Searey
Sept. 1	Atherstone Town	Friendly	Home	1-0	H. Ford
6	Wolves Reserves	League	Home	3-0	Ralphs (2), Reader
13	Tamworth Castle	FA Cup EP	Away	3-3	Reader (2), Ralphs
18	Tamworth Castle	FA Cup EP (Replay)	Home	2-3	Ralphs, Craig
20	Wrexham	League	Home	0-0	
25	Manchester United	Friendly	Home	0-4	
Oct. 4	Wellington Town	League	Away	3-4	Skelly (2), Dunn
11	Wednesbury Old Athletic	League	Home	0-4	
18	Wednesbury Old Athletic	League	Away	0-2	
25	WBA Reserves	League	Home	1-2	Skelly
Nov. 1	WBA Reserves	League	Away	2-2	Cooper, Pointon
8	Stourbridge	League	Away	1-3	Ralphs
15	Stourbridge	League	Home	0-1	
22	Kidderminster Harriers	League	Away	1-6	Taylor (pen)
Dec. 6	Darlaston	League	Away	3-2	Sambrook (2), Ralphs
13	Darlaston	League	Home	3-1	Hubbard (2), Towers (o.g.)
20	Worcester City	League	Away	5-2	Sambrooke (2), Ralphs (2), Craig
26	Wrexham	League	Away	0-4	
27	Hednesford Town	League	Home	4-3	Pointon (2), Sambrook, Burton
Jan. 3	Brierley Hill Alliance	League	Home	5-1	Sambrooke (2), Dunn (2), Pointon
10	Wellington Town	League	Home	1-2	Sambrooke
17	Brierley Hill Alliance	League	Away	4-1	Sambrooke (2), Dunn, Pointon
24	Willenhall	League	Away	3-2	Ralphs, Pointon, Richmond
31	Willenhall	League	Home	4-1	Sambrooke (3), Dunn
Feb. 7	Birmingham City Reserves	League	Home	3-0	Dunn (2), Robinson
14	Birmingham City Reserves	League	Away	1-2	Sambrooke
21	Walsall	League	Home	2-0	Sambrooke, Robinson
28	Walsall	League	Away	0-3	
March 6	Worcester City	League	Home	2-1	Sambrooke, Richmond
13	Atherstone Town	ANC S-F	Home	2-1	Sambrooke, Richmond (pen)
20	Stoke City Reserves	League	Away	1-0	Sambrooke
27	Stoke City Reserves	League	Home	2-3	Sambrooke, Richmond
April 3	Coventry City Reserves	League	Away	1-2	Dunn
5	Hinckley United	ANC Final	Sheepy Road	7-2	Sambrooke (7)
6	Kidderminster Harriers	League	Home	0-0	
10	Coventry City Reserves	League	Home	6-6	Sambrooke (4), Pointon (2)
15	Tamworth Castle	NHC S-F	Home	0-1	
17	Shrewsbury Town	League	Home	4-1	Sambrooke (2), Penton, W. Dunn
22	Leicester City	Testimonial*	Home	1-3	Payne
24	Shrewsbury Town	League	Away	1-0	Sambrooke
29	Hednesford Town	League	Away	3-2	Whitfield (3)
May 1	Halesowen Town	Friendly	Home	0-0	
8	Wellington Town	SHC	Away	1-1	Sambrooke

Legend: \* Testimonial for Billy Barratt. ANC=Atherstone Nursing Cup. NHC=Nuneaton Hospital Cup.  
SHC=Shropshire Hospitals Cup



## Revised Ground Development Proposals

Particulars of the new grand stand in the Manor Park football ground were given by Mr. C. Thomas (director) at the annual meeting of Nuneaton Town FC. He stated that a football ground expert had visited the estate, and had prepared a plan for a stand which would have accommodated several thousands, but the estimated cost was such that the club could not go on with the project.

If the scheme had materialised the stand would have been an ornament to the ground and a credit to the club. Under the circumstances the directors had considered an alternative plan for a stand, which would be a permanent structure and part of a bigger scheme to be completed later. The result was that Messrs. Parsons, Sherwin, and Co. had now in hand the erection of a "Dutch barn," which would be filled in with tiers of seats. At the back of the stand there would be dressing rooms for home and visiting teams, and baths, etc. Boilers to heat the water would also be provided. This stand would cost about one-fourth of the money which the original scheme would have cost. The size of the stand would be 60ft by 24ft., and would be built to allow additions in the future. The directors had also found that for various reasons it would be better to change the position of the playing area, and this was being done.

Last season things had to be rushed and the ground was laid out in a haphazard way, but the future would see a carefully considered plan put into effect.

## Nuneaton United

On Tuesday evening, a deputation from the Nuneaton United FC, consisting of Messrs. F. Payne, S. Butler and J. H. Downs met the directors of the Nuneaton Town F.C., with a view to playing on the Manor Park ground next season on alternate Saturdays to the premier town club. After full discussions, the directors agreed to allow the United club the use of the ground and amicable arrangements were agreed upon.

On Wednesday evening the same deputation visited Leicester, and at a meeting of the Leicestershire Senior League presented Nuneaton United's application for membership of that body. There were ten applications for membership, and after keen competition the voting resulted in the following clubs being elected: Ashby Town, Barwell, Coalville Town, Nuneaton United, Pegg's Green and Stapleford.

Barwell United were admitted to the league on condition that they agreed to transport visiting teams to and from Elmsthorpe Station when necessary and free of charge.

## 1920-21

Over 2,000 spectators witnessed Nuneaton's first trial game on Saturday at Manor Park, and they went away pleased with what they had seen. Some excellent football was played and the Town's talent was proved satisfactory enough to encourage high hopes for the team's success during the coming season.

The outstanding feature of the early play was the combination work of the "Blues" forward line. Unfortunately, new signing, Nock, from Merthyr Town, got injured and the side had to be rearranged. Merrick, the former Walsall keeper was the "Reds" custodian and performed well.

Sambrooke won the heartiest applause of the afternoon when he dashed between the backs and netted, the goal being reminiscent of last season's performances. Another favourite from last season, Ralphs, also netted in a 3-2 win for the "Blues".

In the second practice match the defence of both "Reds" and "Blue and Whites" were especially good and the probable forward line played some good football, with fast and clever movement. Concerns were expressed in the newspaper report on the quality of the first choice centre-half, which was contested between Boulter and Harris, who were described as being 'good up to a point, but not a dominating influence'.

## New Signings

Nuneaton Town have secured the signature of "Dick" Roberts, Coventry City's best known full back, and his capture is regarded as one of the best yet made by the club. Roberts is an experienced and clever player, and was regarded last season as one of the best backs in the Second Division.

The club has also signed a new left half, W. Fulljames. He has had plenty of experience in the game and during the war-time football he played for Coventry City.

The aim of the Nuneaton club is to have a team with a judicious blend of experience and youth.

## The Offside Rule Change

When a player plays the ball, and a player of the same side who at such moment of playing is nearer to his opponents' goal-line is out of play and may not touch the ball himself nor in any way interfere with an opponent or with the play until the ball has again been played, unless there are at such moment of playing at least three of his opponents nearer their own goal-line. A player is not out of play when the ball is kicked off from goal, when a corner or a throw-in is taken, when the ball has been last played by an opponent, or when he himself is within his own half of the field of play at the moment the ball is played by any player of the same side.



## Eve of the New Season

The more one dwells upon the fascination of football, the more one wonders. Its attractiveness is hardly capable of being defined. All that is clear is that in some irresistible way it lures the multitude to its support. Old and young, rich and poor — all are susceptible to its invitation. Football is truly a national game and will always be so while England is England.

We in Nuneaton are taking our part in the excitement which will reign tomorrow. Though we have a long way to travel before we reach the front rank in the football world, we are not ashamed of the position we occupy. Nuneaton Town FC play in a class of football which possesses many merits and the club has travelled beyond the junior stage. There is an instinctive feeling that the future holds great things in store. The club is on the ladder of progress, and by bold policy and perseverance the climb upwards should be assured.

## WBA Reserves v Nuneaton Town 28-08-1920

**WBA:** Irwin; Adams and Wood; Hatton, Reed and James; Edwards, Magee, Taylor, Newall and Lea.

**Nuneaton:** Clements; Chamberlain and Taylor; Dunn, Harris and Fulljames; Ralps, Nock, Sambrooke, Lowes and Scorgie.

Nuneaton acquitted themselves well in the opening game of the season against West Bromwich Albion Reserves at the Hawthorns. The result, a 2-0 defeat, did not reflect unfavourably on Nuneaton's ability, but enhanced their prospects of doing well.

There were around 10,000 supporters to greet the teams, who were given a hearty reception, with the Nuneaton contingent giving vent to a loud cheer. The play in the first half was fast and clever, and there was method in the tactics of both sides.

The first goal came after 15 minutes, and had an amount of good fortune, as Chamberlain cleanly won the ball, but when he attempted to clear, the ball cannoned back off Lea, who trapped and centred for Magee to head past Clements in great style. Nock had an opportunity to hit back for the visitors, but the inside-right lost control of the ball when well placed.

Newall crashed in a terrific shot for Albion, which Clements tipped over the bar for a fruitless corner. Nuneaton attacked strongly for the next ten minutes and the Albion goal had some narrow escapes. Nock gained possession on the left and centred for Sambrooke, who headed against the crossbar with Irwin stranded. The Nuneaton centre-forward had further bad luck with a similar effort from Scorgie's cross.

Town maintained the pressure and Sambrooke struck the upright, and also grazed the post following Lowe's free-kick. At half-time Nuneaton were unfortunate to be 1-0 down.

Ralps and Dunn were prominent after the break, but Albion's defence held firm, and within three minutes of the restart Nuneaton's defence was breached again. The ball was lobbed down the field. Taylor rushed forward to clear, but misjudged the ball and Magee flashed in a shot that left Clements helpless.

The game deteriorated after Albion's second goal with both sides appearing to be feeling the effects of the heat. Clements made a couple of good saves and Magee put a shot just over the bar before Nuneaton's forwards showed renewed energy, giving Albion a series of frights.

Ralps came into the game for the first time and put in some good runs and tricked James and Wood before centring for Sambrooke, whose shot hit Irwin, with the Albion keeper knowing nothing about it. Lowes played Sambrooke through again, and the centre-forward raced through the Albion defence, but shot over the bar. West Brom had a couple of chances towards the end, but the match ended 2-0.

## Nuneaton Town v Atherstone Town 30-08-1920

**Nuneaton:** Clements; Roberts and Taylor; Dunn, King and Fulljames; Ralps, Watts, Sambrooke, Lowes and Scorgie.

**Atherstone:** Hall; Clewer and Littlewood; Cleaver, Hampton and Alcock; Kiteley, Pearsall, Busby, Clarke and Hanson.

The crowd was not as big as had been expected for the friendly encounter with Atherstone. The weather was fine, but a little warm for the players.

The game opened fairly evenly, and Cleaver won the first applause for halting Scorgie. Ralps put two centres behind before Adders showed a good attacking combination, which was frustrated by Taylor.

A Nuneaton corner resulted in a melee, but the ball was eventually cleared. Clarke had the ball taken off his toe as he was about to shoot, while at the other end King was applauded following a good shot, which was saved by Hall. Clements saved well from Busby as Atherstone began to look more dangerous. Nuneaton by contrast looked disappointing with many passes going astray.

Cleaver just missed with a long range shot, while Nuneaton had their attacks broken up by the impressive Atherstone backs. Dunn, however, seized on a centre from the left and scored with a beautiful shot that gave Hall no chance. Two minutes later Hanson equalised for "Adders" with a great shot. Sambrooke put a shot just wide and Busby missed a glorious chance from Hanson's centre. Sambrooke narrowly missed scoring just before the break, but the sides went in at half time level at 1-1.

Straight after the break Nuneaton exhibited a beautiful passing movement involving the whole of the forward line, but Scorgie spoiled the movement by centring behind. Sambrooke shot wide and Ralps brought Hall to his knees. Nuneaton attacked for some time but they were forced back



# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



and had a narrow escape when Hanson hit the upright with a great shot.

Nuneaton retaliated and after a nice movement Scorgie gave the home team the lead. A mistake by Fulljames almost let Atherstone in, but Roberts retrieved the situation. "Adders" were now on top and Clements won applause for a fantastic save and shortly after Pearsall missed a good chance for the visitors. Nuneaton had two miraculous escapes, when two shots from Atherstone's forwards cannoned off the crossbar and bounced to safety.

Play soon veered to the other end and Sambrooke struck the crossbar with a powerful shot. He met the rebound, however, and made no mistake, shooting into the corner of the net. The game was pretty tame until the last ten minutes, when there was another flurry of action, but Nuneaton held out to win 3-1, with Atherstone unlucky to lose.

## Nuneaton Town v WBA Reserves 04-09-1920

**Nuneaton:** Clements; Chamberlain and Taylor; Roberts, Dunn and Fulljames; Ralphs, Nock, Sambrooke, Lowes and Scorgie.

**WBA:** Ashmore; Wood and Adams; Hatton, Reed and James; Long, Smith, Taylor, Newall and Freeman.

The game against West Brom was not perfect by a long way as there were far too many individual blemishes. But it was a thrilling encounter with an abundance of exciting incidents and a great deal of clever play. The game was played in a sporting spirit with little or no dirty play.

Nuneaton won the toss and had the advantage of a strong, intermittent wind. The opening play was very fast and incidents followed in quick succession at each end. The home side were slightly the better side early on, but it was Albion who opened the scoring when Taylor shot hard. Clements saved the shot, but when he threw the ball out, it was picked up by Smith, who seized the ball and shot hard into the net. The visitors looked as if they might increase their lead and a shot from Reed missed by a yard and another attempt by Smith saw Clements tip the ball on the crossbar and out for a corner.

Nuneaton gradually forced back their opponents and Scorgie whipped in a couple of dangerous crosses, one of which drew a good save from Ashmore following Sambrooke's header. The home side then bombarded the Albion goal with shots from Ralphs, Lowes, Nock and Roberts either going wide, hitting defenders or being saved by Ashmore. One effort from Lowes narrowly missed the upright and broke the rope securing the back of the net.

Nuneaton's equaliser came five minutes before the break, and it was the outcome of one of the best moves of the game. Dunn passed forward to Sambrooke, who transferred to Lowes. There was another exchange between the latter two players and then Lowes sent in a beautiful long shot which left Ashmore helpless, making the score 1-1, which is how it stood at the break.

The home side were first to attack after half-time and Sambrooke raced for goal, but Wood took the ball from his feet as he shaped to shoot. Lowes put in a shot following a brilliant run and centre from Ralphs, but Ashmore pulled off a fine save.

Albion regained the upper hand and seemed to have the measure of Nuneaton, but Taylor and Chamberlain defended well and Clements made a number of great saves. Chamberlain was injured in heading out a powerful drive, but quickly resumed. Nuneaton hit back through Nock, whose shot came to nothing, before Sambrooke took the ball out to the right and centred for Lowes to head goalwards, only for Ashmore to save.

Ralphs came to the fore as the game became exciting and intense as both sides struggled for mastery. Taylor sent in a shot from close range, but Clements made an heroic save, which gained hearty applause.

Play veered from end to end in the latter stages, but the final whistle brought an exciting and well-contested game to its conclusion with the score at 1-1.

## Hednesford Town v Nuneaton Town 11-09-1920

**Hednesford:** Rostance; Garratley and Morris; Lyons, Crutchley and Winsper; Wood, Whitfield, Griffiths, Saunders and Elson.

**Nuneaton:** Clements; Chamberlain and Taylor; Roberts, Dunn and Harris; Ralphs, Nock, Sambrooke, Lowes and Scorgie.

The 2-1 scoreline does not reveal the true nature of Nuneaton's defeat at Hednesford on Saturday. Although Hednesford's winner was through a fluky goal, it was well deserved, and the better and more dangerous team won.

The game was hotly contested, but the finer points of football were sacrificed to bustle, with Hednesford's physique and dash having more to do with their victory than superior ability. Nuneaton never had chance to settle to their own attractive style and were rushed off the ball without ceremony.

Hednesford started the game at a fast pace and besieged the Nuneaton goal, with Clements having to pull off a number of fine saves, one of which bordered on the miraculous. Whitfield sent in a shot which appeared certain to go in at the far post, but Clements made an extraordinary dive and turned the ball round the post.

Hednesford took the lead after 15 minutes, when the home forwards set up an assault on Nuneaton's goal and Clements only partially saved a stinging shot, which allowed Griffiths to drive the ball into the corner of the net. To this point Hednesford were well on top and Nuneaton had barely mounted an attack, but this changed when Ralphs was supplied with several passes. His crosses placed the Hednesford goal in jeopardy on one or two occasions. The winger once beat all opposition and squared to Sambrooke, who failed to gather the ball in front of an open goal, and the chance was gone.



Nuneaton's equalising goal followed a sustained attack, which Hednesford failed to get clear and Roberts picked the ball up 25 yards out and launched a great shot which curled into the top corner of the net, well out of Rostance's reach. Nuneaton, encouraged by their success pushed Hednesford back, but no further scoring took place before the break and the sides went in at half time at 1-1.

The second half opened in sensational style and within a minute Hednesford had scored what proved to be the winner. It came about as a result of a series of flukes. Taylor and Saunders raced for the ball and the Nuneaton back misjudged its drop and missed his tackle. Saunders took the ball to within a few yards of the goal, but failed to get in a shot, but unfortunately the ball bounced up and hit the home centre-forward's shin, which confused Clements, who was expecting a hard drive. The ball rolled gently under his arms and into the net, just a few inches from the upright.

The goal inspired many fierce attacks from the home side and Clements redeemed himself on a number of occasions, and once stopped a shot sailing towards the top corner and juggled it on his palm several times before clearing the danger. Nuneaton made some spasmodic attempts to draw level, and during one sustained scrimmage the Hednesford goal was under severe pressure. On another occasion Ralphs hit a brilliant shot which struck the underside of the crossbar, with Rostance left helpless.

Apart from these instances, Hednesford were by far the better side and the Nuneaton goal had several close escapes. When the game drew to its close, Nuneaton were on the attack, but the final whistle saw them lose 2-1.

Nuneaton Town v Nuneaton United	11-09-1920
<p><b>Nuneaton Town:</b> Clements; Roberts and Taylor; Harris, Phillips and Nock; Ralphs, Dunn, Sambrooke, Lowes and Scorgie.</p> <p><b>Nuneaton United:</b> Blower; H. S. Burton and King; Almey, Boulter and G. Paul; Roberts, C. Burton, Coley, Booton and Griffin.</p>	

Town played hosts to their tenants in a Birmingham Senior Cup tie at Manor Park, in front of a fair attendance. There was one change in the Town line-up with Dick Roberts coming in for Chamberlain, who was indisposed.

Paul won the toss for United, but Town were first to press, with a mistake by King nearly letting in Ralphs. With only five minutes played, Scorgie sent across a nice centre and Sambrooke headed a splendid goal. Ralphs struck the side netting with a sharp drive and Dunn grazed the upright. Sambrooke then broke straight through, but shot weakly and Blower cleared.

United began to show signs of improvement and Clements was forced to run out to clear. The Town forwards were trying to employ too much individualism and were often dispossessed by the United half-backs. The United backs were also playing an offside game with some success.

Burton and Booton missed open goals for United before Sambrooke was caught offside following Ralphs' centre. A minute later Dunn pushed the ball through to Sambrooke, who ran forward and scored with a beautiful shot. United were forced to defend and Ralphs struck the upright before an individual effort from Lowes saw the inside-left shoot high into the net. Sambrooke then exchanged passes with Dunn, the latter scoring the fourth goal. Town forced three corners in quick succession and Phillips put a fierce shot over the bar, but at half-time the score was 4-0 to Town.

Straight after the break Roberts hit a shot into the side netting and Blower was called on to save from Harris, following a nice passing movement. Town's passes started to go astray as play degenerated before Ralphs put in a brilliant run, but centred behind. United's goal underwent a bombardment with Scorgie, Sambrooke, Lowes and Phillips all going close. Blower made a series of fine saves around this time before a melee in front of the United goal, resulted in a marvellous escape as Town failed to score following six consecutive corners.

Town's forwards treated the spectators to some delightful passing movements, but their finishing let them down. Blower had to deal with a hot shot from Sambrooke before Dunn scored Town's fifth goal with a brilliant shot. Blower then pulled off a succession of fine saves before Lowes ran through and completed the scoring. United were outclassed, but tried hard even though they lacked the necessary ability to withstand Town. The full-time score was 6-0 to Town.

Nuneaton Town v Hednesford Town	12-09-1920
<p><b>Nuneaton:</b> Clements; Chamberlain and Taylor; Roberts, Phillips and Paul; Ralphs, Dunn, Sambrooke, Lowes and Scorgie.</p> <p><b>Hednesford:</b> Rostance; Garratley and Collins; Payton, Crutchley and Lyons; Wood, Bristow, Griffiths, Whitfield and Elson.</p>	

Nuneaton welcomed Hednesford to Manor Park, the visitors still looking for their first league win of the season. The game turned out to be a good one, with plenty of excitement. Both goals had many narrow escapes and the overall nature of the game was that of a hard and fast struggle.

Nuneaton scored the first goal of the match after ten incident packed minutes. The goal was a good one following a combined move in midfield which led to Sambrooke gaining possession. The centre-forward passed forward to Lowes, who ran through and scored with a terrific shot, which left Rostance helpless.

Town, encouraged by their success, played some fine football with one movement in particular rousing the crowd to admiration. All five forwards exchanged passes and the ball eventually found its way to Scorgie, who centred, but the referee brought an end to proceedings with an offside decision. At this point the visitors' goal had a narrow escape when Ralphs received the ball from Dunn, who dashed between the two backs and came to within a few feet of the



## Nuneaton Town v Worcester City

02-10-1920

**Nuneaton:** Clements; Chamberlain and Taylor; Roberts, Phillips and Nock; Ralphs, Dunn, Sambrooke, Lowes and Scorgie.

**Worcester:** Hobday; Crump and Stockley; F. Everton, Black and Blunt; Payne; Spiers, Parsonage, Gumbley and Fred Everton.

upright. Had he passed to Sambrooke a goal was inevitable, but he shot himself, and as the ball appeared to be going into the far corner, Rostance leapt up and tipped the ball over the bar. Sambrooke went close on two occasions straight after.

Up until this point Nuneaton had gained the upper hand, but a change came about and Hednesford began to attack and in a short space of time had equalised and gained the lead. Both goals were due to the individual brilliance of Griffiths, who dribbled past several opponents and beat Clements with fast shots from close range. Ralphs went close for Nuneaton before half-time with a great individual effort, but Rostance made another fine save. The home side claimed that the ball was over the line when Rostance saved, but the referee ignored the appeals.

Clements made a great save just before the half-time whistle and at the break Hednesford had a 2-1 lead.

The second half will long be remembered by those who witnessed it, for the dramatic effort of Nuneaton to equalise. They attacked for the major portion of the second period and movements were carried out which threatened to bewilder the visitors and the team owe a debt to the defensive quality of their backs and the ability of keeper Rostance.

The Hednesford goal had a charmed life and underwent many close calls, with Rostance saving in fine style, again and again. He flitted about the goal with cat-like precision and often when the ball appeared destined for the net, the crowd saw a figure in a red jersey appear to impede its progress. One save from Scorgie was of the highest quality.

Even Rostance with all his prowess, could not prevent Nuneaton's equalising goal. Ralphs was the hero in the first degree, and Dunn in the second, with the movement vice versa. The captain gave a glorious pass to Ralphs, who, though hampered, decided to risk an individual effort. He beat two or three opponents and gained a position several yards out, but with his back half-turned to the goal. Twisting rapidly, he put in a left-footed drive which entered the top corner of the net. Ralphs deserved the terrific cheer that followed.

This goal only served to intensify the struggle and for a time Nuneaton threatened to achieve a win. Sambrooke narrowly missed with two headers before Hednesford pressed hard again through Griffiths, who had a glorious shot from just a few yards out. He sent in a rasping shot, but Clements pulled off a fantastic save. Rostance saved again as the game made its way to its inevitable conclusion.

Even up until the final minute, the drama continued as Dunn beat the Hednesford defence and squared the ball to Sambrooke who had an excellent chance to score, but he failed to get in his shot and the game ended at 2-2.

A report on the FA Cup games appears on later pages.

Worcester arrived at Manor Park, having only scored one goal all season and having lost every match. The heavy rains of the morning and early afternoon made the surface of the ground treacherous and the difficulties of exercising control of the ball were obvious.

The first half was a one-sided affair and Nuneaton set about their task in determined fashion. Worcester's goal had already had several narrow escapes before the first goal was scored after 20 minutes play. Nock gave a nice pass to Scorgie, who ran some distance before placing a square centre which Sambrooke met and scored a fine goal. A minute later Nuneaton should have been two up, as Dunn crashed in a great shot, which appeared to be sailing just under the bar. Hobday, however, pulled off a magnificent save at the expense of a corner, which was cleared.

Town added a second goal soon after, when Dunn found Ralphs, who put in a perfect centre. Sambrooke met the ball and guided it past Hobday. Shortly after the second goal, Roberts fired a terrific shot just over the bar. Worcester's efforts in attack had been spasmodic, but just before half-time Everton put in a good corner, which passed right across the front of goal, with no less than four home defenders failing to clear. The ball eventually landed at the feet of Payne, who put the ball into the net. The half-time whistle followed soon after, when the score was 2-1 to Nuneaton.

Worcester showed some spirit in the second half, but their forwards were beaten back and Nuneaton thrilled the crowd with a tremendous move. Dunn received the ball and placed to Sambrooke, who made an electrifying run between the backs before shooting past Hobday for a great goal, giving Sambrooke his hat-trick. Nuneaton fell away after the goal and Clements was called on to make several smart saves, as Nuneaton's goal had a few narrow escapes.

Nuneaton eventually forced their way back into the game and Worcester's goal saw some action. The visitors had a narrow escape following a corner, when the ball hovered a few feet away from the goal for some time. Some accurate shots from the home forwards cannoned off opposing defenders, but the danger was eventually cleared. Sambrooke nearly repeated his success in forcing his way past the Worcester defence, but Hobday rushed out and saved, incurring an injury in doing so. He was able to resume after treatment.

Everton hit the crossbar for the visitors and no less than three City players failed to turn in a cross by the same player. The fortunes of the game fluctuated and each goal was visited, but just before full-time, play hovered in the vicinity

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



of the Worcester goal and Sambrooke smartly snapped up an opportunity and scored a brilliant goal, the ball passing through a crowd of players. The game ended soon after and Nuneaton had won by four goals to one.

Emmin Dunn was the target of some unwarranted “barracking” from some sections of the crowd. The behaviour of these spurious ‘sportsmen’ was an insult to a loyal and clever player.

## Nuneaton Town v Tamworth Castle 22-10-1920

**Nuneaton: Clements; Chamberlain and Taylor; Roberts, Phillips and Nock; Ralphs, Dunn, Sambrooke, Watts and Scorgie.**

**Tamworth: Houghton; Dale and Evans; Leake, Edge and Heap; Beck, Spriggs, Briscoe, Cooke and Sanders.**

Tamworth Castle were the visitors to Manor Park for a Birmingham Senior Cup 2nd round tie, in front of a crowd of 2,519. Lowes stood down in favour of Watts.

Nuneaton’s opening attack was pulled up for offside before a mistake by Phillips nearly let in Castle, but Sanders missed with his shot. Dunn shot into the hands of Houghton and after Castle had exerted some pressure, Ralphs and Dunn shone in a clever movement which ended in Sambrooke shooting over the bar from Ralphs’ centre.

Cooke had a chance for the visitors before Scorgie whizzed a shot past the upright, while Ralphs struck a shot into the side netting. At the other end Clements was called on to make a clearance, and later saved finely from Sanders. Roberts put a long shot just wide, but Nuneaton were well below their best and Tamworth were having much the better of the game. Bristow shot wildly over the bar from close in before Sambrooke was dispossessed by Dale when looking dangerous.

Nuneaton won the first corner of the game and the kick was well placed by Scorgie, which allowed Sambrooke to head home the first goal. Shortly after the whistle sounded for half-time, with Nuneaton leading 1-0.

Straight after the break Ralphs sent in a beautiful cross which Sambrooke headed down to Dunn, who scored Town’s second goal. A surprise shot from Sambrooke almost found its mark and Edge sent in a good shot, which Clements tipped over the bar. Clements then made a series of good saves as Tamworth attacked.

Tamworth adopted offside tactics for part of the second half, but Nuneaton outplayed their opponents during the last 20 minutes and Watts scored the third goal with a sublime shot. Sambrooke scored a fourth from Ralphs’ centre. In the closing stages fog enveloped the ground and play became difficult to follow. During this time a penalty was awarded to Tamworth, but Dale shot wide.

Tamworth’s efforts became ever more feeble and at the final whistle Nuneaton were easy winners, four goals to nil.

## Stourbridge v Nuneaton Town 26-10-1920

**Stourbridge: Olney; Newell and Rhodes; S. Smith, Worrall and Gillett; A. Smith, Goldie, S. J. Smith, Webster and Oakes.**

**Nuneaton: Clements; Chamberlain and Taylor; Roberts, Phillips and Nock; Ralphs, Dunn, Sambrooke, Lowes and Scorgie.**

Following four consecutive home matches, Nuneaton travelled to Stourbridge for a Birmingham League encounter. The home side were always stiff opponents and a difficult task was in store.

Stourbridge started the game with an energy which almost amounted to fury, taking the breath out of Nuneaton with their bustling tactics. The home forwards played with an amazing speed and dexterity, and swept past the Nuneaton defence like a runaway traction engine. Stourbridge’s style forced Nuneaton to abandon their own style of play.

The unequal struggle went on for just 17 minutes before the home side penetrated Nuneaton’s goal for the first time. A long swinging pass found A. Smith, who swung the ball out to the left, where Oakes fastened on to the ball and squared to Webster, who beat Clements from a few yards out. Nuneaton could have fought their way back into the game shortly afterwards, but although Dunn darted through the home defence and put in a shot from an awkward angle, the ball hit the inside of the post and bounced out.

The ball was cleared out to the left-wing, who immediately ran forward and before the Nuneaton defence realised what had happened Oakes had run through and scored with a great shot. Dunn’s miss and the home side’s second goal took place within the space of a minute. After this, the game looked to be a foregone conclusion and except for a few efforts Nuneaton never looked like making a game of it.

Nuneaton’s best hope of fighting their way back into the game was through Ralphs, and when he was brought down from behind on the edge of the area, Stourbridge’s goal had a narrow escape, with the ball being cleared after an exciting melee. Ten minutes from the break Nuneaton fell further behind, with Goldie netting the home side’s third goal, after several shots had been saved by Clements.

The early part of the second half was a repeat of the first — Stourbridge swinging passes around and Nuneaton’s defence repeatedly in jeopardy. A centre from Oakes brought the fourth goal. Taylor and Goldie made a simultaneous effort to head the ball, but the home player succeeded and placed the ball out of the reach of Clements.

Nuneaton managed to defy further efforts to penetrate their defence and gradually began to show some improvement. The home side were unable to keep up their remarkable energy and speed and the visitors assumed the upper hand. Town’s half-backs developed some good movements and Sambrooke seized on one opportunity and drove the ball past Olney. Just after, a shot by Dunn had the keeper beaten, but a



# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



back rushed in and cleared. Nuneaton's appeals for a goal on the ground that the ball was over the line were ignored. Olney brought off several fine saves and it was remarkable that the home goal went on to have more narrow escapes than Nuneaton had experienced throughout the match. One shot hit the upright and another struck a defender and bounced clear. No further scoring took place though, and Nuneaton were defeated by four goals to one.

## Darlaston v Nuneaton Town 30-10-1920

**Darlaston:** Waite; Hadley and Fownes; Gregory, Thompson and Cresswell; Wincott, Cooper, Johnson, Little and Weston.

**Nuneaton:** Clements; Chamberlain and Taylor; Dunn, Hill and Nock; Ralphs, Lowes, Sambrooke, Watts and Scorgie.

Confidence was low ahead of the visit to Darlaston, but the side's playing staff had been boosted by the signing of Hill from Birmingham Trams, who took the place of the out-of-form Phillips.

Darlaston opened the scoring after just five minutes play when Taylor was harshly penalised for an elbowing offence. The free-kick was given from about twenty yards out and Clements took up position with Chamberlain on his right. Gregory took the kick and scored with a beautiful shot, the ball entering the net over the head of Chamberlain.

Only on two other occasions were Darlaston dangerous in the first half and on one of these the Nuneaton goal had a lucky escape. Nuneaton did by far the most of the attacking, and only the brilliance of Waite save his side. Ralphs, Sambrooke, Lowes and Dunn all seemed to be certain scorers, but the Darlaston custodian displayed an almost uncanny judgment in anticipating the direction of the shots and fielded the ball with rare sureness. Generally speaking, the first half was tame, but there was no questioning Nuneaton's superiority.

The second half had barely started when Nuneaton pressed, and Hill, the new centre-half, equalised with a great shot. For some time after the visitors outplayed the home team, except on two occasions when Johnson finished movements by shooting over the bar. Nuneaton's forwards were clever in midfield, but their efforts near goal were frustrated by the fine defensive work of Waite, Hadley and Fownes.

On one occasion a neat piece of combination left Lowes in possession and he fired in a terrific shot which struck the upright with Waite helpless. The ball bounced out and a scrimmage ensued. Ultimately Sambrooke tried a screw shot, but the ball went wide. Play in the second half was immensely more exciting than the first and Darlaston made frantic efforts to regain the lead. One of their forward rushes was more suggestive of a rugby scrum than anything else.

Ralphs got past all opposition, but instead of centring to Sambrooke, who had an open goal, he preferred to shoot. Darlaston's winning goal was scored in the last two minutes of the game. The home forwards made a determined rush,

and Johnson ultimately gained possession about two yards out. He sent in a high dropping shot, which did not seem to present any danger. It was, therefore, with some amazement that the ball curled under the crossbar, eluding Clements. The ball dropped on to the goal line and was forced home by a Darlaston forward who was following in. Clements said after the game that he had tipped the ball onto the crossbar and got his glove stuck on one of the hooks securing the net, and before he could recover a Darlaston player had put the ball into the net.

Immediately after the game had been restarted the whistle blew for time and Nuneaton had no opportunity to strive for an equaliser. It was a bitter blow for Nuneaton as they had suffered real misfortune in being defeated.

## Wrexham v Nuneaton Town 13-11-1920

**Wrexham:** Murphy; Ellis and Simpson; Matthias, Foster and Roberts; Matthews, Reg Jones, T. P. T. Jones, Edwards and Goode.

**Nuneaton:** Clements, Roberts and Taylor; Harris, Hill and Phillips; Ralphs, Lowes, Nock, Watts and Scorgie.

The visit to Wrexham's Racecourse ground was difficult enough, but Nuneaton were hampered by having to face the home side without the services of Chamberlain, Dunn and Sambrooke, who were all injured in the cup battle against Gresley Rovers.

It was not a great game, and at times was distinctly colourless. There were few of those electrifying attacks with swift moving strategy and impetuous zeal in fine collaboration — those attacks that give thrills to the spectators and inspiration to the game. In the main the game was a triumph for the defenders on both sides, with neither goal coming under sustained threat.

The opening exchanges were tame and it was some minutes before the first item of excitement occurred. This was when a scrimmage took place in the Nuneaton goalmouth. After repeated attempts to clear had failed, the ball was eventually kicked out of danger. Nuneaton were first to score, following a beautiful combination movement between Lowes and Ralphs, who passed and re-passed until shooting range was reached. Lowes then beat Murphy with a fine shot. A minute later Harris nearly added to the score with a long drive.

The visitors' lead lasted only three minutes before Wrexham equalised. Goode eluded all opposition in a great run, before centring to Reg Jones, who scored with a fast rising shot. After two goals in five minutes, the play degenerated and was marked by some poor passing and although both goalkeepers had to make saves, neither was severely tested. T. P. Jones hit the crossbar just before the break, but at the interval the score was tied at 1-1.

Wrexham started the second half in determined mood and Goode crashed a shot against the crossbar, with the ball going out of play. The home side then won three corners in



quick succession and from the third Wrexham secured their second goal. Edwards shot with force from about 12 yards out and Harris, in attempting to clear, deflected the ball past his own keeper and into the corner of the net. Clements, who had taken up position to deal with the shot, was left helpless.

The home team then had the better of the game, but the home forwards' efforts were met with stiff defence from the visitors. The Nuneaton attack was disjointed, Phillips being of no value whatever on the wing, while Nock and Watts were slow. Consequently the only danger came from Ralphs and Lowes, who might possibly have saved the game had the Nuneaton halves displayed better tactics.

Nuneaton had one lucky escape when Taylor mis-kicked and Clements ran out to meet Reg Jones, who had picked up the loose ball. The latter slipped the ball past the keeper, but Taylor atoned for his earlier mistake by clearing the ball, which was just a few inches from goal.

The game was evenly contested for about three-quarters of the match, with Wrexham holding sway in the remaining quarter, which made them worthy of their 2-1 win.

## Shrewsbury Town v Nuneaton Town 27-10-1920

**Shrewsbury: Boxley; Sheldon and Cook; Morris, Wall and Griffiths; Nigtingale, Parker, Finney, Thomas and Roberts.**

**Nuneaton: Clements; Chamberlain and Taylor; Harris, Dunn and Dick Roberts; Roberts, Lowes, Sambrooke, Watts and Ralphs.**

Nuneaton travelled to Shrewsbury to take on one of the strongest teams in the league, and hopes of victory, given their current form, were not high.

The first three minutes of the game were as sensational as the ultimate result, for Shrewsbury were leading by two goals at the end of that time. Nightingale careered away on the right and swung a centre across to Finney, who established his worth by scoring a fine goal. A minute later Nightingale again put in a splendid run and centre and Thomas scored number two. The opening minutes took the wind out of Town's sails and defeat looked inevitable. It looked to be a case of keeping the score down.

Shrewsbury's defence wasn't seriously tested, but Boxley did have to make a series of saves from Ralphs, Lowes and Sambrooke. The home team again attacked and Thomas got a third goal and a minute later Fenny notched the fourth. Shortly before the interval Parker scored again and at half-time the home side were leading 5-0.

Play was more even in the second half, but a fine clearance by Chamberlain narrowly averted further disaster. Nuneaton attacked with several players attempting to penetrate the home goal, but Boxley was in great form and brought off a number of saves, including one from Sambrooke when he broke clean through. Sambrooke had some success shortly after, scoring the visitors' only goal of the game. Shrewsbury

retaliated and shortly before the end Roberts scored two splendid goals. Nuneaton made no further headway and the final whistle saw the visitors humiliated by seven goals to one.

It is regrettable that after all the high hopes indulged in by the Nuneaton club's enthusiasts, that we should find the team is as bad, if not worse, than in the dark days of late November last season.

## Nuneaton Town v Kidderminster Harriers 04-12-1920

**Nuneaton: Clements; Chamberlain and Taylor; Dunn, Phillips and Webb; P. Roberts, Nock, Sambrooke, Lowes and Ralphs.**

**Kidderminster: Brookes; Smith and Tennant; Michael, Poole and Fisher; Hallard, Watkins, Shore, Bennett and Trehearn.**

Despite the team's current form, the visit of Kidderminster Harriers was eagerly anticipated. The disastrous form of late has caused a great deal of concern among the club's supporters, but steps were taken to bolster the team and the transfer of Webb from Aston Villa had been secured.

The game was one of the poorest of the season, mainly due to a terrific gale that made good football difficult, with the ball being entirely at the mercy of the elements.

In the first half Town did most of the pressing, but Kidderminster opened the scoring when a breakaway saw Taylor make a feeble attempt to clear. The ball was picked up by Watkins, who scored with a shot that was just fast enough to enter the net. Nuneaton had some bad luck in their efforts, the post being struck twice, with the keeper beaten, while Brookes made several fine saves.

Eventually Nuneaton equalised through Lowe, who, having received the ball from Ralphs, manoeuvred for position before sending in a ground shot that beat Brookes. The home side went close just after, when Sambrooke raced past the backs and crashed in a beautiful shot. Brookes was hopelessly beaten, but the ball hit the post.

In the second half Kidderminster had the benefit of the wind and constantly played the ball into the centre of the field on every possible occasion and frequently had Nuneaton's defence in a quandry. Shortly after the break the home side went behind following a long shot from Bennett, and although it was a good shot, Clements might have done better.

Harriers outplayed Nuneaton for a period of time and it would not have been a surprise had they extended their lead with Clements called on to make several clearances. Nuneaton attacked spasmodically, but seldom looked dangerous. Play became more tame and uninteresting as it neared its conclusion and a big proportion of the spectators left the ground before the final whistle.

Nuneaton's defeat cannot be excused. Kidderminster deserved their victory because they exhibited better tactics. Although both of their goals were gifts, they are to be commended for accepting the opportunities.



## Kidderminster Harriers v Nuneaton Town 11-12-1920

**Kidderminster:** Brookes; Smith and Tennant; Michael, Poole and Fisher; Aston, Watkins, Shaw, Bennett and Trehearn.

**Nuneaton:** Clements; Chamberlain and Roberts; Dunn, Stephenson and Webb; Ralphs, Nock, Sambrooke, Lowes and Scorgie.

Nuneaton travelled to Aggborough to face Kidderminster, having lost to the same opponents the previous week and without a league win since early October. Town had a new centre-half, Stephenson, who had been signed from Coventry City the previous day.

Nuneaton dominated the opening 15 minutes of the game and did all the attacking, but the play then became more even, and both ends were subjected to pressure. Michael fired over the bar for Harriers before Clements had to pull off brilliant saves from Poole and Bennett. At the other end Ralphs hit the upright and Lowes and Sambrooke both tested Brookes.

The only goal of the game came after 30 minutes play when Sambrooke gained possession in his own half, evaded the attentions of Poole, beat Smith in a tackle and bore towards the goalmouth on the right. Brookes ran out to meet him, but Sambrooke shot past the keeper and into the far corner of the net for a great individual goal.

Harriers hit back, but keen tackling by Town's defenders and good keeping by Clements kept the home side at bay. Just before the break the home goal had a further narrow escape.

Kidderminster started the second half on the offensive and Clements was called on to save in the first minute. When Town attacked Lowes got into a good position, but was pulled up for offside. Brookes pulled off a number of saves and won a round of applause for scooping away Sambrooke's header.

Poole forced Clements into a good save, while another shot from the Harriers hit the side netting. During the last half hour Nuneaton outplayed Kidderminster and were continually on the attack. Sambrooke missed an easy chance from Scorgie's cross and later headed a Ralphs' centre into the net, but was given offside. Lowes put four left-footed drives just wide of the post and on one occasion Ralphs tricked several opponents and grazed the crossbar.

Nuneaton's forwards did a lot of unproductive shooting, but the Harriers could not get going and there was seldom any doubt that Nuneaton would take the match.

## Willenhall v Nuneaton Town 18-12-1920

**Willenhall:** Richards; Young and Harris; Higgs, Crabtree and Ray; Savage, Rogers, Probert, Butler and Best.

**Nuneaton:** Clements; Chamberlain and Roberts; Dunn, Stephenson and Webb; Ralphs, Nock, Sambrooke, Lowes and Scorgie.

Nuneaton travelled to Willenhall, in more confident mood, having won away at Kidderminster the previous week.

The first half was wholly in favour of Nuneaton, and the only

occasion the home team had the measure of Nuneaton was a period in the second half, but the visitors were quick to recover.

Nuneaton opened the scoring when Sambrooke made a wonderful run and, after eluding one of the home backs, he dribbled past the goalkeeper before finally shooting into the net. Town kept up the pressure for some time after the goal and only good defensive work prevented them from adding to their score. Ralphs made a nice run and forced a corner, which he placed well, but the ball was eventually put over the bar.

Willenhall hit back and during one attack the home side were awarded a penalty, Roberts having been adjudged of handling. Butler took the kick and Clements save, but Butler followed up and scored from the rebound. Two minutes later Stephenson handled in the penalty area, and Willenhall gained their second goal, Butler scoring again.

This was an unexpected turn of events and Town responded with a full-blooded attack on the home goal, during which Sambrooke shot just wide from Scorgie's cross. Nock had a chance to equalise, but shot weakly from Ralphs' centre before Stephenson put in a powerful free-kick, which was saved by Richards. Best shot wide just before the interval, but at half-time the home side led 2-1.

Willenhall came out strongly after the break and Best hit the side netting with a fine shot and a little later Probert headed over the bar. Nuneaton then attacked and forced a fruitless corner before Lowes forced Richards into a fine save from a shot from distance. Sambrooke shot over the bar from Scorgie's centre before play veered to the other end and Clements made two brilliant saves in quick succession.

Twenty minutes into the second half, Nuneaton grabbed an equaliser when Richards attempted to kick clear, but only succeeded in putting the ball at the feet of Sambrooke, who shot into an open goal. A few minutes later Town almost took the lead following a great run by Ralphs, with Richards punching over the bar. Young skimmed the bar for Willenhall, but Nuneaton hit back and Nock hit the post with the best shot of the game.

Willenhall pressed again, and were awarded a third penalty, again for handball. Nuneaton protested, but the referee ignored their appeals and Butler shot hard and true from the kick, but Clements saved brilliantly, tipping the ball over the bar. Nuneaton pressed again, but could not find the winning goal and at the final whistle the score was 2-2.

## Coventry City Reserves v Nuneaton Town 27-12-1920

**Nuneaton:** Clements; Chamberlain and R. Roberts; Dunn, Stephenson, Webb; Ralphs, Nock, Sambrooke, Lowes and Scorgie.

Nuneaton gained a brilliant victory over Coventry City at Highfield Road on Monday, and the victory was greeted with enthusiasm by the several thousand Nuneaton supporters present at the game. The match was watched by a record Birmingham League crowd of around 15,000.

The ground was heavy and treacherous and ball control

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



was difficult. Both team mastered the conditions, however, and gave an exhilarating exhibition. Nuneaton showed finer method, a quicker perception of correct tactics and a more relentless determination to conquer.

It was a game of thrilling incidents and interesting episodes, and though the fortunes of the game did not fluctuate with startling rapidity, play never became really tame.

Coventry started as if they meant business and frequently beat Town players to possession. Both sides found it difficult to take advantage of possible shooting positions due to the state of the ground, but Sambrooke and Lowes shot wide for Nuneaton and Mitchell saved a shot from Ralphs.

Gibson caused Nuneaton some anxiety, and it was his fine individualism, that was a constant source of trouble for the visitors. On one occasion he sent in a great shot that Clements saved at the foot of the post. The visiting keeper also made a good save from Homer.

Towards the interval, Nuneaton started to get on top and Lowes struck the post with a terrific drive, and a few minutes before the break Sambrooke made an electrifying run through the home defence and launched a shot which struck the crossbar. Dunn, following in, scored from the rebound.

The second half had not been long in progress when Sambrooke missed a good opportunity of increasing Nuneaton's lead from a centre by Scorgie. Nuneaton were right on top and it was only just reward when Lowes received a pass from Dunn, raced through and scored with a well judged shot. Coventry retaliated, but Nuneaton's defence held firm, although one or two shots from the home side went close.

The Coventry goal had several narrow escapes, and Mitchell made a daring save following a brilliant run by Sambrooke. All doubt about the final result was removed about 10 minutes from time when Sambrooke passed obliquely to Scorgie, who eluded Mason and scored a glorious goal. Nuneaton had no difficulty in preserving their margin of victory.

## Nuneaton Town v Wrexham 28-12-1920

**Nuneaton: Clements; Chamberlain and R. Roberts; Dunn, Stephenson and Webb; Ralphs, Nock, Sambrooke, Lowes and Scorgie.**

Nuneaton and Wrexham played an interesting Birmingham League encounter at Manor Park, before a large holiday crowd. Both teams were at full strength.

Nuneaton attacked very strongly and some clever forward play put the Wrexham goal under threat. Lowes missed his kick in front of an open goal before Wrexham hit back and Clements had to save from Jones. So far, Nuneaton had showed up well, but Ellis dispossessed Scorgie and ended a good move. At the other end a long shot from Jardine hit the crossbar and fell down onto the line. Webb rushed back and saved the situation.

Wrexham pressed and an exciting scrimmage ended with

Clements stopping a shot on the goal line. Unfortunately, before the ball could be cleared Jardine rushed the ball into the net. Nuneaton made attempts to equalise, but Wrexham broke away in a line, and after Clements had saved from Edwards, the ball was passed to Jardine, who scored the visitors' second goal. At the break Wrexham had a 2-0 lead.

Nuneaton pulled a goal back three minutes after the restart, when Dunn met a centre from Scorgie and guided it into the net. Nuneaton pressed once more and raised hopes of an equaliser, but Wrexham attacked again and Reg Jones scored a fine goal. Clements got a hand to the ball but could not divert it away.

Some time later Taylor made a brilliant run for the visitors and scored the best goal of the match, with a superb shot. Nuneaton reduced the lead through Sambrooke, who scored after a nice piece of combination with Lowes. Nuneaton pressed to the end and only two extraordinary saves by Murphy from Sambrooke and Ralphs kept Nuneaton out. At the final whistle Wrexham were the winners by 4-2.

The game was full of interest and incident and Wrexham deserved to win, giving a brilliant display in defence and having a powerful half-back line. In attack, their forwards were speedy and tricky.

## Nuneaton Town v Burton All Saints 29-12-1920

**Nuneaton: Clements; Roberts and Taylor; Phillips, Stephenson and Webb; Ralphs, Dunn, Sambrooke, Nock and Scorgie.**

**Burton: Starbuck; T. Nichlin and B. Nicklin; Wright, Golby and Longley; James, Greaves, Clarke, Higgs and Jones.**

Despite a continuous downpour of rain, some 2,000 spectators assembled at Manor Park on Wednesday afternoon to see Nuneaton Town and Burton All Saints play in the third round of the Birmingham Senior Cup. The ground was in a treacherous condition and players had difficulty in keeping their feet.

Nuneaton went close in the first minute when Dunn lifted the ball over the bar from Scorgie's centre and then Stephenson brought a fine save out of Starbuck at the expense of a corner. Ralphs put in a good cross from the flag kick and Sambrooke headed home to give Town the lead.

Burton had two free-kicks which were cleared before Dunn got away and put a shot just wide of the post. A series of mistakes by Nuneaton's defence allowed Burton back into the game when they scored an equaliser, with a low shot from Greaves. Ralphs shot wide when well placed.

Sambrooke burst through the Burton defence and had a shot saved by Starbuck, who also cleared from Scorgie. Sambrooke missed an open goal just before half-time.

Nuneaton were on top at the start of the second half and a combined attack ended with Sambrooke shooting past Starbuck, who had just saved one attempt by the centre-



# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



forward. The keeper had to save again from Sambrooke before Ralphs struck the crossbar with a free-kick. Burton only attacked occasionally and Clements was rarely troubled.

Brilliant play by Ralphs followed neat passed by Dunn and from one of the winger's centres Nock headed Nuneaton's third goal. Some minutes later the same player missed the easiest of chances. Just before the end Sambrooke headed a beautiful goal from a centre by Ralphs, but the goal was disallowed for offside.

Considering the conditions and the fact that both teams had completed a heavy holiday programme, the game was a very good one, with Burton proving themselves a good side.

## Nuneaton Town v Willenhall Swifts 01-01-1921

**Nuneaton:** Jarvis; Chamberlain and Roberts; Phillips, Stephenson and Webb; Ralphs, Nock, Sambrooke, Lowes and Scorgie.

**Willenhall:** Richards; Silvers and Probert; Higgs, Crabtree and Spencer; Davey, Harris, Savage, Rogers and Best.

Nuneaton welcomed the New Year and Willenhall to Manor Park. The game was played in continuous rain, which turned the playing area into a veritable quagmire. Dunn was missing from the Nuneaton side through injury.

Willenhall attacked early on with Rogers putting a good shot into the side netting. Nuneaton hit back through Sambrooke, who raced between the visitors' backs and struck the post with a good shot, and put the ball over the top from the rebound. Lowes fired narrowly wide with a low shot. Town registered their first goal after about 15 minutes. It was the result of a brilliant piece of individualism by Ralphs, who manoeuvred round several opponents in a short space and flashed the ball into the net.

Richards, the Willenhall goalkeeper had to retire for treatment and Higgs took over in goal. Lowes started a movement with an oblique ball out to Sambrooke. The latter passed to Ralphs, who tricked a defender and centred beautifully for Sambrooke to place a precision header, which Higgs tipped over the bar.

Another pass by Lowes saw Sambrooke start an individual run from the half-way line. He steered past the backs and finished up with a fine low drive into the corner of the net.

Roberts and Chamberlain had to deal with some sporadic attacks from Willenhall and the visitors were restricted in their attempts to get close to the Nuneaton goal. Following good play by Ralphs and Nock, the Willenhall defence found itself in difficulties and Ralphs, profiting from a partial clearance, ran forward and scored another great goal. Shortly afterwards Lowes, after several attempts to bore his way through, achieved success, driving the ball past Richards just inside the upright.

Sambrooke had another effort before a dazzling run and cross by Ralphs, found Lowes, who headed the ball against the post. Crossing over with a four goal lead, Nuneaton added

another five minutes into the second half when a fine run and centre by Ralphs, ended with Sambrooke scoring with a fast shot.

Willenhall played the whole of the second half without their keeper, but despite incessant pressure from Nuneaton, they did not lose heart and eventually got a goal when Davey got clear away on the right and centred to Best, who had little difficulty in heading past Jarvis.

There was a regrettable incident just before the end when Nock was dribbling the ball through and Silvers fouled him in a nasty fashion. The referee spoke to Silvers, and after a lapse of a few seconds ordered him from the field, apparently for something he said. Willenhall thus finished the game with nine men, but close on time they found the net again through Savage, who scored a good goal.

## Worcester City v Nuneaton Town 08-01-1921

**Worcester:** Nolan; Blunt and Stockley; Taylor, Black and Wood; Payne, Bentley, Reid, Parsonage and Hemming.

**Nuneaton:** Jarvis; Chamberlain and Roberts; Phillips, Stephenson and Webb; Ralphs, Osborn, Sambrooke, Lowes and Nock.

Nuneaton travelled to St George's Lane, home of Worcester City for a Birmingham League match. The visitors were without the services of Dunn and Scorgie.

Worcester had much the better of the opening exchanges and only fine defence kept them from scoring. Twenty minutes had elapsed before Nuneaton showed any attacking intent. Blunt had to retire for treatment after receiving an accidental kick in the face and it was during his absence that Nuneaton scored. Osborn glided a ball between the backs for Sambrooke to take it on the run and shoot past Nolan.

Worcester, back up to full strength, equalised just before the interval, having made several assaults on the Nuneaton goal. Hemmings the Worcester left-winger scored with a fast shot which passed beneath the juncture of the post and the crossbar. Thus the teams went in at half-time drawing 1-1.

The start of the second half saw raids on goal from both teams and a number of goal-scoring opportunities, with respective keepers Jarvis and Nolan making good saves. Lowes went close with a ground shot that hit the post before going outside. A sudden change came over the game when Hemmings was let in by Phillips, and raced towards goal before beating Jarvis with a shot similar to his first goal.

Nuneaton retaliated and a header by Sambrooke from Ralphs' centre appeared a certain goal, but Nolan scooped the ball away. Worcester raced away again, and after Jarvis had made a magnificent save from Hemming, the ball was seized by Bentley, who promptly banged it into the net.

From this point, Nuneaton gave glimpses of better form, and as the game neared its close, Worcester were placed solely on the defensive. A great shot by Nock and several attempts



by Sambrooke were saved by Nolan. The most brilliant effort of the match was by Ralphs, who after tricking several opponents in the course of a fine run, finished up with a terrific shot at goal. Nolan, however, made a wonderful save by tipping the ball over the bar.

Just before the full-time whistle Nuneaton's efforts were rewarded with success with Sambrooke scoring a good goal from close range. There was not enough time left for Town to notch another goal, and at the end of the 90 minutes they had been defeated 3-2.

## Nuneaton Town v Wolves Reserves 15-01-1921

**Nuneaton:** Jarvis; Taylor and Roberts; Dunn, Stephenson and Webb; Ralphs, Whitehouse, Sambrooke, Nock and Harris.

**Wolves:** George; Newall and Jones; Thomas, Caddick and Woodward; Price, Cutler, Sambrook, Crowe and Barker.

For the visit of Wolves to Manor Park, the home side were robbed of several players due to injuries and illness. Town were without the services of Chamberlain, Lowes, Scorgie and Osborn.

Nuneaton might have built up a commanding lead in the early stages of the game, so fine were the attacks. All the danger came from the right, and practically every time Ralphs received the ball he centred perfectly. Some exciting melees saw George distinguish himself in the Wolves' goal. The nearest the visitors got early on was an individual effort by Crowe, which was well saved by Jarvis.

Subsequently Nuneaton attacked consistently and it was only just reward when the first goal came. Ralphs was placed in possession and after tricking Woodward and Jones he centred accurately. The ball cannoned off a defender to the feet of Nock, who banged the ball into the net, with George was unsighted. Nock almost added another a minute later, but George tipped his shot over the bar.

Price was the most dangerous of Wolves' forwards and his runs caused some anxiety to the home defence. From one of his centres Sambrook headed the equalising goal. Jarvis got a hand to the ball and looked as though he should have saved. George made great saves from Ralphs and Sambrooke before the interval came, with the sides drawing 1-1.

Play was scrappy and uninteresting after the break and Nuneaton fell away badly. The Wolves, however, did not take advantage of chances that came their way and Jarvis was never seriously tested.

In the last ten minutes, Nuneaton attacked in fine style and a series of brilliant centres by Ralphs produced some thrills in the Wolverhampton goal. From one of Ralphs' centres, Nock had a good chance, but headed into George's hands. Sambrooke sent in several glorious shots which George saved in superb fashion. Nuneaton almost won the game in the dying moments.

## Wolves Reserves v Nuneaton Town 22-01-1921

**Wolves:** George; Newall and Jones; Thomas, Caddick and Woodward; Price, Cutler, Sambrook, Crowe and Gill.

**Nuneaton:** Clements; Taylor and Roberts; Dunn, Stephenson and Webb; Ralphs, Lowes, Sambrooke, Nock and Fenton.

Nuneaton visited Molyneux to face Wolverhampton in front of 8,000 supporters, a fair few from Nuneaton. The Town side included Fenton of Cradley Heath.

Wolves pressed from the start and Clements saved well from Woodward and Sambrook. Soon after Ralphs broke away, but put his centre behind. Wolves were playing really attractive football and attacked strongly. Nuneaton retaliated and George saved from Fenton with some difficulty.

Ralphs and Sambrooke both put in shots before Wolves' winger Price, missed an open goal and Cutler shot over from close in. George saved well from Ralphs following good play from Fenton and Wolves' defence came under pressure. Town's goal also had a narrow escape following a scrimmage. Wolves were playing cleverer football, but Nuneaton's defence held firm and at the break the score was 0-0.

The second half opened in sensational fashion. Only two minutes had elapsed when Nock placed the ball forward to Sambrooke, who took it on the run and swerving past the back scored a magnificent goal for Nuneaton.

Lowes headed Ralphs' cross narrowly wide just after the goal but Wolves built up a fine passing move, which was intercepted by Taylor. Nuneaton ought to have added to their lead shortly after when Sambrooke was presented with an open goal, but shot over the crossbar from six yards out.

Clements made a series of brilliant saves when a goal seemed practically certain, and one shot which was turned over the bar was a masterpiece. More good work from Ralphs gave Nuneaton a chance to extend their lead, but Lowes shot wide. The game became very strenuous towards the close and Wolves attacked spiritedly, but were foiled time after time by a strong Nuneaton defence. Clements covered himself in glory on several occasions, whilst Taylor and Roberts tackled brilliantly.

## Ralphs to Blackburn Rovers for £1,500

Bertram Ralphs, Nuneaton Town's brilliant outside-right, was transferred to Blackburn Rovers on Monday night. The transfer fee is stated to be £1,500 — easily a record for the Birmingham and District League. Ralphs has probably been the most eagerly sought after player outside the English League and competition for his services has grown keener week after week.

The clubs watching Ralphs at the Wolves match were Sheffield Wednesday, Aston Villa, Woolwich Arsenal and Millwall.



## Nuneaton Town v Stoke City Reserves 29-01-1921

**Nuneaton:** Clements; Taylor and Roberts; Dunn, Stephenson and Webb; Fenton, Osborn, Sambrooke, Lowes and Scorgie.

**Stoke:** Knott; Thomas and Brooke; Forrester, Parkes and Jarvis; Crosthwaite, Scarratt, Carabine, Martin and Page.

What is called “luck” in football finds time to visit most teams in turn. Saturday saw it settle on Nuneaton’s side, and thus a victory was obtained over Stoke Reserves at Manor Park.

On the balance of play Nuneaton certainly should not have won, for in most phases of the game they were inferior to Stoke. A victory did not seem probable at any time during the play. Yet the unexpected happened, and two minutes from the end saw Nuneaton score the winning goal.

It was a fine goal, too. A free-kick close in enabled Roberts to place the ball over to the right. Osborn passed out to Fenton, who centred into the goalmouth at a slow pace. It hardly seemed possible that Sambrooke could deflect the ball into the net at a sufficient speed to beat the goalkeeper, but he did so, guiding the ball just inside the upright. It was a brilliant example of headwork. The two minutes which remained for play did not allow the visitors any opportunity to equalise, and Nuneaton won amidst great excitement on the part of the spectators. Previous to this goal, Osborn had scored, but was given offside.

Had the game been played another hour, it is doubtful whether Stoke would have scored. This is not a reflection on their ability, but a testimony to Clements, who gave a magnificent exhibition of goalkeeping. A finer display has never been seen on the ground. But for the keeper Nuneaton would have been several goals in arrears.

Stoke’s attacks would have been still more dangerous had not Webb so effectively held Crosthwaite, the exceedingly able outside right whom Stoke secured from Stockport County.

Nuneaton’s backs gave a satisfactory performance and the half-backs performed well up to a point with Stephenson recovering from a shaky start. Dunn was not up to his usual standard, although he was up against a very good wing. It was in the forward line that Nuneaton failed, where Bertram Ralphs’ absence made a lot of difference. Osborn showed brains in all his efforts, but he was slow, and his reputed dribbling and shooting powers were seldom in evidence.

## Stoke City Reserves v Nuneaton Town 05-02-1921

**Stoke:** Knott; Brookes and Twemlow; Parkes, Beswick and Forrester; Crosthwaite, Scarratt, Carabine, Martin and Page.

**Nuneaton:** Clements; Taylor and Chamberlain; Dunn, Stephenson and Webb; Roberts, Lowes, Sambrook, Nock and Fenton.

In no match this season have the Nuneaton team fought such an uphill battle as they did at Stoke. For the best part of the game they were forced to conform to the tactics of Stoke,

and resist a swift-moving and forceful attack. It was no small achievement to preserve their goal intact, and if for no other reason than successfully withstanding a gruelling succession of onslaughts, Nuneaton deserved a point.

The home team’s ability was evidenced in many finely-executed movements, carried out with speed and vigour, and the Nuneaton team were so occupied in struggling against these attacks that they found little opportunity of developing their own form of strategy. To make the task more difficult, Chamberlain was injured and left the field after 15 minutes and did not return for the rest of the first period. Webb stepped in to cover at left-back, but after a few minutes received a nasty injury to his collarbone and had to retire. Although Webb came back on, he was obviously in pain.

Clements was again in fine form and gave a magnificent display of goalkeeping. He saved shots from all directions with superb judgment, and on several occasions, the home supporters cried “goal!” only to be disappointed. The best attempt on Stoke’s defence was made by Lowes, who after tricking several opponents was overwhelmed before he could get a shot in.

Nuneaton resumed with a full side, but Nock and Webb swapped places. Stoke again dictated the play and fine wing play by Page and Crosthwaite carried danger to the Nuneaton goal. Clements and his defenders, however, showed no signs of giving way to the pressure, and the few Nuneaton enthusiasts present gradually became confident that Stoke were not destined to win.

As the game wore on Nuneaton came more into the game, and the capabilities of the forwards came into evidence. Fenton, who had been little in the picture, accomplished a good individual effort as a result of a nice pass by Webb, who was showing some enterprise in his new role. Webb raced clear in fine style and centred to Sambrooke, who was narrowly wide with a first-time shot. Later a pass by Sambrooke found Lowes, who put in a terrific shot from 18 yards, the ball striking the juncture of the crossbar and upright before bouncing out. The shot was so hard that it chipped paint off the goalpost.

Just before the end, Page swung in a tremendous cross, and Town’s goal looked set to fall, but Carabine headed over the bar. Play had been fast and strenuous throughout the game, but at the final whistle Nuneaton were holding their own.

Webb played like a hero in a football novel. Every time he came in contact with an opponent he suffered pain from his injured collar-bone, yet he continued to the end without complaint.

Sambrooke and Lowes both played with zeal against heavy odds. The latter showed considerable improvement on his recent displays, and his shot at goal was an outstanding incident in the game. As a line, however, the Nuneaton forwards lacked cohesion and strategic powers.



## Birmingham City Res. v Nuneaton Town 12-02-1921

**Birmingham:** Hauser; Ball and Mumford; Booth, Binks and Liddell; Green, Deacon, Bradford, Elkes and Davies.

**Nuneaton:** Clements; Taylor and Chamberlain; Dunn, Stephenson and Nock; Fenton, Roberts, Sambrooke, Lowes and Scorgie.

Nuneaton's visit to St. Andrew's to face Birmingham City Reserves ended in a heavy defeat by five goals to one, but the result was by no means an indication of the balance of play, because although Nuneaton's goal was penetrated five times, it was not subjected to any prolonged sieges and apart from the shots which beat Clements, he had little to do.

The real reason for Nuneaton's loss was down to the unequal battle that took place between Town's defence and the home attack, which gave the impression that the home team's overall superiority was more pronounced than it actually was.

Two of Birmingham's goals were gifts, coming as a result of two penalty decisions, both of them coming after Birmingham had taken the lead through Elkes. The first came just after Sambrooke had a headed goal disallowed for offside and was the result of a charge by Dunn, which looked to be perfectly fair, with the referee's decision being a surprise. Davies took the kick and easily beat Clements.

Nuneaton's half-back line struggled to hold off the Birmingham attack, in which Elkes was the leading figure. They seemed to lose confidence after coming under sustained pressure, and Nuneaton were overrun. The third goal was scored by Deacon, who darted past the Town defence in beautiful fashion.

Nuneaton had a further setback when Nock brought down Green on the edge of the penalty area. Davies took the kick and scored the home side's fourth goal. A few minutes later Elkes again beat the visitors' defence and coolly shot past Clements and Nuneaton went in at half time five goals to nil down.

At this point Nuneaton's supporters were concerned that they were destined to see the team's biggest ever Birmingham League defeat. Yet, such is the uncertainty of football that a distinct change came over the game and Nuneaton improved out of all recognition. They had far more of the game and did three parts of the attacking. The only things that prevented Nuneaton matching Birmingham in the goal scoring stakes were inaccurate passing and weak finishing from the forwards.

Despite their shortcomings, Nuneaton put pressure on the Birmingham defence and the home goal had several narrow escapes. Twice Sambrooke made bursts past the backs, only to be frustrated by Hauser. The goalkeeper also made a magnificent save from a terrific shot by Lowes, who was applauded for his effort.

It looked as though Nuneaton's efforts to get a goal would be frustrated, but just on the stroke of full-time another remarkable shot from Lowes saw Hauser push the ball out for a corner. From the flag kick Scorgie shot into the net for a consolation goal that made the final score 5-1 to City.

## Nuneaton Town v Birmingham City Res. 19-02-1921

**Nuneaton:** Clements; Taylor and Chamberlain; Dunn, Stephenson and R. Roberts; P. Roberts, Lowes, Sambrooke, Nock and Scorgie.

**Birmingham:** Merrick; Ball and Mumford; Booth, Binks and Liddell; Gibson, Deacon, Bradford, Elkes and Thompson.

Following the previous week's debacle at St. Andrews, few people expected anything other than defeat against the League leaders.

Nuneaton made a good start and the forwards especially gave a wonderful exhibition. Time after time they had the visitors' defence in a tangle. Playing with good understanding, allied to quickness of movement and intelligent tactics, they were continually threatening Birmingham's goal. Sambrooke ran past the backs, and when Merrick ran out, he glided the ball past him towards the open goal. The crowd yelled "goal!" but the ball went an inch or so wide of the post.

It was a glorious movement which led up to Nuneaton's first goal. Dunn passed the ball forward to P. Roberts, who in turn passed to Lowes. The latter tricked a defender and placed the ball up the centre to Sambrooke, who took the ball on the run and beat Merrick with a tremendous shot.

Nuneaton's lead only lasted a few minutes. A long shot from Deacon was misjudged by Clements and the ball stuck his chest and rebounded to Bradford, who drove the ball into the net. Lowes shot over the bar, but Nuneaton regained the lead soon after when Stephenson headed past Merrick from a corner. Misfortune befell the home team when P. Roberts had to be taken to hospital with suspected broken ribs.

Roberts resumed about 20 minutes into the second half, although with ten men Nuneaton continued to bombard the home goal and Sambrooke converted a Scorgie centre to give the home side a 3-1 lead. Birmingham had several narrow escapes in the second half and Lowes almost broke through, while Stephenson skimmed the bar.

Birmingham retaliated and Gibson received the ball when unmarked and sent in a beautiful shot which beat Clements all the way. Sambrooke had the visitors' defence hopelessly beaten on one occasion, but chose to shoot instead of squaring to Lowes, who stood in front of an open goal.

After Merrick had made some excellent clearances, Birmingham began to exert pressure on the home goal and the City forwards showed good speed and ability as Clements had to save three or four shots. The danger to Nuneaton came mainly from Gibson, who with his tricky movements frequently wrong footed the Nuneaton defence.

About 20 minutes from the end a Taylor clearance cannoned off a Birmingham player to Gibson, who equalised with a great shot. Two fine centres from Lowes were charged down and Sambrooke shot over the bar. Merrick brought off several great saves, but no further scoring took place and Nuneaton had to be content with a draw after looking likely winners.





## Nuneaton Town v Walsall 26-02-1921

**Nuneaton:** Clements; Taylor and R.Roberts; Dunn, Stephenson and Webb; P. Roberts, Lowes, Sambrooke, Nock and Scorgie.

**Walsall:** Houghton; Timmins and Mackenzie; Allen, Kinsella and Mann; Bowyer, Edwards, Groves, Lane and Rodgers.

The game at Manor Park against Walsall ended in great controversy, which had the unexpected effect of making a very ordinary game, a memorable one.

In the first half, exchanges were fairly even and both goals were subjected to an equal amount of pressure. Yet neither Clements nor Houghton was seriously troubled. Walsall should have taken an early lead when Edwards put an easy chance wide. Sambrooke also put a shot wide before the only goal of the first half was scored by Nuneaton just before the interval. Lowes latched on to the ball in midfield and deceived opponents into thinking he would pass, but instead dribbled through and beat three players before centring to Sambrooke, who put the ball past Houghton.

Edwards had an open goal early in the second half, but inexplicably choose to dribble into an impossible position. About 20 minutes from the end Walsall mounted a strong attack and Groves grabbed the equaliser. A minute later Nuneaton were awarded a free-kick which Stephenson placed to Nock, who gave to Sambrooke. The latter put in a surprise shot which beat Houghton, giving Nuneaton the lead again. Sambrooke nearly got through again, beating both backs, but Houghton ran out and saved the centre-forwards' shot.

Several dangerous sorties were mounted by Walsall towards the end of the match and one of them resulted in the game's most controversial incident. There was barely a minute of the game left when Walsall made their final attempt to avoid defeat. The visitors attacked from the left and Clements was compelled to punch away a shot from Lane. In affecting the save, Clements was injured, but the referee allowed the game to proceed and the ball was eventually steered into the net.

The referee apparently pointed to the centre, but the Nuneaton players made strong appeals against a goal being allowed, and pointed to Clements who lay prone on the ground. Pandemonium reigned for some moments and the crowd shouted excitedly "No goal". The suspense lasted for two minutes before Clements was lifted to his feet. The referee, after consulting the linesmen, decided that the goalkeeper had been impeded and gave a free-kick. Immediately this had been taken the final whistle was sounded.

Clements proved reliable in goal, while Dick Roberts tried to play with finesse, a dangerous trait for a full-back. Taylor played well, but got caught too far forward on occasion. Stephenson was outstanding, especially in the first half, while Dunn and Webb played good games. Nock was Nuneaton's best forward and is now showing excellent form. Scorgie started well, but was later affected by the crowd.

## Nuneaton Town v Wednesbury Old Ath. 05-03-1921

**Nuneaton:** Clements; Chamberlain and R. Roberts; Dunn, Stephenson and Webb; P. Roberts, Lowes, Sambrooke, Nock and Hanson.

**Wednesbury:** Crutchley; Plant and Parkes; Gallagher, Buttery and Pattinger; Rushton, McHale, Croxall, Nock and Evans.

The game between Nuneaton and Wednesbury Old Athletic was dull in the extreme, with very few notable incidents. The home side have a habit of playing well against better teams, but show only moderate form against weaker sides.

The game opened in a tame fashion and several attacks by both sides were terminated in poor style. Nuneaton's first goal came after 15 minutes when P. Roberts passed to Lowes, who put in a good effort which was saved by Crutchley. Lowes shot a second time and a short scrimmage ensued in front of the visitors' goal. The ball went to Nock, who shot into the net in fine style. The home side went close a few moments later.

Wednesbury launched some attacks of their own, but good defensive work by Nuneaton's backs prevented Clements from being severely tested. Nuneaton then attacked again and a brilliant strategic run by Nock gave Sambrooke a beautiful chance, but the centre-forward shot high over the bar with the goal at his mercy.

The second half saw Nuneaton attack strongly in the early stages with Sambrooke putting an effort wide from P. Roberts' centre. Lowes grazed the crossbar with a terrific shot, but a second goal was not long in arriving and was brought about as a result of some clever play by P. Roberts.

The young winger raced the ball to the goal line, tricked an opponent with ease and centred to Sambrooke, who drove the ball into the net with a first-time effort. For a time Nuneaton totally outplayed their opponents, but indifferent finishing robbed the attacks of effectiveness. Athletic played better towards the close and a few good shots were sent in, but Clements saved well.

As with the Walsall match, the most thrilling episode of the game was left until the end. Wednesbury's left-wing attacked and the ball was swung across the goalmouth where Webb and McHale jumped up to head the ball, but it was passing high above them when for some inexplicable reason Webb raised his hand and knocked it down. A penalty was awarded, but Rushton's shot was well saved by Clements, who was badly injured and had to be carried from the field.

## Nuneaton Town v WBA Reserves 07-03-1921

**Nuneaton:** Clements; Taylor and R. Roberts; Harris, Stephenson and Webb; Dunn, Lowes, Sambrooke, Nock and Scorgie.

**WBA:** Ashmore; Wood and Cook; Arch, Newall and James; Edwards, H. Taylor, Potter, Freeman and W. Taylor.

West Bromwich Albion visited Manor Park for a Birmingham Senior Cup fourth round tie. There were about 3,000 spectators

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



in attendance and the crowd were still rolling in when the match kicked off. Nuneaton were without Chamberlain and P. Roberts, meaning the team had to be rearranged.

Ashworth was forced to save in the first minute, following a corner and a moment later Dunn and Lowes got away and from the latter's centre, Sambrooke headed over the bar. Nock then shot wide when well placed. Following an Albion corner Nuneaton pressed again and the visitors' goal had another narrow escape, Ashmore just preventing Nock from shooting into an open goal. Clements had to deal with a long shot at the other end.

The crowd was enthused by a burst from Sambrooke, who went past the Albion defence and tried to dribble round the keeper, but Ashmore scooped the ball away. Sambrooke then headed wide from Scorgie's centre. Two minutes later Dunn, who was playing well in his unaccustomed position, tricked the defence and centred. Lowes missed the ball, but Sambrooke trapped it and banged it into the net and Nuneaton led by a single goal at half-time.

Albion started the second half in good style and Freeman shot over the bar. Nuneaton showed renewed energy and a beautiful centre by Dunn was converted by Sambrooke, who shot into the net with great force. Shortly afterwards the Albion goal had another narrow escape following a corner.

Town's defence cleared a dangerous attack from Albion, but persistent pressure from the visitors resulted in H. Taylor making a fine solo effort and shooting past Clements. Within a minute, Nuneaton scored again. Dunn passed to Sambrooke, who bagged his hat-trick by crashing the ball into the net.

The game increased in pace, and both sides redoubled their efforts. Dick Roberts, with plenty of chance to clear, tried to dribble and he was dispossessed by Edwards, who had the easiest of tasks to score the Albion's second goal. Nuneaton were hard-pressed to retain their lead, but did so and deservedly won by three goals to two.

## Walsall and Wrexham Elected to League

In fulfilment of the promise made when Southern League clubs were taken over by the Football League to constitute a Third Division, a special general meeting of the League was held at the Connaught Rooms, London, yesterday morning, further to consider the formation of a Northern Section of the Third Division. Mr. J. McKenna presided.

It was decided that the northern section consist of 20 clubs, and that 18 be elected at the meeting. On the recommendation of the Management Committee, the following 14 clubs were elected en bloc:

Accrington Stanley, Ashington, Barrow-in-Furness, Chesterfield, Crewe Alexandra, Darlington, Durham City, Hartlepool, Lincoln City, Nelson, Rochdale, Tranmere Rovers, Walsall and Wrexham.

## Nuneaton Town v Shrewsbury Town 12-03-1921

**Nuneaton:** Clements; Taylor and R. Roberts; Harris, Stephenson and Webb; P. Roberts, Dunn, Sambrooke, Nock and Scorgie.

**Shrewsbury:** Boxley; Parker and Cook; Jones, Morris and Griffiths; Roberts, Walpole, Williams, Brueton and Rowson..

Nuneaton Town had a score to settle with Shrewsbury Town, having been severely beaten 7-1 at Gay Meadow. The game was played in a gusty wind, which made the ball difficult to control. Sambrooke turned out even though he was injured in an accident at work, and played with a bandaged head.

Play had only been in progress about 12 minutes when Nuneaton got their first goal. A pass by Sambrooke found Dunn, who ran the ball to the goal-line and crossed for Sambrooke to shoot past Boxley. The game then entered a crucial stage, as Shrewsbury created a number of openings, with Brueton, Williams and Walpole all missing easy chances from close in, which were either put wide or over the bar.

Nuneaton got their second goal when Dunn passed forward to Sambrooke, who raced through and looked a certain scorer. Boxley, however, charged down his shot, but the ball broke to P. Roberts who ran forward and shot into the net. The goal appeared to have been offside, but despite protests from the visitors, the referee allowed the goal to stand.

The third goal was one of the best scored at Manor Park for a long time. Nock seized the ball in midfield and deceived the opposition into thinking he would pass to Sambrooke, but manoeuvred himself into position and crashed home a beautiful long shot which sailed in just under the bar, leaving Boxley helpless. Just before half-time Clements made a fantastic save from a Shrewsbury free-kick.

Nuneaton outplayed their opponents in the second half and carried out many attacks. In the first minute Sambrooke struck the crossbar with a terrific shot. Shortly after a nice pass gave Dunn a chance from close in, and he placed the ball into the net. Straight after, Sambrooke gave Nock a forward pass and the inside-left scored the fifth goal.

For the next 20 minutes or so, Nuneaton's forwards sent in many shots. Accurate centres from P. Roberts and Scorgie gave the inside forwards shooting chances and Boxley had to save time and again. He made several exceedingly good saves and prevented further scoring. Towards the end of the game, Nuneaton slackened their pace and Shrewsbury had more of the play and came close to scoring on a couple of occasions.

## Wednesbury Old Ath. v Nuneaton Town 19-03-1921

**Wednesbury:** Crutchley; Plant and Parkes; Gallagher, Buttery and White; Rushton, McHale, Coxall, Pottinger and Nock.

**Nuneaton:** Clements; Taylor and Chamberlain; Dunn, Stephenson and Webb; P. Roberts, Lowes, Sambrook, Nock and Dolman.

Nuneaton's visit to Wednesbury was a miserable affair. Not only did the team suffer an unexpected defeat and participate

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



in a game which was almost a libel on the word football, they were victims of conditions which were calculated to depress and annoy. Rain fell heavily throughout the game and the turf became treacherous and the ball heavy.

After the game, the Nuneaton players, caked with mud and soaked with rain, had to dress minus a bath. The washing accommodation consisted of a tub of cold water and one piece of soap! Is it surprising that the English League clubs are taking their reserve teams out of the Birmingham League?

Wednesbury's goal was scored after about 10 minutes. Rushton sent in a fine centre, which caused confusion in the Nuneaton defence, and with three players wondering which one of them should clear the ball, Pottinger nipped in and shot the ball high into the net. The home side took the single goal lead into the half-time break.

Nock's run was brought to a halt a few yards from goal, while Lowes nearly equalised with a good attempt. Clements made a good save when Wednesbury attacked and a shot by Rushton landed on the crossbar and bounced over.

The second half continued in the same dull manner as the first, but improved as the half progressed. Nuneaton did most of the attacking and a beautiful pass from Lowes gave Sambrooke an opportunity. He darted between the backs, but shot wide. Stephenson sent in a long shot that Crutchley tipped over before the home side lost the services of McHale. They continued to attack, however, and Coxall looked certain to score, following confusion between Nuneaton defenders, but the shot struck Chamberlain's foot and flew over the top.

Nuneaton put on more pressure and a good effort by Roberts nearly brought success. He dribbled past three opponents until he was near the posts and then sent in a left-footed drive which Crutchley saved.

Nuneaton equalised about five minutes from time, when a free-kick was awarded. The home side packed the area, but Dunn deceived them by passing to Roberts who attracted the defenders and then passed to Lowes, who glided the ball into the net. Nuneaton nearly scored again a couple of minutes later, but Sambrooke was robbed as he shaped to shoot.

In the last minutes of the game Taylor fouled Rushton and from the free kick a corner was conceded by the visitors. The kick was nicely placed and Coxall headed into the net. As soon as the ball was placed on the centre spot to restart, the final whistle was blown.

## Nuneaton Town v Brierley Hill Alliance 26-03-1921

**Nuneaton: Clements; Chamberlain and R. Roberts; Dunn, Stephenson and Webb; P. Roberts, Lowes, Sambrooke, Nock and Scorgie.**

Nuneaton faced Brierley Hill Alliance at Manor Park in a game that was made more difficult by a strong wind.

For the greater part of the game, Nuneaton outplayed the Alliance, yet they had to be satisfied with a division of the

points. Nuneaton attacked persistently, especially in the second half, when the Alliance were never once dangerous. Play was almost as one-sided as anyone could imagine, yet Nuneaton failed to win.

The reasons are two-fold. For one thing the Nuneaton forwards were not so accurate in their shooting as they might have been; secondly, Adams the Alliance goalkeeper, gave a wonderful display. Some of his saves seemed uncanny, and shots from all angles and all speeds were dealt with safely and efficiently. Several times the Brierley Hill goal seemed certain to fall, but it escaped. If there is such a thing as good luck, the Alliance had it on their side. Supporting Adams were two sound and able full-backs.

Nuneaton's goal was a fluky one, as a Brierley Hill defender, in attempting to clear, kicked the ball against Sambrooke from where it cannoned into the net. The visitors equaliser came two minutes before half-time and was scored by Westwood,.

For Town Dunn, R. Roberts, Stephenson, Lowes and Scorgie were the most prominent players. The latter gave a great display, and his runs and centres were a feature of the play.

## Nuneaton Town v Northern Nomads 28-03-1921

**Nuneaton: Mitchell; R. Roberts and Taylor; Harris, Phillips and Webb; P. Roberts, Lowes, Dunn, Cooper and Adams..**

**Northern Nomads: Sutcliffe; Talbot and Hamilton; Allen, Donal and Fairbrother; Royle, Ogden, Broome, Morris and Cook.**

The friendly game against Northern Nomads was played in a good spirit with only the desire to play the game for the game's sake. Even a tempestuous wind failed to destroy combination and effective ball manipulation. In this respect Nomads showed their superiority. Their display was fine to behold with clever footwork and intelligent tactics. Their right wing was particularly brilliant and speedy, and exhibited some delightful glimpses of play, and the consequence was that the game was interesting and well contested.

Nomads opened the scoring five minutes into the match, with Morris shooting into the net after a sample of fine combined play. They nearly added to their lead when Royle headed the ball on to the crossbar. Nuneaton retaliated in spirited fashion, and a terrific shot by Lowes saw the ball crash against the underside of the crossbar and bounce out. A little later Dunn also hit the crossbar with a good shot, and Lowes seized the ball in the rebound and scored with a low drive.

The chief features of the early part of the second half were two fine shots by Webb, well saved by Sutcliffe, and a scrimmage in the Nomads' goal following an effort by Cooper. A thrilling run by the Nomads' right wing earned the applause of the crowd, and Royle imparted the necessary finish by shooting into the net from close range, thus giving his side the lead. Nuneaton forced a corner and the ball went out to Phillips who attempted a shot which Lowes turned into the net with his head. The game ended in a 2-2 draw.



## Nuneaton Town v Coventry City Reserves 29-03-1921

**Nuneaton:** Clements; Chamberlain and R. Roberts; Harris, Stephenson and Webb; P. Roberts, Lowes, Sambrooke, Nock and Scorgie.

**Coventry:** Brown; Blair and Cross; Campbell, Homer and Allan; Mackay, Devlin, Robinson, Smith and Pointon.

There was a big holiday crowd at Manor Park on Tuesday afternoon to see the home side take on Coventry City Reserves in a Birmingham League fixture. Nuneaton pressed at the start and fine work by Lowes ended in Sambrooke crashing in a great shot which struck Brown as he ran out of goal — a narrow escape for Coventry.

Pointon got away for the visitors and centred but Smith shot wide. Two centres by P. Roberts ended with a rasping shot by Webb, which Brown tipped over the bar. However, it was a fine movement which brought the first goal of the match for Nuneaton. Sambrooke passed out to Roberts, who centred. The danger was only partially cleared, and Lowes lifted the ball into the goalmouth for Sambrooke to head into the net. A little later the Coventry goal had to sustain further pressure.

Coventry retaliated through Pointon, who shot over the bar, and then tested Clements. At the other end Brown had to save from Roberts. From a centre by Mackay Coventry equalised through a Pointon header. Play became more exciting, but Nuneaton made the mistake of indulging in too much finesse, particularly the half-backs, and this led to some dangerous Coventry attacks.

Coventry had the better of the play after the break. Clements made two good saves. Subsequently, Nuneaton improved and had more of the play. The game, however, was tame, and there were no electrifying incidents. About 20 minutes from the finish, Nuneaton ought to have won the game, for both Sambrooke and Scorgie missed a glorious chance of scoring from a fine centre by Lowes. The last few minutes were a trifle exciting, both sides carrying out dangerous movements. Each team appealed for a penalty without success.

The game was defined by too much personal feeling and some of the players were obsessed more by the idea of vigour than cleverness. Fouls were numerous and there was much jumping and illegitimate charging. Generally speaking weight predominated over brains, and when this is done a game can be written off the slate as far as football is concerned.

## Birmingham City Res. v Nuneaton Town 02-04-1921

**Birmingham:** Tremelling; Dixon and Mumford; Daws, Binks and Liddell; Deacon, Jones, Bradford, Sharp and Linley.

**Nuneaton:** Clements; Taylor and R. Roberts; Dunn, Stephenson and Webb; Paul, Lowes, Sambrook, Nock and Scorgie.

Nuneaton travelled to St. Andrew's to face Birmingham City in the semi-final of the Birmingham Senior Cup.

The first real scoring chance fell to Nuneaton, Lowes gaining

possession a few yards from goal. He then sent in a fine shot, but Tremelling turned it round the post. At the other end Linley caused the Nuneaton defence trouble with several fine centres and Deacon shot wide from close range.

The game veered from end to end in exhilarating fashion and a brilliant shot by Dunn saw Tremelling make a great save. The keeper also cleared a shot from Scorgie. Birmingham's forwards displayed good form, but Dick Roberts kicked and tackled with superb judgment and Dunn was also a tower of strength. The chief source of danger was Linley, and it was due to this player that Birmingham scored the only goal of the game. He made a perfect centre from an almost impossible angle and Bradford headed the ball past Roberts, before shooting past Clements.

For a time the home side had the better of the game, and it was only the resolute Nuneaton defence which prevented further goals. Sharp missed a glorious chance and Clements was called upon on several occasions. Nuneaton rallied and Scorgie made a splendid solo effort, finally being robbed by Tremelling, almost on the goal-line. Two centres from Paul narrowly missed being turned to account by Sambrooke, and from a corner just before the interval both Lowes and Paul missed opportunities.

Mumford got a nasty cut to his head five minutes into the second half, so City played for 40 minutes with ten men. Birmingham changed their tactics at this stage and Nuneaton were continually caught offside. Sambrooke had an excellent chance, but he failed to control the ball at the critical moment. Nuneaton were on top, but the goal would not come.

Birmingham became very dangerous on one occasion and Clements made a rather lucky save from Deacon. A perfect centre by Lowes nearly brought the equalising goal and Sambrooke made a superb attempt to head the ball through, but Tremelling rushed out and literally pushed the ball off his head, leaving Sambrooke tangled in the rigging. The best chance of the match fell to Nock, who with an open goal shot over the bar after Paul had centred.

Birmingham improved towards the end and the crowd became aggravated after Stephenson and Webb committed several fouls. The former did far more tripping than was good for Nuneaton's reputation, and on one occasion he unnecessarily gave away a penalty. Daws took the kick and shot wide. The game ended just after with City 1-0 winners.

## Brierley Hill Alliance v Nuneaton Town 04-04-1921

**Brierley Hill:** Adams; Blain and Hooper; Sneyd, Parkes and Kidd; Fessey, Keteridge, Woodruffe, Griffiths and Westwood.

**Nuneaton:** Clements; Chamberlain and Jones; R. Roberts, Stephenson and Webb; Paul, Lowes, Taylor, Payne and Scorgie.

Nuneaton fielded a strange team for their Birmingham League visit to Brierley Hill. Dunn, Sambrooke, Nock and P. Roberts were all unable to play and an experimental side was





put out. A new full-back, Jones, from the Birmingham Works League was tried and Dick Roberts was moved to right-half. Taylor played centre-forward and Fred Payne filled the inside-left position. The home side were at full strength.

The home team enjoyed the benefit of the slope in the first half and were the first to attack, with several shots going wide. Stephenson set Taylor up with a chance, but he failed to gather the ball. Brierley Hill broke away and Ketteridge put in a good shot which Clements saved at the foot of the post. The keeper also saved from Woodruffe.

Nuneaton's forward line was lacking in cohesion and seldom got away, and when Taylor passed out to Scorgie, he was tackled by Sneyd. Woodruffe met a centre from Fessey with his head, but Clements saved before the best movement of the game was made when Scorgie sent the ball across to Lowes, who placed forward for Paul to run in and centre. Taylor nearly achieved success with his head, Adams saving.

Westwood caused the Nuneaton defence some trouble with a fine centre, but Woodruffe headed over the bar and the danger was averted. Lowes was responsible for some clever work for Nuneaton, but he was not adequately supported. Most of the danger to the Alliance goal came from Nuneaton's right. Lowes narrowly missed with a terrific shot before Brierley Hill attacked strongly and Clements brought off a series of fine saves. Scorgie missed a good opportunity with the goalkeeper out of position, but the half came to a close with the score at 0-0.

Taylor had a glorious chance straight after the break, but shot weakly into the hands of Adams. Clements had to punch away from Fessey and also make a save from the same player. Payne missed an easy chance, but atoned later by centring to Taylor, who rushed the ball into the net for the first goal of the match. Stephenson almost added to Nuneaton's lead just after, but his shot went over the bar.

Alliance had a spell of attacking and forced two corners, which were both cleared. Chamberlain and Jones defended stubbornly and pressed back the home team. Nuneaton then attacked down the right and gained a corner, from which a scrimmage ensued and Stephenson scored the second goal.

Nuneaton had little difficulty in preserving their lead, even though Brierley Hill scored three or four minutes from time.

## Wellington Town v Nuneaton Town 09-04-1921

**Wellington: Hedgecox; Robinson and Littlewood; Deakin, Thornton and Smith; Millington, J. White, Capewell, E. White and Sheldon.**

**Nuneaton: Clements; Taylor and R. Roberts; Dunn, Chamberlain and Webb; P. Roberts, Lowes, Sambrooke, Nock and Scorgie.**

Nuneaton travelled to The Buck's Head, home of Wellington Town for a Birmingham League fixture. The team was restored to full strength.

Nuneaton opened the game well and ought to have been the

first to score. A centre by Scorgie gave Lowes an opportunity and he sent in a great shot, which Hedgecox splendidly saved at the expense of corner. After about ten minutes a terrific hailstorm hit the ground and made conditions miserable for the players. It may have been a coincidence, but from this point Nuneaton were totally outplayed.

Wellington's first goal was the outcome of a lightning shot by Thornton. The ball struck Clements in the chest and rebounded into play a few yards away. The Nuneaton goalkeeper ran out to kick clear, but was beaten to the ball by E. White, who shot into the open goal. A few minutes later Millington beat the Nuneaton defence and sent in a perfect centre, which Capewell turned to account by heading a beautiful goal.

For some time Wellington bombarded the Nuneaton goal, and valiant work by Dunn and R. Roberts, and good keeping by Clements prevented further goals. Clements made several fine saves from the brothers White and Capewell, and efforts by Millington and Deacon just missed the post. Just before the interval Hedgecox had to save a terrific shot by Sambrooke following Scorgie's centre.

Early in the second half, Nuneaton might have reduced the lead, but the forwards were weak and failed to take advantage of good positions. Wellington then took the game in hand and following a corner, E. White scored the third goal. After Sambrooke had missed a likely chance, the home side attacked again and E. White scored the fourth with a great shot. No more goals were scored, but Nuneaton were under pressure on several occasions before the final whistle.

Only two players on the Nuneaton side justified their reputation, Dunn and R. Roberts, with both those players rendering yeoman service.

## Nuneaton Town v Wellington Town 16-04-1921

**Nuneaton: Clements; Taylor and R. Roberts; Harris, Stephenson and Webb; P. Roberts, Dunn, Sambrooke, Lowes and Scorgie.**

**Wellington: Hedgecox; Richards and Robinson; Deakin, Thornton and Rushton; Willington, J. White, Capewell, E. White and Sheldon.**

Much was expected of Wellington on their visit to Manor Park. They had shown excellent form the previous week and their play had been of the highest quality. For the return match, the visiting forwards looked clumsy and weak by comparison.

The game as a whole was devoid of anything attractive and was dull in all its stages. Not a single real cheer was raised by the crowd all afternoon. Nuneaton had ample opportunities of winning the game in the first half, but in the all-important phase of getting into shooting positions, they failed. Sambrooke was repeatedly out of position and good attempts by his colleagues did not achieve their deserts because of this. Dunn was the only Nuneaton player to test the keeping abilities of Hedgecox, who made two excellent saves from the home captain.

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



Percy Roberts had some fine chances of getting across good centres, but for some unaccountable reason he backed towards the touchline and lost the opportunity to cross. Nuneaton did most of the attacking and up to a point played fairly well. At the critical moment, however, all their tactics broke down — either through faulty passing or the keen tackling of the visiting backs.

Wellington were only dangerous on a few occasions. E. White caused Clements to tip the ball over the bar, and Millington narrowly missed scoring. Only a few minutes from the interval Wellington carried out an attack of some minutes duration, which ended in E. White scoring the only goal of the match. Immediately afterwards Lowes made a fine individual dribble past several opponents, but he was unceremoniously brought down when about to shoot. A unanimous appeal for a penalty was ignored by the referee.

The second half was even more tame than the first, and there were few incidents which deserve mention. Capewell struck the upright with a splendid shot for the visitors and P. Roberts and Sambrooke missed easy chances for Nuneaton. A promising attempt by Scorgie was charged down, and with the failure of an effort by Lowes and Dunn to break through, Nuneaton's chances of equalising were gone.

## Walsall v Nuneaton Town

23-04-1921

**Walsall:** Houghton; Corbett and McKenzie; Allen, Timmins and Mann; Bowyer, Lane, Ireland, Leedham and Rogers.

**Nuneaton:** Clements; Taylor and R. Roberts; Harris, Stephenson and Webb; P. Roberts, Dunn, Nock, Lowes and Scorgie.

Nuneaton travelled to Fellows Park, Walsall to meet the newly-elected members of the English League Division Three (North). A crowd of about 5,000 was in attendance.

Nuneaton were handicapped by the smallness of the ground, with many passes going out of play, that would have enabled the wingers to get away on a bigger pitch.

The visitors kicked with the slope, but were put on the defensive early on with Lane hitting the crossbar in the first few minutes, while Clements made a brilliant clearance from Ireland following the rebound. The game was only seven minutes old when Ireland scored. There was an element of luck involved as the ball cannoned off Webb following a corner and went straight to Ireland.

Walsall's goal had the luckiest escape of the afternoon, when Dunn put in a brilliant left foot drive that completely beat Houghton, but McKenzie jumped up and headed out from right under the bar.

Nuneaton equalised after a persistent attack, P. Roberts scored a simple goal. Both sides tried hard for the lead, but both defences held out until just before half-time when Ireland scored again.

Walsall had the slope and the wind in their favour for the

second half, but the Nuneaton defence played well, although Bowyer and Leedham missed with only Clements to beat. Nuneaton came close to scoring on several occasions, especially when Scorgie worked through and shot, only to see Allen deflect the ball with his head for a corner.

There was no further scoring until the last few minutes when Bowyer scored from a corner. At the final whistle Walsall had won the match by three goals to one.

## Nuneaton Town v Darlaston

02-05-1921

**Nuneaton:** Clements; Cook and R. Roberts; Almey, Stephenson and Webb; Coley, Dunn, Nock, Lowes and F. Payne.

**Darlaston:** Waite; Hadley and Fownes; Butler, Reck and Williams; Chilton, Arblaster, Coylin, Howell and Weston.

The lowest gate of the season assembled at Manor Park, as the effects of the coal stoppage were apparent. Crowds of would-be spectators assembled outside the ground, seemingly unable to afford the entrance fee. A crowd numbering several hundreds watched the game from a vantage point in the adjoining field, while others climbed the fences around the ground. After half-an-hour the gates were opened and the crowd quickly increased to over 3,000.

Nuneaton put out a strange side, with trialists Coley and Almey from Nuneaton United; and Cook, a young right back from Coventry CYMS being given their chance in senior football. Hyde, a new outside-left from Loughborough Corinthians could not appear because of injury, so Fred Payne stepped in at the last minute.

The opening play was not very interesting and neither side showed much promise. Darlaston, who were playing with the wind, had slightly the better of the exchanges and a centre from Weston looked dangerous, but Roberts headed clear. Clements punched clear from a corner and from a free-kick close in, Peck struck the crossbar with a good drive. Cook cleared from the rebound.

Nuneaton took play to the other end on occasion, but seldom became dangerous. However, Dunn eventually got Coley away, and the winger carried the ball near to goal, but shot wide. Payne put in a good effort which won a corner, but the flag kick came to nothing. Waite was forced to save Waite's header from Lowes' cross. The home goal came under threat, but Roberts headed clear.

Dunn was robbed by Waite as he was about to shoot and two centres by Coley came to nothing, while at the other end Clements punched away from a corner and Howell missed with a good effort. Payne was tripped just outside the box, but Lowes shot wide from the free-kick. Lowes had a shot saved by Waite before Clements was called on to make several saves, but at half-time the score was 0-0.

Darlaston started well in the second half and Clements made a good save from Howell. Lowes and Nock had excellent



chances to break through, but Waite kicked clear. A concerted attack by Nuneaton finally yielded reward when a shot by Lowes was charged down and Nock darted through and scored with a left-footed drive.

Waite saved from Coley and Clements came out of a trying ordeal with flying colours before Nuneaton returned to the attack, Webb shooting over the bar from a corner. Nuneaton were awarded a penalty after Dunn was tripped in the area. The kick was entrusted to Lowes, who scored with a low shot.

Nuneaton completely outplayed Darlaston for a spell and a pass by Stephenson was seized on by Nock, who hit the crossbar with a terrific shot. An excursion into Town's territory by Darlaston went unrewarded before a brilliant dribble and centre by Payne saw Dunn put in a great shot which Waite tipped over the bar.

Waite saved from Webb before an exciting scrimmage took place in the visitors' goalmouth, following a great run by Coley — Waite pulling off a fine save. Nuneaton completely overwhelmed Darlaston towards the end and the home side had many shots, but no further scoring took place, although Dunn had an effort ruled out for offside.

## Nuneaton Town v Stourbridge 07-05-1921

**Nuneaton:** Clements; Taylor and Roberts; Almey, Stephenson and Webb; Coley, Dunn, Nock, Lowes and Scorgie.

**Stourbridge:** Taylor; Tyler and Rhodes; Fleming, Webster and S. Smith; H. Smith, Bashford, Hooson, Charles and Oakes.

The game opened fairly evenly but Nuneaton gradually began to press with persistency and several times they came within an ace of scoring. Then the unexpected happened and Stourbridge scored. A raid on Nuneaton's goal resulted in a free-kick for a minor infringement, just outside the penalty area, and Webster scored with a beautiful shot, leaving Clements completely beaten.

After considerable effort, Nuneaton equalised following a corner, Lowes heading into the net from a well-placed kick by Coley. About five minutes from the interval there was a terrific downpour and the referee motioned the players to the dressing room. After an interval of ten minutes the game was resumed and Nuneaton set up a determined attack and a bombardment of the Stourbridge goal took place.

Taylor made a good save from Lowes' shot before Dunn struck the upright. Coley received from the rebound and centred, but the ball was handled and Lowes scored from the penalty.

The teams crossed over immediately and the early play forecasted a comfortable win for Nuneaton, who had much the better of the play. The Stourbridge defence, however, stood firm and following an attacking movement on the right, Taylor and Webb failed to clear properly and the former kicked weakly to the feet of H. Smith, who centred to Charles. The latter had little difficulty in scoring.

After this episode Nuneaton practically monopolised the

play. On a few occasions Stourbridge attacked and Clements had to exercise his ability in dealing with a number of likely scoring shots. Two saves in particular were outstanding, one from Oakes at the foot of the post and another from Webster.

The pressure on Nuneaton's goal, however, was trifling as compared with the persistent attacks carried out by Nuneaton, whose forwards could do everything but score. Nock had three simple chances after fine runs through, but shot miserably. Dunn with an open goal also shot wide. Lowes had hard luck with several terrific shots which cannoned off an opposing defender when the visiting goalkeeper was apparently beaten.

Taylor made a few good saves, and in the last minute of the game had the satisfaction of saving a penalty, given for a trip on Coley. The kick was entrusted to Lowes, who shot straight at the keeper. Thus Nuneaton had to be content with a draw in a game which should have been won.

## Birmingham League 1920-21

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wellington Town	34	26	1	7	84	25	53
Birmingham Reserves	34	24	5	5	91	35	53
Wrexham	34	22	5	7	77	32	49
Hednesford Town	34	18	9	7	74	53	45
Walsall	34	18	6	10	68	47	42
Shrewsbury Town	34	17	4	13	69	55	38
WBA Reserves	34	15	7	12	46	41	37
Willenhall	34	16	5	13	63	73	37
Coventry City Reserves	34	12	9	13	56	57	33
Stourbridge	34	12	7	15	61	61	31
Nuneaton Town	34	11	9	14	54	61	31
Stoke Reserves	34	11	6	17	46	62	28
Darlaston	34	8	9	17	38	61	25
Brierley Hill Alliance	34	10	5	19	38	65	25
Wolverhampton Res	34	8	8	18	56	70	24
Kidderminster Harriers	34	8	7	19	46	67	23
Worcester City	34	8	4	22	44	93	20
Wednesbury Old Ath.	34	6	6	22	33	86	18

## Chris Sambrooke to Leave Nuneaton

It is understood that there are differences between Chris Sambrooke and the directors of the club, and that Sambrooke will end his association with Nuneaton, a decision that will cause a great deal of regret to the club's supporters.

Since joining Nuneaton, the popular centre-forward has been one of the mainstays of the side, and in some games he had been the only forward of note. Sambrooke's name may not be the only one missing from the club's register next season.



## Spectators Demand Free Admission

Soon after the start of the Nuneaton Town v Stourbridge match, there was a possibility of an ugly scene outside the ground, a number of people threatening to rush the gates. The directors of the club had decided to throw the gates open after the match had been in progress 20 or 30 minutes, it being thought unfair to the remainder of the club's supporter to allow free admission before this time.

Apparently, this decision did not suit a crowd of some 150 people, who shouted for admission soon after the game commenced. Two of the Nuneaton directors went to the crowd, explained the position, and asked them to exercise patience for a few minutes. This appeal did not succeed, and to prevent any trouble it was decided to open the gates.

The number of people who took part in the incident constitute a very small proportion of the club's supporters, and their action must not be too seriously regarded. Their "ringleader," however, is said to have made some very objectionable and offensive remarks, and it is not altogether unlikely that he will be called upon to explain his conduct and if necessary apologise...

...The Nuneaton Town FC directors have been exceedingly generous in their attitude to the supporters of the club during the present industrial dispute and the consequent distress. Though expenses went on as usual they reduced the price of admission from 1s to 8d, and also opened the gates for free entrance at a reasonable time. As a result of the coal stoppage the club has lost about £300 — a very serious item indeed...

## Season Overview 1920-21

When Nuneaton Town FC commenced the season of 1920-21 hopes of success ran high and the club was expected to write a bright page in the book of its history. These hopes have not been fulfilled, and looking back over the season, which has just concluded one has to admit a certain amount of failure and a lot of disappointment. Success has been elusive.

It is true that the team made record progress in the English Cup qualifying rounds, and also reached the semi-final of the Birmingham Senior Cup, but it has to be remembered that in each competition the opposition was relatively weak and most of the matches were played at Manor Park.

Nuneaton, however, chiefly disappointed in their league fixtures, and at no period in the season was there a chance of the team making a fight for any of the honours. About half way through the season there was an improvement, but a winning vein was not sustained, and it was merely a case of keeping somewhere near the halfway line...

## New Player Signed

Satisfaction will be expressed that Clifford Homer, the Coventry City centre-half, has been signed. He should prove a valuable acquisition. Homer is a powerfully built young fellow and gave two excellent displays against Nuneaton, at centre-half for City Reserves.

## The Affairs of Nuneaton Town FC

Interest in the affairs of Nuneaton Town F.C. is evidently on the increase, judging by the proceedings at the annual meeting. For one thing there was a record attendance of shareholders. As Mr. G. R. Clay, the auditor, mentioned, in the olden days it was difficult to get the requisite number of shareholders at the annual meetings, and many were the times when individuals had to be fetched in order to make up a quorum. In those days, too, the business was very formal, and nothing ever relieved the monotony of a stereotyped agenda.

Last Wednesday's affair was far different, and at one period the debate showed signs of growing lively. Some strong criticisms were passed upon the salaries of the players and secretary, and it is clear that all the shareholders are not completely satisfied.

There can be no doubt that £3,001 for wages is out of all proportion to the success achieved by the team last season, and I venture to assert that some of the team which figured higher in the league table than Nuneaton had a wage bill only half the amount mentioned...

## New Right Back Secured

The latest player to sign for Nuneaton is Smith, the right full-back of Kidderminster Harriers. He has played for the club for two years and last season captained the side.

Several of last season's players have signed for new clubs. George Webb has joined Derby County, Tommy Lowes has signed for Caerphilly and Phillips has signed for Pontypridd.

## Retained List

Nuneaton have made offers to all players who they wish to retain: Clements, Dick Roberts, Taylor, Harris, Almey, Nock and Coley. Emmin Dunn met with the directors and attached his signature to the necessary papers.

It is understood that Dunn, who has been a loyal player for the club, has been guaranteed a benefit match next season.





## Whitwick Imperial — Preliminary Round

The Preliminary Round tie against Whitwick Imperial at Manor Park was something of a mis-match with the visitors outclassed from start to finish, lacking the cleverness and method to compete.

Nuneaton: Clements; Chamberlain and Taylor; Roberts, Phillips and Watts; Ralphs, Dunn, Sambrooke, Lowes and Scorgie.

Whitwick: Hunt; Hardy and Brooks; Thorpe, Middleton and Lacey; Newman, Layton, Barrs, Moore and Price.

Nuneaton opened strongly, and on three or four occasions Sambrooke headed the ball over the bar or into the keeper's hands. Other shots failed to find their target due to the fact that they cannoned off defenders. Roberts also went close with a terrific shot.

The first goal, when it came, was well deserved. Sambrooke's shot from Ralphs' centre was only partly saved by Hunt and Lowes was on hand to side-foot the ball into the net.

Just before the break, Hunt in the Whitwick goal dislocated a finger in saving a powerful shot from Lowes and had to retire, with left-half Lacey taking over in goal.

The opening of the second half saw Whitwick try to get an equaliser and although they played with some determination, they never really troubled the Nuneaton defence and the home team took command, and after that never released their grip on the game.

Dunn passed out to Ralphs, who completely outwitted the Whitwick defence and had a good opportunity, but shot wide. There was a brief sortie by Imperial, and then the deluge came. A beautiful centre from Ralphs enabled Sambrooke to guide the ball into the net with his head and shortly after another centre from Ralphs ended in a scrimmage in front of the Whitwick goal, which ended when Scorgie hooked the loose ball into the net.

Hardly had the cheers subsided when Ralphs raced away again. He tricked the Imperial defence and steered the ball into the corner of the net with a left-footed drive. Just before the end Dunn seemed certain to score, but his shot struck an opposing defender and rebounded out of danger.

Ralphs put in an excellent display for the home side and he regularly ran through the visitors' defence with the ease and grace of a past master. His centres were perfect in direction and pace, as he twisted and turned past visiting defenders.

## Gresley Colliery — 1st Qualifying

The best that can be said of the game against Gresley Colliery is that it provided the home side with some useful practice. At no single point during the game were Nuneaton's abilities tested and without much exertion they achieved a runaway victory.

Nuneaton: Clements; Chamberlain and Taylor; Roberts, Phillips and Nock; Ralphs, Dunn, Sambrooke, Lowes and Scorgie.

Gresley Colliery: Banton; Billings and Fearn; C. Clamp, Summers and Gould; Mitchell, T. Clamp, Insley, Wyatt and Pickering.

At different periods Nuneaton outclassed Gresley in a manner which bordered on the farcical. Still, Nuneaton have had simple tasks before and failed.

Captained by the massive and jolly Banton, they appeared to enjoy the game because win or lose, it was football. Banton, who played a splendid game in goal, was heralded by the juvenile section of the crowd as "Fatty Arbuckle" and the characterisation was certainly appropriate.

Nuneaton dominated the play from the start and several shots missed by the narrowest of margins. In the first 15 minutes Scorgie and Ralphs sent across enough centres to warrant three or four goals, but it was not until the half-hour mark that Nuneaton finally

scored. Dunn gave Ralphs a nice pass, and the winger rounded the opposing defence before setting up Sambrooke, who promptly shot into the net.

Goals followed in quick succession and shortly after Ralphs got away again. His centre was miskicked by Billings and went to Lowes who seized his chance and drove the ball into the net. Lowes added a third goal with a fine shot and just before the interval a centre from Ralphs was handled a few inches inside the penalty area. Taylor was entrusted with the kick and smashed it into the net. At the break Nuneaton led 4-0.

The second half had not been long in progress before Nuneaton's forwards carried out a splendid combined movement which ended with Sambrooke shooting past Banton.

Ralphs again got a cross in and Sambrooke again took advantage, heading home Nuneaton's sixth goal. Dunn added the seventh following good work by the inside forwards.

Gresley broke away and Mitchell was presented with a clear field, and centred the ball. Phillips, in attempting to clear, deflected the ball past Clements to give Gresley their first goal. Nuneaton retaliated immediately and Lowes added the eighth goal.

Insley pulled a goal back for Gresley before Nuneaton again raced away and Sambrooke made no mistake in adding the ninth and final goal.

## Hinckley United — 2nd Qualifying

The biggest crowd of the season saw an eventful game between Nuneaton and Hinckley United. Town's win was well merited, but it was only gained after a severe struggle.

Nuneaton: Clements; Chamberlain and Taylor; Roberts, Phillips and Nock; Ralphs, Dunn, Sambrooke, Lowes and Scorgie.

Hinckley: Tattersall; Tams and Harris; Darlison, Stevenson and Phipps; Chamberlain, Morley, Renneville., Turnall and Ford.

The first half was possibly the most



interesting, even though three of the four goals were scored in the second period. Nuneaton did most of the pressing but Hinckley showed abundant aggressiveness.

The first real action came about when Dunn pushed the ball through to Sambrooke, who took the ball on in typical style, only to be stopped by Tattersall. A few minutes later came the first goal and Dunn was again involved, passing the ball out to Ralphs, who touched back to Roberts. The Nuneaton right-half took the ball almost to the corner flag before centring to Lowes, who calmly put the ball into the net.

Hinckley hit back hard following this reverse, but the forwards failed when close in. Scorgie went close to extending the home side's lead, but Tattersall saved. Hinckley played well for a period, but towards the break Nuneaton recovered and Tattersall was given plenty of work to do. Lowes and Sambrooke only just failed with efforts just before half time.

The second half opened in sensational style with a glorious piece of passing by the home side leaving Sambrooke in possession. He fired in a terrific shot, which Tattersall saved brilliantly at the expense of a corner.

Nuneaton's goal came under threat and Clements had to scoop the ball away from a crowd of players and also made a series of saves. Tattersall made a good clearance from a hard ground shot from Sambrooke, but later was beaten by a surprise shot from the same player, allowing the ball to pass through his arms and into the net.

At one stage it looked as though Hinckley were in for a big defeat and Lowes was thwarted by the Hinckley defence. Ralphs sent in a shot with terrific force, but it struck the upright and bounced out.

Hinckley made strenuous efforts to score and ten minutes from the close they succeeded when Clements found

himself in possession about 16 yards out and he sent in a great shot that left Clements helpless.

Lowes threaded his way past several defenders, but was charged heavily when about to shoot. Four minutes from the close an equaliser looked inevitable as the Nuneaton goal came under heavy pressure, but Phillips finally got the ball away to relieve.

About a minute from time Lowes, Sambrooke and Dunn started a bout of close passing and the Nuneaton captain dribbled the ball to within a few feet of the goal-line before tapping it past Tattersall, making the final score 3-1 to Nuneaton.

## Gresley Rovers — 3rd Qualifying

It is not a wholly pleasant task to describe the game between Nuneaton Town and Gresley Rovers at Manor Park on Saturday, for there were certain episodes in the exhibition, which were not worthy of the best ideals of football. Gresley have developed a suspicious reputation which will take years to live down.

Nuneaton: Clements; Chamberlain and Taylor; Dunn, Phillips and Roberts; Ralphs, Lowes, Sambrooke, Watts and Scorgie.

Gresley Rovers: Wood; Gilliver and White; W. Warren, S. Warren and Humphries; Wainwright, T. Warren, Briscoe, Kendall and Bayliss.

Gresley gave Nuneaton a lot to think about in the first half, and if anything had more of the play than did the home team. Certainly they had more chances and at least three fine opportunities of scoring were missed. Twice Bayliss swung across perfect centres without result.

On another occasion, T. Warren, in front of an open goal, hesitated and allowed Chamberlain to relieve the situation. Briscoe broke clean through and was apparently a certain scorer, but Clements showed superb judgment, falling on the ball as the centre-forward lifted his foot to shoot. Frantic efforts were made by the Gresley forwards to

kick the ball from beneath Clements' body, but they failed and the danger was cleared.

Lowes broke through for Nuneaton and grazed the upright with a terrific drive before a beautiful passing movement by the home forwards ended in Woods saving a fine shot by Scorgie. The outstanding feature of the first half was the rock-like defence of both sides.

The second half saw a complete transformation of the game and Nuneaton outplayed Rovers with comparative ease after adapting their tactics and abandoning their short passing game in favour of a less artistic style. Whatever the plan, Gresley found themselves out-manoeuvred and outclassed.

The first goal came as a result of a Ralphs' centre, which Sambrooke crashed into the net with a first-time effort. Some time after Ralphs and Watts were involved in a combined movement and the latter raced past the backs and put in a long range shot that beat Wood for goal number two.

The third goal was headed home by Sambrooke from Scorgie's centre. It looked as though Woods could have done better, but nevertheless, Town were 3-0 up.

The game ended acrimoniously as Phillips was sent off for a high kick on a Gresley player. A Gresley supporter spat on Phillips as he left the field and was escorted from the ground by a policeman. For some time pandemonium reigned and the crowd became further animated when Chamberlain had his legs swept from under him by a Gresley player, which resulted in him having to leave the field.

Gresley scored with the last kick of the match, with there being not enough time for the game to be restarted after the goal.

For some time after the game, a crowd was hanging about outside the referee's changing room, but were asked to disperse by Town's chairman.



## Hednesford Town — 4th Qualifying

Nuneaton entertained unbeaten Hednesford Town at Manor Park. The league encounters had both been close. Hednesford won their home game and gained a draw at Nuneaton.

Nuneaton: Clements; Chamberlain and Taylor; Harris, Dunn and Roberts; Ralphps, Lowes, Sambrooke, Nock and Scorgie.

Hednesford: Rostance; Garratley and Collins; Winsper, Crutchley and Lyons; Wood, Blunt, Griffiths, Whitfield and Elson.

This was a well contested and exciting cup tie, with both teams putting on a good show in a brilliant game.. Cleverness, vitality, eagerness and persistence were all intermingled in abundance, and play was thrilling.

The game swung like a pendulum, with neither side being able to gain the upper hand. Nuneaton were the cleverer and more artistic side, and their strategy was better. But the visitors displayed a bulldog like tenacity and determination, and these factors stood them in good stead.

Nuneaton had the upper hand in the forwards department with Rostance the busiest of the two keepers by far. He made some brilliant saves, with two of them bordering on the miraculous.

In the first half Sambrooke fired in a terrific shot from close range, but Rostance leapt across the goal and turned the ball outside. Late in the game Sambrooke sent in another great shot, the ball travelling at a fast speed for the corner of the net. The crowd prepared to cheer, as a goal looked inevitable, but Rostance dived full length and guided the ball around the post. It was an uncanny save and a combination of intuition and good luck.

In front of Rostance, Hednesford were well served by Garratley and Collins — the two former Wolves' cup fighters. They presented a perfect understanding and their ripe experience was an invaluable asset to the visitors.

In the second half Nuneaton's attack

and Hednesford's defence fought some gruelling battles. Some of the passing movements carried out by Nuneaton's forwards were beautiful to behold, and from man to man the ball travelled with unerring accuracy.

Sambrooke and Nock both headed inches over the bar in the second half, and Sambrooke had the ball taken off his toe by Rostance as he was about to shoot. Given Hednesford's fine defence, Nuneaton missed surprisingly few chances, with Sambrooke being the exception, failing to gather Ralphps' cross in the first half.

Ralphps was brilliant in every way, and it is doubtful whether a finer wing display has ever been given in Nuneaton's colours. He was well nigh perfect as one could possibly expect. His dazzling footwork, great speed and accurate centring formed a combined ability which baffled the opposition.

## Hednesford Town — 4th Qualifying Replay

The replayed tie between Hednesford Town and Nuneaton Town was played on the The Cross Keys ground on Thursday afternoon before a large crowd. Most of the Chase collieries closed down early for the match and the visitors were supported by 300 or 400 spectators.

Hednesford: Rostance; Garratley and Collins; Winsper, Crutchley and Lyons; Wood, Blunt, Griffiths, Whitfield and Elson.

Nuneaton: Clements; Chamberlain and Taylor; Harris, Dunn and Roberts; Ralphps, Lowes, Sambrooke, Watts and Scorgie.

There was only one team change, Watts taking the place of Nock, who was injured in the first game.

Dunn won the toss and elected to kick up the slope. In the first minute, Nuneaton's forwards executed a beautiful move and Watts shot hard, but Rostance saved. Hednesford raced away following the save and Wood sent in a shot. The ball cannoned off Roberts and past Clements, giving the

home side a 1-0 lead after just two minutes' play.

Nuneaton responded immediately and Rostance made a great save during a skirmish which followed a centre from Ralphps. Hednesford retaliated and forced a corner which was cleared before Lowes was responsible for some fine work, but Sambrooke shot weakly from his pass. Another fine centre by Ralphps saw Rostance save well, but the ball came back and Sambrooke scored, only to be ruled offside. It was a doubtful decision as the ball was played by a defender.

Nuneaton had two narrow escapes with Wood missing an easy chance and Crutchley heading wide. The visitors then mounted another attack and the home goal was only saved by the brilliance of Rostance, when he saved from Watts. Ralphps broke clean through the Hednesford defence, but Rostance ran out and threw himself at the ball as Ralphps shot. It was a great save and earned the cheers of the crowd.

From an effort by Lowes the Hednesford goalkeeper saved again, but he dropped the ball and Sambrooke, dashing up, scored. A little later Watts had a possible chance but finished weakly. Just before the interval Clements pulled off a fine save at the foot of the post and Rostance performed a fine feat of goalkeeping at the other end.

The first action of the second half saw Sambrooke run through the Hednesford defence, but Rostance saved. A centre from Ralphps saw Sambrooke and Watts miss open goals, the latter shooting over the bar. Nuneaton won a free-kick, which was nicely placed by Ralphps and Lowes seized on the chance, scoring a great goal, which was greeted with cheers from the Nuneaton supporters.

Hednesford hit back and Clements was laid out following a tremendous shot from Blunt. Fortunately, Clements was able to resume after treatment. Just after Crutchley equalised for



Hednesford with a fine shot from 18 yards. This goal was the prelude to a tearaway attack from the home side and Wood missed a good chance before the home side were awarded a free-kick close in, which Clements tipped over the bar for a corner, which came to nothing.

Following good work by the home side's left wing Blunt gave the home side the lead 22 minutes into the second half.

Nuneaton showed signs of falling off, but an attack from the right saw Lowes test Rostance with a beauty. Ten minutes from time the Hednesford goal had a narrow escape, Sambrooke

grazing the crossbar with a header. In the closing stages Hednesford were content to remain on the defensive and literally packed their goal. Nuneaton attacked with zeal and outplayed the home team, but another goal could not be found and the final whistle saw the home side run out 3-2 winners.

Nuneaton lost with flying colours and left Hednesford with the knowledge that defeat was undeserved. They were the better team without any possible doubt, and as far as real football was concerned, outplayed the home side. The game saw two styles in contrast — Hednesford's bustle and long passes and Nuneaton's crisp short passes.

Two of the Hednesford goals had an element of fluke, and Nuneaton players strongly protested against the winning goal on the grounds that it was offside. Nuneaton also had an apparently good goal disallowed.

The star players for Nuneaton were Dunn, Ralphs and Lowes, while Roberts, Chamberlain and Sambrooke all played good games. Scorgie and Watts were very weak. Harris was below the form he revealed the previous Saturday, but was a fine trier. Taylor was uncertain at times. With all their faults, however, Nuneaton pressed for two-thirds of the game.

## Bad Language

Mr. J., a miner of Stockingford, was summoned at Nuneaton yesterday for using indecent language on the Manor Park Football Ground, Nuneaton, to the annoyance of persons attending there on September 3rd.

The defendant did not appear, but sent a letter stating that he got very excited at the match.

Coventry City (away). Of the 14 League matches lost three were at home and eleven away. Of the nine draws seven were at home and two away.

During the season 30 players represented Nuneaton, their names being as follows: Clements, Jarvis, Taylor, Chamberlain, R. Roberts, Dunn, Harris, G. Paul, Phillips, Fulljames, Stephenson, Webb, Hill, Almey, E. Paul, Ralphs, P. Roberts, Coley, Lowes, Nock, Osborne, Sambrooke, Watts, Scorgie, Payne, Hanson, Mitchell, Cooper, Adams and Dolman. The last five mentioned players only appeared once.

The following are Nuneaton's goalscorers for the season:

Sambrooke .....	43
Lowes.....	20
Dunn .....	9
Nock.....	6
Ralphs.....	4
Scorgie.....	4
Taylor .....	2
Watts.....	2
Stephenson .....	2
P. Roberts .....	1
R. Roberts .....	1
Hill.....	1
Total.....	96

It will be noticed that Sambrooke was easily the leading goalscorer, and had he finished the season in harness, he would probably have reached the half-century

## Facts and Figures of Playing Record

Altogether Nuneaton played 47 matches, of which they won 20, lost 16 and drew 11. They scored 96 goals against 75. In the Birmingham League they played 34 matches, won 11, lost 14, drew 9, scored 54 goals, and had 61 scored against them, finishing eleventh on the list with 31 points. The team played 11 cup-tie games, winning eight, making a draw in one and losing two. They scored 37 goals against 11. Only two friendly matches were played, one of which was won and the other one drawn, the goals for being five and against three.

Nuneaton's biggest victory of the season was against Gresley Colliery in the English Cup competition, the score being nine goals to two. The most meritorious victory was that at Coventry on December 27th, when Nuneaton won 3-0. The heaviest defeat was at Shrewsbury, the Salopians winning by seven goals to one. Nuneaton, however, had their revenge in the return game, Shrewsbury being beaten by five goals to nil. This latter was Nuneaton's biggest League victory of the season. It is worth noting that Nuneaton only won three League matches in the first half of the season, namely, Worcester City (home) and Kidderminster Harriers and



# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



## Birmingham League: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1920-21

Date	Opposition	Competition	Venue	Score	Scorers	Attendance
Aug. 28	WBA Reserves	League	Away	0-2		10,000
30	Atherstone Town	Friendly	Home	3-1	Sambrooke, Dunn, Scorgie	
Sept. 4	WBA Reserves	League	Home	1-1	Lowes	5,000
11	Hednesford Town	League	Away	1-2	R. Roberts	
11	Nuneaton United	BSC1	Home	6-0	Sambrooke (2), Dunn (2), Lowes (2)	
12	Hednesford Town	League	Home	2-2	Ralphs, Lowes	
25	Whitwick Imperial	FA Cup Prelim.	Home	4-0	Sambrooke, Ralphs, Lowes, Scorgie	4,485
Oct. 2	Worcester City	League	Home	4-1	Sambrooke (4)	3,000
9	Gresley Colliery	FA Cup 1Q	Home	9-2	Sambrooke (4), Lowes (3), Dunn, Taylor	3,500
22	Tamworth Castle	BSC2	Home	4-0	Sambrooke (2), Dunn, Watts	
23	Hinckley United	FA Cup 2Q	Home	3-1	Sambrooke, Dunn, Lowes	5,512
16	Stourbridge	League	Away	1-4	Sambrooke	
30	Darlaston	League	Away	1-2	Hill	
Nov. 6	Gresley Rovers	FA Cup 3Q	Home	3-1	Sambrooke (2), Watts	
13	Wrexham	League	Away	1-2	Lowes	
20	Hednesford Town	FA Cup 4Q	Home	0-0		6,000
25	Hednesford Town	FA Cup 4QR	Away	2-3	Sambrooke, Lowes	
27	Shrewsbury Town	League	Away	1-7	Sambrooke	
Dec. 4	Kidderminster Harriers	League	Home	1-2	Lowes	
11	Kidderminster Harriers	League	Away	1-0	Samrbooke	2,000
18	Willenhall	League	Away	2-2	Sambrooke (2)	
27	Coventry City Reserves	League	Away	3-0	Lowes, Dunn, Scorbie	13,000
28	Wrexham	League	Home	2-4	Sambrooke, Dunn	5-6,000
29	Burton All Saints	BSC3	Home	3-1	Sambrooke (2), Nock	2,000
Jan. 1	Willenhall	League	Home	5-2	Sambrooke (2), Ralphs (2), Lowes	2,000
8	Worcester City	League	Away	2-3	Sambrooke	3,000
15	Wolves Reserves	League	Home	1-1	Nock	4,000
22	Wolves Reserves	League	Away	1-0	Sambrooke	8,000
29	Stoke City Reserves	League	Home	1-0	Sambrooke	5,000
Feb. 5	Stoke City Reserves	League	Away	0-0		1,500
12	Birmingham City Reserves	League	Away	1-5	Scorgie	10,000
19	Birmingham City Reserves	League	Home	3-3	Sambrooke (2), Stephenson	4-5,000
26	Walsall	League	Home	2-1	Sambrooke (2)	5,000
March 5	Wednesbury Old Athletic	League	Home	2-0	Sambrooke, Nock	4,000
7	WBA Reserves	BSC4	Home	3-2	Sambrooke (3)	
12	Shrewsbury Town	League	Home	5-0	Nock (2), Sambrooke, Dunn, P Roberts	4,000
19	Wednesbury Old Athletic	League	Away	1-2	Lowes	500
26	Brierley Hill Alliance	League	Home	1-1	Sambrooke	
28	Northern Nomads	Friendly	Home	2-2	Lowes (2)	
29	Coventry City Reserves	League	Home	1-1	Sambrooke	5-6,000
April 2	Birmingham City Reserves	BSC S-F	Away	0-1		
4	Brierley Hill Alliance	League	Home	2-1	Stephenson, Taylor	
9	Wellington Town	League	Away	0-4		
16	Wellington Town	League	Home	0-1		
23	Walsall	League	Away	1-3	P. Roberts	5,000
May 2	Darlaston	League	Home	2-0	Nock, Lowes (pen)	2-3,000
7	Stourbridge	League	Home	2-2	Lowes (2, 1 pen)	2,500

Legend: BSC: Birmingham Senior Cup.

Nuneaton Town scores first.



## Close Season Signings

### Jack Mann Signs From Walsall

The officials of Nuneaton Town FC have secured the signature of Jack Mann, a left-half from Walsall FC. Mann played regularly last season and gave two great displays in Walsall's games with Nuneaton. He is an energetic, clever player and should be a valuable acquisition to the Nuneaton team. Before going to Walsall, Mann was with West Bromwich Albion.

### George Paul Signs

Nuneaton United's captain of last season, George Paul, has signed on for Nuneaton Town. He is one of the best of local players. The Nuneaton club have also signed on Alcock, who last season played periodically for Atherstone Town. Several amateurs have been signed with a view to trial.

### Second Division Player Signed

The position of outside-left for the coming season has given the Nuneaton Town officials considerable anxiety. To address this problem Mr. Thompson has signed on J. Wootton, who for the past two seasons has played outside-left for Burslem Port Vale. He took part in most of his side's games in the Second Division and his acquisition should strengthen the side.

### New Strikers

Nuneaton Town have secured the signatures of Kendrick, the well-known inside-left of Cradley Heath. He is a sturdily built forward and during the past two seasons has been a prolific scorer for his team in the Birmingham Combination. Nuneaton have also signed Alex Goldie, who has been a prolific scorer with both Worcester City and Stourbridge.

### Well-known First Division Player Secured

Nuneaton Town F.C. have signed on a new inside-right in the person of F. Osborne, who for several seasons was one of the mainstays of Preston North End first team. He should prove a valuable and experienced player. Osborne first came to prominence with Hinckley United in 1908-09 before moving to Leicester Fosse (now City), before joining Preston after three seasons.

### Leicester City Player Signs for Nuneaton

The latest addition to the ranks of Nuneaton Town FC is W. Spittle, an inside forward, who for the past two years has been playing for Leicester City. Last season he took part in 20 matches in the Second Division team and was consistent goalscorer. Before joining Leicester City he was in the ranks of The Arsenal, being mainly in the reserve team, though he occasionally played in the first eleven.

## F.A. Cup Draw

The draw for the initial round of the F.A. Cup has come out very favourably for Nuneaton and one of the most attractive matches of the season will be seen at Manor Park. Wellington Town, last year's champions of the Birmingham and District League, will constitute the opposition to Nuneaton. The winners of the tie will play Kidderminster Harriers or Redditch Town at home.

## Football Legislator's Death

Members of the Birmingham County FA and Midland football enthusiasts generally, will hear with regret of the death of Mr John Campbell Orr, 71, the veteran secretary of the County association.

## First Trial Game

The eagerness with which football is awaited was exemplified on Saturday afternoon, when nearly 3,000 enthusiasts assembled on the Manor Park ground to watch Nuneaton Town's first practice game.

There was plenty of new talent on view, and most of the fresh acquisitions were of a calibre which set in motion the spirit of hope. The game aroused favourable comment, and there is every probability that Nuneaton Town will prosper.

The teams were as follows:

Stripes: Tattersall; Smith and Roberts; Dunn, Wood and Mann; Deeming, Riley, Sealey, Booton and Knight.

Reds: Lanchbury; Canner and Taylor; Green, Harris and Almey; Coley, Spittle, Goldie, Alcock and Wootton.

The most noticeable feature of the play was the enthusiasm and agility of the young forward line representing the Stripes. They combined well and exhibited a sprightliness which frequently beat the opposing defenders. After about 10 minutes' play Sealey, the boy centre-forward from Atherstone Town, indulged in a clever dribble and then passed obliquely forward to Riley, who ran forward and finished with a low drive which easily found the net. A few minutes later Sealey scored a second goal with a beautiful first-time shot, sent in with a spontaneity which surprised the crowd. This was all the scoring first half.

In the second half, play was not quite so interesting, but there were some bright episodes. The best was the goal scored by Wootton, who, receiving a pass from Alcock, dribbled right up to the goalmouth, eluded the attention of the opposing backs and netted with a well-judged shot. The Stripes retaliated and from a centre by Deeming the third goal was scored by Booton.

The first trial match leaves one with the impression that two positions require consideration, but judgment must be



reserved until the other practice games have been played. So far there is good ground for optimism.

## Second Trial Game

Some excellent football was displayed in the second of Nuneaton Town's trial games, and further evidence of talent was provided. In one respect the game was a distinct improvement on its predecessor, for the play was much more intelligent and cohesive.

Two strong teams were on view and the crowd, which again approached 3,000, were interested to make the acquaintance of Homer and Kendrick. The game ended in a draw of three goals each.

### Gathering of Football Stars Expected

There promises to be an unprecedented gathering of football stars at Manor Park on Monday, October 3rd, when Emmin Dunn, Nuneaton Town's popular captain takes a well-earned benefit. The Nuneaton Town team will be opposed by an English League XI, and the League team will include many well known players.

Blackburn Rovers have given permission for Bertram Ralphs to play, and he will appear at outside-right. Negotiations with other League teams are proceeding and amongst the players it is hoped to secure are Billy Barratt, Hugh Richmond and Jock Patterson (Leicester City), Gregory, Crisp and Pearson (WBA) and several Coventry City players. There might also be a player from Wolverhampton Wanderers, Dunn's old team.

## 1921-22

### Coventry City Reserves v Nuneaton Town 27-08-1921

**Coventry:** Findlay; Binks and Cross; Robinson, Yates and Allon; Swindale, Leitch, Foster, Mercer and Gough.

**Nuneaton:** Clements; Taylor and Roberts; Dunn, Woods and Homer; Wright, Spittle, Goldie, Kendrick and Wootton.

The opening fixture of the season saw Nuneaton travel to Highfield Road for a Birmingham League encounter with their near neighbours.

The game, which was watched by 10,000 spectators, started with a beautiful movement by Nuneaton's right wing and the Coventry goal almost fell. The City retaliated immediately and within four minutes had scored through Leitch, who beat Clements following a nicely-placed corner. Several Nuneaton attacks failed through the close attentions of the home backs and the watchfulness of Findlay.

Following a movement by Coventry's right wing, Mercer scored the second goal with a shot which appeared to be of a simple nature. Nuneaton's forwards conducted a gallant assault on the City goal and a fine shot by Spittle deserved

some reward, but Findlay brought off a great save. Foster and Goldie, the two centre-forwards, missed chances for their respective sides, and after Clements had made two good saves, Dunn shot over the bar following a corner.

Coventry's third goal was scored a few moments from the interval, and was the best of the match. Robinson started a glorious movement, which was featured by rare speed and clever passing. Leitch, Swindale and Foster all contributed to the effort, which ended with Foster scoring a great goal.

Nuneaton started the second half in determined fashion, but the attacks were all frustrated. The first time Coventry pressed a goal resulted. Both Roberts and Taylor made weak clearances and Foster scored with a fast shot which struck the net just inside the post. Subsequently Kendrick made two worthy attempts to head a goal, and from one Findlay appeared beaten, but the ball glanced past the upright.

Coventry's left wing got away and Gough centred to Foster, who stood unmarked with an open goal. He made no mistake with his shot, and thus completed his hat-trick. Just before the finish Nuneaton attacked again and after Spittle had narrowly failed, Goldie profited by good play from Wootton and scored a consolation goal. It was poor reward for Nuneaton, whose efforts deserved better. In the second half Town did most of the attacking, but never gave the impression of being able to come back from the ravages of the first period.

### Nuneaton Town v Darlaston

03-09-1921

**Nuneaton:** Clements; Roberts and Paul; Dunn, Homer and Nock; Wright, Spittle, Goldie, Kendrick and Wootton.

**Darlaston:** Waite; Williams and Fownes; Butler, Worrell and Skett; Evans, Phillips, Johnston, Clarke and Rickuss.

Nuneaton, having seen their team badly mauled in the opening fixture at Coventry, were looking to get back on course when Darlaston were the visitors to Manor Park.

The crowd, which was not so large as anticipated, received an early shock, for the game had only been in progress a few minutes when Phillips tricked Paul and, controlling the ball effectively, ran forward and scored with a low shot. The early reverse stimulated Nuneaton, who for the remainder of the first half were almost continually on the attack. Spittle sent in several fine shots, one in particular, being a brilliant effort, but Waite displayed good form in saving everything that was thrown at him.

Generally speaking, Nuneaton's inside forwards failed to seize their opportunities and Goldie once shot over the bar from a few yards range. Nuneaton's equalising goal came as the result of a penalty, awarded for handball. Kendrick took the kick and scored. Rickuss almost scored for the visitors just before half-time, but at the break the score was 1-1.

Directly after the restart, Goldie accomplished his best piece of work in the game. He made a splendid run through, and



though tripped, carried on, only to shoot wide with only Waite to beat. The referee declined to award a penalty as he played on, thinking that Goldie would score.

A period of very dull football was enlivened when Nuneaton scored the winning goal as a result of the cleverest passing movement of the game. Goldie and Kendrick performed the initial work and the latter passed to Wootton, who centred accurately for Spittle to score with a powerful header into the top corner. Waite was injured in trying to save, but was able to resume. A moment later, Kendrick had bad luck in not increasing the lead.

The last quarter of an hour saw the Nuneaton goal have some narrow escapes with Darlaston doing all the pressing. On one occasion Phillips actually netted, but a free-kick was awarded for handball. A terrific shot from Darlaston struck the underside of the bar and bounced down for Clements to punch away. A melee ensued, but came to nothing. Another shot looked certain to score, but Roberts, standing on the goal-line, cleared with a fine kick. At the final whistle, Nuneaton had been very fortunate, but had won 2-1.

A summary of the FA Cup matches will appear on later pages.

## **Nuneaton Town v Cannock Town 17-09-1921**

**Nuneaton: Clements; Roberts and Paul; Dunn, Homer and Mann; Coley, Spittle, Nock, Kendrick and Knight.**

**Cannock: Evans; Cartwright and Morris; Walker, Marshall and Pottinger; Milldoon, Wells, Langford, Johnson and Noakes.**

The game against Cannock at Manor Park was in some part spoilt by a blustery wind that made control of the ball very difficult.

Nuneaton had much the better of the play at the start of the game and good work by Dunn and Coley ought to have seen better outcomes. The first time that Cannock got within range of the Nuneaton goal, Wells, who played for Town before the war, missed a good opportunity by shooting over the bar.

The diminutive Knight had a quiet opening, but the first time he received the ball, he sent in a good shot which Evans saved at the expense of a fruitless corner. A little later Knight tricked Cartwright and centred to Spittle, who headed into the net for Nuneaton's first goal.

A miskick by Roberts let in Cannock, who forced a corner. Roberts made amends, saving a certain goal by heading clear. At the other end Evans made a great save from Spittle.

Cannock, who had the benefit of the wind made several dangerous breakaways on the left, and the Nuneaton goal had one or two narrow escapes. Cannock's goal was also subjected to pressure, a fine shot from Dunn being splendidly saved by Evans.

Crossing over with a goal lead, Nuneaton did most of the pressing in the second half. A terrific shot by Nock struck the

crossbar and Evans cleverly stopped an effort by Kendrick. A shot from Spittle saw the ball graze the upright. Eventually good work by Homer was finished off by Kendrick, who scored with a good shot.

Dunn was injured and had to leave the field, Kendrick falling back to the right-half position. Nock made one specially fine run, but he was charged off the ball near the goal line. Cannock several times got within scoring range, but their forwards finished weakly. Wells missed one easy chance of opening his side's account. Marshall, who had played a great game for Cannock, came near the mark with a long range shot. In the closing stages Nuneaton pressed strongly, and Homer had a great shot saved by Evans.

## **Tattersall Attacked At Cannock**

A regrettable incident took place at the end of the Reserves' match at Cannock, when Tattersall, the Nuneaton keeper, was walking from the field of play to the dressing room and received a nasty blow to the head with some instrument. When he reached the dressing room he was seen to stagger and collapse, being saved from a fall by other Nuneaton players.

Tattersall was unconscious for about 15 minutes before the efforts of the trainer and others succeeded in bringing him round.

The attention of the Cannock officials was drawn to the incident and it is expected that Nuneaton will report the matter to the FA.

## **Nuneaton Town v Atherstone Town 28-09-1921**

**Nuneaton: Clements; Roberts and Paul; Green, Homer and Mann; Coley, Spittle, Goldie, Kendrick and Wootton.**

**Atherstone: Briggs; Taylor and Littlewood; Heard, Hampton and Sockett; Hadley, Merrick, Guest, Roberts and Barlow.**

The semi-final of the Nuneaton and District Charity Cup took place at Manor Park on Wednesday evening. The crowd was about 4,000 with 800 travelling from Atherstone.

The opening action saw Merrick graze the crossbar before Nuneaton pressed. Green headed over from a corner and a fine centre by Coley was headed over by Goldie. Atherstone attacked, and after Clements had saved from Guest, the Nuneaton goal had a few anxious moments from a renewed assault. The home right wing was showing up well and Goldie headed against the crossbar from Coley's centre, with Briggs out of his goal.

A few minutes later Briggs made two marvellous saves in quick succession from Kendrick, and a moment later, following a corner, Goldie headed the ball on to the crossbar, Littlewood clearing the danger from the rebound.

Green miskicked at the other end, which gave Merrick a chance, which he put wide. The same player tested Clements



# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



and for a time the visitors had more of the game. Nuneaton again took up the running and after good play by Spittle and Goldie, the first goal was scored by Kendrick, who beat Briggs with a low shot. Roberts then shot wide for Atherstone, who pressed strongly for a spell and Clements was forced into making several saves. Nuneaton hit back and Briggs saved a stinging shot from Spittle. At the break Nuneaton led 1-0.

Nuneaton started the second half with great pressure and clever play by Spittle had Atherstone in a tangle, but the ball was cleared. Homer skimmed the bar before Guest shot wide at the other end. Goldie then put in a magnificent dribble, but was eventually overwhelmed by numbers. Homer struck the upright with Briggs beaten, and the rebound was cleared.

The game was crowded with excitement and following a brief raid by Atherstone, Nuneaton resumed the pressure and Goldie scored a remarkable goal, curling in a shot from out by the corner flag. Briggs touched the ball in its flight, but was unable to prevent the ball from going into the net. Goldie put in a terrific shot that hit the inside of the post, which Briggs managed to clear as far as Spittle and save the shot that came in. Just before the end Spittle made the score 3-0, with a fine finish following a good passing move.

“Adders” had been outplayed, especially in the second half, when only a superb display of goalkeeping by Briggs prevented a heavier defeat.

## Nuneaton Town v Shrewsbury Town 01-10-1921

**Nuneaton:** Clements; Roberts and Paul; Green, Homer and Mann; Coley, Spittle, Goldie, Kendrick and Wootton.

**Shrewsbury:** Boxley; Edwards and Cook; Crabtree, Morris and Bowen; Hill, Parker, Taylor, Roberts and Bellfield.

A thrilling Birmingham League encounter against unbeaten Shrewsbury Town was witnessed by 5,000 spectators. Playing with ten men in the second half, the home side outclassed the visitors, who were lucky to escape with a point.

The opening of the game promised well, with Nuneaton showing up well in the early play. After 20 minutes, the game was finely balanced and goalless. Then an unfortunate accident happened when Paul tried to stem a Shrewsbury move by heading the ball clear. At the same moment Parker tried to kick the ball and his foot caught Paul in the right eye. The injury bled profusely, and the eye swelled. Paul, who had been playing a good game, had to leave the field and visit the hospital, where the wound was stitched. Nuneaton played with ten men from this point on.

When the game resumed Kendrick went to left back and Nuneaton continued with four forwards and became somewhat disorganised, with the visitors doing most of the pressing. Occasionally though, the home team carried the game to their opponents and following one of these raids Coley got clear away and bore in towards goal. It seemed odds on a goal. Boxley ran out to meet him and he was tackled from

behind by Bowen and another player, and the whole thing ended in a general collision, which left Boxley and Bowen laid out. The game was stopped for five minutes while the players were treated. Shortly afterwards, Nuneaton's goal was penetrated for the first time in five matches, when Parker tried a surprise shot, which found the net. It was a chance in a hundred and much appreciated by Shrewsbury's supporters.

The second half was a grand spectacle and a transformation as Nuneaton carried the game to Shrewsbury, putting the visitors almost continually on the defensive and the stage was set for a thrilling struggle. Nuneaton surged to the attack time after time, and with Kendrick resuming up front, Green placed a free kick into the area where it struck the crossbar and dropped down for Kendrick to breast the ball into the net.

The cheers which greeted the goal were deafening, and Nuneaton responded to the call of their supporters by setting up another fine attack. Several likely goalscoring shots were sent in, but Boxley brought off a series of good saves.

Shrewsbury then mounted their first attack of the half and a centre from the right saw Shrewsbury's Roberts gain possession. Green just failed to clear, but prevented his man from getting in a powerful shot and the ball rolled towards Clements, who completely misjudged it, as it went past him and into the net.

This was a bitter blow, but Nuneaton again took charge of the game and after many fine attempts to draw level, success was finally achieved when Kendrick scored again. His low shot was a beauty, with Boxley helpless as the ball flashed into the net.

Nuneaton continued to press and Shrewsbury were hanging on and resorted to kicking the ball out of play. The biggest thrill of the closing stages was a brilliant shot by Spittle, who missed the upright by a bare inch. The crowd yelled “goal!”, only to be disappointed when the ball hit the support post.

Spurred on by the crowd, Nuneaton made great efforts to win, but they did not get their due reward. There were many fine displays by Nuneaton players, especially Dick Roberts, who played magnificently from beginning to end. The half-back line was overwhelming in its power, with Mann brilliant in attack and defence. Homer and Green were also outstanding and all three worked like Trojans.

## Nuneaton Town v English League XI 03-10-1921

**Nuneaton:** Clements; Roberts and Taylor; Green, Homer and Mann; Coley, Spittle, Goldie, Kendrick and Johnson.

**English League:** Pearson (West Brom); Barratt (Leicester City) and Winship (Coventry); Craig (Hinckley), Richmond (Leicester City) and Woodward (Wolves); Ralphs (Blackburn Rovers), Dunn, Riley, Richards (Wolves) and Robinson (Coventry).

Emmin Dunn's testimonial match against an English League XI attracted a crowd of around 3,000. Unfortunately, several prominent players had to cry off through injury.

The game started with the exchanges even, and it became obvious that the players were committed to finesse and the

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



first action saw Clements tested by Riley. Goldie and Coley carried out a nice passing movement, but Barratt broke it up. Richmond was in some good tussles with Goldie, who once broke through the defence, only to shoot wide. Play had been in progress for about 10 minutes when Ralphs came into the game, neatly tricking a couple of opponents before winning a fruitless corner.

Kendrick hit an upright following good work from Green, and an attempt was made to reach the rebound, but it was cleared by Pearson. Following a good passing move by The League XI, Richards scored with a stinging shot. Later Nuneaton had bad luck when Johnson hit the crossbar with a shot, the resultant scrimmage being cleared.

In the second half Ralphs put in several excellent centres and at least two opportunities came the way of Riley, but he failed to take them. At the other end Coley made a good break, but was dispossessed. Dunn got Ralphs away and his brilliant centre resulted in Richards getting a second goal.

The closing play took place in semi-darkness and it was difficult to follow, but a ground shot by Ralphs cannoned off Roberts and into the net, while at the other end Barratt deliberately put through his own goal to give Nuneaton some consolation. Johnson a young player from Birmingham was given a trial for Nuneaton.

## Brierley Hill Alliance v Nuneaton Town 15-10-1921

**Brierley Hill:** Wilkinson; Blain and Sneyd; Whitehouse, Danks and Kidd; Long, Pearson, Andrews, Stevens and Tidy.

**Nuneaton:** Clements; Smith and Paul; Green, Homer and Mann; Coley, Spittle, Goldie, Kendrick and Wootton.

Nuneaton travelled to Cottage Street, home of Brierley Hill Alliance, to engage with the home side in a Birmingham League fixture.

Kicking up the slope and into the sun first half, Nuneaton had the better of the opening exchanges, settling down to play some good football after the opening minutes. Goldie worked his way through the Brierley Hill defence on two occasions — once the ball skimmed the bar and then Wilkinson tipped the ball over. During another attack Blain headed out a likely goal and at times Brierley Hill were under siege.

Pearson hit back for Alliance with an effort into the side netting. Alliance had another lucky escape when the ball was hovering around the goal-line and Wootton should have scored, but shot weakly. Green had a magnificent shot saved by Wilkinson.

Nuneaton might have been expected to go on and win in the second half, with the advantage of the slope, but Brierley Hill came back into the game and the Nuneaton goal had a narrow escape when Clements made a good save, but pushed the ball onto the inside of the post and it looked like the home team were certain to score.

On another occasion a good centre by Tidy saw several players

miss good chances. Nuneaton hit back again and Kendrick shot wide from a good position and then struck the upright with the keeper beaten. Goldie was put in by Spittle, but shot over the bar, while Green and Homer had shots saved by Wilkinson.

At the other end, Clements made a daring save, flinging himself at the feet of Pearson and brilliantly scooping the ball away. Both sides forced abortive corners and then Nuneaton made a desperate attempt to secure a victory, but final hope vanished when a great shot by Spittle was saved by Wilkinson.

It was a game of many missed chances, although some allowance must be made for the ground. It is the bare minimum size and the touchline is close to the spectators, and at one end the ground dips suddenly into a perceptible slope, where many shots go sailing over the bar.

## Nuneaton Town v Hinckley United 17-10-1921

**Nuneaton:** Clements; Smith and Paul; Green, Homer and Mann; Coley, Spittle, Goldie, Kendrick and Wootton.

**Hinckley:** Castledine; King and Harris; Herbert, Norman and Craig; Spencer, Spicer, King, Smith and Ford.

About 2,000 spectators assembled at Manor Park to watch Nuneaton Town play Hinckley United in the final of the Nuneaton and District Charity Cup.

Hinckley were first to attack and Spicer shot over after Clements had saved. A little later Herbert initiated an attack which gave King the easiest of chances, but he dallied and was robbed. Two minutes later he made amends with a fine solo effort which ended with a good shot and goal.

With just six minutes of the match gone, Hinckley scored again, when weak defensive play gave Smith a chance, and he beat Clements, with the keeper being at fault. After going 2-0 down Nuneaton rallied and forced several corners, which gave Castledine an opportunity to distinguish himself, and he made two very good saves. During another Nuneaton attack Herbert handled in the area and Kendrick scored with the kick.

Nuneaton bombarded the Hinckley goal, and the ball was cleared off the line by King from Kendrick. The keeper made a save from Spittle and recovered well after mishandling from Wootton. Kendrick had a shot saved by Castledine before further Hinckley attacks were frustrated by the home backs.

Kendrick and Homer both shot over the bar before a superb move by Nuneaton's forwards resulted in another shot over the bar, this time from Spittle. Nuneaton went close again when Goldie met a centre by Wootton, but he turned the ball wide of the post. Kendrick shot wildly with Castledine out of his goal and at the break Hinckley led by two goals to one.

Hinckley were dangerous straight after the break and the Nuneaton goal had some anxious moments. Green headed wide from a corner. Spittle then rushed the ball into the net, only to find that Goldie had been penalised for impeding the keeper. Goldie had another chance and hooked over the bar.



Wootton tricked a couple of opponents and sent a shot over the bar as Nuneaton persisted in their attacks and 15 minutes from time Spittle scored following a good move involving five players. Castledine then made two great saves from Spittle and Homer as Nuneaton dominated the visitors. A perfect centre from Coley was met by Kendrick, who headed into the net. Nuneaton had no difficulty in keeping the lead and almost scored again.

The presentation of the cup and medals by the Mayor, Alderman Randle, took place at the conclusion of the game. Mann received the cup on behalf of the Nuneaton players.

The Mayor said the game had been well fought and the losers had played the game. He also congratulated Nuneaton in coming back after being two goals in arrears...

## Redditch v Nuneaton Town 29-10-1921

**Redditch:** Sedgeley; Mumford and Chamberlain; Hackett, Smith and Thompson; Fenton, Pritchard, Jakeman, Bridges and Lyons.

**Nuneaton:** Clements; Roberts and Smith; Green, Homer and Mann; Coley, Spittle, Goldie, Booton and Lancaster.

Nuneaton travelled to the Bromsgrove Road home of Redditch for a Birmingham League match. Nuneaton had knocked the home team out of the FA Cup earlier in the season.

The amount of enjoyment one derives from a football match often depends a great deal on the environment of the game. It was a pleasure, therefore, to visit Redditch with Nuneaton Town, for we saw football played under ideal conditions in the picturesque little Worcestershire town. There was a sense of refinement about the place, and an atmosphere of sportsmanship which reflected itself in the contest.

The early action set the pattern of the game, with Nuneaton bombarding the Redditch goal. Some shots went wide and some were charged down. Goldie had two chances when the ball was played through the backs, but lacked the speed to take advantage. Redditch were hit by the loss of Pritchard, who had to retire due to a knee injury after only 10 minutes.

Jakeman, a schoolboy international, made a couple of sorties for the home side, while at the other end, Nuneaton's three inside men combined well, but Goldie's shot struck Mumford and bounced to safety. Booton tricked several opponents but shot over the bar with only the keeper to beat. Centres by both Coley and Lancaster were not converted before the visitors' persistency was rewarded just before half-time. An excellent bout of passing by Spittle, Booton and Goldie ended in the latter scoring with a terrific shot, which struck the inside of the post and bounced into the net. Before the half-time whistle Booton grazed the bar with a fierce shot.

Straight after the break, Spittle had an excellent shot saved by Sedgeley, and Goldie struck the crossbar with a fast drive. Spittle then beat all opposition, but his final effort hit the side net. Booton emulated his colleagues by missing an easy chance.

Redditch showed some spirited form and Lyons, the ex-Aston Villa winger, had hard luck with a shot which went over the bar. Nuneaton then took command of the game and totally outplayed the home side. Coley missed an open goal and Spittle shot over, but atoned ten minutes from time, when he tricked three players and shot past Sedgeley.

## Nuneaton Town v Tamworth Castle 05-11-1921

**Nuneaton:** Clements; Smith and Roberts; Green, Homer and Mann; Coley, Spittle, Goldie, Booton and Wootton.

**Tamworth:** Nicholls; Evans and Morris; Heck, Harmer and Edge; Young, Pearsall, Bennett, Joyce and Cooke.

Nuneaton Town welcomed Tamworth Castle to Manor Park, and 4,000 spectators were there to witness the game.

Nuneaton missed two good chances early on from centres by Coley, but the entire first half was marked by the lack of chances created, with most attacks breaking down before reaching the danger area. The home side failed to spread the play to the wings and it was 15 minutes before Wootton had his first touch of the ball.

Tamworth had one or two promising moments, but Nuneaton's backs coped with their attacks well, and Clements was rarely in any trouble.

The second half saw Nuneaton improve in all aspects but one — shooting. Corners galore were forced and frequent scrambles took place in the goalmouth, but only one bore fruit. About 15 minutes after the interval an excellently placed corner resulted in a melee in the Tamworth goal, and Booton scored. It was a scrambling sort of goal in a scrambling game.

Nuneaton's chief offender in the goal-missing line was Goldie, who missed three glorious chances. On one occasion he had only Nicholls to beat from a few yards' out, and could almost have walked the ball into the net, but he shot wide.

On a second occasion he gained possession following a miskick from Nicholls, and looked a certain scorer, but he again shot wide. Finally, he spurned another opportunity by firing tamely straight at Nicholls. Spittle did not commit any such glaring errors, because he did not shoot.

Nuneaton did go close several times, and the ball struck the upright on two occasions with Nicholls hopelessly beaten. Homer had two good efforts hit the bar. The ball did actually find its way into the Tamworth net on another occasion, but a foul on Nicholls was given.

In the last ten minutes Castle came more into the game and looked to equalise, but Young shot wildly over the bar. Nuneaton's defence held firm and Clements made a couple of good saves to ensure that the home team won a disappointing game 1-0.

Goldie is a trier and works hard, but good intentions don't get goals and he is clearly deficient in the qualities needed by a centre-forward, lacking in speed and goals.



## Wednesbury Old Ath. v Nuneaton Town 12-11-1921

**Wednesbury:** Crutchley; Plant and Collins; Rowley, J. Evans and White; Hughes, S. Evans, Payne, Lockley and Noakes.

**Nuneaton:** Clements; Smith and Roberts; Dunn, Homer and Mann; Coley, Goldie, Green, Riley and Wootton.

The Boat, home of Wednesbury Old Athletic, is set in a peculiarly dismal environment and has never been a happy hunting ground for Nuneaton.

For the second time this season Nuneaton performed the feat of scoring a goal before a single opponent touched the ball. Green started the game by passing to Goldie, who tricked a defender and passed back to Green, who in turn passed out to Riley. The youth from Bedworth seized his opportunity and shot well into the corner of the net. The Wednesbury fans had hardly recovered from this set-back when a movement somewhat similar ended in Riley being pulled up for offside.

Wednesbury quickly recovered and set up an onslaught on Nuneaton's goal. Both wingers made numerous accurate centres, with the forward line almost profiting from uncertain work by Nuneaton's backs. Clements was forced to save, but before he could get back the attack was renewed and a terrific shot hit the post. A melee ensued and Noakes managed to rush the ball into the net for the equaliser. Nuneaton appealed for handball, but the referee awarded the goal.

In the first half, most of the exciting play took part in the early stages, although most of the attacks produced little incident to speak of, excepting when Payne made a fine solo burst, but Clements saved. Goldie and Riley went closest for Nuneaton, the latter having a shot saved by Crutchley.

Nuneaton had all the chances in the second half, and would have won easily if more accuracy in front of goal had been shown. They attacked time and again, but the play always broke down at the final stage. Crutchley produced a fine save from Riley and Goldie shot over the bar. Homer also just missed. It was only occasionally that Wednesbury broke away, but Mann and Green had to put in two timely tackles to protect the visitors' goal.

Corners galore fell to Nuneaton, but all were cleared. A centre by Wootton gave Goldie a glorious chance and he neatly trapped the ball, but shot wide. In another attack Coley wanted too much time and was robbed, while a pass by Goldie enabled Riley to dart between the backs. It looked odds on a goal, but Crutchley ran out and took the ball off the centre-forward's toe.

Two minutes from time Nuneaton missed their final chance. Roberts worked his way up the left wing and centred. Goldie met the ball with his head, but his effort grazed the crossbar.

Green, who started the game at centre-forward, moved to right back in the second half. His display at full-back was excellent in every way. He kicked magnificently, his tackling was sure and well-timed and his heading first rate.

## Nuneaton Town v Bilston United 19-11-1921

**Nuneaton:** Clements; Smith and Roberts; Green, Homer and Mann; Dunn, Goldie, Riley, Spittle and Wootton.

**Bilston:** Hill; Hopkins and Biddulph; Chamberlain, Brooke and King; Newman, Butler, Woodhall, Arblaster and Harrold.

Visitors to Manor Park for the match against Bilston United, witnessed a rare event — a defeat for the home side.

Nuneaton started the game playing a good open game with plenty of energy and ability, and after eight minutes play Riley scored a clever goal. A good pass provided him with the opportunity to dash between the backs and shoot into the net — a feat he performed with great coolness. A few moments later Riley had another chance, but this time steered the ball wide of the post.

As the game progressed Bilston's defence got the measure of Nuneaton's forwards and the visitors gradually took command and Nuneaton were occupied with frustrating the fast and clever Bilston forwards. They succeeded for some time, but ten minutes before the interval, a mistake by Roberts let in Newman, who appeared certain to score, before Smith ran across and saved the situation at the expense of a corner. The corner was well-placed and Cutler levelled the scores with a good shot.

A further Bilston attack saw Roberts being injured in a heavy charge, and he had to leave the field. The Nuneaton defence held out though, and the scores were tied at the break.

When the game resumed Roberts went to outside-right, Dunn to right-half and Green to full-back. Play had not been long in progress when Roberts atoned for his first half mistake by sending across a perfect centre, from which Spittle made a good effort. Although Hill saved, the ball went out to Goldie who scored with a first-time shot.

Bilston mounted an attack and Green missed his tackle, which gave Arblaster a chance and he scored with a ground shot just inside the post. A struggle then ensued for the winning goal and it was Bilston who found it, with one of the best movements seen at Manor Park. A move down the right saw the home defence in difficulty, and when Newman put in a good centre, Woodhall scored a great goal.

In the closing stages Nuneaton made a valiant effort to equalise. Riley and Spittle made several attempts to break down the visitors' defence, but Bilston packed the goal and resisted stubbornly. Roberts put in several centres, which came close to breaching Bilston's defence, and in one incident Hill was knocked out in saving from Riley's header. Hill recovered and made another fine save from a long shot.

Riley was easily the best Nuneaton forward. He showed dash and speed, gave out some nice passes, and in general thoroughly justified his inclusion. The only blemish on his display was the missed opportunity early on, but this was probably due to the over-exuberance of youth.





## Hednesford Town v Nuneaton Town 26-11-1921

**Hednesford:** Rostance; Garratley and Pointon; Allen, Crutchley and Lyons; Bowers, Barnett, Griffiths, Whitfield and Elson.

**Nuneaton:** Clements; Green and Smith; Dunn, Wood and Mann; Spittle, Goldie, Riley, Kendrick and Robinson.

Nuneaton travelled to the Cross Keys to take on Hednesford Town in a Birmingham League fixture.

The early action saw Griffiths go through for the visitors, but he was brought down by Smith on the edge of the area, but the free kick came to nothing. Goldie had a chance immediately after, but tried to lob the ball into the net and finished weakly.

Elson and Whitfield combined well on more than one occasion, causing Clements to handle. After about 15 minutes the home side opened the scoring when Whitfield's pass sent Elson away and the winger tested Clements with a high shot which the keeper saved, but instead of throwing out for a corner Clements tried to side-step and kick out, resulting in the ball going to Bowers, who centred for Whitfield to head into the net.

Hednesford continued to press and Clements pulled off several fine saves, while the backs kicked well. Nuneaton attacked occasionally without much success, apart from an effort by Kendrick, who having been put in by Spittle, severely tested Rostance with a fine drive.

There was an exciting scrimmage in the Hednesford goalmouth when the inside forwards made a burst through. Crutchley, realising the danger, sat on the ball, while his defence were trying to kick the ball one way and Nuneaton forwards the other. The situation was saved when Dunn put in a hard shot that hit a defender and rebounded to safety.

Hednesford made some good scoring efforts, but failed to add to the score, and when the teams crossed over Nuneaton appeared to be still in the game, one goal down.

Nuneaton opened the second half on the offensive and Spittle narrowly missed with a fast shot from the wing. This proved to be a flash in the pan, however, and the game became increasingly tame. When Kendrick was forced to retire the visitors appeared to be up against it.

Hednesford frequently attacked, but Clements played well and the backs and halves defended grimly. It was poor reward for their efforts, when just before the end Griffiths scored a simple goal. At the final whistle Town had lost 2-0.

## Nuneaton Town v Stafford Rangers 03-12-1921

**Nuneaton:** Clements; Roberts and Smith; Green, Wood and Mann; Coley, Dunn, Riley, Booton and Robinson.

**Stafford:** Wilkes; Leech and Key; Ruston, Toviband and Timmis; Cooper, Green, Blunt, Vaughan and Willetts.

Stafford arrived at Manor Park with the best league record of the season so far. Nuneaton's form was poor and they had a single point from the previous three matches.

Nuneaton were second best in the first half, but did not have the best of luck when they did attack. Early on in the game Green stuck the crossbar with a terrific shot and the ball had bounced out before Wilkes knew what had happened. Booton missed a good chance through hesitating, while Dunn might have scored had he responded quicker. On another occasion a shot hit the post, but the greatest misfortune befell Coley, who made a forceful run down the wing and shot into the net, only for Booton and Riley to be rightly given offside.

Stafford frequently got into dangerous positions, with both wingers giving the home defenders a lot of anxiety, while the three inside men often outwitted Nuneaton's half back line. Rangers had some bad luck when Green struck a shot that hit the post and bounced across the goal-line before Nuneaton's Green headed clear. Blunt shot over when well placed, but just as the spectators were settling for a goalless first half Stafford mounted an attack and Green beat a couple of opponents before scoring the opening goal. Clements just failed to put the ball round the post.

Stafford went close to extending their lead in the second half, but Clements was alert and Roberts headed a goal-bound effort away. Stafford's attacks got progressively more spasmodic and Nuneaton gained the upper hand. Stafford started to play more defensively, but it appeared that Nuneaton would not score, as good efforts failed to find the target.

Robinson made some fine runs and centres, and on two occasions missed scoring by a narrow margin. Coley, well looked after by Dunn, also made excursions into the Stafford goal area. Somehow, the goal would not come and there were cries of disappointment when Booton struck the upright.

Well supported by their halves, Nuneaton's forwards kept pegging away and eventually Dunn and Riley carried out an effort, which brought the equalising goal. A pass by the inside-right enabled Riley to make a dash for goal. A full-back impeded his progress and partially cleared, but Dunn, following up shot the ball into the corner of the net.

Nuneaton pressed hard for the winner and after many attempts success came five minutes from time. Roberts, who had gradually got the measure of the wily Willetts, intercepted an opponent's pass and kicked the ball over to the left. Booton darted past the backs and had a race with the goalkeeper for the ball. The Nuneaton player won and steered the ball into the net. The winning goal was enthusiastically received by the home supporters

## Worcester City v Nuneaton Town 10-12-1921

**Worcester:** Gwilliam; Young and Bentley; Lester, Gwilt and Twigg; McGregor, Smith, Abbott, Parsonage and Best.

**Nuneaton:** Clements; Roberts and Smith; Green, Homer and Mann; Coley, Dunn, Riley, Kendrick and Robinson.

Nuneaton travelled to St. George's Lane to take on Worcester City in a Birmingham League fixture.

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



Nuneaton had the better of the opening exchanges, but Worcester's defence kept them at bay. Worcester put on pressure as the game proceeded and Clements made several noteworthy saves. The home team looked more dangerous in front of goal, but their success was in part brought about by an injury after 20 minutes to Mann, who received a kick to the knee, and had been performing well up to that point.

Nuneaton's forward line with Robinson inside and the injured Mann outside lacked penetration. Nevertheless, there was no score at half-time.

Nuneaton almost scored immediately after the break, Gwilliam tipping Roberts' long drive over the bar for a fruitless corner. That was the nearest Nuneaton got to scoring, though Riley had two good chances of making solo runs past the defence, but he failed to profit from both chances which were initiated by Dunn. Subsequently the Nuneaton defence was sorely pressed, and Worcester would have taken the lead had their inside forwards exhibited a better shooting ability.

Up to 10 minutes from time, Nuneaton had managed to keep their goal intact, and Kendrick had performed well at left half. Then youngster McGregor, making his debut for Worcester, came into the picture and by his own efforts won the game for his side. He made a series of thrilling runs and the first time he centred, he picked out Abbott, who missed a simple chance. McGregor outpaced Kendrick and Smith for a second time, bore his way into the goalmouth and placed the ball at the feet of Abbott, who lost the shooting chance himself, but passed sideways to Parsonage, who scored easily.

Nuneaton appealed for offside, but their protests were waved away by the referee. Worcester increased their lead a minute from time. The visitors had mounted an attack with the intent of grabbing an equaliser, but after a scramble in the Worcester area, the ball broke to McGregor in his own half. The outside-right had a clear field after he had beaten Smith and he careered towards goal while most of the other players stood watching. Clements ran out to meet him, but McGregor side-stepped the keeper and dribbled the ball into the net.

It was a remarkable goal and the full-time whistle sounded straight after, when he was the subject of an enthusiastic demonstration, being carried off shoulder high by the enthusiastic crowd.

<b>Nuneaton Town v Stourbridge</b>	<b>17-12-1921</b>
<b>Nuneaton: Clements; Roberts and Smith; Goldie, Homer and Mann; Coley, Dunn, Green, Kendrick and Robinson.</b>	
<b>Stourbridge: Adams; Taylor and Rhodes; Roberts, Webster and Bishop; Corkendale, Smith, Blakemore, Yarwood and Westwood.</b>	

Nuneaton faced Stourbridge at Manor Park, with playing conditions being unfavourable for good football, with a variable and sometimes violent cross-wind.

The game had only been in progress for five minutes when Nuneaton scored their first goal. A good centre by Coley

saw Green make an attempt, heading against the crossbar. Kendrick met the rebound and headed into the net. This excellent start delighted the crowd, but the goal was nearly nullified when Stourbridge were given a foul close to the penalty area. Webster took the kick and shot wide.

Nuneaton were well on top and the Stourbridge goal had several close escapes with efforts from Dunn, Green and Kendrick going close. The visitors had some possibilities, but their efforts lacked finish. About 10 minutes before the break Dunn and Goldie combined well and the former gave to Green, who with his back to goal, cleverly hooked the ball over his shoulder and into the net.

For thirty minutes in the second half, Nuneaton dominated the game and showed surprising good form against the wind. Good runs from both Coley and Robinson were the prelude to scrimmages in the goalmouth and Adams and his backs were given a difficult time. Green was a handful for Stourbridge and his runs through the centre proved disconcerting for the visitors' defence.

Fifteen minutes after the interval, a centre from Coley had the visitors' defence in difficulties. Green tried to head the ball as Adams came out to clear. The latter could only partially punch away and Kendrick was left with an easy goal.

Stourbridge improved and gave glimpses of some good play. One move was particularly good, but a good tackle by Smith brought it to an end. Roberts and Smith defended well, but Clements was tested on some half-a-dozen occasions, with one effort being magnificent.

A powerful shot by Webster was deflected by Roberts and the ball cannoned off at great pace in the direction of the goal, but like a flash Clements dived full length, stopped the ball and pushed it away. This was Stourbridge's last hope and five minutes from the end Dunn set Coley away. The winger put in a terrific cross and Kendrick in trying to head the ball collided with the keeper, who managed to punch away as far as Robinson, who had no difficulty in scoring. The crowd called for the "Old Five", and Dunn and Green almost obliged, but not quite.

<b>Burton All Saints v Nuneaton Town</b>	<b>24-12-1921</b>
<b>Nuneaton: Clements; Roberts and Smith; Green, Homer and Mann; Coley, Spittle, Nock, Kendrick, Robinson.</b>	

Nuneaton Town did fairly well to get a league point at Burton on Saturday, but on the run of the play they should have obtained the full quota. In the opening stages the All Saints had the better of the exchanges, but Clements made several notable saves. Nuneaton were the first to score, Nock making a fine solo run thirty minutes after the start and shooting past Maskrey. Burton had the misfortune to lose the services of Kersey after twenty minutes' play, owing to a knee injury.

Nuneaton improved after the interval and should have added to their lead, but the home team presented a fine defence. Ten minutes from the finish a melee in the Nuneaton

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



goalmouth ended in Reddington heading past Clements, thus equalising the scores.

Nuneaton had to re-organise their forward line owing to the absence of Dunn and Goldie.

## Willenhall v Nuneaton Town 26-12-1921

**Nuneaton: Clements; R. Roberts and Smith; Green, Homer and Goldie; Dunn, Spittle, Nock, Kendrick and Robinson.**

Nuneaton Town gave the redoubtable Willenhall team a rare fright at Willenhall on Monday, and had the fates balanced their favour the “blue and whites” would have at least effected a draw instead of losing by three goals to two. Nuneaton had several chances, Mann and Coley being absentees, but Dunn and Goldie returned to the side, both playing in unaccustomed positions.

The game was an exhilarating one and both teams put up a brilliant exhibition. Nuneaton showed clever form throughout and it was hard lines, after securing the lead on two occasions, to be defeated by a goal scored a few minutes from time. Soon after the start Nock scored Nuneaton’s first goal and a few minutes later Spittle missed a glorious opportunity of adding a second goal. Willenhall retaliated and equalised through Lane.

Play continued fast and thrilling in the second half and Nock scored a fine goal for Nuneaton. Willenhall then played up desperately and eventually Buttery scored with a shot from long range. A few minutes from the finish Needham gave Willenhall the lead and victory. Clements might have saved the goal with a little more judgment.

Nuneaton gave a splendid all-round display, in which Robinson was the star performer in the forward line, with Nock a good second. The half-back line was strong both in attack and defence, and Roberts and Smith did well at the back.

## Nuneaton Town v Burton All Saints 27-12-1921

**Nuneaton: Clements; Roberts and Smith; Green, Homer and Mann; Thacker, Dunn, Nock, Kendrick and Robinson.**

The game against Burton All Saints at Manor Park was a physical affair which was frequently halted by the sound of the referee’s whistle. The consequence of this was that the standard of the game was not as high as expected.

Nuneaton were easily the superior team, and in the second half outplayed the Burton team. The goal-scoring chart might easily have registered half-a-dozen had the inside-forwards exhibited any sort of talent in front of goal. Many perfect centres went their way and some golden chances of scoring were missed. Kendrick in particular was an offender in this respect.

After enjoying superiority for about three-quarters of the game, Nuneaton had to be content with a penalty goal victory. The first half was scoreless, and 20 minutes of the

second half had passed when a forward pass enabled Nock to dart between the backs. When a few yards from goal, he was fetched down from behind and a penalty awarded. Green was entrusted with the kick, and he crashed the ball into the net. Such a win certainly did not do Nuneaton much credit, but the reason solely lay in the forwards’ inability to shoot.

Nuneaton for the first time introduced Thacker into the premier team and he gave a very creditable display. Beautifully fed by Dunn, he revelled in some neat and tricky play, and his centres were so accurate that they simply asked to be put into the net.

In extenuation of many of the faults of the play, it should be mentioned that a cross-wind seriously troubled the players. Nuneaton rose above the difficulties in the second half, but their finishing efforts were not worthy of their midfield tactics.

Once again the Nuneaton half-backs were in brilliant form. Perhaps they opened rather moderate, but they developed to such an extent that they dominated the game. Smith and Roberts played finely at the back and Clements was fairly reliable in goal.

## Wellington Town v Nuneaton Town 31-12-1921

**Wellington: Hedgecox; Robinson and Dorricott; Capewell, Bowen and Deakin; Millington, White, Sambrooke, King and Sheldon.**

**Nuneaton: Clements; Roberts and Smith; Wood, Homer and Mann; Goldie, Dunn, Nock, Kendrick and Robinson.**

The Old Year ended disastrously for Nuneaton as their visit to Wellington yielded a five goals to one reverse. Green sent a late telegram informing the directors of his back injury, whilst it was discovered on arrival at Birmingham that Coley had not made the journey. Nuneaton thus had ten men available, and there was a hustle to secure the services of Wood and a message was sent to George Paul, who arrived by a later train.

Despite their problems, Nuneaton started the game strongly, and with better finishing Wellington could have found themselves two goals down in the first ten minutes. Several chances that came Nuneaton’s way went begging as Wellington backs played very shakily and frequently miskicked. Both Nock and Kendrick had chances, but failed to take them.

Practically the first time Wellington pressed, they scored, and the incisiveness of their attack contrasted greatly with the cumbersome work of the Nuneaton quintet. Nevertheless the Wellington goal was a doubtful one, and the Nuneaton players stood appealing for offside while King rushed the ball near the goal and shot high up into the net.

The remainder of the play in the first-half was fairly even. Nuneaton had quite as many chances as their opponents, but the forwards failed to get into shooting positions and even when they did their efforts were weak. Robinson also showed a penchant for centring behind the goal. Dunn and Homer initiated several likely openings, but there was no sting in the attacks at close quarters.



Wellington came close to scoring on several occasions. Sambrooke once broke clean through the defence, only to be bustling off the ball by Mann as he was about to shoot. A little later, the ex-Nuneaton centre-forward beat all opposition and struck the upright with his shot. A further Nuneaton attack failed when Nock powered a goalbound shot against Dorricott. A few minutes from the interval King headed the ball over Wood's head to Sheldon, who centred into the goalmouth. After a few seconds' tussle J. White scored Wellington's second goal.

The opening incident in the second half was a good save by Clements from Millington, who bore in from the right. Nuneaton retaliated and again experienced hard luck when a powerful shot from Goldie was headed out by Robinson as it was about to enter the net. A Wood free kick also narrowly missed its target.

Nuneaton persisted in their attacks and Nock was dribbling the ball towards goal when he was tripped up by Robinson. The resultant penalty was taken by Kendrick, who scored easily. Nuneaton had an opportunity of saving the game at this point, but the necessary vigour seemed missing.

The final twenty minutes of the game saw Nuneaton outplayed, the Wellington forwards dominating the play. A forward pass by White gave Sambrooke an opportunity to take the ball on the run and he raced through and beat Clements with a powerful shot. It was a goal typical of many which Sambrooke scored at Manor Park. A little later Millington was allowed to break away with an open field and he scored the fourth goal.

Nuneaton made an excursion into the home territory, and Nock, after eluding two opponents, appeared to be a certain scorer, but his shot was charged down by Hedgecox who had run out of goal. Just before time Deakin worked his way into the centre and scored Wellington's fifth goal, shooting through a ruck of players.

## Nuneaton Town v Coventry City Reserves 07-01-1922

**Nuneaton: Clements; Roberts and Smith; Green, Homer and Mann; Coley, Dunn, Goldie, Kendrick and Robinson.**

**Coventry: Findlay; Wilship and Binks; Kessler, Yates and Smith; Mackay, McCaig, Howell, Griffiths and Price.**

For the first match of 1922, Nuneaton welcomed their near-neighbours Coventry City Reserves to Manor Park for a Birmingham League match.

Nuneaton totally dominated Coventry for the entire match and it is only the scoreline that does not reflect their superiority throughout the 90 minutes. It is ironic that after completely overwhelming the City team, Nuneaton should owe their victory to a goal which had a considerable element of luck about it. An attack by the right wing gave the Coventry defence an anxious time and eventually Findlay cleared. Mann fastened on to the ball and put in a fast shot which

Kendrick diverted with Findlay hopelessly beaten. The goal produced a scene of great enthusiasm and the Nuneaton team were heartily cheered as they made efforts to increase their lead.

Coventry's defence held out, however, though one or two favourable openings were presented to the Nuneaton forwards. The close of the game emphasised the home team's superiority. Coventry were obviously a beaten team, and though they made a spasmodic rally in the last few minutes, they were never really dangerous, and they retired a morally humiliated side. In both halves of the game they had been compelled to respond to the dictates of the home eleven.

Mann's performance for Nuneaton was nothing short of brilliant. Coventry must be regretting the transfer of Robinson, as the little outside-left led Kessler and Winship a merry dance. Much of Dunn's work bore the imprint of a genius.

## Darlaston v Nuneaton Town

14-01-1922

**Darlaston: Waite; Hadley and Winfield; Worrall, Skitt and Clarke; Bird, Roberts, Barber, Phillips and Rickhuss.**

**Nuneaton: Clements; Roberts and Smith; Green, Hower and Mann; Coley, Dunn, Goldie, Kendrick and Lancaster.**

Nuneaton travelled to Waverley Road, Darlaston for a Birmingham League fixture.

On a snow-covered ground, both teams gave a fine display. The football at times was brilliant, and though Nuneaton lost, they at least came out of the struggle with a reputation for ability. The first half saw Darlaston with the advantage. Though kicking up the slope, which is a very pronounced one, they adapted themselves better to the conditions, and Nuneaton were fighting against a superior team. Darlaston's first goal was the most delightful goal obtained against Nuneaton this season. A beautiful example of short passing combination was given by Roberts and Skitt, who defeated the Nuneaton defenders by real cleverness. Barber was left in possession in a good position, and he promptly shot past Clements and into the net.

Most of the danger to the Nuneaton goal subsequently came from the left-wing, Phillips and Rickhuss being in great form. They gave Green and Roberts a gruelling time with their well-varied and clever movements, and it was as a result of their efforts that Clements had so much work to perform.

Darlaston's second goal had an element of luck about it. Hadley, the right back, intercepted a Nuneaton attack, took the ball well up the field, and placed in the goalmouth. There was a momentary melee near the penalty line, and then Phillips sent in a fast shot, which Clements partially saved, but the ball cannoned off his body and rested in the snow a few feet away. Before he could reach it Phillips had ran up and scored. This happened right before half-time and Nuneaton went in two goals down.

Darlaston's supporters may have expected Nuneaton to be





trounced in the second half, their team having the advantage of the slope. Early incidents suggested such a possibility, for in the first minute Phillips struck the post with a hard shot. Subsequently, however, Nuneaton played really well and they might have taken a point if not two. This does not mean that Darlaston were outplayed. They were often dangerous and only good defensive work by the backs and good goalkeeping from Clements, saved the situation on several occasions.

Clements, indeed, made some fine saves, but one in particular stood out from the rest. While Nuneaton were attacking, a big kick transferred play, and Phillips was left with a clear field. He took the ball within a few yards of the goal and sent in a terrific shot, Clements making a magnificent one-handed save by tipping the ball over the bar.

## Nuneaton Town v Cradley Heath 21-01-1922

**Nuneaton: Clements; Roberts and Smith; Green, Homer and Mann; Coley, Dunn, Goldie, Kendrick and Robinson.**

**Cradley: Baker, Bache and Chamberlain; Hackett, Foxall and H. Boxley; Hall, Lowe, D. Boxley, Nock and Scott.**

Town welcomed Cradley Heath to Manor Park for a Birmingham Senior Cup 3rd Round tie. Cradley were thought likely to give Town a tough game, as they had only lost twice all season.

In the first few minutes of the game, however, Nuneaton's determination to win was evident. The home team overcame any problems posed by the heavy ground and carried out some great combination moves.

Nuneaton's first goal, after about 30 minutes, was the result of a brilliant individual effort by Goldie. He picked up the ball about 20 yards out and dribbled past three opponents before sending in a great shot which entered the top of the net. Twice Goldie was almost charged off the ball, but he held on to score a great goal.

A few minutes later Nuneaton's left wing attacked, and Kendrick seemed likely to score, but he passed to Goldie, who had to turn round before shooting into the net. Scarcely had the cheers subsided before the left wing forced a corner. Robinson placed the kick perfectly and Dunn headed the ball into the net, well out of the keeper's reach. All three goals had been scored in five minutes.

After the break the Cradley defence were subjected to a gruelling series of attacks and about 15 minutes after the break Kendrick threaded his way past the defence. He was tripped in the penalty area, but recovered and scored. The whistle had already been blown for a penalty, however, and Kendrick took the kick and scored.

Later on Kendrick had a good opening, but he shot straight at the goalkeeper. Goldie seized the ball from the rebound, however, and shot into the net. Just before the final whistle Cradley broke away, and Lowe shot for goal, but Clements saved. The referee had already pointed to the centre, however, and a goal was awarded, making the final score 5-1.

## Cannock Town v Nuneaton Town 28-01-1922

**Cannock: Smith; Withers and Smart; H. Whitehouse, Pottinger and Walker; Wells, Longford, Johnson, Skidmore and B. Whitehouse.**

**Nuneaton: Clements; Roberts and Smith; Green, Homer and Mann; Coley, Dunn, Goldie, Kendrick and Robinson.**

Nuneaton travelled to Cannock Town for a Birmingham League fixture, which turned out to be a remarkable match with a terrific come-back from the visitors.

The opening 15 minutes gave the impression that Nuneaton were heading for another away defeat, for after having the greater amount of possession, Nuneaton were hit by a surprise goal. Green successfully tackled Walker near the halfway line, but in trying to trick him, was robbed by Skidmore, who hit a shot from fully 40 yards, which curled into the top corner of the goal, through Clements' hands.

Nuneaton made every effort to get back on level terms and frequently had the Cannock defence in difficulty. Good shots from Coley, Dunn, Goldie and Green were all skilfully handled by Smith, while Homer narrowly missed with a header following a corner. Kendrick shot wide when well placed and later shot straight at Smith, with only the keeper to beat.

Skidmore was the only player to cause Nuneaton any worry and one terrific shot went over the bar, while another was saved by Clements. Skidmore looked dangerous again, but Smith made a last ditch tackle. Two minutes from the break Robinson placed an accurate corner, which Dunn shot into the net, well out of the reach of Smith.

The second half started at a fast pace, and Cannock snatched back the lead when Langford scored Cannock's second just a few minutes after the break. After going a goal down, Nuneaton played with renewed intensity and played good football. Kendrick twice hit the woodwork and the Cannock goal was under bombardment for several minutes.

Nuneaton's goal also came under threat, but Roberts and Smith defended well and Clements had few difficult shots to deal with. As the game wore on Nuneaton monopolised the play and penned Cannock in their own goalmouth. It came as no surprise when Goldie put Nuneaton back on level terms, and the goal was the prelude to some remarkable scoring.

Goldie received the ball from Kendrick for the equaliser, and eluding the opposition, he ran a few yards before steering the ball home. Nuneaton regained possession immediately from the kick-off and Dunn placed the ball beautifully between the backs for Goldie to take it on the run. He had a clear field and promptly netted with a good shot. The restart saw Nuneaton win the ball again and it was passed out to Robinson. The winger tricked Withers, raced to the touchline and centred to Dunn, who scored with a simple shot. Nuneaton had gone from being 2-1 down to leading 4-2 within five minutes.

Even then the thrills were not finished with, for three minutes from time, the home left wing attacked and Green



was compelled to kick into touch from near the goal-line. Despite Nuneaton's protests, the referee awarded a corner and Langford scored following a scrimmage. From the centre kick Nuneaton raced away again, and a volley by a Cannock defender laid Goldie out. When the centre-forward fell, Dunn was in possession with an open goal. Immediately after the subsequent throw-up, the whistle blew for full-time. Nuneaton had come back to win 4-3.

## Shrewsbury Town v Nuneaton Town 11-02-1922

**Shrewsbury:** Warner; Shedon and Cook; J. Taylor, Crabtree and Gascoigne; Roden, Parker, Pearce, H. Taylor and Rogers.

**Nuneaton:** Clements; Roberts and Smith; Green, Homer and Mann; Coley, Dunn, Goldie, Kendrick and Robinson.

Nuneaton journeyed to Shrewsbury to face the home side on their Gay Meadow ground. Previous visits to the Salopians had rarely seen Nuneaton leave with any reward.

Nuneaton started impressively and had Coley been in better form, they might have been rewarded for their efforts. He was provided with several good openings, but either centred badly or dallied and lost the ball. Robinson on the opposite wing was more prominent and tested Warner with a powerful shot. The keeper also stopped an effort from Green.

Shrewsbury gradually fought back and their attacks were dangerous with Rogers and Taylor being particularly quick and clever. Nuneaton defended well, however, and Clements dealt with a number of shots.

The game was a ding-dong battle, but Shrewsbury were first to score, with Nuneaton vainly appealing for offside. Parker took advantage of a pass from the home backs and eluded Smith before beating Clements with a fine shot. Straight from the centre kick Nuneaton came close to equalising when Goldie was presented with a great chance, but shot wide. A few moments later an attack by Nuneaton's right wing ended in Kendrick gaining possession. He was hampered by the defence, but turned smartly and shot into the far corner.

Both goals were scored while Shrewsbury were down to ten men, Cook being treated for an injury. The home side pressed again just before the break and following Roden's cross, Taylor side-stepped Roberts and banged the ball into the net, giving Shrewsbury a 2-1 advantage at the break.

Shrewsbury had much the better of the play at the start of the second half and the visitors' defence was sorely tried. Taylor just missed with a header from Rogers' centre and Pearce looked certain to score before Green robbed him on the goal line. Homer and Parker almost came to blows, but the referee had a word with them to calm things down.

At this stage Nuneaton's backs were kicking weakly and Shrewsbury attacked strongly, forcing Clements to make several good saves. Nuneaton came more into the game and Homer began to ply the forwards with some beautiful passes, with Dunn heading over from one of them.

Nuneaton set themselves up for victory in the closing ten minutes, when Homer got the ball forward to Dunn, who in turn found Goldie. The centre-forward put a weak shot into the goalkeeper's hands, but Kendrick rushed up to harass the keeper, who dropped the ball, and Goldie hooked it into the net. A back tried to clear, but the ball was already in the net.

With just eight minutes to go Nuneaton pushed for victory and Kendrick got the ball out to Robinson, who gathered the ball and set off towards Shrewsbury's goal with the home back in pursuit. The winger beat the defender for speed and shot brilliantly into the net to give Nuneaton the lead. The visitors might have scored again before the end with Dunn going close on two occasions.

## Nuneaton Town v Coventry City Reserves 16-02-1922

**Nuneaton:** Clements; Roberts and Smith; Green, Homer and Mann; Coley, Dunn, Goldie, Kendrick and Robinson.

**Coventry:** Findlay; Winsper and Cross; Dalton, Yates and Bradley; Machay, McCaig, Howell, Griffiths and Devlin.

Town welcomed Coventry City to Manor Park for a Birmingham Senior Cup 4th Round tie. In spite of the inclement weather there were 2,000 spectators assembled. Nuneaton were without Dunn, whose place was taken by Booton.

The game opened in a lively fashion and Clements had to save from McCaig. Goldie put the ball in the net at the other end, but was given offside. Kendrick and Goldie had good attempts and Coley tested Findlay with a powerful shot. Coventry pressed, but found Roberts in good form and the home left wing got away, but Kendrick shot wide.

There had been little between the teams up to this point, but Nuneaton gradually began to exert pressure and a fine run by Coley caused anxiety to the visitors' defence. Goldie was unable to collect the ball, however, and it was cleared. The home side took the lead following a corner — Robinson gained possession and centred to Goldie, who headed into the net. A minute later Goldie almost scored again, but Findlay saved.

Town were outplaying Coventry and another centre by Robinson enabled Booton to shoot into the net, for a 2-0 lead. Goldie put a shot over the bar before Coventry showed signs of improvement, but a fine tackle by Roberts stopped them short. Griffiths was going through when he was charged in the back, but Yates put the free-kick wide. Howell skimmed the bar before Booton struck the side net with a first time shot.

Coventry gained a corner and Clements tried to punch the ball, but missed and Devlin scored a soft goal three minutes from the interval and the teams went in at half-time with the home side leading by two goals to one.

Coventry started the second half in fine style and Clements redeemed himself with a glorious save from McCaig. For some time Coventry played good football and Griffiths put the ball narrowly wide following a good run.

Nuneaton were now pushed back on the defensive and



Coventry put an effort just wide before Nuneaton mounted their first attack of the half, with 15 minutes gone, when Findlay punched clear from Coley's centre. Play changed rapidly and both goals had narrow escapes. A shot by Devlin went wide by inches and a mistake by the Nuneaton defence let in McCaig and Dalton, with the latter shooting wide.

Homer shot over from a corner before a foul on Coley saw Green centre into the goalmouth where Findlay saved. Clements made a great clearance and in the closing stages Nuneaton had the better of the exchanges and held on to their lead up to the final whistle, qualifying to meet Walsall away in the following round.

## **Nuneaton Town v Brierley Hill Alliance 18-02-1922**

**Nuneaton: Clements; Roberts and Smith; Green, Homer and Mann; Coley, Dunn, Goldie, Allen and Robinson.**

**Brierley Hill: Wilkinson; Blain and Harris; Whitehouse, Rooke and Kidd; Long, Stevens, Pearson, Andrews and Oakes.**

Following Nuneaton's good form of late, there was a remarkably poor attendance of under 3,000 for the visit of Brierley Hill Alliance. The Nuneaton side included a new player, Allen, an inside-left signed from Brownhills Town.

Town dominated the game from start to finish and ended the game with a record winning score for their Birmingham League tenure. The first goal resulted from an attack by Nuneaton's right wing. Harris hesitated and Dunn dribbled round him, bore in towards goal and beat Wilkinson with a great shot. The home side went 2-0 up when Goldie received Homer's pass, tricked a back and shot into the net.

Following a foul on the right, Green placed the ball accurately, and following a melee, new man Allen netted on his debut, giving the home side a 3-0 half-time lead.

Dunn, Goldie and Green combined well and Goldie dribbled up to the goal-line and put in a cross where Robinson and Allen were waiting. Whitehouse got there first, however, and kicked the ball into his own net.

The final four goals were scored in the last ten minutes. The deluge commenced when Dunn set Coley away, and after beating Harris, the winger centred for Robinson to shoot, but Wilkinson saved. Dunn was following up, however, and shot home powerfully. The movement for goal number six was started by Green, who found Goldie with a first-time pass. The centre-forward easily beat the goalkeeper.

A brilliant run almost from the half-way line, saw Allen outstrip his opponents, and send in a beautiful ground shot, which Wilkinson scooped away, but only as far as Coley, who scored with a terrific drive from 20 yards. Allen rounded off a more than satisfactory debut by notching the eighth goal, darting past the defence and shooting into the net.

There were enthusiastic scenes as the goals were piled on in the closing stages, and the cry of "One-two-three-four-five, etc., was heard for the first time for many a long day.

## **Kidderminster Harriers v Nuneaton Town 25-02-1922**

**Kidderminster: Coley; A. Taylor and Gibbs; Edwards, Parkes and Lyons; Reynolds, Osborne, Watkins, Lamb and C. Taylor.**

**Nuneaton: Clements; Roberts and Smith; Green, Homer and Mann; Coley, Dunn, Goldie, Allen and Robinson.**

Nuneaton visited Kidderminster for a Birmingham League encounter. The home side had recently endured some financial embarrassments and due to the fact that they had to cut wages, they had lost three of their star performers to other clubs.

The Aggborough ground is of a classic description, level and set amidst picturesque surroundings. Set high up on a hill overlooking a valley, it had one drawback on Saturday, it offered encouragement to a terrific gale which persisted throughout the match.

Nuneaton's shooting in the first half was poor by comparison to recent matches and they barely raised half-a-dozen decent efforts throughout the first period. Two deserve mention — Goldie and Dunn put in terrific drives, which caught the wind and travelled at terrific pace. On both occasions Coley tipped over the bar. Harriers had another narrow escape when Coley dropped the ball after stopping a shot, but Goldie shot wide of a gaping net. The centre-forward also shot wide when well-placed, whilst Homer shot over the bar.

Nuneaton did virtually all the attacking in the first half, and it was not until the final minute that Clements touched the ball.

Crossing over on level terms, Harriers fans may have seen the result as a foregone conclusion, but in fact Nuneaton played better against the wind in the first half. The Harriers goal had a couple of lucky escapes. Once Dunn beat the goalkeeper and shot into the net, but the referee Mr. Latham (an ex-Nuneaton goalkeeper) had already blown for offside.

A little later Dunn sent in a brilliant shot which crashed against the crossbar and bounced out with Coley helpless. Dunn also put in a "daisy-cutter" which Coley saved at the foot of the post and scooped along the goal-line. Dunn gained possession and centred for Robinson to head goalwards, but Coley sprang across and saved in remarkable style.

Kidderminster also had their fair share of attacks and Roberts and Smith were kept busy, while Clements had to display his agility. Kidderminster's direct style gave Nuneaton some anxiety and Clements had to save several shots, although he almost conceded when misjudging a long shot, which he allowed to go over his head and bounce just wide.

Only two or three minutes remained when Kidderminster scored the only goal of the game. Watkins picked up the ball from a clearance, and had a clear field. Smith ran across, but hesitated and Watkins dribbled past him and put in a shot that Clements scooped away, but it went to Osborne, who rushed up and shot into the net, the ball going over the prone body of Clements. Nuneaton tried desperately hard to equalise but time was against them.



## Nuneaton Town v Redditch 04-03-1922

**Nuneaton:** Clements; Roberts and Smith; Green, Homer and Mann; Coley, Dunn, Goldie, Allen and Robinson.

**Redditch:** Bishop; Mumford and Chamberlain; S. Smith, Phillips and L. Smith; Wild, Rogers, Haycock, Duggins and Taylor.

Nuneaton entertained Redditch at Manor Park in a Birmingham League fixture.

Duggins almost broke through for Redditch in the first minute, but Roberts proved a stumbling block. Nuneaton got on the attack straightaway and after skilful play by Green, who centred perfectly, Goldie shot and as the ball rolled over the line Robinson ran in to make sure, but the goal was awarded to Goldie. This was two minutes from the start, and seven minutes later Dunn worked an opening and shot. Bishop saved, but the ball rebounded to Allen, who headed into the net.

A minute later, Goldie, receiving from Dunn made a fine solo run and scored Nuneaton's third goal with a great shot. The result looked to have already been decided and it was now only the size of the victory to be determined. Throughout the first-half Nuneaton continued to dominate the game, and except for some clever, but spasmodic efforts by Redditch, the home side were consistently on the attack.

The Redditch goal had some narrow escapes and Bishop and Chamberlain were prominent in defence. Such relentless pressure, however, was bound to tell and tricky play and a good centre from Robinson saw the visitors' defence in a tangle and Dunn scored a fourth, which was the score at the break.

The second half was a replica of the first, and except for a brief period Redditch never seriously troubled the Nuneaton defence. A run by Coley was the prelude to Nuneaton's fifth goal, Goldie meeting the winger's centre and scoring. A little later a melee in the Redditch goalmouth resulted in Goldie heading the ball into the net for the sixth goal, while a few moments later Coley was responsible for the most spectacular movement of the game and the best goal.

Receiving the ball near the half-way line, he careered towards the goal at great speed, beat two defenders en route, and cutting in towards goal concluded by scoring with a low fast shot. Redditch then scored their only goal. Nuneaton's defence were out of position when Duggins received the ball and with only Clements to beat, he had an easy task to steer the ball into the net.

Nuneaton scored soon after when Roberts took a free-kick and the ball cannoned off a defender. Roberts fastened on to the rebound and scored with a powerful drive. The crowd shouted enthusiastically for a record score and it seemed odds-on that they would respond. Great shots were put in by Homer, Green, Dunn, Goldie and Allen, but not one found its target. The Redditch goal escaped in wonderful fashion and Nuneaton did not score again, so both team and spectators had to be satisfied with the eight goals.

## Walsall v Nuneaton Town 09-03-1922

**Walsall:** Merrick; Webster and Timmins; Groves, Jackson and Wilson; Bowyer, Franklin, Reid, Butler and Spence.

**Nuneaton:** Clements; Taylor and Smith; Green, Homer and Mann; Coley, Dunn, Goldie, Kendrick and Robinson.

Nuneaton Town made a Thursday afternoon excursion to Fellows Park, Walsall to face the home team in a Birmingham Senior Cup 5th Round tie. A small group of Nuneaton supporters who had travelled by bus and train formed part of the crowd of about 500. Walsall were taking no risks and fielded their full Third Division side for the tie.

Nuneaton pressed from the kick-off and Merrick handled Robinson's centre well, with Dunn waiting to pounce. Merrick was kept busy and was called on to save from Robinson again, this time at the expense of a fruitless corner. Homer shot wide from a free-kick and Goldie had hard luck when he grazed the crossbar.

Butler shot wide for the home side and later Clements punched clear from a dangerous centre by Bowyer. A beautiful combination move by Nuneaton put the Walsall defence in a quandary and Kendrick scored a brilliant goal after 13 minutes to put the visitors ahead. It was a fitting reward.

Hardly had the home crowd recovered before Goldie scored again, following Dunn's pass. Merrick saved well from Kendrick as Nuneaton pressed continuously and the home side had another narrow escape. From a corner kick, Reid headed Walsall's first goal, and the home team livened up.

Merrick saved the Walsall goal time and again, and had to scoop out a shot from Robinson. Reid looked dangerous, but shot wide and Green performed a similar feat at the other end. Walsall had improved by this time, but they had another narrow escape when Goldie shot over following a clever run and centre by Robinson. At half time Nuneaton led 2-1.

Soon after the restart Walsall began to play in determined fashion and Clements had to save. Spence and Butler were showing up well, but Bowyer was the real danger and he forced Clements into another save. Nuneaton retaliated through Robinson, whose centre was cleared.

Walsall pressed strongly and Franklin equalised following good work from Spence. Merrick had to save from Coley soon afterwards before Bowyer shot wide as Walsall strived to gain the upper hand and Nuneaton's defence was kept busy. Despite this Nuneaton hit back again and Kendrick scored following a cross from Coley. Franklin equalised for Walsall a minute later.

The closing stages of the game were fraught with the greatest excitement and both goals had narrow escapes in turn. Once Merrick saved luckily from Coley and Clements saved from Franklin and Reid. Both team made a spirited effort to get the winning goal, but both teams were frustrated in this respect. Clements made a marvellous save from Reid in the last minute.





## Tamworth Castle v Nuneaton Town 11-03-1922

**Tamworth:** Nicholls; Evans and Morris; Shyatt, Noutt and Dunn; Pearsall, Spittle, Nock, Joyce and Poynton.

**Nuneaton:** .Clements; Roberts and Smith; Green, Homer and Mann; Coley, Kendrick, Goldie, Robinson and Allen.

The fact that football enthusiasm is still very much alive in Nuneaton was emphasised on Saturday by the fact that about 2,000 supporters followed the premier town team to Tamworth. The L and NW Railway did a roaring business, too roaring in fact, for the unfortunate people who had to travel 18 or 20 to a carriage.

Nuneaton settled down far quicker than Tamworth and scored the opening goal after just 10 minutes play. Homer started the move by passing to Allen, who moved the ball on to Goldie. The centre-forward combined well with Kendrick, which culminated with Kendrick shooting past Nicholls for the first goal. A number of runs by Coley put the Tamworth goal under pressure, while Goldie and Kendrick made several thrusts that may have been successful.

Tamworth's defence was kept busy and their goal had a number of narrow escapes. It was only on rare occasions that Clements was tested. Just before the interval, Nuneaton scored their second goal when Robinson put in an accurate corner and Homer headed the ball to Kendrick, who in turn headed it into the goal. Nicholls got a hand to the ball, but could not stop it going in. The score was 2-0 at the break.

Tamworth improved in the second half, but Nuneaton's lead was never in any real danger. Early in the second half Goldie netted, but the whistle had already gone for offside. Nock had a chance for the home side, but Roberts took the ball off his toe. Pointon had a couple of good efforts, shooting over the bar on one occasion and having a shot saved by Clements on another. The game deteriorated towards the end and hardly anything of interest occurred.

## Nuneaton Town v Kidderminster Harriers 18-03-1922

**Nuneaton:** Clements; Roberts and Smith; Green, Homer and Mann; Coley, Dunn, Goldie, Kendrick and Robinson.

**Kidderminster:** Coley; A. Taylor and Gibbs; Edwards, Parkes and Lyons; Osborne, Turner, Watkins, Hussey and C. Taylor.

There was an improved attendance for the Birmingham League game against Kidderminster Harriers.

The first action of the match saw Goldie head Robinson's cross against the crossbar, and a little later a move by Harriers' forwards had the Nuneaton defence guessing and Hussey crashed in a great shot, which appeared to be going in, but Clements pulled off a fantastic save. Nuneaton retaliated and Kendrick got Robinson away. The winger tricked his opponent and centred perfectly for Dunn to score with a well-judged shot. After a spell of even play, during which both sides attacked, Nuneaton forced a corner.

The kick was well placed by Coley and Homer headed into the net. It was a delightful goal and incidentally, was Homer's first goal of the season. Two incidents stood out in play before the interval, one a magnificent save by Clements, who fielded a terrific surprise shot by Watkins in masterly style. The second was a wonderful long shot by Green, the ball being stopped at the foot of the post by Coley.

Crossing over with a two goal lead, Nuneaton were inclined to over complicate their play, but nevertheless they had plenty of chances of scoring. Once Dunn place a beautiful pass to Goldie, but the latter missed the easiest of chances by shooting over the bar.

Dunn passed up a good chance by passing when in a good position, while Goldie had a good opportunity, but shot weakly. Harriers, inspired by these escapes, improved their play, and the left wing gave a lot of trouble to Nuneaton. Eventually after a number of attacks, Hussey scored with a shot which had Clements beaten all the way.

For the following ten minutes Nuneaton had by far the worst of the exchanges and Harriers were only denied an equaliser by Nuneaton's sound defensive work, especially by Smith. Things improved for the home side when Coley made a good effort for Nuneaton, his final shot being saved. Harriers' fate was sealed when Nuneaton were awarded a penalty, which Green easily converted.

A little later a combined attack by the three inside forwards saw Dunn shoot. The Kidderminster goalkeeper only partially saved, and Goldie scored with ease, putting the ball into an open goal.

## Nuneaton Town v Walsall 23-03-1922

**Nuneaton:** Clements; Roberts and Smith; Green, Homer and Mann; Coley, Dunn, Goldie, Kendrick and Robinson.

**Walsall:** Houghton; Timmins and Mackenzie; Wilson, Groves and Leeham; Bowyer, Bowen, Reid, Butler and Spence.

Nuneaton entertained Walsall in a Birmingham Senior Cup 5th Round replay at Manor Park. When the teams entered the field, the gate numbered well over 3,000 and spectators were still rolling through the turnstiles.

The early stages promised a thrilling game and after Roberts and Green had halted the Walsall left wing, Nuneaton's right got away, but Goldie failed to intercept Coley's centre. Clements saved a good shot from Spence, while Kendrick almost made something of a miskick by Timmins. At the other end Clements was again called upon, and he punched the ball clear.

Nuneaton's defence gave way in surprising fashion, and Butler tricked Smith and passed to Reid, who shot into the net, with Clements stranded, having run out to retrieve the situation. Nuneaton tried to retaliate but Houghton saved from Goldie, while two fouls on Reid and Homer saw free kicks that came to nothing.



Houghton pushed the ball around the post for a corner, from which Homer headed over and Walsall's goal came under threat just after, when Dunn and Robinson were in good positions, but wanted too much time.

Houghton made a good save after a defensive mistake, while under pressure from three Nuneaton forwards. Walsall then came under some pressure and Robinson had several good opportunities, but he seemed a bit off-colour. Kendrick headed onto the crossbar and later had a powerful drive cannon off a defender. Nuneaton were having all the play at this stage, but the wingers were weak in centring and Nuneaton went in at the break a goal down.

Soon after the restart Reid and Butler combined nicely for Walsall and the latter scored a fine goal. A minute later Reid scored the third. Smith was at fault with both goals. This sensational start to the second half took the sting out of Nuneaton, who played like a beaten side.

At length, they gained a little confidence and Green fired in a good shot, which just missed, and an effort by Coley went close and was saved at the expense of a fruitless corner. Houghton made a marvellous save from Homer following the corner and another shot from Green went just wide. Walsall were dangerous every time they attacked and Reid scored the fourth goal after tricking two men.

Nuneaton rallied again and from a centre by Dunn the Walsall goal had a narrow escape when Robinson lifted the ball over the bar. A movement by Kendrick saw Goldie miss with a header and in the last quarter of an hour Nuneaton attacked strongly. Just before the end Houghton made a good save from Goldie. The match ended in a 4-0 win for Walsall.

## Nuneaton Town v Wednesbury Old Ath. 25-03-1922

**Nuneaton: Clements; Roberts and Smith; Green, Homer and Mann; Coley, Kendrick, Goldie, Allen and Ball.**

**Wednesbury: Crutchley; Plant and Elwell; Snead, Holling and Lockley; Manders, Gaunt, Leddington, Lavell and Noakes.**

Nuneaton welcomed a struggling Wednesbury Old Athletic side to Manor Park. The game started in a storm and ground conditions became treacherous.

The first goal of the match was scored after 15 minutes when a fine centre from Coley put the "Old Un's" in a quandry. The ball went over to the left, was returned to the centre, and Kendrick scored with a great first time shot. The second goal arrived just before the interval and was the result of a good movement. The forwards went away in a line and Kendrick passed forward for Godie to take the ball on the run and shoot into the net, giving Nuneaton a 2-0 lead at half-time.

Kendrick and Allen swapped places for the second half and both players were involved when the third goal was scored. Kendrick severely tested Crutchley, who could only partially save, and Allen had no difficulty in netting.

The Wednesbury goal underwent a constant bombardment, and it was remarkable how it escaped on several occasions with repeated scrimmages causing the crowd some amusement. The fourth goal came from a penalty after Green had made a good dribble and his centre was handled in the penalty area. Green took the kick himself and it would be no exaggeration to say that the goalkeeper never saw the ball until it was in the net.

The left-winger, Ball, paved the way for the fifth goal, Allen meeting his centre and scoring with Goldie in attendance ready to perform the feat if necessary. Coley came into the picture in the closing stages and after Crutchley had saved a fine shot by him, the winger put in a great run and centre, which Kendrick turned into the net.

## Bilston v Nuneaton Town

01-04-1922

**Bilston: Hill; Foy and Griffin; Chamberlain, Crooke and King; Newman, Cutler, Davies, Arblaster and Harrold.**

**Nuneaton: Clements; Roberts and Smith; Green, Homer and Mann; Coley, Allen, Goldie, Kendrick and Robinson.**

Nuneaton travelled to Queen Street, Bilston to face the home side in a Birmingham League fixture.

Nuneaton took the lead after about 15 minutes with a gem of a goal. Good work by Homer and Mann did the spadework before the ball was passed up to Allen, who in turn passed to Kendrick. The latter sent Robinson away and the winger tricked a defender before putting in a perfect centre. Goldie met the ball with his head and steered the ball past Hill and into the net.

The rest of the half was a catalogue of missed chances by Town. Three times in particular, Nuneaton came within an ace of scoring with the wingers putting in good crosses, but despite good attempts from Robinson and Coley, nothing came of the opportunities. A tricky run by Robinson saw him cut in towards goal at speed, and his shot hit the side net. Coley beat the backs, but had the ball taken off his toe by Hill.

Nuneaton had another good chance, but Kendrick shot wildly when in a good position, blazing his shot over the bar. Bilston were not in any way idle during this time and their forwards also had chances and Clements made a series of remarkable saves from Arblaster and Davies. For a short time the Nuneaton defence became rattled under the constant pressure.

Soon after the restart, Goldie and Allen again had very good chances, but again failed to take full advantage. Kendrick also put in a good shot, which was saved by Hill. During the last half-an-hour of the game it was a contest between the Nuneaton defence and the Bilston attack.

The home side adopted typical Black Country tactics, swinging the ball around from wing to wing, or punting the ball through the centre of the field. These tactics were executed at pace. Nuneaton's defence were magnificent in protecting their lead

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



with Roberts and Smith both kicking brilliantly. Despite the good defensive work, Clements had much to do and many difficult shots to stop. The keeper played his best game of the season and some of his saves deserved to be recorded as wonderful. He stopped shots from all quarters and angles and never stood a chance when Bilston eventually equalised with just a few minutes to go.

Bilston won a corner and a beautifully placed kick was headed home by Arblaster at lightning speed to secure a draw for the home team. At the final whistle the score was 1-1.

## Nuneaton Town v Hednesford Town 08-04-1922

**Nuneaton: Clements; Roberts and Smith; Green, Homer and Mann; Coley, Dunn, Goldie, Kendrick and Robinson.**

**Hednesford: Rostance; Garratley and Lyons; Allan, Crutchley and Birch; Harrington, Rowe, Griffiths, Whitfield and Bowers.**

Nuneaton were at full strength for the visit of Hednesford Town for a Birmingham League fixture.

Hednesford got away early on, but the home defence was solid, while at the other end Green shot over the bar and Rostance showed good judgment in running out to clear from Goldie, who had beat the defence. Soon after, following a misunderstanding by the Nuneaton backs, Griffiths got through. He took deliberate aim from a few yards, but Clements made a marvellous save at full-length.

Nuneaton then attacked repeatedly and Rostance had to punch away from Robinson, who had beaten Garratley for possession. Three of the Nuneaton forwards missed when they had no-one to beat but the keeper. Coley at this stage failed to make use of some good forward passes from Green, who was frequently applauded for his tackling.

Hednesford attacked and Smith cleared from Harrington, while Roberts put in some good defensive work when Allan was working his way through. At the other end Rostance ran out to clear from Dunn. The score at half-time was 0-0.

After the break, Nuneaton attacked immediately and Coley centred well, but Garratley cleared. From a well-placed free-kick by Green, Goldie headed goalwards, but Garratley headed away. After Goldie had been robbed once, he again secured the ball and lifted the ball over the head of the back, and the ball hit the inside of the far upright and bounced into the net, giving the home side a 1-0 lead.

A little later, from a free-kick, Green shot hard for goal. Rostance saved but Goldie shot from the rebound. The keeper was beaten and Garratley did the only thing possible and knocked it down with his hands. Green easily scored from the penalty, his shot being a powerful one.

Hednesford retaliated from a free-kick, and Bowers picked up the ball and centred for Whitfield to shoot into the net, thus reducing the lead to a single goal. The game ended in a 2-1 win for Nuneaton.

## Stafford Rangers v Nuneaton Town 15-04-1922

**Nuneaton: Clements; Roberts and Smith; Green, Homer and Mann; Coley, Dunn, Goldie, Kendrick and Robinson.**

Nuneaton travelled to Marston Road, the home of Stafford Rangers, to play a Birmingham League fixture.

Spectators at Stafford saw one of the most interesting games of the season on Saturday, though the gale robbed play of all its finer points. Rangers and Nuneaton, however, did well under the circumstances and deserved commendation for their efforts. Nuneaton proved themselves slightly the superior team, and no one would have had cause for complaint if they had carried away both points. Stafford, however, played in a determined fashion.

In the first-half Nuneaton had considerably more of the play than their opponents, yet Stafford crossed over leading by the only goal scored. Wilkes in the home goal had considerably more to do than Clements, and the interval score was far from being a true reflection of the game.

In the second-half Nuneaton equalised through Goldie, whose shot was so forceful that it dislocated the goalkeeper's finger when he attempted to stop it. Nuneaton had the balance of play, but could not secure the winning goal.

## Nuneaton Town v Willenhall 17-04-1922

**Nuneaton: Clements; Roberts and Smith; Green, Homer and Mann; Thacker, Dunn, Goldie, Kendrick and Robinson.**

**Willenhall: Humphries; Birch and Jas. Harris; Silvers, Buttery and Spencer; Cattoe, J. Harris, Lane, Needham and Herbert.**

Nuneaton welcomed prospective champions, Willenhall, to Manor Park on Easter Monday in front of the highest crowd of the season.

The game opened in sensational style when, in the first minute, Homer placed the ball forward to Kendrick, who took the ball on the run and shot into the net. Herbert then had a good chance for the visitors, but shot into the side-netting, while at the other end Kendrick nearly scored again when he burst through the Willenhall defence.

Willenhall showed some early promise and veteran Needham put in some good work, but Nuneaton's backs kicked and tackled well. Nuneaton won a free-kick following a foul on Robinson, and Goldie's shot grazed the bar. From another Nuneaton attack Dunn centred across the goalmouth and Goldie shot for goal. The ball hit the upright and in the scrimmage, a Willenhall defender handled. The ball was rushed into the net, but the referee had awarded a penalty, from which Green scored to make it 2-0.

Later on, Humphries saved well from Dunn at the expense of a corner, from which the Willenhall goal had a miraculous escape. Willenhall forced a corner, but J. Harris shot wide. A fine run by Thacker gave Goldie an opportunity and the

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



centre-forward scored easily to make the half-time score three goals to nil in favour of the home side.

Needham grazed the bar from a free-kick early in the second half, but Nuneaton retaliated through Thacker, from whose centre Kendrick nearly scored. An ugly scene developed in the goalmouth when a Willenhall defender apparently kicked Kendrick while he was on the floor. Several spectators rushed on the field, but events were eventually smoothed over. The crowd became incensed by the referee's decisions, with Nuneaton being penalised several times without cause.

The home side continued to dominate and following a sustained attack, Mann shot. A defender partially cleared, but Mann regained possession and scored Nuneaton's fourth. A minute later Dunn scored another fine goal for Nuneaton.

Unpleasant incidents followed. Green was badly fouled by Needham, who was cautioned by the referee. Green had to be carried off the field, but after about 10 minutes resumed playing. When in the act of dribbling the ball, Needham attempted to trip him right in front of the referee, who without hesitation ordered the Willenhall captain from the field.

Extraordinary excitement was generated during this period, and the cheers were renewed when Robinson scored a brilliant goal with a solo effort. Nuneaton played Willenhall to a standstill in the closing minutes and ran out 6-0 winners.

## Nuneaton Town v Worcester City 22-04-1922

**Nuneaton: Clements; Taylor and Smith; Wood, Homer and Mann; Roberts, Dunn, Goldie, Kendrick and Robinson.**

**Worcester: Greaves; Young and Bentley; Lester, McCormick and Twigg; McGregor, Holliday, Hall, Oakley and Best.**

Nuneaton faced Worcester City at Manor Park with a much-changed team. They were without Green who was involved in a representative match against Scotland in Aberdeen. Coley was injured and Thacker, who was originally selected was too ill to play.

The game opened in uninteresting fashion, with Worcester slightly the more aggressive. Clements nearly misfielded a shot following a corner, but he recovered and cleared. Nuneaton were slow getting to the attack, and the first promising move came from Kendrick and Robinson, but Greaves had little difficulty in saving.

Homer cleared from a dangerous attack by Worcester and Roberts, playing in the unaccustomed right-wing position, got in a fine centre, which resulted in Worcester's goal having a narrow escape. Hall tested Clements with a good shot before Nuneaton were awarded a free-kick. Goldie's shot was a good one, but was saved by Greaves.

Holliday shot over the bar, while at the other end the Worcester goal underwent a brief bombardment, from which they were lucky to escape. The game continued to be poor and just before the break McGregor was injured in a collision with Smith. He had to leave the field and did not come back.

In the second half, Nuneaton moved Wood to centre-forward and Goldie to right-half. Two efforts by Roberts nearly brought success, Wood heading over the bar from one cross and Greaves saving the second. Nuneaton rallied again and a run by Robinson saw Greaves run out and completely miss his kick. Kendrick followed up and shot into the open goal.

Nuneaton subsequently dominated the game for some time and Kendrick missed an open goal, shooting over the bar, while Robinson also shot wide, both efforts coming from Roberts' crosses. Mann tripped a Worcester forward in the penalty area, but Clements saved Young's shot. Straight after Nuneaton attacked and a movement in which Roberts, Wood and Dunn took part ended in Kendrick scoring a second goal.

For some time Nuneaton had the better of the game, but in the closing stages, Worcester rallied and forced three corners. From the third, Clements tried to punch clear, but missed the ball, which caught the head of Homer and went into the net. The final whistle saw Nuneaton win by 2-1.

## Stourbridge v Nuneaton Town

29-04-1922

**Nuneaton: Clements; Roberts and Smith; Green, Homer and Mann; Coley, Dunn, Goldie, Kendrick and Robinson.**

Nuneaton faced a Stourbridge side, whose record had been woeful, but new signings had reinvigorated the team and they had accumulated 17 points in their last ten matches.

The game opened in spirited fashion and both defences were tested. Most of Nuneaton's pressure came from the right and Coley got away early on and centred accurately. Kendrick and Adams raced for the ball, but Kendrick got there first and turned the ball into the net. Only a minute had elapsed before Stourbridge got an equaliser. Roberts slipped as he attempted to clear and Sharp nipped in and shot into the net.

The game was then contested at a terrific pace and both ends were subjected to strong attacks. Adams saved from Goldie, while at the other end Clements made a brilliant save at the foot of the post from Westwood. Stourbridge continued to press hard and Nuneaton's defence were often in difficulty and after four weak clearances Blakemore seized the ball at close quarters and easily scored.

Nuneaton made several attempts to cut the arrears and a good move from Dunn, Goldie and Kendrick saw the home keeper save a drive from Kendrick. At the break Nuneaton trailed by two goals to one.

Nuneaton attacked strongly after the break and Kendrick went close with a cross-shot. Stourbridge took play to the other end where Sharp had a glorious chance, but shot wide. Good play from Green, Dunn and Goldie saw the home goal come under pressure. At this time foul play became prominent and Goldie was spoken to by the referee. With 15 minutes of the second period gone Smith attempted a clearance which cannoned off an opponent and fell to Blakemore who scored easily to put Stourbridge 3-1 up.





Kendrick missed a good chance from Dunn's pass before Stourbridge returned to the attack and the visitors goal underwent a bombardment, during which Clements made several fine saves. The home goal had a lucky escape when Robinson, Kendrick, Green and Homer all had shot cannon off a defender with the keeper beaten. Adams saved a Dunn header and Goldie headed over the bar from Coley's centre.

Clements made a good save from Blakemore before Stourbridge scored their fourth goal through Westwood. Nuneaton got a second goal, the best of the match, when Coley won the ball 40 yards out and eluded two defenders before steering the ball past the oncoming Adams. A few minutes from time Bastable headed the home side's fifth goal and the match ended in a 5-2 defeat for Nuneaton.

## Nuneaton Town v Wellington Town 06-05-1922

**Nuneaton: Clements; Roberts and Smith; Green, Homer and Mann; Coley, Dunn, Goldie, Kendrick and Robinson.**

**Wellington: Hedgecox; Richards and Robinson; Dorricott, Bowen and Deakin; Sheldon, J. White, Sambrooke, E. White and King.**

Nuneaton welcome Wellington Town to Manor Park for the final match of the 1921-22 season. The game was played in front of 4,000 supporters and they could be forgiven feelings of regret that the time had come to bid a temporary farewell from King Football to its subjects.

Nuneaton were in for a shock, when after dominating the early play, they found themselves 2-0 down after 25 minutes. Sheldon, who was a prominent figure in the game, tricked both Mann and Smith and centred to Sambrooke, who headed into the net. A minute later Sambrooke scored again, this time with a hint of good fortune. King centred the ball, to Sambrooke, who was in an offside position, but the ball touched a Nuneaton defender on the way through. Sambrooke only had Clements to beat, and did so with some ease. Previous to Wellington's goals Kendrick had missed an open goal.

Not daunted by the situation, Nuneaton rallied and Goldie was tripped just outside the penalty area. Green took the kick, and a great shot saw the ball flashing under the bar, when Wellington's Robinson saved with his hands. Green took the penalty, but the ball hit the post and bounced out. Wellington's two goal lead did not hold for long, however, for a great combination between Goldie and Kendrick ended with the latter scoring a great goal with a fast oblique shot.

Subsequently the Wellington goal had a couple of wonderful escapes, and at the other end Sheldon struck the side net. A terrific shot by Green missed by inches. The half-time whistle saw Wellington leading two goals to one.

Nuneaton started the second half in confident mood and persistent pressure on the Wellington defence saw the visitors' goal fall seven minutes after the restart. A pass by Goldie gave Dunn an opening. Hedgecox stepped out and partially saved Dunn's shot, but the home captain coolly headed the ball over the goalkeeper's head and into the goal.

In the last quarter of an hour the visitors, through Sambrooke and Sheldon seemed liable to score, but their efforts were frustrated. Robinson with an individual effort, nearly beat Hedgecox and other Nuneaton forwards made desperate but unsuccessful efforts to score, as the visitors' goal seemed to have a charmed life.

The crowd cheered on the home side and were rewarded about six minutes from time. Robinson stopped a home attack by handling the ball about 40 yards from goal. Roberts took the free-kick and scored with a magnificent shot, the ball passing a few inches under the crossbar. Enthusiastic scenes followed and when the whistle blew the Nuneaton team received a great ovation.

## Green To Stay With Nuneaton Declines Move To Notts County

Nuneaton Town FC have been approached by several English League clubs with reference to the transfer of George Green, the brilliant right-half back. When it became known that Green had re-signed for Nuneaton communication was established with the Club by representatives of several clubs, and in some cases details of the proposed transfer were discussed.

At last week's meeting of the Nuneaton Town directors, representatives of Notts County were present, and after consideration Nuneaton agreed to transfer Green, provided the latter was willing, at a substantial fee. Next day, Green was interviewed, but declined to sign for Notts County, and expressed his intention of staying with Nuneaton.

## Birmingham League 1921-22

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Willenhall	34	23	7	4	86	44	53
Wellington Town	34	22	5	7	102	34	49
Hednesford Town	34	20	5	9	89	39	45
Nuneaton Town	34	19	6	9	77	47	44
Shrewsbury Town	34	14	12	8	71	54	40
Bilston United	34	17	6	11	84	68	40
Darlaston	34	15	8	11	55	36	38
Worcester City	34	14	5	15	61	61	33
Burton All Saints	34	12	9	13	42	45	33
Cannock Town	34	14	4	16	67	71	32
Stourbridge	34	11	9	14	49	62	31
Brierley Hill Alliance	34	13	5	16	48	76	31
Stafford Rangers	34	12	6	16	74	66	30
Coventry City	34	10	10	14	54	61	30
Kidderminster Harriers	34	13	2	19	40	82	28
Tamworth Castle	34	5	10	19	28	66	20
Redditch	34	7	4	23	36	78	18
Wednesbury Old Ath.	34	6	5	23	32	105	17



## A Fine Open Space for Nuneaton Nuneaton Town FC's Scheme

Big developments of the Manor Park football estate are contemplated, and when the scheme in view matures, Nuneaton will possess the finest playing fields in its history. The matter has been under consideration for a long time, and the exact details of the project could not be published until negotiations with the Nuneaton Borough Council had been concluded.

At a meeting of the Council the Highways Committee reported that they had considered a letter from the Nuneaton Town Football Club Co., Ltd., with reference to the use of land near the Manor Park ground as a tip for domestic and other refuse. The Borough Surveyor reported that the tip would provide accommodation for about 9,000 tons of domestic refuse, but that it would be necessary to continue the storm water sewer to the canal. He estimated the cost would be £460, but there would be a possible saving in haulage of this quantity of refuse equal at present prices to £685.

The Committee recommended the Council to accept the offer, and that the Corporation bear the cost of the new storm water sewer required, subject to the Company entering into an undertaking that they will provide a proper covering of soil over the refuse, and maintain the whole of the area as an open space for playing fields.

It is understood that the intention is to deposit the refuse from a point at the rear of the goalposts at the top end to a point 30 or 40 yards from Varnams Lane. This portion of land at present is a hollow, and includes a ditch. The deposit of soil and ashes will raise it to a level, and the whole area will then be returned and laid out as tennis courts and bowling greens. Possibly accommodation for other outdoor sports will also be made.

It is estimated that there will be room for about 14 tennis courts and six bowling greens. The corrugated iron fencing situated at the farm end of the football field will be moved to enclose the whole sports ground. The levelling point will be about the height of the present banking at the rear of the goal posts.

It has to be remembered that a portion of the estate is on offer to the Nuneaton Education Committee as a site for a new central school, and if this land is sold the present tennis courts would have to be given up when building commenced.

The scheme is so big that it is possible that it will be two years before the sports ground will be completed properly equipped and ready for play. However, it is the intention of the directors of the Nuneaton Club to push on with the work with all speed. Such a fine open space will be a valuable asset to Nuneaton.

## Old Triumphs Recalled

There was an atmosphere of pleasant good humour at Manor Park when the Nuneaton Town 1906-07 championship team played Nuneaton Combination officials. The match was in aid of the scheme to establish a footballer's bed in the Nuneaton General Hospital, and a fairly good crowd assembled. The teams were:

1906-07 Champions: T. A. Hilditch; L. Dale and Worthington; A. Harper, W. Ball and T. Boonham; T. Stringer, G. Moore, Slater, A Moore and B. Carris.

Nuneaton Combination: B. Jarvis; B. Gittings and T. H. Goode; A. Bickerton, J. Rourke and R. Fieldhouse; W. J. Shaw, A. Baker, F. Payne, J. E. Moore and A. Lenton.

## Players Sign for Next Season

F. G. Thacker, the clever young outside right, has again signed for Nuneaton Town. He hopes to play regularly during the coming season. George Paul has also re-signed.

## Admission Prices Reduced

The Nuneaton Town FC directors, have decided to reduce the price of admission to Birmingham League matches next season from 1s. to 9d. This decision, which has been made owing to local trade depression, will be heartily welcomed by local football enthusiasts. The admission to ground and grandstand will be 1s. 6d. — sixpence less than last season. The price for season tickets, which admit to all Birmingham and Leicestershire League matches, has been fixed at 25s.

## Prolific Goalscorer Signs for Town Club

Nuneaton football enthusiasts will be gratified to learn that Cliff Homer, last season's redoubtable centre-half, has re-signed for the Town Club. He met directors and accepted the terms offered. Satisfaction will also be felt in the fact that Mr. W. A. Thompson (secretary-manager), has been successful in securing a new centre-forward, from whom much is expected. The player in question is Babbage, who gained a wide reputation for his prolific scoring for Newhall Swifts last season. Babbage scored no less than 47 goals, and performed the hat-trick on five occasions.

The outside left position has been filled by the acquisition of Jordan, the clever outside-left of Whitwick Imperials, last season's champions of the Leicestershire Senior League. These signings are in addition to Spicer (Hinckley United), Cull (Bloxwich Strollers) and Roberts (Atherstone Town).



## Wellington Town — Extra Preliminary Round

Nuneaton faced a tough prospect in the Extra Preliminary Round of the FA Cup, facing the Birmingham League champions Wellington Town.

Nuneaton: Clements; Roberts and Paul; Dunn, Homer and Mann; Wright, Spittle, Nock, Kendrick and Knight.

Wellington: Hedgecox; Robinson and Littlewood; Thornton, Bowen and Deakin; Millington, J. White, Capewell, E. White and Sheldon.

The game was full of incident and in the early stages both goals were tested. Play had been in progress half an hour when Nuneaton scored. The forwards carried out a sweeping attack and short passes by the inside men left Kendrick with an opportunity and he promptly shot the ball into the net.

Some five minutes later Knight tricked Robinson and centred. Kendrick sent in a stinging shot which was entering the net, but was deflected into the opposite corner. The enthusiasm of the crowd at this second success knew no bounds. In this half Nuneaton had the advantage of the wind and sun and were easily the better side.

Five minutes into the second half, Town should have gone further ahead. Knight was fast and eluded all opposition, when he was tripped just outside the penalty area. The free-kick, though, came to nothing. The Wellington goal had a narrow escape when Nock ran past the backs and slipped the ball past Hedgecox, but the ball rolled just wide.

Wellington had more of the play in the second half, but it was only occasionally that the forwards showed glimpses of the cleverness which made them feared by opponents. With the Nuneaton defenders in top form, the result was never really in doubt, though Clements was called upon on several occasions to prove his worth. Shots from Millington and Bowen were ably dealt with, but the most thrilling save of all was from Capewell. A long

shot from Bowen struck the crossbar and rebounded to the feet of Capewell, who steered the ball towards the far corner. It was big odds on a goal, but Clements dived full length and turned the ball round the post. The closing exchanges of the game were fairly even, but Town deserved their victory.

For Wellington the most prominent players were Littlewood, Deakin, Bowen, Millington and Sheldon, though the latter two wingers were never really allowed to show their best talents.

Nuneaton backs were magnificent and Roberts gave a fine display, while Paul came out of a trying ordeal with every credit and played a really excellent game. Given a continuation of such form his place should be assured.

The half-backs were excellent and Dunn's form was wonderful. For the whole 90 minutes he was as virile as any player on the field and his creation of attacks were suggestive of a genius at the game. Homer was a man transformed by comparison to his previous displays and Mann's first appearance in the team showed how serious had been his absence. In craft and ability he excelled and the effective manner in which he shadowed Millington was one reason for the visitors' disorganisation.

The surprise of the game was the display of Knight, and the elusiveness of this midget had a vital effect on the story of the game. He only came into the side because of Wootton's injury, but fully justified his selection, and his tricky antics, besides furnishing the crowd with delight, proved disconcerting to the visitors' defenders. Thornton and Robinson, both of big physique, found themselves chasing a will-o'-th'-wisp they never caught.

## Redditch— Preliminary Round

Redditch had won the right to play Nuneaton by defeating Kidderminster Harriers in the Extra Preliminary Round of the FA Cup.

Nuneaton: Clements; Roberts and Paul; Green, Homer and Mann; Coley, Spittle, Goldie, Kendrick and Wootton.

Redditch: Sedgeley; Mumford and Chamberlain; Hackett, Willets and Thompson; Wild, Greaves, Marshall, Lane and Bate.

Nuneaton dominated the match and put in shots too numerous to mention. At times Nuneaton's attacks developed into a regular bombardment. Redditch were seldom dangerous and their early efforts flattered only to deceive.

The game was only ten minutes old when Wootton sent in a perfect centre, which was headed towards goal by Goldie. Apparently the ball was entering the net, but Spittle got the last touch and credit for the goal.

Nuneaton's second goal was a fortunate one in some respects, as Kendrick appeared to head the ball out for a goal-kick, but the referee decided that it struck a visiting defender and awarded a corner. From Wootton's flag kick, the ball was headed into the net by Goldie. At the break Nuneaton had a 2-0 lead.

In the second half, Nuneaton easily had the measure of their opponents, and after many good attempts, two more goals were added. Good work by Wootton ended with a fine centre, which allowed Spittle to score from a narrow angle.

Later, Coley careered down the wing, bore in, and centred to Kendrick, who promptly shot into the net. This was the best goal of the game, the whole movement being well constructed. At the final whistle Nuneaton were winners by four goals to nil.

Nuneaton had been by far the better side with Clements enjoying an easy afternoon in goal, being well covered by Roberts and Paul, with the former, deputising as captain in Dunn's absence, giving a peerless display. Paul got caught too far forward at times, but he gave general satisfaction and kicked a good length.





Homer gave a masterly performance and Mann's display was without flaw. Green, who came into the side because of Dunn's enforced absence, was outstanding. The youngster has a fine physique and should develop into a top player. He certainly excelled in his first appearance in the team.

The forwards gave, for the first time, proof of collective power as well as individual merit. There was less solo work and more combination. Wootton was in brilliant form, and three of the four goals were due to his preliminary play. His centres were beautifully timed and placed. Kendrick was as industrious as ever, and a hard grafter. Goldie revealed his true form at centre-forward. Quicker in movement than previously, more effective in ball control, and ever-ready to shoot.

## Talbot Stead— 1st Qualifying Round

Nuneaton played host to Talbot Stead of the Birmingham Combination in the 1st Qualifying Round of the FA Cup.

Nuneaton: Clements; Roberts and Taylor; Green, Homer and Morris; Coley, Spittle, Goldie, Kendrick and Wootton.

Talbot Stead: W. Clarke; Groves and Hough; Cooper, Turner and Smith; Fellows, Lane, Cotterill, Henshall and B. Clarke.

Nuneaton as a team were completely off form, and in the first half their play was really poor. Whether they lacked the ability to overcome the conditions or whether they regarded their opponents as probable easy victims is a matter for conjecture. At any rate, they had little cause for self-congratulation at the end of the game, beyond the fact that they had won.

Nuneaton were awarded an early penalty for handball, which was converted by Kendrick. This may have lulled the team into a false sense of confidence, which was soon dispelled. When Talbot Stead realised their opponents' weaknesses they played much better, and overall they were the better side.

The second half witnessed an improvement in Nuneaton's form, but they never reached a high mark of excellence, and the visitors had their share of the attack. The visitors pursued the struggle with energy and determination, and after about 15 minutes play equalised by means of a penalty. Cotterill was making for goal when Taylor brought him down in a totally unnecessary fashion.

Lane took the kick, and although Clements made a good attempt at saving, he could not prevent the ball from going into the net.

Nuneaton, realising they had put themselves in danger of losing, mounted several attacks that came to nothing. Then came the one redeeming feature of the game, a piece of beautiful combination, which deserved the goal that crowned its conclusion.

Nuneaton pushed forward down the right and Coley passed to Spittle, who passed on to Goldie. The centre-forward might have broke through, but he unselfishly passed to Kendrick, who side-stepped the right back and steered the ball into the net.

At this stage it looked as though Nuneaton might score again, and Goldie made a couple of good headed attempts from Coley's crosses. Talbot Stead occasionally mounted attacks, but Clements proved to be safe.

### Edward "Ted" Hough

Edward Hough, who played for Birmingham Works team Talbot Stead in the FA Cup 1st Qualifying Round game at Manor Park, joined Southampton shortly after that game.

A Southampton director was sent up to the Midlands to get his signature, and Talbot Stead agreed to release him if the Southampton director bought a round of drinks.

Eventually, after buying 52 pints of beer, the contract was signed and Hough joined the Saints

## Wellington St. George's — 2nd Qualifying Round

Nuneaton travelled to Walsall League side Wellington St. Georges, confident of victory given their opponents' lowly status.

Nuneaton: Clements; Roberts and Paul; Green, Homer and Mann; Coley, Spittle, Goldie, Kendrick and Wootton.

Rain fell in torrents and a bitterly cold wind chilled to the bone. The heavy rain had drenched the players before the game kicked off and the surface was treacherous.

The game opened sensationally when Nuneaton scored without an opponent touching the ball. Goldie kicked off and passed to Spittle, who gave to Green. The latter placed to Coley, who centred for Goldie to score easily. Five minutes later the home side were level when Roberts missed his tackle and Pickering centred to Jenkins, who shot home the equaliser.

A minute later an attack on the left saw Roberts mis-kick and after Clements had partially saved, Picken gave St George's the lead. There then followed a regrettable incident when Kendrick was kicked in the stomach by Turley and jumped up as if to strike the player, but refrained. The referee promptly ordered Turley from the field, who went only after some persuasion.

This was the prelude to some rough tactics and both players and supporters lost their heads for some time. Just before the interval Roden got away on the right and although Clements came out to meet him, he got there too late and the shot rolled into the net. Roberts' attempts to stop the ball were in vain and Clements was injured in trying to save and was crippled for the rest of the game.

Nuneaton had more of the play in the second half and some good scoring chances were missed, including one chance where Goldie robbed Spittle as he was about to shoot. Homer grazed the upright with a header and Kendrick



was tripped when almost a certain scorer, just outside the penalty area. A fine centre from Coley was headed into the net by Kendrick, but the referee gave Goldie offside.

After resisting Nuneaton's attacks, the Dragons raced away and scored through Pickering. Shortly afterwards Nuneaton indulged in a good bout of passing, and Kendrick reduced his side's arrears. Then Spittle missed a good chance from Wootton's centre and thus vanished Nuneaton's last chance of saving the game.

A goal at this stage might have made all

the difference. St. George's struggled to the end and under the circumstances deserved their victory.

There was a hardly a player on the Nuneaton side who justified his reputation. Paul was the better of two moderate backs. For the first twenty minutes Roberts and Paul were very weak, and though they improved somewhat they never gave confidence.

There was a degeneration in play after Turley was sent off. The home spectators roared their derision, and pandemonium was let loose. It was a perfectly just decision, and the official

would have been lacking in his duties had he simply issued a warning. Whether the attitude of the crowd affected the referee thereafter is a matter for conjecture, but he certainly allowed the game to get out of hand.

Rough and shady tactics were employed by St. George's without concealment. Kendrick was the chief object of their attentions, but Mann and several other Town players received tangible proof of the opponents' vigour. In the second half several Nuneaton players retaliated and the ball became secondary to the attention paid to the man.



## Nuneaton Town 1921-22

Back row: W. A. Thompson (kitman), Jack Mann, Dickie Roberts, Clements, Freddy Payne, Smith, ---, Billy Holmes (trainer)

Middle row: Mr Alec Goldie, W. Spittle, Jimmy Nock, Bill Kendrick, Foster Robinson, Freddy Harbour.

Front row: George Green, Cliff Homer, Emmin Dunn



## Birmingham League: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1921-22

Date	Opposition	Competition	Venue	Score	Scorers
Aug. 27	Coventry City Reserves	League	Away	1-5	Goldie
Sept. 3	Darlaston	League	Home	2-1	Spittle, Kendrick (pen)
10	Wellington Town	FA Cup Ex. Prelim.	Home	2-0	Kendrick (2)
17	Cannock Town	League	Home	2-0	Spittle, Kendrick
24	Redditch	FA Cup Prelim.	Home	4-0	Goldie (2), Coley, Kendrick
26	Atherstone Town	NCC S-F	Home	3-0	Spittle, Goldie, Kendrick
Oct. 1	Shrewsbury Town	League	Home	2-2	Kendrick (2)
3	English League XI	Testimonial*	Home	1-3	Own Goal
8	Talbot Stead	FA Cup 1Q	Home	2-1	Kendrick (2, 1 pen)
15	Brierley Hill Alliance	League	Away	0-0	
17	Hinckley United	NCC Final	Home	3-2	Kendrick (2, 1 pen), Spittle
22	Wellington St. George	FA Cup 2Q	Away	2-4	Goldie, Kendrick
29	Redditch	League	Away	2-0	Spittle, Goldie
Nov. 5	Tamworth Castle	League	Home	1-0	Booton
12	Wednesbury Old Athletic	League	Away	1-1	Riley
19	Bilston United	League	Home	2-3	Goldie, Riley
26	Hednesford	League	Away	0-2	
Dec. 3	Stafford Rangers	League	Home	2-1	Dunn, Booton
10	Worcester City	League	Away	0-2	
17	Stourbridge	League	Home	4-0	Kendrick (2), Green, Robinson
24	Burton All Saints	League	Away	1-1	Nock
26	Willenhall	League	Away	2-3	Nock (2)
27	Burton All Saints	League	Home	1-0	Green (pen)
31	Wellington Town	League	Away	1-5	Kendrick (pen)
Jan. 7	Coventry City Reserves	League	Home	1-0	Kendrick
14	Darlaston	League	Away	0-2	
21	Cradley Heath	BSC3	Home	5-1	Goldie (3), Kendrick (pen), Dunn
28	Cannock Town	League	Away	4-3	Dunn (2), Goldie (2)
Feb. 11	Shrewsbury Town	League	Away	3-1	Goldie, Kendrick, Robinson
16	Coventry City Reserves	BSC4	Home	2-1	Booton, Goldie
18	Brierley Hill Alliance	League	Home	8-0	Goldie (2), Dunn (2), Allen (2), Coley, Whitehouse
25	Kidderminster Harriers	League	Away	0-1	
March 4	Redditch	League	Home	8-1	Goldie (4), Allen, Dunn, Coley, Roberts
	Walsall	BSC5	Away	3-3	Kendrick (2), Goldie
11	Tamworth Caste	League	Away	2-0	Kendrick (2)
18	Kidderminster Harriers	League	Home	4-1	Dunn, Goldie, Homer, Green (pen)
23	Walsall	BSC5 Replay	Home	0-4	
25	Wednesbury Old Athletic	League	Home	6-0	Kendrick (2), Allen (2), Goldie, Green (pen)
April 1	Bilston United	League	Away	1-1	Goldie
8	Hednesford Town	League	Home	2-1	Goldie, Green (pen)
15	Stafford Rangers	League	Away	1-1	Goldie
17	Willenhall	League	Home	6-0	Goldie, Kendrick, Dunn, Robinson, Mann, Green (pen)
22	Worcester City	League	Home	2-1	Kendrick (2)
29	Stourbridge	League	Away	2-5	Kendrick, Coley
May 6	Wellington Town	League	Home	3-2	Kendrick, Dunn, Roberts

Legend: \*Emmin Dunn Testimonial. BSC=Birmingham Senior Cup. NCC=Nuneaton Charity Cup

Nuneaton Scores First



## Town Admitted to Leicestershire League

Nuneaton Town have been elected to the Leicestershire Senior League by the narrowest margin possible. Had the application failed there would have been little chance of running a reserve team as the club had resigned from the Walsall Senior League.

Nuneaton lies on the extreme border of the Walsall catchment area and membership has been an expensive failure. The standard of football was fairly good, but the matches were not sufficiently attractive to cover the cost.

## Five Free Season Tickets for Manor Park

Knowing the keen interest with which our readers follow the doings of the Nuneaton Town Club, the "Observer" offers five free Season Tickets for the Season 1922-23 to the five readers who forecast the actual official attendance figures for the Nuneaton Town v Atherstone Town match on Monday, August 29th, at Manor Park.

In the event of no readers forecasting the actual figure, the free season tickets will be awarded to the five readers who are nearest, either above or under.

All estimates must be made on coupons cut from the "Observer" and readers sending in more than one coupon are asked to wait and sent them all in one envelope at the finish.

Envelopes containing entries must be addressed "Season Competition," "Observer" Office, Bond Gate, Nuneaton.

Employees of Nuneaton Observer Limited are debarred from entering this Competition.

The Editor's decision on all points connected with this competition is final. The first Coupon appears below:

### NUNEATON OBSERVER

FRIDAY, AUGUST 4

I estimate that the official attendance at the match between Nuneaton Town and Atherstone Town on August 29th will be

.....

Name .....

Address .....

.....

## FA Cup Draw

All local clubs have been drawn away and Nuneaton Town will travel to face Coalville Town. Should they win, they will play the winners of the Hinckley United v Ashby Town tie, again away from home.

## Players' Wages Cost £3,000

The annual report and balance sheet of Nuneaton Town Association Football Club has just been published and issued to the shareholders. From a financial standpoint the season was one of the worst in the history of the club, the Income and Expenditure Account showing an adverse balance of £795 2s. 5d. The directors in their report state that this loss is entirely accounted for by the serious falling off in gate receipts, due to depressed trade conditions.

Two of the directors, Mr. T. Daffern and Mr. C. Thomas, retire and offer themselves for re-election. A vacancy occurs on the board through the retirement of the Mayor, Alderman W. French.

## Nuneaton Town Sign New Goalkeeper

After considerable negotiation Nuneaton Town FC have secured the signature of J. Merrick, goalkeeper, who last season played for Walsall in the Third Division. Mr. W. A. Thompson completed the deal on Saturday evening.

Merrick, though still on the right side of 30, is a player with considerable experience. Before joining Walsall he played for Birmingham, and previous to his sojourn with that club he was custodian for Queen's Park Rangers, for whom he gave a great exhibition in an FA Cup tie at Villa Park. He should prove a tower of strength for Nuneaton.

## Trial Matches

The first trial match was quite a good display considering the adverse weather conditions, and the officials were able to see quite clearly where the weak points are likely to be. Maybe not one of the new players made a spectacular bow before the Nuneaton crowd, but they put in some good sound work which suggested better things to come.

Much interest was shown in Babbage, the centre-forward from Newhall Swifts. He is not too well blessed with physique, but he suggested the "live-wire" type of player with a mind concentrated on getting goals. Unfortunately, Nuneaton will be without his services for the first two weeks of the season, due to a ban by the FA.

Other new players who gave satisfaction were Merrick (goalkeeper from Walsall), who made some good saves; Roberts (Atherstone Town), and Jordan (Whitwick Imperial), who should make a strong left wing, and Spicer (inside-right, Hinckley United); Robinson (inside-left from Bournville), Cull (Bloxwich Strollers) and P. Jones (a right-half from the Tamworth district) and Bishton (goalkeeper).

Old favourites Dunn, Green, Homer, Mann and Smith were accorded a hearty reception. The game ended in a 2-2 draw.

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



The second trial match was attended by 1,500 spectators and was a much better match, mainly due to the more favourable weather conditions. Merrick, the Stripes goalkeeper, gave another sound display and was applauded for one particularly fine save. Dunn equalised Riley's opener for the Stripes and at half-time the score was 1-1.

After the break Riley restored Stripes' lead and although the Reds made vain attempts to equalise, Riley went on to add two more to his account. Merrick showed up well towards the close with a series of good saves.

Excellent form was shown by the players and the game strengthened the view that Nuneaton have two excellent sides in prospect.

## 1922-23

### Worcester City v Nuneaton Town 26-08-1922

**Worcester:** Crutchley; Young and Bentley; Lester, Gwilt and Twigg; Oakley, Parsonage, Hall, Morgan and Best.

**Nuneaton:** Merrick; Evans and Smith; Green, Homer and Dunn; Coley, Cull, Goldie, Roberts and Jordan.

Nuneaton opened their 1922-23 Birmingham League campaign with a visit to St. George's Lane, Worcester.

Worcester City took the lead after 15 minutes. Best was the instigator of the movement. He rounded Green and centred accurately. Evans attempted to clear, but the ball bounced up and cannoned off his body to Hall, who standing unmarked, had the simplest of chances to direct the ball into the net.

For a time, Worcester had much the better of the argument and Merrick and Smith were prominent in defence. Nuneaton, though, eventually asserted themselves and they might have equalised following good work by Coley, but he shot over the bar. Roberts also grazed the crossbar with a sharp drive.

Nuneaton resumed after the break in a business-like fashion and the equalising goal, ten minutes into the half, was well deserved. Tricky work by Roberts enabled him to beat two opponents and make a forward oblique pass. Cull took the ball on the run, ran past the backs and scored with a good shot. After equalising, Nuneaton had several chances to win the match, and on one occasion Jordan and Roberts got in each others way when either could have scored.

Goldie came near to a goal following a cross from Coley and Dunn hit the side net with a drive, while a succession of shots in quick succession imposed a severe strain on the City defence. Worcester were not altogether idle and on one occasion, after Merrick had run out of goal to save, Morgan had a glorious opportunity, but hesitated and when he shot into the unattended goal, Green ran across to clear. The second half produced a much greater amount of interesting play than the first.

Given the misfortune with suspension and injury, Babbage

servicing an F.A. ban and Mann being unfit to play, Nuneaton performed quite well. They had by far the greater amount of attacking play, and it was only indecisive work in front of goal that robbed them of victory.

### Nuneaton Town v Atherstone Town 28-08-1922

**Nuneaton:** Merrick; Taylor and Smith; Green, Homer and Spellman; Coley, Dunn, Spicer, Roberts and Jordan.

**Atherstone:** Briggs; Powell and Littlewood; Hewitt, Patchett and Punshan; Pearsall, Thornton, Withnell, Calcott and Saunders.

Nuneaton met Atherstone Town in the semi-final of the Nuneaton Charity Cup at Manor Park. There was an attendance of 2,853.

Nuneaton won the toss and were the first to attack, a good move ending in Briggs having to save Roberts' header. Jordan and Roberts put in some good work and Spicer almost broke through. Calcott put a good run in for "Adders", but the move ended with Thornton shooting wide. Nuneaton forced three abortive corners before Briggs had to save from Spicer.

After Taylor had stemmed an Atherstone sortie, Dunn set Coley going with a fine pass and Briggs had to save from Coley's centre. Dunn and Coley then engaged in a great passing movement, which ended when Spicer received the ball and scored with a fine low shot. Atherstone had to defend again when Briggs had to clear smartly. Taylor and Merrick got themselves in a tangle, almost allowing Withnell in.

Green conceded a free-kick and Merrick had to make a good save from Littlewood's shot before an electrifying run by Coley ended with Atherstone conceding a corner. Dunn grazed the bar from the flag kick with a beautiful first-time shot.

Atherstone started to assert themselves with Calcott and Saunders proving troublesome to the Nuneaton defence. Then Pearsall careered along the touchline and tested Merrick, who saved well. The keeper was cheered a few moments later for smartly extricating himself from a ruck of Atherstone players. Later on Atherstone were dangerous on a number of occasions and played well in forcing Nuneaton back.

Nuneaton returned to the attack and a thrilling run by Coley, who travelled at an amazing pace, saw Briggs make a brilliant save at the expense of an unproductive corner. A few moments later Dunn hit the crossbar with a magnificent shot. Play was fast and interesting and was easily the best exhibition seen between Atherstone and Nuneaton since pre-war days. At the whistle for half-time Nuneaton led 1-0.

The game had barely been re-started 10 minutes when, following a throw-in, Dunn and Spicer combined in some neat play, leaving Roberts with an open goal. He made no mistake and had the satisfaction of scoring against his old team.

Nuneaton had a goal disallowed for offside before they attacked again and Briggs ran out, but was dispossessed by Dunn, who ran on to score the third goal. Shortly after the



# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



“Adders” goal had another escape when Briggs made another wonderful save from Homer’s header following a corner. Roberts shot over the bar with an open goal. Atherstone got to the other end and a centre by Pearsall tested Merrick. Clever passing by Dunn and Spicer saw the latter test Briggs, who saved, but Roberts netted the rebound.

The ex-Atherstone player completed a hat-trick by scoring Nuneaton’s fifth goal and Jordan added a sixth. Nuneaton were irresistible in the second half and only sterling defensive work prevented a rout. Calcott scored for Atherstone from a penalty in the last minute.

## Nuneaton Town v Stafford Rangers 02-09-1922

**Nuneaton: Merrick; Taylor and Smith; Green, Homer and Mann; Coley, Dunn, Goldie, Cull and Jordan.**

**Stafford: Wilkes; Ellis and Thomas; Taylor, Lovibund and Timmins; Cooper, Talbot, Pearce, Vaughan and Noakes.**

There was a large crowd at Manor Park to welcome the visit of Stafford Rangers in a Birmingham League fixture.

Immediately following the kick-off, Mann gained possession and passed to Jordan. The latter rounded the opposition and centred accurately. Cull missed an opportunity, but Dunn made no mistake when the ball went his way and he scored within half a minute from the start. It was the result of a great movement. This sensational opening made subsequent events appear tame, and some dull play was witnessed.

Rangers’ forwards were often threatening and it was only superb goalkeeping by Merrick which kept them out. During one melee Merrick saved a number of times in daring fashion. Just before the interval Nuneaton attacked and when Dunn was manoeuvring for shooting position, he was tripped in the penalty area. Green took the resultant kick and easily scored.

Crossing over with a two goal lead, Nuneaton were not long in adding a third. This was primarily due to a great effort by Cull, who careered along the touch line, controlling the ball with head and feet, and finally centring across the goalmouth. Goldie was ready at hand and he easily beat Wilkes. For a time Nuneaton played some good football and might easily have added to their score, with Wilkes saving on several occasions. On one occasion Dunn was dribbling through the defence when the referee gave Goldie offside.

Towards the close Stafford attacked strongly and the Nuneaton defence had an anxious time. After Merrick had made several saves he gave the Rangers their solitary goal. An excellently placed corner by Cooper saw the goalkeeper attempt to punch clear, but the ball hit the inside of the upright and went over the line. The last action of the game saw Vaughan shoot over the bar, and at the final whistle Nuneaton were winners by three goals to one.

Both teams had played a part in making the game less interesting that it may have been. Stafford adopted the one back game early on and Nuneaton followed suit.

## Burton All Saints v Nuneaton Town 09-09-1922

**Burton: Maskrey; Kersey and Langley; Wright, Russell and Harris; Woodhead, Cannell, Keetley, Bromage and Macdonald.**

**Nuneaton: Merrick; Taylor and Smith; Green, Homer and Mann; Coley, Spicer, Babbage, Goldie and Jordan.**

Nuneaton travelled to Burton for a Birmingham League fixture with Burton All Saints.

Burton started at a fast pace and did not employ much in the way of tactics, but instead hit the ball first time down the centre and quickly thrust forward in following up. This tactic was not particularly successful and in fact Merrick was only seriously tested once, and that was in the first few minutes.

Burton’s rampaging style took a toll on their energy levels and by the time Nuneaton began to dictate the game, Burton were a spent force. Half an hour had gone before Nuneaton began to reassure their few followers that all was well. They began to beat back the Burton attacks and found time to initiate efforts of their own. At this important point of the game, Nuneaton notched the only goal of the game.

Nuneaton were awarded a free-kick near the touchline about 20 yards from goal. Jordan took the kick, which was partially cleared. All danger to the Burton goal seemed averted, but the unexpected happened. Green fastened on to the ball, and from about 30 yards range sent in a terrific shot. Maskrey fielded the ball at the foot of the post, but the velocity of the shot was too much for him, and the ball twisted out of his hands and into the net. The goal was scored eight minutes before the interval, and after the goal Nuneaton never looked back.

The most thrilling incident in the second half also had Maskrey and Green as the two chief antagonists. Goldie was dribbling towards goal, when he was fouled in the penalty area. Green took the penalty kick and put in a stinging shot, but Maskrey’s fist suddenly darted out and the ball soared high over the bar. It was a great save.

Burton made a few attacks later in the game, but Nuneaton’s victory appeared certain and as the game wore on Burton became demoralised. They gave possession to the visitors time and again and the only surprise was that despite Nuneaton continuous attack, no more goals were scored

Maskrey, the ex-Derby keeper is still a powerful asset and but for his excellence, Burton’s defeat would have been greater.

## Nuneaton Town v Tamworth Castle 12-09-1922

**Nuneaton: Merrick; Taylor and Paul; Green, Homer and Spellman; Coley, Dunn, Spicer, Roberts and Jordan.**

**Tamworth: Clements; Batham and Fletcher; L. Jones, Black and Hackett; Harrison, Watts, W. Hill, Abbott and Dewsbury.**

The final of the Nuneaton Charity Cup was played last evening on Manor Park before an attendance of about 2,000.

In the first minute Coley was set going, and from his centre

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



Homer sent in a fine shot which Clements saved, clearing at the second attempt. Merrick had to field a shot from Tamworth before Spellman sent Jordan away, but the winger muddled his chance. Coley put in a good centre, but Spicer and Roberts had an open goal, but got in each other's way.

Clements made several good saves as Nuneaton attacked strongly, before a miskick by Taylor let in Tamworth, but the back recovered and passed the ball back to Merrick, who cleared. Spicer and Roberts again got in each other's way, before a good centre by Dewsbury put Nuneaton's goal under threat, but the backs cleared. With around 18 minutes gone, Coley and Dunn indulged in some clever play, and from Dunn's pass, Spicer had little difficulty in scoring, placing the ball well out of the reach of Clements

Dunn gained possession following a Tamworth raid, tricked two opponents, and sent in a shot which went just over the bar. Clements punched away a centre from Coley before Spicer sent in a surprise shot which went just wide. Tamworth were struggling to get into the game, but after a scrimmage developed, Watts headed over the bar. Spicer shot weakly after clever play by Spellman, and Clements saved from Roberts. Following a corner Homer headed wide. Jordan had several opportunities of getting away but was robbed by Jones.

A clever individual effort by Roberts, who responded to advice by Dunn ended in the inside-left scoring a fine goal. This was just before the break and made the score 2-0.

The first incident of the second half saw a scrimmage develop in the Tamworth goalmouth following two centres by Green. The danger was eventually relieved by Clements, who saved a shot by Roberts. The Tamworth goal had three narrow escapes in as many minutes. Once the ball hovered on the goal-line when Clements was out, having charged down a shot by Spicer, but a Tamworth back cleared in the nick of time.

One of Green's specials was punched over the bar by Clements, who was later brought to his knees by the same player. Tamworth then exerted some pressure on the Nuneaton goal, but Merrick was equal to the one or two moments of pressure. Castle attacked again and after Merrick had pushed away a shot, Abbott dashed up and headed into the net.

Tamworth's goal had a wonderful escape when Clements made a great save from Roberts and Spicer shot over an open goal. Tamworth did all the attacking towards the end, but Nuneaton held out to win 2-1.

## Nuneaton Town v Burton All Saints 16-09-1922

**Nuneaton:** Merrick; Taylor and Smith; Green, Homer and Mann; Coley, Dunn, Babbage, Goldie and Jordan.

**Burton:** Maskrey; Barbour and Langley; Wright, Harrop and Harris; Woodhead, George, Russell, Bromage and Macdonald.

Burton All Saints were visitors to Manor Park for a Birmingham League game. Nuneaton had won the away fixture at Burton the previous week.

Nuneaton took the lead after just eight minutes when Babbage and Dunn combined well in a move that saw the ball passed and repassed down the centre of the field. A deft touch by Babbage gave Dunn an opening and he scored with ease. Nuneaton followed up their early success with other strong attacks with both inside men and Green testing Maskrey.

Burton had their share of attacking move and the Nuneaton goal came under threat on several occasions. Merrick had to make good saves from a Harrop free-kick and a stinging shot from Bromage. The latter also crashed a drive against the post.

A few minutes before the break Homer created an opening for Babbage, who proceeded to trick Barbour and score a beautiful goal, while under pressure from a defender. At the break Nuneaton led by 2-0.

Both sides exhibited some nice passing manoeuvres at the start of the second half, but Nuneaton extended their lead when Goldie dispossessed Harrop and passed to Babbage, whose shot cannoned off Maskrey and fell to Dunn, who headed into an empty goal. Soon after, Town broke up a Burton raid and Goldie and Jordan combined well and the winger's shot was saved by Maskrey at the foot of the post.

There was some thrilling play when Russell put in a shot that hit the crossbar and bounced out, enabling Nuneaton to get away and Dunn's shot hit the bar. Coley had a shot saved by Maskrey, but before the keeper could clear, Babbage dashed in and scored the home team's fourth goal. Soon after Babbage was involved in a collision and carried off the field unconscious.

Burton pulled a goal back when Woodhead sent over a good centre. Merrick failed to collect and Bromage turned the ball into the net. Taylor and Green both failed in trying to stop the ball going into the net.

Nuneaton hit back almost immediately, Goldie scoring with a good shot after Wright had miskicked. Burton made a strong attack on Nuneaton's goal, which the home team cleared with some difficulty. Babbage returned to the field and the Burton goal withstood a strong bombardment, in which Jordan, Goldie and Babbage took part. The upright stopped one shot from the centre-forward.

Nuneaton forced a corner which was taken by Jordan and Homer scored with a fine header. Harris scored for the visitors in the last minute to make the final score 6-2 to Nuneaton.

## Nuneaton Town v Wellington Town 30-09-1922

**Nuneaton:** Merrick; Taylor and Smith; Green, Homer and Mann; Coley, Dunn, Babbage, Goldie and Ison.

**Wellington:** Hedgecox; Robinson and Shore; Dorricott, Bowen and Birch; Corkindale, Cutler, Griffiths, Brookes and King.

Nuneaton welcomed Wellington Town to Manor Park for a Birmingham League fixture. Games between the two clubs were traditionally entertaining affairs.

The game opened in exciting fashion, when a move by the

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



home side's right wing ended with Green sending in a terrific shot which struck the inside of the post and cannoned out, with Hedgecox helpless. Wellington hit back and shots from Brookes and Bowen forced Merrick into good saves. Ison was to the fore with several good centres, and one effort was the prelude to an exciting struggle in the visitors' goalmouth.

Dunn created a good opening for Coley, but the winger wanted too much time and was robbed and Wellington raced clear. The move ended with Cutler being provided with a good chance, but Merrick made a great save. Nuneaton broke the deadlock after 35 minutes, following a brilliant combination. Homer gained possession in midfield and passed forward to Babbage. The latter gave to Dunn, who returned the ball to the centre-forward, and Homer completed the move he had started by scoring a great goal. Wellington's defence was all at sea.

Nuneaton set up a prolonged assault on the Wellington goal and with a little more composure, would have extended their lead. Babbage shot over the bar and Green had a low drive luckily turned aside by Robinson, while Hedgecox made a number of fine saves. At the other end Merrick saved a shot from Corkindale at the foot of the post. Coley made a good run and fired into the side netting before the interval arrived, when Nuneaton were leading by a single goal.

The second half was largely a story of golden chances missed by Nuneaton. A good run and centre by Coley ended in Goldie missing an open goal. The inside-left, receiving from Mann, subsequently aimed hard and true, but Hedgecox saved. Babbage was placed in a good position by Dunn, but shot wide.

Wellington had the occasional attack, but the home defence stood firm. Merrick punched out an awkward centre by King and also saved from Cutler at close range. Nuneaton attacked again and Babbage had a shot stopped by Hedgecox, while Dunn shot over from a Goldie cross.

The visitors' goal then underwent a remarkable escape when Dunn beat the Wellington defence and slipped the ball past Hedgecox as he ran out. Both Goldie and Babbage were following up, but neither player could get a final touch in front of an open goal. Babbage's hesitation allowed Dorricott to clear. Homer hit the crossbar with a great drive and both sides pressed towards the end of the game, but there was no further scoring and Nuneaton triumphed by a goal to nil.

Reports on the FA Cup ties appear on later pages.

## Nuneaton Town v Stourbridge 14-10-1922

**Nuneaton:** Merrick; Taylor and Smith; Green, Homer and Mann; Coley, Dunn, Babbage, Goldie and Ison.

**Stourbridge:** Adams; Tyler and Bough; H. Smith, White and Probert; Thorne, C. Smith, Guest, Longford and Gill.

Nuneaton entertained Stourbridge in a Birmingham League match at Manor Park. The visitors' chances were dealt a severe blow when they lost their goalkeeper just before half-

time following a collision between Adams and Goldie. Dr. Bradbury, who was a spectator at the game, examined Adams and found that he was suffering from concussion and unfit to take any further part in the match. Goldie was able to resume.

It was not until the last minute of the first half that Nuneaton notched their first goal. Ison put across a splendid cross, which Babbage met and shot for goal. Adams punched the ball to the feet of Dunn, who shot well into the net.

About 10 minutes after the break, Ison put in a good run and centred perfectly to Babbage, who had little difficulty in scoring. A little later Coley scored the best goal of the match. Winning possession near the half way line, he beat his man and made tracks for goal, and despite being severely hampered he shot into the net.

This was followed by a brilliant goal by Goldie. After a fine run, he shot from well outside the penalty area and beat Bough with a great shot. Nuneaton continued to attack, but no further goals were scored.

## Nuneaton Town v Bilston United 28-10-1922

**Nuneaton:** Merrick; Taylor and Smith; Green, Homer and Mann; Coley, Dunn, Babbage, Goldie and Spellman.

**Bilston:** Nicholls; Foy and Carter; Humpage, Crooke and King; Newman, Phillips, Woodall, Arblaster and Harrold.

Nuneaton welcome Bilston United to Manor Park. The game turned out to be a game of contrasts, consisting of a first half of open attacking play, and a second half, in which the visitors employed the one back game.

Nuneaton were first to show, but both Dunn and Spellman put the ball wide, while at the other end Town's defence let in Phillips, but Merrick made a great save. Humpage had to be carried off through injury, but Bilston attacked and Newman missed an open goal, while Nicholls was forced to make a good save from Spellman. A minute later Nicholls had to save again from Babbage.

At the other end, Merrick pulled off a brilliant save from Newman. Goldie made a brilliant run and was tripped, but to everyone's surprise the referee did not award a penalty. Nicholls made a lucky save from Goldie's close range shot, before Humpage, who had just returned to the field, had to be carried off again, as the Bilston goal came under siege.

Nuneaton scored the first goal, following a good move in which Spellman smartly tricked a defender and centred. Dunn trapped the ball and beat Nicholls with a fast ground shot. Babbage just failed to convert a Spellman centre, while Dunn also went close with a good shot that grazed the bar. Just on half-time Spellman shot and Nicholls pushed the ball out to the feet of Goldie, who shot promptly into the net. At the break Nuneaton led 2-0.

In the first minute of the second half, Coley got away and centred for Babbage to turn the ball inches wide of the upright. Goldie headed against the upright, while Babbage



received a pass from Dunn, slipped past the backs and was making for goal with only Nicholls to beat, but fell at the crucial moment, and missed a golden opportunity. A great centre by Dunn left Godie with an open goal, but after working himself into position, Goldie shot wide.

Bilston, who were playing the one back game, attacked through Arblaster, who made a splendid run for the visitors, and he narrowly missed with a shot which struck the upright. Nuneaton attacked and Goldie missed the ball completely with only Nicholls to beat from a pass by Coley. Babbage then missed an open goal. A brilliant Nuneaton movement saw Carter make a very lucky clearance, while Nicholls had to run out to save from Babbage.

Coley made a good run and centred to Dunn, who in turn passed to Babbage, and although he was severely hampered, he scored Nuneaton's third goal. Though repeatedly caught offside, Nuneaton had all the play, but no further goals were scored and the game ended in a 3-0 win for the home side.

## Nuneaton Town v Darlaston 11-11-1922

**Nuneaton: Merrick; Green and Smith; Jones, Homer and Mann; Coley, Dunn, Babbage, Goldie and Ison.**

**Darlaston: Waite; Hadley and Davis; E. Butler, Skitt and Phillips; Roberts, Worrall, Cashmore, T. Butler and Rickuss.**

Darlaston visited Manor Park for a Birmingham League game, in which the spectators were treated to a display of spectacular misses and poor forward play.

Nuneaton almost got through in the first minute of the game, but a timely clearance by Skitt saved the visitors' goal. At the other end Green cleared from Roberts. Ison attempted to break through, but was halted and forced to pass to Goldie, who shot wide. After just five minutes of play, Nuneaton scored. A corner was won, which resulted in a scrimmage in the Darlaston goalmouth. When the ball was cleared to Mann, he shot from about 20 yards and scored a great goal, the ball entering the right-hand top corner of the net, giving Waite no chance.

Babbage was pulled up for offside before T. Butler shot wide for the visitors. Waite had to run out to halt Mann, who had tricked the Darlaston defence, while Merrick saved at the foot of the post from T. Butler. Ison set Goldie away, and the latter centred for Babbage, who headed into Waite's hands. The keeper also had to make a fine save following a surprise shot from Babbage.

Goldie missed an open goal, before Dunn failed to convert Coley's fast centre. Goldie got through Darlaston's defence and with just Waite to beat from four yards out, inexplicably put a weak shot straight into the keeper's hands. Despite having a host of chances and all the play, Nuneaton led by a single goal at half-time.

In the first few minutes of the second half Goldie missed an open goal from a pass by Dunn, and shortly after Dunn missed another glorious chance from Ison's pass. Rickuss

then got away for Darlaston and passed to Butler, who in turn passed to Cashmore, but the latter failed with his shot. The visitors were giving an improved display and only a great save by Merrick from Cashmore prevented them from scoring.

Ison flashed a brilliant centre across to Dunn, who missed an absolute sitter in front of an open goal, simply walking the ball up to Waite and hitting it straight at him. Glorious chances were being missed by the home side, and Babbage, with Waite nowhere to be seen, hit a shot wide of the post. Towards the end of the game, Darlaston had the better of the play and only a brilliant save from Merrick prevented an equaliser.

Nuneaton's defence held out to the end, but the team might easily have paid for the weak shooting of their forwards.

## Nuneaton Town v Shrewsbury 18-11-1922

**Nuneaton: Merrick; Taylor and Smith; Green, Homer and Mann; Coley, Dunn, Babbage, Goldie and Ison.**

**Shrewsbury: Causer; Sheldon and Edwards; Gascoyne, Crutchley and Hatton; Gibson, Bowyer, Elvidge, Taylor and Rogers.**

Nuneaton met Shrewsbury Town at Manor Park in a game that turned out to be of the highest quality. A visiting scout said that Nuneaton would have beaten most Third Division teams on that performance.

Shrewsbury won the toss, and in the first minute Hatton initiated a clever attack which terminated in Elvidge shooting wide. Dunn got Nuneaton away and Goldie and Babbage both got shots in, with Causer just scrambling away the latter's shot. Shrewsbury netted at the other end, but a free-kick had already been given for handball.

Nuneaton returned to the attack and Sheldon had to clear with Causer beaten and a minute later Babbage just failed to convert a pass from Coley. Smith relieved with a good tackle and clearance when Shrewsbury pressed. Nuneaton gradually began to assert themselves, especially down the right wing and Sheldon again had to clear. Causer made a great save, pushing Dunn's shot round the post for a corner, from which Homer headed over.

After 35 minutes' play Ison forced another corner for Nuneaton, and put in an excellent cross. Causer touched the ball, but could not clear, and the ball went to Green, who cleverly hooked the ball to Coley, who touched into the net. Play, which had been fast and exciting from the start, continued in the same vein. Shrewsbury tried hard to draw level, and Taylor had a good opportunity, but hooked the ball over the bar from Gibson's centre.

Later, Nuneaton's Taylor took the ball off his namesake's toe when the latter had an open goal. Nuneaton went close on another couple of occasions, but when the half-time whistle sounded, Nuneaton led 1-0.

Immediately on resuming Nuneaton were awarded a free-kick just outside the penalty area, but Green shot wide. Sheldon at



# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



this stage was prominent in repelling several Nuneaton attacks by good tackling, while Causer effected a clever clearance from Goldie's header. A miskick by Taylor let in Elvidge, but Merrick dashed out of goal and made a daring save, which resulted in both players needing attention from the trainers.

Nuneaton attacked and a good centre from Ison left Babbage with a clear field. Causer dashed out and the centre-forward, in trying to steer the ball into the net, shot the wrong side of the post. Babbage also grazed the crossbar with a first-time drive. At the other end Merrick made a great save from Gibson.

The game continued to be contested at a great pace, and both sides put in every ounce of their strength and ability. About 10 minutes from time Nuneaton set up a determined attack and Causer had to handle. Before he could clear he was charged over and he dropped the ball. Babbage dashed up and scored. Causer was severely injured in the scrimmage and had to be carried off unconscious.

After this goal, against which the Shrewsbury players vainly protested the game subsided somewhat, although Nuneaton held the upper hand. Though they pressed strongly, they did not succeed in adding to their lead.

## Cannock Town v Nuneaton Town 25-11-1922

**Cannock:** A. W. Smith; Jayes and J. Smith; J. Walker, Skidmore and H. Whitehouse; Corbett, Wells, Whitehouse, Morris and Clare.

**Nuneaton:** Merrick; Taylor and Smith; Green, Homer and Mann; Coley, Dunn, Babbage, Goldie and Ison.

Nuneaton travelled to Cannock Town for a Birmingham League fixture.

The first half was strikingly devoid of incident, and play was moderate. Nuneaton had the first two real opportunities of scoring. On the first occasion a run and centre by Ison gave Dunn a fine opening, but he hooked the ball over the bar with only the goalkeeper to beat. Goldie also had a good chance, but sent the ball high over the bar.

Cannock swung the ball about and repeatedly attacked by this means. Merrick had a busy time, but he saved many shots in wonderful style. About five minutes from the interval he was beaten by Whitehouse, who sent in a crashing shot from close range.

In the second half Cannock were dangerous early on and Merrick punched out following a free-kick from close range. Babbage spoiled two moves by being caught offside and later made a valliant attempt to break through, but was fouled. Green struck a terrific shot against the upright. Cannock broke away and Merrick made a fine save, but was injured in doing so, but recovered after treatment.

Nuneaton attacked and were unlucky following a scrimmage, with the home goal having a narrow escape. Goldie and Babbage combined well and won a corner from which keeper Smith made a fluky clearance. Goldie shot just wide with a hard drive and Babbage tested Smith with a beauty.

Nuneaton had been the better team in the second half and had all the play, but Cannock added to their lead when they were awarded a free-kick following a trip by Babbage. Wells centred to Whitehouse, who rushed the ball into the net.

Coley made a fine individual run, but his final shot was saved by Smith. The referee made some peculiar decisions, and try as they might Nuneaton could not get a goal. A centre by Coley had the home defence in difficulties, and two shots cannoned off a defender. A third attempt was finely saved by Smith. In the closing stages Cannock resorted to kicking-out tactics.

## Nuneaton Town v Redditch 02-12-1922

**Nuneaton:** Manning; Taylor and Smith; Wood, Homer and Mann; Coley, Liggins, Green, Goldie and Ison.

**Redditch:** Croft; Plant and Chamberlain; Bradley, Smith and Russell; Parttridge, Blakemore, Newall, Morrall and Taylor.

Nuneaton welcome Redditch Town to Manor Park for a game which turned out to have many thrills and much excitement. Featuring for Redditch was George Morrell, who had been in Nuneaton's championship winning side of 1914-15.

Nuneaton attacked straight from the kick-off, but Bradley cleared. The home side were soon on the attack again, however, and Ison and Goldie combined well. The latter passed to Liggins, who shot wildly over the bar. Green made some good passes out to the wing, and from one of these Coley gained possession and centred accurately and for some minutes the ball was in the vicinity of the Redditch goal.

At the other end Taylor headed away from Partridge, after the latter had tricked Smith. Liggins spoilt a promising Nuneaton movement by handling. Redditch attacked, and after Manning had saved a shot from Blakemore, Taylor in attempting to clear put through his own goal. A few minutes later Manning saved well from Partridge.

Nuneaton attacked and Goldie sent in a good shot which Croft saved. A minute later Liggins centred and Green sent in a shot which had the goalkeeper beat all the way and made the scores equal at 1-1. Taylor made a great tackle, but Redditch persisted and following a corner, Partridge crashed the ball into the net to restore the visitors' lead.

Two minutes later, Nuneaton hit back and Ison centred, and Chamberlain in attempting to clear kicked the ball into his own net. Green put in a powerful shot which Crofts saved with some difficulty before Redditch broke away and Morrell, with Homer at his heels and Taylor and Smith closing in, passed to Taylor, who sent in a long shot which Smith helped into the net when trying to clear. Manning midjudged the ball by running out too soon. At the break Redditch had a 3-2 lead.

Nuneaton attacked as if they meant business after the break, and following good work by Goldie, Ison was left with a possible chance of equalising, but his shot was just the wrong side of the post. Coley forced a Redditch defender to kick out of play, before Manning made a good clearance after Morrell had

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



got away on his own. A fine dropping shot by Liggins caused Croft problems, and a minute later Wood put a shot just wide.

Nuneaton forced two corners in succession and Redditch's goal came under severe pressure, during which a fine shot by Mann was well saved by Croft. After 25 minutes Nuneaton again forced two corners and from the second Croft headed a brilliant goal amidst great excitement. Redditch were being completely outplayed at this stage, and Nuneaton were spurred on by the crowd.

So intense was the pressure on Redditch's goal that the visitors' defenders were constantly miskicking. With an attempt to stave off defeat Redditch packed their goalmouth, but this encouraged Nuneaton and with five minutes to go, Nuneaton full-back Smith put in a terrific shot from his own half and scored. Nuneaton thus won 4-3, with the game ending in unprecedented excitement.

## Tamworth Castle v Nuneaton Town 09-12-1922

**Tamworth:** Clements; Morris and Fletcher; Hackett, Black and Abbott; Roberts, Summers, Wimbush, Coulson and Dewesbury.

**Nuneaton:** Merrick; Taylor and Smith; Jones, Homer, Mann; Coley, Liggins, Green, Goldie and Ison.

Nuneaton travelled to the Jolly Sailor to take on Tamworth Castle in a Birmingham Senior Cup 3rd Round tie.

Nuneaton won the toss and early on a free kick awarded against Jones threatened danger, but came to nothing. The home side attacked and a centre by Dewesbury dropped right in the goalmouth. Merrick attempted to punch the ball clear, but only partially succeeded and the ball went to the feet of Summers, who had little difficulty in giving Tamworth the lead after two minutes' play.

Green was caught offside before Clements had to run out to clear from the same player. Dewesbury got away for Tamworth, but Taylor cleverly intervened and set his forwards going with a huge kick. Coley had a chance, but wanted too much time and was hustled off the ball. Taylor intercepted a clever right-wing movement, and a minute later he cleared from Summers.

Both Ison and Coley made good runs on the wings, but their final efforts lacked direction. Homer was in collision with Coulson, the latter being carried off. Homer put in a long shot which Black headed away. Roberts centred behind after a good run, while Taylor came into prominence with several good clearances. Green received the ball from Coley and put in a fierce shot which struck a defender and went behind. At the other end Merrick cleared from a bunch of players, whilst in the next minute Taylor headed from under the bar following a shot by Roberts. Coley put a nice cross in, but Green headed yards wide. At the break Town were losing 1-0.

Nuneaton were the first to become dangerous on resuming and from a pass by Ison, Liggins failed to score with an open goal. Town were awarded a free-kick, but Smith shot wide.

Mann also shot wide from a good position. Goldie made a good run and gave to Green, who from only a few yards' range hit the outer side of the upright. Nuneaton were awarded a free-kick, which was well placed by Jones, with the result that Coley just had to head into the net.

Nuneaton were dominant and a combined effort in which all the forwards took part, ended with Green crashing the ball into the net, only to be given offside. At the other end Jones kicked away from Summers. After good work by Liggins, Coley centred to Mann, who headed wide of the post. Tamworth attacked, and Merrick brought off a splendid save at the foot of the post, while at the other end Goldie was just wide with a fast shot.

Nuneaton pressed right up to the end, winning several corners. Clements was forced to save on more than one occasion, one of them a superb one-handed save.

## Nuneaton Town v Tamworth Castle 14-12-1922

**Nuneaton:** Merrick; Taylor and Smith; Jones, Homer and Mann; Coley, Dunn, Green, Goldie and Ison.

**Tamworth:** Clements; Hart and Fletcher; Hackett, Mason and Abbott; Morrison, Cook, Wimbush, Adams and Dewesbury.

Nuneaton entertained Tamworth Castle in a replayed Birmingham Senior Cup 3rd Round tie, which took place on a Thursday afternoon in front of about 1,000 spectators.

Nuneaton pressed early in the game and Clements had to run out to kick away from Green. A good pass by Green set Coley going and from the movement, Hackett nearly put through his own goal. Wimbush made an individual run, but Taylor forced him to shoot wide. Nuneaton again attacked and Green headed over from Ison's centre. Jones hit the upright with a sharp drive and Green shot wide from long range.

Nuneaton were by far the better of the two sides, but Wimbush was dangerous for the visitors on occasion and on one occasion he tricked Taylor and centred to Adams who caused Merrick to save. Coley got away following Green's long pass, but the centre was dealt with by Clements. Later Green received the ball from Dunn and crashed a shot into the side netting.

Coley made the best of the opportunities he got, despite the close attention of Abbott, and on one occasion he sent in a long shot which struck the underneath of the crossbar and bounced out. Clements was forced to handle from Homer following a corner. The crowd roared when Fletcher missed his kick and Green ran forward and sent in a shot that travelled over the bar at the speed of a cannonball.

Merrick saved from Dewesbury before Nuneaton launched a bombardment on the Tamworth goal. One effort was magnificent and Clements dived full length to save a ground shot from Green. A little later both Green and Goldie had bad luck, while Clements smartly fielded a shot by Dunn. When the half-time whistle sounded, no goals had been scored.

Green almost got through straight after the break, but Clements came to the rescue of his side. Good work by Jones



enabled Dunn to put Coley on the move, but Hart intervened. Mann was responsible for a clever dribble and after beating three players he was tripped in the penalty area. Green scored from the penalty kick with a terrific shot. Two minutes later Coley centred and Green scored the second goal from an awkward angle. Clements touched the ball, but was beaten by the pace.

Goldie missed an open goal and just after Green fired in another one of his specials which struck Clements on the knees and bounced clear. Tamworth made breakaways through Morrison and Dewesbury, but their final efforts lacked direction. Nuneaton swarmed to the attack again and the Castle goal had a remarkable escape during a scrimmage, while Clements had to punch away just after. Nuneaton then extended their lead when Goldie headed home the third goal. Nuneaton indulged in some fancy play before the final whistle, which saw the home side win 3-0.

## Nuneaton Town v Brierley Hill Alliance 16-12-1922

**Nuneaton:** Merrick; Taylor and Smith; Green, Homer and Mann; Coley, Dunn, Hawkes, Goldie and Ison.  
**Brierley Hill:** Finch; Wardle and Gibbs; S. Harper, Turner and Parkes; Simcock, Roberts, Pearson, Cope and G. Harper.

Brierley Hill Alliance were welcomed to Manor Park for a Birmingham League game.

The most remarkable feature of the game was not the magnitude of Nuneaton's win, but the fact that they did not win by a greater margin. Had Nuneaton scored 15 goals, it would not have been a surprise. In addition to the nine goals that were scored, Green had a penalty saved by Finch. Moreover, the Brierley Hill goalkeeper gave a wonderful exhibition throughout.

The game itself required little description, being totally one-sided. Five minutes after the start Nuneaton were awarded a penalty, but Finch made a superb save from Green's shot. In the second half, in particular, the Alliance goal was subjected to a practically continuous siege, and the whole of the Nuneaton forwards and half-back joined in the attempt to score more goals. Nuneaton tried hard to get the tenth goal, but time ran out.

The goals were scored thus:

- 7 minutes — Nuneaton 1, Brierley Hill 0 (Ison)
- 16 minutes - Nuneaton 2, Brierley Hill 0 (Green)
- 22 minutes — Nuneaton 3, Brierley Hill 0 (Hawkes)
- 25 minutes — Nuneaton 4, Brierley Hill 0 (Goldie)
- 35 minutes — Nuneaton 4, Brierley Hill 1 (Harper)
- 40 minutes — Nuneaton 4, Brierley Hill 2 (Roberts)
- 46 minutes — Nuneaton 5, Brierley Hill 2 (Hawkes)
- 65 minutes — Nuneaton 6, Brierley Hill 2 (Dunn)
- 75 minutes — Nuneaton 7, Brierley Hill 2 (Goldie)
- 85 minutes — Nuneaton 8, Brierley Hill 2 (Goldie)
- 87 minutes — Nuneaton 9, Brierley Hill 2 (Hawkes)

## Nuneaton Town v Worcester City 23-12-1922

**Nuneaton:** Merrick; Taylor and Smith; Green, Homer and Mann; Coley, Dunn, Hawkes, Goldie and Ison.  
**Worcester:** Crutchley; Oakley and Bentley; Lester, Wilson and Wilt; Smith, Holliday, Griffiths, Parsonage and Best.

Though there was a strange absence of thrills in the game, there were glimpses of good football, and the City proved a resolute side. In the first half they defied Nuneaton's attempts to penetrate their defence and when the interval had arrived no goals had been scored. Play had been fairly even, though Nuneaton had done most of the attacking despite the fact that Worcester had the advantage of the wind.

Nuneaton restarted in determined style and after the visitors' goal had luckily survived an attack by the left wing, success came as a result of a well developed movement. Hawkes received a pass, bore towards goal and sent in a fine low shot. Crutchley touched the ball, but it appeared to be rolling over the line when Dunn dashed up and made sure.

About twenty minutes later, clever play by Mann saw him centre accurately to Dunn, who trapped the ball and scored with an excellent shot. Nuneaton monopolised the play and after Homer had missed with two attempts he scored Nuneaton's third goal with a clever hook shot following a corner.

Nuneaton were much the superior team though they had to fight hard for victory. Had the right wing received more attention in the second half they could have won more handsomely.

Nuneaton's half-backs again gave a rousing game with Mann being especially brilliant, though Homer and Green were not far behind.

## Stafford Rangers v Nuneaton Town 30-12-1922

**Stafford:** Vaughan; Key and Leach; Timms, Lovibund and Baugh; Cooper, Blunt, Pearce, Vaughan and Noakes.  
**Nuneaton:** Merrick; Taylor and Smith; Green, Homer and Mann; Coley, Dunn, Hawkes, Goldie and Ison.

Nuneaton visited Marston Road for a Birmingham League fixture.

Nuneaton were first to show and Ison got away and put in a good centre to Hawkes, who took the ball to within 3-4 yards of the goal before shooting yards wide in feeble fashion. A little later Goldie's shot was saved by Vaughan, who later saved well from Green and Coley. Stafford had the occasional attack and inside-left Vaughan allowed a good chance to slip away. Merrick made a good save at full length before Ison shot poorly with the goal unguarded.

Rangers made a breakaway and scored after 20 minutes. Taylor was out-manoeuvred and Smith slipped when attempting to tackle, leaving Blunt to steer the ball into the net. After going behind Nuneaton regained control of the match and Vaughan made several good saves. Eventually

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



Nuneaton equalised in peculiar fashion. After a defensive mistake, Hawkes put in an oblique shot which Vaughan stopped. Apparently the ball had crossed the line, though the referee did not rule so. The goalkeeper himself, however, settled all argument by throwing the ball into his own net.

Two minutes later Goldie gave Nuneaton the lead, meeting a centre from Coley and heading into the net. Ison almost added a third with a good shot, and just prior to the interval Hawkes and Goldie got through, the latter's shot hitting the underside of the crossbar. At the break, Nuneaton led 2-1.

After the break Rangers pressed and Pearce shot inches over the bar before Nuneaton retaliated and Goldie found a centre by Green too hard to control. For some time the home team pressed hard and Merrick had to be alert to save from Vaughan. A shot by Pearce went wide before Goldie broke away and looked likely to score, but his shot was saved by Vaughan.

Fifteen minutes into the second half Stafford equalised when they were awarded a free-kick on the edge of the area and Lovibund scored with a great shot that gave Merrick no chance. Play became very exciting and Nuneaton attacked with a splendid movement, and from Ison's centre, Dunn put in a shot which Vaughan saved at the expense of a corner, from which Hawkes narrowly missed with a first-time drive.

Stafford retaliated and Merrick was enticed out of his goal to deal with a cross from Cooper. Before he could get back Noakes shot, but the ball cannoned away off Taylor giving Nuneaton a lucky escape. Vaughan saved from Goldie at the other end, but Noakes received the ball in an offside position, and was allowed to go on with Taylor in pursuit. The Town back caught him on the edge of the area and brought him down, a penalty being awarded from which Cooper scored.

Nuneaton seemed destined for defeat, but they made a valiant attempt for an equaliser, and succeeded when a move by the inside men left Goldie in position. The inside-left tricked two Stafford defenders and shot into the corner of the net for an equaliser with the best goal of the match. Ison had a chance in the last minute, but centred instead of shooting and the game ended all square at 3-3.

## Nuneaton Town v Wednesbury Old Ath. 06-01-1923

**Nuneaton:** Merrick; Taylor and Smith; Green, Homer and Mann; Coley, Dunn, Hawkes, Goldie and Ison.

**Wednesbury:** Russell; Doughty and Elwell; Morris, Griffiths and Lockley; Goodack, Pearce, Lavill, Coghlin and Wardle.

The visit of Wednesbury Old Athletic to Manor Park saw the home side miss two penalties.

Dunn won the toss and set Wednesbury to face the sun. Nuneaton attacked first, but Goldie was stopped by Doughty, who set Lavill away. The latter transferred to Wardle, who centred to Coghlin, whose shot was blocked by Smith. Hawkes shot wide at the other end, while another Nuneaton attack saw Ison centre perfectly, forcing Doughty to concede a corner.

Coley placed the ball nicely into the area where Dunn put the ball into the net for the opening goal, with six minutes gone.

Ison failed to make the best of a great pass from Goldie before Nuneaton mounted an attack that saw an exciting tussle in the visitors' goalmouth. Goldie put in a good shot that Russell failed to hold, the ball going out for a corner. Hawkes made a clever dribble and was fouled by Griffiths in the penalty area, but Russell saved Green's shot in style. A minute later Hawkes got clean through, but shot straight at Russell from a few yards out.

Goodack got away for the visitors and sent in a good centre, but Merrick made a good save. At the other end Russell made two fine saves from Mann and Hawkes in quick succession and some time later made a fine clearance from Coley. Nuneaton had dominated the play, but at half-time only led 1-0.

The first minute after the break, Nuneaton had a good chance, but Coley centred weakly and the ball was cleared. Hawkes and Dunn failed to get on the end of Ison's fast centre and Wednesbury attacked and Lavill equalised following Goodack's centre. Both Merrick and Taylor attempted to clear at the same time and the visitors' centre-forward headed into an empty goal.

Dunn shot wide and a few minutes later Hawkes restored Nuneaton's lead following Green's centre. From this point the game increased in interest and a magnificent run by Coley, during which he had a great race with Griffiths, ended in Goldie not being able to control the resulting centre. Taylor brought a Wednesbury attack to a halt, as did Smith just after and Coley got away and centred for Goldie, who missed a good chance.

A Wednesbury defender stopped Dunn's shot with his back, while Goldie was a little wide with a terrific shot. Coley got away again and centred to Goldie, who shot wide with only Russell to beat. Town were in complete control and in the last minute Ison centred to Goldie, who headed to Hawkes, who in turn headed into the net. Straight from the kick-off, Nuneaton attacked again and were awarded a penalty for a trip on Goldie, but Russell made a good save from Mann's shot.

## Wednesbury Old Ath. v Nuneaton Town 13-01-1923

**Wednesbury:** Russell; Doughty and Elwell; Morris, Griffiths and Lockley; Goodrick, Pearce, Lavill, Coghlin and Wardle.

**Nuneaton:** Merrick; Taylor and Smith; Green, Homer and Mann; Coley, Dunn, Hawkes, Goldie and Ison.

Nuneaton travelled to the Elwell's Ground to face the "Old Un's" of Wednesbury Old Athletic.

Mr H. G. Williams, the defeated Conservative candidate for Wednesbury, kicked off. In the first minute of the game Nuneaton made a raid on the home goal and Green sent in a stinging shot, which Russell only saved at the second attempt. The home keeper had to run out a minute later to clear from Dunn.

Another burst from the Nuneaton forwards spelt danger, but Russell again proved the stumbling block. Lavill led a raid on Nuneaton's goal, but after receiving the ball in a shooting





position Goodrick shot yards wide. A miskick by Doughty let Dunn in, but the home defence recovered and cleared. Pearce was prominent in a raid on the Town goal, but Smith intervened and set his forwards going. The first real chance of scoring fell to Nuneaton. Mann set Ison away, who passed to Goldie. The inside man tricked man after man, but with only Russell to beat, he passed back and no-one was on hand to take advantage. Goldie looked sure to score if he had shot.

Nuneaton had another chance when a mistake by the home defence let in Coley. His speed left everyone behind, but he miscontrolled the ball and put it yards wide. The half-time whistle sounded with no goals having been scored.

Russell had to clear from Ison straight after the break and just after the winger made headway down the left and passed to Dunn, whose shot was pushed round the post for a corner. Russell made a brilliant save from Dunn, who had put in a terrific shot from close range. Goldie misses a good opportunity when he wanted too much time and was tackled by Griffiths.

Twelve minutes into the second half, the home side won a corner which was placed well into the area by Wardle, and Lavill headed past Merrick and into the net. Hardly had the excitement died away when the home side scored again. Lavill was again the scorer, putting in a shot that deceived Merrick and went into the net.

Nuneaton were penned in for a time and only a great save from Merrick prevented them from going further behind. Goodrick got away for the home side and Merrick ran out to meet him, but was tricked and Goodrick shot for goal. Just as the ball was about to cross the line Taylor dived full length and headed the ball out for a corner.

Wednesbury scored again after 25 minutes. Wardle got away on the right and centred to the feet of Pearce, who shot into the net. Merrick made a good attempt to clear, but failed. Nuneaton attacked well in the final minutes, and Dunn was tripped on the edge of the area. Green scored with a remarkable shot from an impossible angle, which never left the ground. At the final whistle the home side had won 3-1.

## Kidderminster Harriers v Nuneaton Town 20-01-1923

**Kidderminster:** Merry; Wood and Danks; E. Edwards, Worrall and Bratt; S. Edwards, Barker, Whatmore, Parkes and Gummery.

**Nuneaton:** Merrick; Taylor and Smith; Green, Homer and Mann; Coley, Dunn, Hawkes, Goldie and Ison.

Nuneaton travelled to Aggborough for a Birmingham League game with Kidderminster Harriers.

Nuneaton were on the attack for most of the first half. In the first few minutes Goldie tested Merry, who saved brilliantly. Dunn was stopped by Merry and a free-kick from Green was put wide. Coley made a good run, and after beating two backs, passed back to Hawkes, who shot wide from an easy chance. Goldie failed to control the ball following a corner and Merry saved.

Mann and Smith both broke up Kidderminster raids, while at

the other end Dunn played Hawkes in, but he failed to take advantage. Nuneaton were having no problems in getting to the penalty area, but it was there that the moves broke down. Ison and Coley were at fault with several centres, while the close tactics of Goldie and Hawkes allowed the home backs to intercept. Nuneaton's unconvincing attack were solely responsible for the fact that there were no goals in the first half.

The home supporters were expecting Harriers to be more in the game, having the advantage of the wind, but Nuneaton played better against the wind and they pressed from the start of the second half. Dunn just missed from Goldie's pass, then Hawkes failed to gather Dunn's centre. Ten minutes into the second half Merrick handled the ball for the first time during the game, picking up from a long clearance.

Goldie set Ison going and the winger got clean away. His centre, however, lacked accuracy, and it went past the far post. Dunn headed wide from Ison's centre before Nuneaton conceded two free-kicks and Harriers went on the attack. From the second E. Edwards made a fine attempt, the ball passing a yard past the post. Harriers missed another good chance, while Smith broke up a dangerous move down the right wing.

Green, Dunn and Coley put in some good triangular work, but Merry ran out to deal with Coley's centre. Whatmore got past the backs at the other end, but shot wide with only Merrick to beat. Merrick made a good save just after from a cross-shot.

Goldie made an attempt to break through before Harriers attacked again and Gummery was unfortunate when his shot rolled along the crossbar and out of play. Both sides attacked in turn and with the match nearing its close Coley picked up the ball from Dunn and bore in towards goal. He tricked one back and looked to score when the whistle sounded for time.

## Admission Prices Raised: Club Losing Money

The position of the Nuneaton Town Football Club was frankly explained by the directors at a special meeting of the shareholders on Tuesday evening, when the one item of business was the question of increasing the price of admission to the Birmingham League matches.

Mr. T. Daffern (chairman) presided and explained the objects of the meeting. He stated that there had been a loss on the season up to date of £232, and it was absolutely necessary to increase the revenue. The directors thought the only way of obtaining this was to increase the "gate" to 1s., but were open to receive suggestions from the shareholders. The club was faced with a big overdraft at the bank.

Mr T. Ford asked whether the club was paying its way apart from the overdraft. The Chairman replied in the negative... Not a single match had paid its way...

The Chairman reported that the average gate was only between 3-4,000...



## Nuneaton Town v Hednesford Town 27-01-1923

**Nuneaton:** Merrick; Taylor and Smith; Green, Homer and Mann; Coley, Dunn, Hawkes, Spellman and Ison.

**Hednesford:** Rostance; Clancy and Bowen; Allan, Shaw and Lyons; Harrington, Rowe, Holcroft, Gibson and Greaves.

Nuneaton welcomed Hednesford Town to Manor Park for a Birmingham League fixture. It was thought fortunate that the increase in entrance fee to one shilling, co-incided with a "shilling display of football".

The home side were first to attack and Spellman set Ison going, but Clancy cleared. Coley then fired in a good shot, which was deflected round the post by Rostance. Homer headed against the crossbar from the resultant corner. The visitors returned to the attack and a miskick by Smith let in Greaves, who got in a shot, but Merrick cleared. The home keeper made another fine save from Gibson a minute later.

For a time the visitors were on top, but Merrick pulled off a number of saves. Nuneaton finally got on the attack and Coley, neatly tricking Bowen, centred to Spellman, who just failed to get the ball. In the next minute the winger again got in a centre, but Hawkes headed just wide. Spellman put in a fine shot, but Rostance saved well, before he was called on again, this time punching clear from Hawkes' header.

Hednesford's goal had a narrow escape when Hawkes got through. When Rostance ran out, he failed to gather and the ball went to Ison who shot for goal, but Rostance recovered quickly and saved. After being on the defensive, Hednesford at last got away and after an attacker was tripped on the edge of the area, Allan scored from the free-kick with a low shot.

After 30 minutes play Hednesford extended their lead, when Holcroft headed in from a corner by Harrington. Nuneaton put up a determined response and Hawkes scored following a scrimmage in the goalmouth. A minute later Hawkes tricked the visitors' defence, but pushed the ball too far forward and Rostance cleared. Nuneaton missed a great opportunity to equalise when Ison hit the bar and the ball fell to the feet of Dunn, who hesitated and the chance was lost. At the break Hednesford led 2-1.

Hawkes almost got through in the first minute of the second half, but was stopped by the visitors' defence. Keeping up the attack Dunn tested Rostance before a splendid dribble by Spellman put the visitors goal in jeopardy, but the ball was eventually cleared. For a time the visitors were penned in, but the home team failed to take advantage of several corners.

Nuneaton persisted in their efforts and Ison made a brilliant run on the left and centred perfectly to Dunn, who promptly netted. Nuneaton were playing brilliant football at this stage, and only fine goalkeeping by Rostance kept them at bay. After 26 minutes play Nuneaton gained a well-deserved lead through Hawkes, who, taking advantage of a pass by Green, ran through to score.

Hednesford attacked on the right, and Holcroft put over the bar following Harrington's cross. In the final stages of the game Green flashed over a centre and Spellman scored a good goal.

## Nuneaton Town v Leamington Town 01-02-1923

**Nuneaton:** Merrick; Taylor and Smith; Green, Homer and Mann; Coley, Dunn, Goldie, Spellman and Ison.

**Leamington:** Steane; Hathaway and Wilson; Frost, Boxley and Walker; Rowlatt, Andrews, Johnson, Williams and Kay.

Nuneaton and Leamington met at Manor Park in a Birmingham Senior Cup 3rd Round tie.

Nuneaton attacked at the start and the right wing indulged in some fancy play which came to nothing, before Leamington broke away and forced a corner, from which Merrick punched clear. Nuneaton pressed again, but centres from Ison and Coley were cleared.

A movement in which Mann, Homer, Dunn and Goldie took part ended in the latter scoring a fine goal for Nuneaton after ten minutes' play. Leamington retaliated and forced another corner, which resulted in a scrimmage and Boxley put in a fast low shot which Merrick saved. Ison put in a good run and his centre resulted in some good passing play before Homer shot just wide from Coley's centre.

An individual effort from Spellman brought Nuneaton's second goal when he tricked two opponents and scored with a fast shot which struck the inside of the post and bounced in. Later Ison's cross landed on the crossbar. Rowlatt sent across a few good centres for the visitors, but they weren't dangerous.

Nuneaton continued to play some good football and after some neat passing Dunn scored the third goal with a first time shot. A little later Ison made an individual run and scored with a shot which completely beat Steane. The game continued to be one-sided and the Nuneaton halves and forwards took the opportunity to indulge in some fancy play.

Goldie and Dunn both narrowly missed before the crowd set up a roar when Steane, having been beaten as he ran out to meet Goldie, left the latter with an open goal. Goldie stopped the ball, looked round and shot wide. Goldie himself joined in the laughter. A minute later he missed again, this time with a good effort. Frost created a good chance for Williams which tested Merrick to the full. At the break Nuneaton led 4-0.

Soon after the restart both Green and Goldie shot over the bar, while Spellman put a good chance wide. Homer's fine dribble presented Goldie with a rare opening, but he wanted too much time and was dispossessed. Mann just missed from a corner before Spellman tricked Hathaway and shot. The keeper partially stopped the ball, but Goldie dashed up and shot into the net. Coley made an effort to break through single-handed, but was outnumbered.

Green fired in one of his specials which cannoned off a defender at the foot of the post. Rowlatt made a solo run

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



from the half-way line, but his final shot went just wide. Homer and Spellman combined in a movement which resulted in Goldie scoring the sixth.

At this stage Dunn was feeling the effects of a first-half injury and left the field. A few minutes later Goldie scored the seventh. Coley was the next to score, receiving from Goldie, he raced past the opposition and shot home. From a goal-kick Nuneaton got away in a line and Goldie scored the ninth. Later on Homer scored the tenth following another good move.

## Wellington Town v Nuneaton Town 03-02-1923

**Wellington: Hedgecox; Richards and Shore; Dorricott, Riley and Birch; Corkindale, Cutler, Griffiths, Bellamy and Elson.**

**Nuneaton: Merrick; Taylor and Smith; Green, Homer and Mann; Coley, Goldie, Hawkes, Spellman and Ison.**

Nuneaton travelled to The Buck's Head to face Wellington Town in a Birmingham League game. The ground was described as being of a 'rather peculiar shape' and a 'distinct handicap to visiting teams'.

Within two minutes of the start Spellman broke clean through the Wellington defence, and had a chance of giving Nuneaton an early lead. Lack of experience told against him and he shot tamely into the hands of Hedgecox. At the other end Cutler missed with a cross shot, while Smith cleverly stopped Griffiths, who was becoming dangerous.

An exciting incident in the Nuneaton goalmouth occurred after Merrick had made a great save from Bellamy. A melee occurred from the clearance, but the ball was eventually put wide. Riley shot over the bar. For a time Wellington were the more aggressive, but Nuneaton gradually got into their stride and forced a corner. This was well placed by Coley, but Dorricott saved the situation. The same player cleared a centre by Coley, while Goldie shot over the bar.

Ding-dong play followed for some time, and then Spellman put in a clever run, and looked sure to score, but was tripped just outside the penalty area. Green took the kick, but it whizzed past the upright. Griffiths shot wide of an open goal for Wellington before Coley made a marvellous run for Nuneaton, beating several opponents and taking the ball within a couple of yards of the goal. He was about to shoot when Hawkes got in the way. Merrick pulled off a great save from Culter and at the break the game was scoreless.

Nuneaton pressed after the break, but Ison put wide before Dorricott shot over the bar for the home team. Nuneaton retaliated and Homer grazed the bar following a corner. Coley put in another of his masterly runs, beat the defence and crossed to Hawkes, who shot feebly from a great chance. Hedgecox could only partially clear, however, and Spellman had an attempt which Shore kicked away from in front of the posts. Spellman was injured in the resulting melee, but resumed.

Nuneaton continued to dominate and Wellington's goal had a narrow escape from a corner, while just after, Ison got

away, but centred outside. He did much better with his next attempt, when he received the ball from Spellman and put in a centre which completely deceived Hedgecox, and Hawkes had a simple task of heading the ball into the net.

The next minute, Hedgecox saved from Green, while Coley came within an ace of scoring after a great individual run. Goldie was dribbling through when he was fouled by Richards two yards outside the penalty area. Green took the kick and sent in a terrific shot which Hedgecox saved in superb style.

Wellington put Nuneaton under severe pressure for a time and the visitors' goal was under siege. Smith, Homer and Mann put in some good work, though, and the onslaught was finally repulsed. Homer conceded a free-kick which came to nothing and then Riley headed over from a corner.

Nuneaton did all the attacking towards the close and Wellington's defenders were hard-pressed to prevent a goal. Hedgecox saved from Coley and Hawkes was fetched down as he was boring his way through. Green took the free-kick, but Hedgecox saved. Nuneaton had little trouble in preserving their lead and won 1-0.

## Cradley Heath v Nuneaton Town 10-02-1923

**Cradley Heath: F. Boxley; Partridge and Knight; Evans, Clay and Parkes; Thorne, Nock, Hughes, D. Boxley and Scott.**

**Nuneaton: Merrick; Taylor and Smith; Green, Homer and Mann; Coley, Goldie, Hawkes, Spellman and Ison.**

Nuneaton travelled to Cradley Heath for a Birmingham League fixture. The ground conditions for the match were 'just about as bad as could be imagined.'

Cradley's first goal came after half an hour's play, D. Boxley starting a movement which ended in that player finding the net. A few minutes from the interval Nock scored the second after Scott received the ball in what appeared to be an offside position. Nuneaton's defence hesitated in anticipation of a whistle, but Scott centred and Nock headed into the net.

Two minutes after the interval, Nuneaton's hopes of a recovery were destroyed when a massive clearance from one of the home backs found Thorne, who went on a run before placing the ball at the feet of Hughes who scored. Later on D. Boxley scored Cradley's fourth goal after a brilliant individual effort.

Nuneaton's nearest scoring efforts were low shots by Hawkes and Green, which Boxley saved well, and a shot by Homer which struck the crossbar with the goalkeeper out of position. Goalkeeper Merrick put in some sterling work, especially during one particular Cradley siege of the Nuneaton goal.

The best forward on the pitch was Nock, who was rejected by Nuneaton. Had he played up to the standard he achieved in this match, he would not have been released as he was brilliant in the extreme and could do nothing wrong.

The home team played the typical Black Country football — a fine mixture of clever foraging and long swinging passes, supported by energy in attack and resolute tackling by the

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



defence. Heathens went for man and ball first time without hesitancy. Sometimes they gave the impression that they would have charged a brick wall if the ball had been on the other side.

## Stourbridge v Nuneaton Town 17-02-1923

**Stourbridge:** Hauser; Tyler and Bache; H. Smith, White and Probert; Thorne, C. Smith, Guest, Bradford and Gill.

**Nuneaton:** Merrick; Taylor and Smith; Green, Homer and Mann; Coley, Goldie, Clews, Spellman and Ison.

Nuneaton travelled to Stourbridge for a Birmingham League encounter. Town had a new signing at centre-forward, Clews from Coventry City.

Stourbridge won the toss and were immediately dangerous, but the movement broke down when Guest lost the ball. At the other end Spellman passed the ball forward to Clews, who took the ball on the run and shot over. Green got Coley away and the latter passed to Clews, but he fell and Bache sent Thorne away. The winger ran down the line, but centred behind.

Stourbridge attacked again and Merrick saved Gill's shot from close range. Homer fouled Gill just outside the area, and White fetched Merrick to his knees with a fast ground shot. The keeper got the ball well and threw clear. Another Nuneaton attack saw Spellman in possession near the Stourbridge goal, but he shot wildly wide. Green passed neatly to Goldie, who set Coley going, but he ran the ball out.

Nuneaton's next attack was spoiled by Clews being offside. Stourbridge's inside-right Smith got away on his own and shot hard for goal, but Merrick coolly cleared. Spellman got Ison away and the winger found Clews, but Hauser, showing fine judgment took the ball off his head and cleared.

Stourbridge centre-half White defended well when Nuneaton attacked and also shot wide, before Thorne tricked Smith, but Mann ran across and saved an awkward situation. Play was confined to Stourbridge territory for some time and Clews got in a shot, which Hauser cleared. White pushed the ball through the backs, and Guest, running up, took the ball towards the Nuneaton goal, but Merrick again cleared in fine style.

Bradford put in a shot for the home side, but Merrick again saved. The Nuneaton forwards were very ineffective, but at half-time the sides were level at 0-0.

Stourbridge took the lead a minute into the second half through Probert, who beat Merrick with a fine shot from a pass by Gill. Nuneaton immediately attacked and Goldie forced a corner from which Homer headed in. The ball appeared to have gone over the line, but the referee declined to give a goal, despite appeals from the Nuneaton players.

Merrick saved well before another Nuneaton attack ended in Spellman shooting wide. From a well-placed Coley corner, Hauser made a good save before Clews got clean through the home defence only for Hauser to make a brave save at his feet. The goalkeeper required attention before continuing.

Nuneaton struggled for an equaliser and went close on several occasions, but the home goal remained intact. In the last minute of the game, Goldie received the ball in the penalty area and shot for goal. Hauser was out of position, but Bache cleared from on the goal-line. Nuneaton were still pressing at the final whistle, but at the end had lost 1-0.

## Nuneaton Town v Kidderminster Harriers 24-02-1923

**Nuneaton:** Merrick; Taylor and Smith; Green, Homer and Mann; Coley, Dunn, Hawkes, Goldie and Ison.

**Kidderminster:** Merry; Wood and Firebuck; Edwards, Worrall and Pratt; Edwards, Parker, Sambrooke, Walters and Taylor.

Nuneaton faced Kidderminster Harriers at Manor Park. Rain fell throughout the match and the ground was made treacherous by mud. The home side welcomed back captain Emmin Dunn, who had been out injured for a few weeks.

The game had only been in progress four minutes when a clever combined movement, in which Homer, Goldie and Hawkes took part, led to the latter testing the Harriers' keeper, who only partially cleared and Dunn scored with a first-time shot. Two minutes later the visitors' outside-left Taylor went round his namesake and sent in a fine centre along the ground to Barker, who unmarked, shot past Merrick to equalise.

The sensational opening was followed by more exciting play. Both goals were visited in turn with the exchanges being rapidly carried out. Nuneaton secured the lead again after 15 minutes, when Goldie, following up Hawkes' shot, scored with a fast shot that went in just under the bar. Following another attack Green centred the ball, which was cleared, but only as far as Homer, who scored with a beautiful drive.

Harriers were seldom dangerous, with Nuneaton dominating play, and a good bout of passing by the inside trio ended in Dunn gliding the ball forward to Hawkes, who scored with some ease. Nuneaton continued to play dazzling football, and shots by Green, Goldie, Dunn and Homer narrowly missed. On one occasion only the mud prevented a goal as it only needed tapping in the net. Just before the interval Ison centred and Hawkes scored a fifth goal. At half-time the home side led 5-1.

Nuneaton reappeared in the second half with fresh jerseys. Coley made a brilliant run, but from his centre, Hawkes missed the easiest of chances. Merry made a fine save from Goldie, and repeated the feat from Hawkes. Harriers were also dangerous and Merrick saved twice under pressure. After tricky work Mann sent over a cross which Hawkes just failed to reach with his head. Taylor and Smith dealt with a Harriers' rush before Merry made two good saves from Green and Homer.

After 13 minutes of the second half Coley received a pass from Dunn and put in a perfect centre, which Goldie converted. Later Coley got clear away, but his centre went wide. A terrific shot by Mann was tipped over the bar by Merry.

A terrific shot by the Harriers' outside-left, Taylor, deceived Merrick, but the ball went wide and Nuneaton returned to the





attack. Merry made several fine saves, but he was beaten by a shot from Dunn which hit the upright. Dunn also had an open goal after dribbling for position, but he passed to Hawkes, who walked the ball into the net only to be given offside. No more goals were scored and the match ended in a 6-1 win for Town.

## **Bilston United v Nuneaton Town 03-03-1923**

**Bilston: Madelin; Toy and Carter; Fellows, Crook and King; Newman, Phillips, Woodhall, Arblaster and Harrold.**

**Nuneaton: Merrick; Taylor and Smith; Jones, Homer and Mann; Coley, Dunn, Green, Goldie and Ison.**

Nuneaton travelled to Queen Street, Bilston, for a Birmingham Senior Cup 4th Round tie.

The game started in a downpour, and Town opened with a good passing movement, but Jones shot over. Bilston got away from the goal-kick and Harrold passed to Woodhall, who shot over. Green set Ison going, and from the winger's pass Dunn headed over. Green brought Madelin to his knees with a hard low drive.

Bilston made a determined raid and Phillips was just wide with a good shot. Mann intervened and cleared when Phillips threatened. The home team continued to press and Phillips sent in a terrific shot which was on the mark, but Merrick saved and threw clear. Jones cleared the next attack and set Green going. The latter passed to Ison who centred behind.

Green almost got through before, on 25 minutes, Bilston attacked in a line, and a passing bout ended in Harold centring to Phillips, who headed past Merrick. After the goal Bilston attacked repeatedly but Merrick prevented them from adding to their lead with some great saves.

Homer started an attack for the visitors, and Ison passed to Green, who shot hard for goal. Madelin put the ball to Dunn, who let fly. The ball was partially cleared and an exciting scrimmage ensued in the Bilston goalmouth, until King cleared. Homer sent in a long shot that cleared the bar before Bilston almost increased their lead when Arblaster fired in a terrific shot which just missed the angle of post and bar. Green narrowly missed just before the break when Bilston were leading 1-0.

Nuneaton attacked strongly and Dunn was presented with an open goal, but shot wide. Bilston raced away to the other end, but Merrick saved and kicked away to Mann, who sent Green away. The centre-forward dribbled well and sent in a hard, low drive which was blocked by a defender. Homer got Coley away and after a good run the latter passed to Goldie who shot for goal, but Madelin saved. Woodhall made an attempt to get through but was tackled by Taylor as he tried to shoot.

Coley got away again and centred to Dunn, who headed into Madelin's hands. The Bilston defence were inclined to be a little shaky under attack and several miskicks almost resulted in goals. Jones narrowly missed with a hook shot and Coley placed into the goalmouth where Green secured and shot. Madelin punched out to Dunn, who fired in a terrific shot. Madelin was

hopelessly beaten, but King headed away from under the bar and was injured in the process, but able to resume.

Arblaster sent in a sharp drive which just went over. In the next minute Arblaster shot against an upright with Merrick out of his goal and Phillips headed wide from the rebound.

Nuneaton made desperate attempts to get on level terms, but the Bilston goal remained intact and the home team qualified to meet Walsall at home in the Fifth Round.

## **THE SOUTHERN LEAGUE**

### **Nuneaton Town's Application for Admission**

Nuneaton Town FC were represented by Mr. Fred Payne (director) and Mr. W. A. Thompson (secretary) at a special meeting of the Southern League, held in London on Tuesday, to consider a proposal for the reconstruction of the League by the adoption of the principle of working the competition in two sections — Eastern and Western, instead of English and Welsh as at present.

Applications for membership had already been received from Kettering, Leicester City, Nuneaton and Northampton.

## **Nuneaton Town v Willenhall**

**10-03-1923**

**Nuneaton: Merrick; Taylor and Smith; Green, Homer and Mann; Coley, Dunn, Hawkes, Goldie and Ison.**

Willenhall were visitors to Manor Park for a Birmingham League game. With both teams being in the top five, a good game was expected. There was a large crowd in attendance.

The visitors attacked immediately, but Davey passed too far forward and the ball went out. Veteran Needham put out some good passes. The home team combined well and following good work by Green, Hawkes drove hard for goal, but Humphries saved. Homer put a low shot just wide. Green set Ison away and the winger slung across a beautiful centre which Humphries had great difficulty in getting away before Hawkes was on him. Following good work by Dunn and Coley, Goldie headed in, but Humphries again saved.

Two raids from the visitors were cleared by Homer and Taylor respectively, as Willenhall continued to attack and Merrick was called upon to clear from Freeman. In the next minute Mann kicked away from under the bar. Ison swung across several centres which resulted in exciting scrammages in the visitors' goalmouth. Goldie had a good chance of putting Nuneaton ahead, but fumbled with the ball, which was cleared.

Needham made an attempt to get through on his own, but was pulled up in the nick of time by Mann. Green set Coley away, and after a brilliant run the winger centred perfectly, but Humphries made a brilliant save, with Hawkes in close attendance. Postans fetched Merrick to his knees with a fine shot, but the goalkeeper was equal to it.

At the other end Humphries had to dive full length to



save from Goldie, while Coley had to leave the field with a fractured collarbone. The half-time score was 0-0.

For the second half Goldie went to outside-right and when Nuneaton attacked he put across a centre, but the inside forwards failed to take advantage. Hawkes shot narrowly wide from another Goldie pass and after ten minutes of the second half Nuneaton took the lead. Hawkes initiated the move and Homer passed well to Goldie, who headed into the centre and Hawkes had only to touch the ball into the net.

The Nuneaton goal came under threat when Postans got away on his own, but Merrick made a brilliant save. The ball went to Davey, who fired in a terrific shot which was only just off the mark. From the goal-kick Nuneaton got away in line, and following some good passing Dunn struck the crossbar with a shot and the ball bounced over. A minute later a shot from Ison hit the crossbar.

After 30 minutes of the second half Nuneaton got a second goal. Ison started the movement and Hawkes placed well towards goal. Dunn took up the pass and placed neatly to Goldie, who taking the ball in his stride, drove into the net. It was a masterpiece of a goal. The last quarter of an hour produced some interesting football, and Nuneaton had little difficulty in preserving their lead, the game ending 2-0.

## Darlaston v Nuneaton Town

17-03-1923

**Nuneaton: Merrick; Paul and Smith; Green, Homer and Mann; Cull, Dunn, Hawkes, Goldie and Ison.**

Nuneaton travelled to Waverley Road to take on Darlaston in a Birmingham League match.

The opening exchanges were of an even nature with both teams attacking in turn. Merrick made a number of excellent saves in quick succession with the danger coming from Darlaston's two wing men. Nuneaton came close when Hawkes sent in a fast drive which Waite had difficulty in saving.

A little later Dunn had a good chance, but shot over the bar. At the other end Merrick made a marvellous save from Williams, bringing the ball down just as it was going under the bar. After 25 minutes, Marston picked up the ball in what looked to be an offside position, ran on and tested Merrick with a fast ground shot. Merrick saved but pushed it out to Harris who shot into the net over the prone keeper. Nuneaton pushed strongly for an equaliser and Ison had an excellent chance, but shot wide.

A big kick by one of the Darlaston backs put Marston in possession near the posts, and while the Nuneaton defenders were expecting the whistle, the home inside-left shot a second goal. Just before the interval, Hawkes was forcing his way through when Fieldhouse was adjudged to have handled the ball in the penalty area. Green took the kick and made no mistake. At half-time Nuneaton trailed 2-1.

Town started the second half in promising fashion with Dunn shooting wide from long range. A fine pass by Dunn to Cull enabled the latter to centre, and after Hawkes had a shot

stopped, Dunn scored a fine goal from the rebound, with two second half minutes gone. Eight minutes later Darlaston were attacking and as Homer tried to clear, the ball bounced up and hit his hand. The referee gave a penalty despite Nuneaton's protests, and Fieldhouse scored from the kick.

Nuneaton retaliated, and Goldie tested Waite, who proved safe. Darlaston played some good football and Cashmore grazed the bar with a fast surprise shot. Both sides gave an attractive display, and Nuneaton twice came within an ace of equalising. Once Waite saved a centre by Ison, and later Hawkes just failed in a break through. Later Hawkes looked a certain scorer, but his shot was blocked and a corner was the result. Darlaston had a free kick in the penalty area, but Fieldhouse's shot cannoned off a defender for a corner which was cleared.

Nuneaton were often dangerous, and another fine sample of combination ended in Ison shooting wide. Darlaston's forwards were on the mark with their shots, and Merrick made a number of marvellous and daring saves. At the final whistle Nuneaton had lost 3-2

## Shrewsbury Town v Nuneaton Town

24-03-1923

**Shrewsbury: Causer; Sheldon and Edwards; Lovibund, Crutchley and Hatton; Bowyer, Taylor, Whatmore, Elvidge and Evans.**

**Nuneaton: Merrick; Taylor and Smith; Green, Homer and Mann; Cull, Dunn, Hawkes, Goldie and Ison.**

Nuneaton travelled to The Gay Meadow to face Shrewsbury Town in a Birmingham League encounter.

Nuneaton started with a good movement but Hawkes failed to take advantage. Nuneaton again attacked in splendid style and Goldie gave to Hawkes, who fired in a fast shot, which Causer saved. Shrewsbury made sorties to the other end, but they were repulsed with ease. Merrick saved from Elvidge and Whatmore fired wide. When Nuneaton returned to the attack they found the home backs shaky under pressure and a little more accurate shooting would have given them the lead.

Dunn sent Cull away with a glorious pass, and the winger, after rounding two opponents centred. Ison met the ball and headed into the side of the net. A minute later Ison got away and centred, with Dunn heading wide. Dunn again set Cull away, and the latter after tricking Hatton and Edwards was brought down just outside the penalty area. Green took the kick and the Shrewsbury goal had a narrow escape.

Shrewsbury then rallied and bore down on the Nuneaton goal. The ball was lobbed in front of the net. Merrick rushed out to punch away at the same time as Taylor went to head the ball. Taylor of Shrewsbury charged his namesake into Merrick and at the same time headed the ball into the net to give Shrewsbury the lead after 30 minutes.

Nuneaton launched a fierce attack on the Shrewsbury goal and it was some minutes before the siege was raised. Following a corner Homer narrowly failed to get a shot in. There was a desperate melee in the home goalmouth, with the defence



finally clearing. Subsequent Nuneaton attacks saw both Hawkes and Goldie miss good chances through lack of ball control. Just before the interval Lovibunds put in what looked suspiciously like a centre, but he had the satisfaction of watching it curl into the top corner to give the home side a 2-0 half-time lead.

Nuneaton started the second half with a burst and Green concluded an attack by shooting wide. Whatmore shot yards wide, while Causer saved from Dunn. Later Homer was only inches out with a good effort. At this stage Nuneaton were having much the better of the game and a miskick by a defender let in Hawkes, who missed an open goal. Later he had a shot blocked following Cull's centre.

Nuneaton attacked again and Goldie hesitated and lost the chance. Shrewsbury attacked and Merrick saved from Lovibund and followed it up with a wonderful save from Bowyer, scooping a rising shot from just underneath the bar.

The most spectacular incident of the match was when Mann secured the ball, dribbled past four opponents and sent in a fast shot from an oblique angle. Causer tipped the ball, which travelled along the crossbar for a corner. Play continued at pace and Hawkes was tripped just outside the area. Green had a try for goal, but Edwards kicked away from the goal-line. Mann made another run and centre which produced a tussle in the goalmouth. Cull missed a good chance from close range.

Shrewsbury broke away, and Whatmore hampered Smith, who kicked back to Merrick. The kick was not hard enough, however, and Whatmore rushed past and shot into the net, Merrick being hurt in his attempt to fall on the ball and save. There was only a short time to play, but Nuneaton had enough chances to draw level. They failed however, and the crowning blunder came when Goldie missed with Causer out of goal. Despite these mistakes, Nuneaton were several times unlucky, while Causer made a number of clever saves.

Hawkes' performance at centre-forward was described as 'not being worthy of a junior.'

## Sambrooke's Return

Rumours have been prevalent in Nuneaton this week that Chris Sambrooke, the centre-forward of Stalybridge Celtic, and former Town player, had been transferred to Nuneaton and would play against Cannock on Saturday.

The position is that Nuneaton have approached Stalybridge for Sambrooke's transfer, but at the time of writing no reply has been received. There is a possibility, however, that the transfer will be granted. Sambrooke is understood to be quite willing to play for Nuneaton.

Sambrooke was one of the most popular players Nuneaton ever had and his signature would give untold satisfaction to the club's supporters. He has been one of the leading goalscorers in the Third Division this season.

## Nuneaton Town v Cannock Town

31-03-1923

**Nuneaton:** Merrick; Taylor and Smith; Spcier, Homer and Mann; Cull, Booton, Green, Goldie and Ison.

**Cannock:** Smith; Morris and J. Smith; Walker, Bowen and H. Whitehouse; Corbitt, Wells, S. Whitehouse, Langford and Clare.

Nuneaton welcomed Cannock Town to Manor Park. The home side had a much-weakened team with several reserves taking the place of injured first-team players. Hawkes was dropped.

It was a moderate game, and Nuneaton only showed glimpses of their true form. Nevertheless, they succeeded in winning by two clear goals and all things considered were full value for their success.

However, Cannock gave them moments of anxiety, and the dogged determination of the visitors was not easily overcome. Bowen, the well-known centre-half, was a tower of strength for them, while their right wing was especially nippy. The defence was also robust and fearless. Nuneaton, however, had the edge in the finer points of the game, though their combination was nothing like so good as usual.

Nuneaton scored one goal in each half. Booton got the first and Green the second. The latter's goal was the result of a brilliant ground shot sent in from just outside the penalty area.

## Tamworth Castle v Nuneaton Town

02-04-1923

**Nuneaton:** Merrick; Taylor and Smith; Green, Homer, Spicer; Goldie, Dunn, Sambrooke, Mann and Ison.

The visit to The Jolly Sailor to face Tamworth Castle attracted a large crowd, which appeared to be made up mainly of Nuneaton supporters.

Nuneaton's victory of three goals to one in no way flattered them, and if the score had been by a greater margin no-one would have been surprised. The home team seldom showed any footballing ability and were made to look like second raters by the brilliance of the visitors.

Chris Sambrooke, who was secured by Town from Stalybridge during the week, made a welcome re-appearance in the Town team, and he was given a good reception when taking the field with the other players. Much to the delight of the Nuneaton supporters, he was soon off the mark, and was not long in obtaining his first goal of the season for Nuneaton. His passing and heading of the ball to the wings was brilliant, and were such that the wingers were able to take the ball on the run.

On the whole the team played well, although owing to injuries the side was much changed. Goldie appeared at outside-right, Mann inside-left, and Spicer left-half. Goldie gave a far better display than he has done for a number of weeks, and his passing was very good. Mann played well in an unaccustomed position, and was a continual worry to the Tamworth defence. Spicer did well and in no way weakened the defence.

The best man on the field, however, was undoubtedly Homer,



who again gave a brilliant display. A tireless worker, he was ever to the fore with brilliant head work. Tamworth were aggressive at the start and forced two corners, which were cleared. End-to-end play followed, but after twenty minutes' play Sambrooke gave Nuneaton the lead. Homer initiated the move and passed to Mann, who in turn gave to Dunn. The latter, after tricking a defender placed forward to Sambrooke, who after slipping past Hackett scored with a brilliant low drive which had Rammell beaten all the way. The ball struck the foot of the upright before going into the net.

Nuneaton were not long in adding to their lead. A centre by Goldie led to an exciting tussle in the Tamworth goal. The ball was only partially cleared and went to the feet of Mann, who scored with a terrific shot. Play was largely confined to the Tamworth half, and Goldie was going through when he was tripped in the penalty area. The kick was converted by Green.

Towards the end of the game Taylor bundled a player over in the area, and the referee awarded a penalty, from which Brookes scored. The kick had to be taken twice as Merrick saved the first one, but the referee ordered the kick to be retaken, as the keeper advanced when saving the first shot.

Nuneaton Town v Bilston United	03-04-1923
<p><b>Nuneaton:</b> Merrick; Taylor and Smith; Green, Homer and Mann; Cull, Dunn, Sambrooke, Goldie and Ison.</p> <p><b>Bilston:</b> Madelin; Toy and Carter; Fellows, Crooke and King; Newman, Phillips, Woodall, Arblaster and Harrold.</p>	

Nuneaton welcomed Bilston United to Manor Park for a Birmingham League game on Easter Tuesday. There were 6,400 paying customers, which meant that with season ticket holders and others there were approximately 7,000 spectators.

Bilston arrived as favourites to take the title, but Nuneaton themselves are not entirely out of the running. Nuneaton made a sensational start and within five minutes were a goal up when Sambrooke passed out to Cull, who promptly centred. Sambrooke headed the ball into the ground and it bounced into the net. A minute later Ison was tripped on the edge of the area by Toy, but the free-kick was cleared. Green then cleared with a big kick following a Bilston corner.

Nuneaton attacked down the wings and Dunn had an excellent chance of increasing the lead. He left the ball to Green, however, who was a fraction too late to get in his shot and the chance was gone. Bilston's forwards were nippy and forceful and Nuneaton's backs were none too impressive. However, the attacks were beaten off, and Arblaster relieved the pressure by shooting over from close range.

Nuneaton pressed again and Goldie and Sambrooke were both inches wide with shots, while Dunn lost an opening through hesitancy. After half-an-hour's play Bilston equalised in rather fluky fashion, a shot which spelt no danger cannoning off a defender and into the net. Nuneaton retaliated and the Bilston goal had a narrow escape when

Cull centred, the ball rolling along the crossbar and back into play. A scrimmage ensued, and Dunn booted the ball out of the goalkeeper's reach only to see it roll just wide.

However, Nuneaton were not disheartened and a beautiful passing movement in which four players took part ended in Goldie striking the crossbar. A melee ensued from the rebound and Sambrooke scored. No further goals were scored and at half-time Nuneaton led 2-1.

No goals were scored in the second half, but each had narrow escapes from downfall. Bilston at one period played in great style, and it was with difficulty that Nuneaton kept them out. Harrold was robbed of the ball when in the act of shooting from close range, and Woodall looked a certain scorer when Merrick made a wonderful and daring save in flinging himself at the feet of the visiting player and taking the ball off his toe.

Nuneaton also came close to scoring on several occasions and many shots missed by inches. Just before the finish Sambrooke netted but was given offside. Nuneaton held on to their lead and at the final whistle were winners by 2-1.

Redditch v Nuneaton Town	07-04-1923
<p><b>Redditch:</b> Croft; Plant and Chamberlain; Smith, Newall and Bradley; Partridge, Aldridge, Howell, Morrell and Taylor.</p> <p><b>Nuneaton:</b> Merrick; Taylor and Green; Spicer, Homer and Mann; Goldie, Booton, Sambrooke, Roberts and Ison.</p>	

Nuneaton travelled to face Redditch in a Birmingham League game with multiple injury problems. Dunn and Smith were injured and Cull was ill. Jones the reserve right-half was declared unfit and Roberts was doubtful. The team thus had three reserves and three players out of position.

The first quarter-of-an-hour gave the impression that Redditch would find the visitors to be easy victims, and during this period the defence and Merrick in particular put in some yeoman service. Gradually Nuneaton fought their way into the game and a better understanding developed between the players. Roberts scored for the visitors with the first opportunity that came their way and that goal was followed by another five minutes' later. After that Redditch were a beaten team and were completely outplayed.

Nuneaton's first goal was the result of a good movement which left Booton in possession. He gave an oblique pass to Roberts, who promptly netted with a fine low shot. Five minutes later Ison swung across a perfect centre which Sambrooke just failed to reach. Booton ran in, however, and scored with a good shot, the ball passing just inside the post. At half-time the visitors led 2-0.

During an attack 20 minutes into the second half, Nuneaton forced a corner. This was well-taken by Goldie and Sambrooke headed to Ison, who neatly guided the ball into the net. The fourth goal was scored by Sambrooke, who, fastening on to a centre by Ison, crashed the ball into the net.

Nuneaton were denied another goal when Ison and Roberts





combined and the latter centred. The goalkeeper came out to gather the ball, but Sambrooke came in at amazing speed, reached the ball first and shot into the net. In spite of appeals, the referee refused to allow the goal. Redditch were only dangerous in the first 20 minutes of the game and for five minutes after the break. Nuneaton had several chances to increase their lead further, but at the final whistle Nuneaton were clear winners by four goals to nil.

## **NUNEATON FOOTBALL CLUB — A BOLD MOVE** **Application To Be Made To Join Third Division**

The directors of Nuneaton Town FC, at their meeting on Tuesday evening, decided to apply for admission to the Third Division of the English League (Northern Section). This decision followed an exhaustive consideration of the many aspects of the proposal, and financial and other important details were thoroughly reviewed.

It was also decided to withdraw from the Southern League — an inevitable sequel to the bid for the higher league. The two main reasons for turning down the Southern League were (1) that visiting clubs take 20 per cent of the gate, which would rather handicap Nuneaton; and (2) that only 16 clubs have entered for the competition, which would leave too many vacant Saturdays...

## **Nuneaton Town v Tamworth Castle 14-04-1923**

**Nuneaton: Merrick; Taylor and Smith; Green, Homer and Mann; Cull, Dunn, Sambrooke, Roberts and Ison.**

**Tamworth: Rammell; Hart and Morris; Hackett, Mason and Abbott; Brooks, Summers, Briscoe, Andrews and Thompson.**

Nuneaton welcomed Tamworth Castle to Manor Park for a Birmingham League game. With the two teams being near neighbours a keen rivalry might be expected, but games between the two sides never attract much enthusiasm from Nuneaton's football loving public.

Tamworth were first to attack and Merrick had to handle in the first minute. Nuneaton retaliated, and Homer passed neatly to Cull, whose centre was cleared. The wind spoiled several movements and many centres were taken behind.

Mann and Sambrooke combined well, and the former passed to Ison, who was offside. There was an exciting melee in the Castle area, but Rammell saved from Cull and the ball was cleared. Merrick made a good save from Summers before Nuneaton took the lead after 20 minutes. Homer passed to Sambrooke, who in turn passed to Ison. The latter centred neatly into the goalmouth and Roberts headed into the net.

Merrick handled from Brookes' centre, while Green started a Nuneaton move and Dunn passed to Sambrooke, who headed into Rammell's hands. Nuneaton were awarded a free-kick on the edge of the penalty area and Green sent in a terrific shot which Rammell partially saved and was cleared

by a defender. Sambrooke got away for Nuneaton and placed perfectly for Dunn, who missed an open goal. The ball went out to Cull, whose shot was saved by the keeper.

Tamworth's goal was under severe pressure and a mistake by Hart let in Roberts, who netted with a hard, low drive, which Rammell touched but could not prevent from going in the net. Nuneaton continued to monopolise the play and Mann sent in a fine shot which had Rammell well beaten, but luckily for the visitors Hart was in the goal and cleared.

Nuneaton's third goal came after 42 minutes, Sambrooke heading a splendid goal from a perfect centre by Dunn. At half-time the home side led by 3-0.

The second half started with Town still on the offensive and after four minutes, Dunn, after tricking Morris, coolly placed the ball into the net. Tamworth made a couple of raids but their forwards were too high with their shots. A centre by Cull was saved just under the bar by Rammell. Tamworth mounted a rare attack, but Taylor cleared the danger. At the other end Green went close, but just a minute later Nuneaton extended their lead when Homer tricked an opponent and placed to Dunn, who passed to Sambrooke, who promptly netted.

Sambrooke missed a good chance a minute later before Tamworth got away and forced a corner, which Merrick cleared. Ison made a brilliant solo run for Nuneaton and Morris clearly handled in the penalty area, but the referee allowed the winger to go on. He finished with a good shot which was well saved by Rammell, who distinguished himself again a minute later by saving from Green.

Nuneaton went further ahead in the next minute, Cull scoring with an oblique drive. The game was very one-sided and Roberts tried to get through on his own, but was brought to a halt at the critical moment. Nuneaton attacked again and a move in which Dunn and Sambrooke took part ended in the latter scoring the seventh goal. The last 15 minutes saw Town continually on the attack, but no further goals were scored.

## **Brierley Hill Alliance v Nuneaton Town 21-04-1923**

**Brierley Hill: Finch; Wardle and Gibbs; Pearsall, Lavender and Rocke; H. Happper, H. Pearson, W. Pearson, Cope and W. Harper.**

**Nuneaton: Merrick; Taylor and Smith; Green, Homer and Mann; S. Royle, Dunn, Sambrooke, Roberts and Ison.**

Nuneaton travelled to Cottage Street, Brierley Hill for a Birmingham League game. There was a strong and blustery wind throughout, which Nuneaton never came to terms with.

Brierley Hill, having advantage of the wind soon attacked and after Merrick had handled, Mann cleared from H. Pearson. Merrick also had to save from W. Harper before Town forced a couple of corners, but Wardle cleared to Cope who made ground for W. Pearson to graze the bar with a drive.

After seven minutes' play a corner was well placed by S. Harper and Merrick punched away, but the wind blew the ball back and Merrick again punched, only to see the ball strike Cope and



go into the net. Dunn just missed with a left-footed drive from well out, but the Alliance returned and within four minutes had increased their lead. A foul against Green was taken by Roche, who placed into the goalmouth and Smith, beaten by the flight, miskicked and H. Pearson easily beat Merrick.

Nuneaton came more into the picture with Royle making headway to centre to Sambrooke, who failed to hit the ball properly, tamely shooting for Wardle to kick out for a corner. At the end of the first half Brierley Hill were 2-0 in the lead.

Dunn dribbled his way through and centred for Ison, who shot wide. Green sent in a stinging shot which Finch saved and Green returned to Roberts who put wide from a very difficult position. Dunn shot tamely into Finch's hands. The home team made their first attack of the half, eleven minutes after the restart, and scored. Locke made a great run and centred for W. Harper to beat Merrick.

A minute later Homer beat Finch and hit the bar. Finch cleared the rebound. Ison centred to Sambrooke who, shot strongly, but Finch stuck out a foot and saved. A melee ensued following a free-kick against Smith and Merrick pulled off a great save from H. Pearson, throwing himself full-length to touch round the post. Finch saved from both Smith and Taylor, while Dunn grazed the upright. Just before the final whistle a Green free-kick whistled by the post at lightning speed.

## Willenhall v Nuneaton Town 23-04-1923

**Willenhall: Humphries; Glenn and Arch; Spencer, Winsper and Silvester; Chattoe, Davy, Postans, Pottinger and Freeman.**

**Nuneaton: Merrick; Taylor and Smith; Green, Homer and Goldie; Royle, Booton, Sambrooke, Roberts and Ison.**

Nuneaton travelled to the Black Country to face Willenhall in a Monday evening Birmingham League game. Nuneaton still had slim hopes of being involved in the championship race.

Nuneaton had the first attack and Arch had to clear before Freeman broke for the home side and Taylor intervened. Sambrooke spoiled a good move by being caught offside. Willenhall retaliated and Merrick was called on to make two saves. Goldie set Ison away and the latter passed to Sambrooke, but the movement again came to a halt because of an offside decision. The home side renewed their attack and Merrick saved following a mistake by Taylor.

A minute later Freeman put across a beautiful centre which Davy met and scored after just five minutes. Green cleared as Nuneaton spent some time on the defensive. Former Nuneaton player Chattoe put in a fine shot that was saved by Merrick before Nuneaton finally got going and Booton passed to Sambrooke, who lost control and the ball ran out.

Booton shot well wide from Ison's cross before Willenhall attacked again and a partial clearance by Merrick gave the home side possession, but the chance was blazed over the bar. Royle who had been caught offside on several occasions found Silvester a stumbling block and Willenhall got away

in line and Postans was presented with an open goal, but Merrick saved at the expense of a fruitless corner.

Royle at last got in a good cross and Humphries had a great deal of difficulty with Homer's shot. A defender clearly handled in the home penalty area, but despite strong appeals, the referee did not award a penalty. Willenhall won two corners that came to nothing before Sambrooke attempted to break through, but was foiled by Humphries.

Willenhall who had defended for a ten minute spell broke away and Davy put in a weak shot. Merrick ran out and misjudged the ball which struck the crossbar and went to Davy, who only had to tap the ball into the net. Merrick redeemed himself by making a wonderful save from Postans a minute later.

Town pressed hard through Goldie, who made ground and passed to Sambrooke, who charged off the ball and only able to get in a weak shot which Humphries saved. Goldie and Ison posed the only real threat to the home side with the winger getting in several crosses. However, a minute from the interval a foul by Smith resulted in another Willenhall attack and Pottinger scored their third goal, and at the break the score was 3-0 to the home side.

Willenhall opened the second half strongly and Freeman sent in a fine shot which was well stopped by Merrick. After a spell of defensive work Sambrooke broke away, causing Humphries to dive full length to save. Nuneaton were penned back at this stage and Merrick made several fine saves, especially one from Winsper. Merrick and his backs did some good work in keeping Willenhall out as Nuneaton continued to be outplayed. Ison got a nice cross in which came to nothing before Royle made a great individual effort.

A minute later Willenhall attacked and a pass by Freeman was headed into the net by Pottinger. The goal was disputed by the Nuneaton players and the referee consulted the linesman, but still awarded a goal. Only Merrick stood between his side and disaster and the crowd cheered him for his brilliant saves. Apart from the blemish that cost Nuneaton the second goal, Merrick's display was one of the best ever given in the Nuneaton goal. The full-time score was 4-0 to Willenhall.

## Nuneaton Town v Cradley Heath 28-04-1923

**Nuneaton: Merrick; Taylor and Smith; Green, Homer and Mann; Cull, Dunn, Sambrooke, Roberts and Ison**

Nuneaton welcome Cradley Heath to Manor Park for the final Birmingham League home match of the 1922-23 season. Incredibly the home side were yet to drop a single point in their home matches.

Nuneaton were first to attack, but Ison failed to get a centre in, while at the other end a miskick by Smith let in Scott, who got in a centre but Taylor cleared. Green got in a nice cross to Roberts, who was well placed, but after tricking Partridge, shot wildly over the bar. A little later Roberts got Ison away and the latter centred into the hands of Boxley, who cleared. Cradley



attacked down the right, but Merrick came to Town's rescue.

Town pressed and Ison put in a centre, which saw Sambrooke and Boxley in a race for the ball, but the keeper got there first and threw clear. Cradley halted a number of good moves by handling the ball, but none of the free-kicks came to anything. Boxley made a good save from Ison before Nuneaton pressed again and Cull forced a corner, which he placed nicely into the centre for Sambrooke to head home, with 15 minutes gone.

Nuneaton were constantly attacking at this stage and Sambrooke just failed to convert Green's centre. After a long period on the defensive Cradley got away through Thorne, who put in a good centre for D. Boxley, whose shot was saved by Merrick, but the ball broke to Scott who fired the ball high into the net. Good work by Cull and Dunn put the visitors' goal under threat, but Roberts wanted too much time and the ball was cleared. In the next minute Boxley had to handle Ison's centre while at the other end Merrick had to throw away from a number of players. At half-time the score was 1-1.

Smith send in a good shot for the visitors, but Merrick made a good clearance. Nuneaton forced a corner which was cleared at the expense of another one, which was also cleared. The visitors again attacked, but Scott put his shot wide of the goal. Ison made an attempt to get through on his own, but was stopped short. A bad mistake by Taylor let in Scott, but Merrick cleared before Cull put in a beautiful cross, which both Sambrooke and Dunn failed to make use of.

Tricky play by Mann enabled Dunn to get in a shot, but it was blocked by a defender. Roberts was injured and eventually had to leave the field. Boxley failed to hold a long shot from Taylor and the ball broke loose, but no Nuneaton player was able to take advantage. A long shot from Green took Boxley by surprise, but the ball went just wide. Mann put in a terrific shot which rebounded into play before Cradley retaliated and only a marvellous save by Merrick prevented them from scoring. The goalkeeper saved Nuneaton on more than one occasion and although Nuneaton attacked strongly toward the close, there was no further score and the match ended 1-1.

## Hednesford Town v Nuneaton Town 01-05-1923

**Hednesford: Rostance; Claney and Smart; Allen, Shaw and Lyons; Harrington, Rowe, Holcroft, Gibson and Greaves.**

**Nuneaton: Merrick; Green and Taylor; Spicer, Homer and Mann; Cull, Hawkes, Sambrooke, Liggins and Ison.**

Nuneaton travelled to The Cross Keys to face Hednesford in a Birmingham League match. The visitors were still in with a chance of taking runners-up spot.

Hednesford were first to attack, but Green relieved with a big kick. Good work by Hawkes and Sambrooke took play to the other end, but Smart intercepted Cull's pass and cleared. Cull took play up to Hednesford's half and swung across a beautiful cross, which Rostance at first misfielded, but recovered and cleared. Harrington made a fine run on the home right wing and finished up with a nice centre, which Gibson shot against

the crossbar, the ball dropping to Merrick, who threw away.

Ison made a good run, and cleverly tricking Claney dropped across a splendid centre which Smart cleared. Nuneaton attacked again and got a goal, which was disallowed. Ison forced a corner and no one could have placed the ball better, with the result that the home goal was put in great danger. For a few moments the ball bobbed about in the air from the head of one player to another. It was partially got away, only to be returned by Cull. As the ball dropped both Liggins and Homer kicked at the ball, which went at least a yard over the line, but the referee refused to give the goal and Rostance kicked away.

A header by Hawkes went just over the bar, while Rostance saved a shot from Ison. A minute later the winger tested Rostance with a hard low drive, but the keeper was safe.

Nuneaton were continually on the attack, and a long forward pass by Mann saw Sambrooke and Rostance have a race for the ball. The goalkeeper got there first and kicked away.

The teams crossed over immediately and in the first minute Merrick made a brilliant save from Lyons, while Sambrooke made a brilliant individual effort. Showing great speed, he left the home backs behind and drew Rostance out of goal. As the goalkeeper advanced, he shot, but the ball struck the outside of the upright and went wide.

Play towards the end of the game was confined to midfield, with both defences doing good work. Taylor, in particular, made several good clearances.

After the match a Hednesford player, when asked about the disallowed goal said the ball went over the goal-line at least a yard and a half. He also added that it would be a shame if Nuneaton lost the runners-up trophy and medals because of a poor refereeing decision.

## Bilston United v Nuneaton Town 05-05-1923

**Bilston: Madelin; Toy and Carter; Grant, Crook and Fellowes; Newman, Coulter, Woodhall, Arblaster and Harrold.**

**Nuneaton: Merrick; Taylor and Smith; Spicer, Homer and Mann; Cull, Dunn, Sambrooke, Goldie and Ison.**

Town visited Queen Street, Bilston for the final Birmingham League match of the season. Nuneaton were still in with a chance of runners-up spot and also annexing the Keys Cup.

Nuneaton opened well and played some really good football. Before Bilston got their first goal, Sambrooke had practically an open goal, but the centre-forward failed to get to the ball, probably owing to the wretched condition of the ground. On other occasions he had several glorious chances of scoring but unaccountably failed.

On one occasion after Ison had missed, the ball went to Sambrooke, who had only to touch the ball into the net, but he steered the ball wide of the posts. Had Nuneaton utilised these early opportunities the result might easily have been reversed. With practically their first chance of scoring, Bilston



went ahead. A bad mistake by Taylor letting in Woodhall, who easily netted. The game was won in the next minute, when Bilston scored again. A misunderstanding between Smith and Spicer gave Coulter a glorious chance which he had little difficulty in utilising.

These two reverses made Nuneaton play better but did not improve their work in front of goal, which was deplorably weak. The only Nuneaton forward who was really dangerous was Dunn, who played a great game. His trickiness and deft passes to Cull made him noticeable. On more than one occasion he had the home defence in a tangle and presented the other forwards with good passes which were not taken.

Mann and Merrick were the other outstanding players, but couldn't prevent Nuneaton going down to a 3-1 defeat.

## Green Transferred to Sheffield United

Nuneaton's popular and brilliant right half-back, George Green, was yesterday transferred to Sheffield United. Coming to Nuneaton from Leamington Town at the beginning of the season 1921-22, Green has been one of the most consistent and hard-working players in the team. Other clubs that have been interested for some time include Aston Villa, Sunderland, Blackburn Rovers, Newcastle United, Birmingham, Notts County and Manchester United.

The transfer fee received by Nuneaton is £250. It is less than most would have expected, but it has to be remembered that transfer prices are rapidly falling and the days of stupendous fees are over...

## Crowd and Referee Reported

Rumours have been circulating during the week that Nuneaton Town FC are protesting against Bilston United as a result of the scenes on the ground towards the end of the match, when the crowd barracked the players and threw missiles at Merrick.

It will be remembered that owing to the hostility of the crowd, Merrick had to appeal to the referee, who cautioned the crowd. This, however, did not have the desired effect and subsequently on the instigation of Dunn, the Nuneaton captain, a director and the police had to appeal to the crowd before order was restored.

After the match the Nuneaton trainer, Mr W. Holmes, went on the ground, and in the vicinity of the goal which Merrick had defended in the second half, he found several pieces of glass, which had doubtless been thrown at the custodian.

The directors have decided not to appeal against the result, but to report the conduct of the crowd to the FA.

## Nuneaton's Application to Join The Third Division

In the interests of local football and its devotees the mystery surrounding the application of Nuneaton Town FC to the Third Division of the English League should be cleared up, and the true facts of the position made public. There is a suspicion that the application has not been made, and that the supporters of the club are being "spoofed".

This is not so. The application has been made in formal fashion by means of a letter, but there the matter has ended, and probably will end. No propaganda has been instituted, no canvassing of clubs has taken place, and no steps have been taken to put forward Nuneaton's case before the officials of the League.

At a meeting of the club's directors this week it was decided not to send a representative to the annual meeting of the Football League, which is to be held at the end of this month. This decision is the climax of the half-hearted attempt to make progress...

...The application is of course doomed to complete failure unless there is an eleventh hour attempt to give it enthusiastic and unqualified backing. This is not the whole of the danger. The suggestion that Nuneaton are simply toying with the proposal might conceivably bring the club into disrepute with the leading football authorities, to say nothing of the unfortunate effect it will have on local supporters of the game.

The cause of the trouble is Nuneaton's financial position. The club is faced with such a huge overdraft at the bank that it would be irretrievably ruined if admission to the Third Division was secured and the first season proved a failure...

## Birmingham League 1922-23

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Shrewsbury Town	34	23	4	7	82	41	50
Bilston United	34	22	3	9	100	46	47
Nuneaton Town	34	20	5	9	77	45	45
Worcester City	34	18	7	9	64	50	43
Willenhall	34	16	9	9	76	44	41
Stourbridge	34	18	5	11	66	46	41
Wellington Town	34	18	2	14	63	47	38
Darlaston	34	16	6	12	61	50	38
Cradley Heath	34	12	13	9	60	52	37
Burton All Saints	34	13	8	13	58	50	34
Redditch United	34	15	3	16	59	65	33
Hednesford Town	34	11	9	14	55	63	31
Stafford Rangers	34	10	8	16	65	72	28
Brierley Hill Alliance	34	11	3	20	46	80	25
Cannock Town	34	7	9	18	42	79	23
Kidderminster Harriers	34	8	6	20	37	71	22
Wednesbury Old Ath.	34	7	6	21	41	94	20
Tamworth Castle	34	5	6	23	41	98	16



## Directors Anxiety Over Financial Position

The financial position of Nuneaton Town FC is giving the directors great anxiety, and the work of team building is being seriously hampered. The bank overdraft, in the words of the Chairman, Mr. T. Daffern, hangs like a great burden on the club's shoulders.

At a meeting of the directors this week, representatives of the Press were invited to investigate the position and listen to a discussion on various schemes to raise money. The Chairman said the object of the club was to clear off the debt and make a bold bid for the Third Division another season. The directors had been criticised for failing to organise propaganda in favour of the recent application, but the fact was that the club had no money to expend.

It was pointed out that owing to the club being a limited liability company the directors themselves could not organise any scheme for improving the financial position, and whatever was done would have to be done by supporters...

## Well-Known Players Sign for Big Clubs

Nuneaton Town's team for next season is likely to prove vastly different from the one which achieved such a good record in the campaign just closed. The transfer of George Green has been followed by the announcement that J. Merrick, the brilliant goalkeeper, has signed for Manchester United. His loss will be deplored by all local enthusiasts, for he was a tower of strength to the team. Nuneaton will not receive any transfer fee, as Merrick was signed during the close season.

It is also rumoured that Smith, the full back, has signed for Chelsea, while Manchester United are also endeavouring to secure the services of Coley. Nuneaton re-signed Coley on Monday and if he leaves a transfer will be necessary.

Apart from Coley, the only other Town player to re-sign so far is Spicer. Negotiations are proceeding with Cliff Homer, who at the time of writing has not, as rumour has stated, signed for a certain Midland English League club.

The retaining wage of the Birmingham League has been offered to certain other players, including Mann and Dunn. The latter met the directors on Wednesday, but no agreement was reached.

Nuneaton's difficulty has been a financial one, because the position of the club does not make possible summer wages which have been paid to certain players in the past. Consequently they could not keep some of the players they desired to retain. This explains the loss of Merrick.

The position regarding Sambrooke is somewhat peculiar in that Wellington possess the right to retain his services.

## FOOTBALL RULES

### Important Alterations Approved by the F.A.

#### The Off-Side Law

Several suggested alterations to the Laws of Football were approved at Monday's meeting of the Football Association, but by far the most important was that concerning the sore point, the offside rule, the approved proposal being: "Laws 1 and 6. — The the laws be amended to provide that the offside area be limited to the playing area within 40 yards of each goal line."

At present, of course, the offside area is half the field of play, viz., a distance of from 50 to 65 yards, according to the length of the field.

All the alterations have first to come before the annual meeting of the Association, and afterwards approved by the International Board. But as the latter body's turning down of previous offside proposals have been mainly on account of England's opposition, it is tolerably certain, with that opposition withdrawn, that that alteration, at least, will be approved by the Board.

Other alterations to the laws of the game, as approved were:

Law 1. — For the present sentence substitute the following: "The game shall be played by not more than 11 players on each side."

Insert the following as the second sentence: "By arrangement made before the commencement of a match (but not in a match played under the rules of a competition) substitutes may be allowed in place of injured players."

Law 14. — Insert as the second sentence: "A game shall be won by the team scoring the greater number of goals. If no goals have been scored or the scores are equal at the end of the game the game shall be drawn."

Law 17. — Add to the third sentence:

"The free-kick shall be taken under the following conditions. All players, with the exception of the opponents' goalkeeper, shall stand outside the penalty area and inside the field of play, and no player shall approach to within 10 yards of the ball until the kick is taken."

On the proposal of Mr. John Lewis the Council decided to recommend the annual meeting to alter Rule 31, fifth sentence to read: "Clubs shall be entitled to retain players they are willing to pay at the rate of £208 per annum."

## Coalville Town— Preliminary Round

Nuneaton played host to Coalville Town of the Leicestershire Senior League in the Preliminary Round of the FA Cup.

Nuneaton: Merrick; Taylor and Paul; Wood, Homer and Mann; Coley, Dunn, Babbage, Goldie and Ison.

Coalville: Turner; Hodges and Burton; Dable, Middleton and West; Hickling, Jarrow, Pringle, Challiner and Springthorpe.

The game opened with Nuneaton on the attack and after four minutes' play they were awarded a free-kick. Mann took the kick and placed accurately in the goalmouth. Hodges, in endeavouring to clear, kicked the ball to the feet of Goldie, who stood close in, and the inside-left promptly shot into the net, Turner being unsighted.

Nuneaton immediately got going again and Babbage was responsible for a fine low shot which hit the upright. From a rare Coalville breakaway, Hickling shot wide.

Ison was seen to advantage with several fine centres which, however, the inside men failed to make use of. After Goldie had hit the side net, Mann set Ison going, and the latter placed a great cross into the goalmouth, but Babbage missed an open goal.

Coalville seldom got away, and when they did their forwards were wide of the mark with their shots, which had little sting behind them.

Nuneaton kept up the pressure and from a centre by Coley, Goldie had little difficulty in netting from close range. The next minute the same player shot over when well placed. From another Coalville break, Challiner shot wide. Babbage then made a fine dribble, and after beating several opponents shot, but Turner easily saved.

Both the Nuneaton wingers sent across good centres, but the inside men failed on several occasions to accept what looked like possible scoring chances. Just before half-time Coalville

attacked, but Springthorpe's shot was wide of the mark.

In the first minute of the second half Burton headed away a splendid centre from Coley. Nuneaton were then awarded a penalty, and Babbage, who was entrusted with the kick, scored after Turner had once saved. Some time later Burton headed away from Ison. A promising movement in which Dunn, Coley and Babbage took part ended in Goldie being offside.

Up to this stage of the game Merrick had not handled a shot. Goldie, after a pass from Ison, worked his way into position, but his final shot was wide. Turner then had to run out to clear from Babbage, and a minute later Ison just skimmed the bar with a good shot. Turner saved from Goldie, and in the next minute he saved from Babbage.

From a pass by Dunn, Babbage fired in a terrific shot, but once again Turner was equal to the occasion. Coley was then fouled and the free-kick, which was well placed by Wood, was headed into the net by Goldie, who completed his hat-trick in the process. Just after Babbage shot over from Homer's pass.

A shot by Coley caused Turner to handle, and a Coalville attack saw Paul clear. Mann shot wide from a pass by Coley. Merrick handled for the first time from a shot by Jarrow. At the other end, Nuneaton forced a corner, which was well placed by Coley, and Babbage received and passed to Homer, the latter scoring with a fine shot. Straight from the kick-off Turner made another fine save from a hook shot by Goldie.

A splendid combined movement by Dunn and Coley saw the latter hit the side net with a fast shot. A good run by Goldie looked dangerous, but Babbage failed to accept a good scoring chance.

## Hinckley United— 1st Qualifying Round

Nuneaton travelled to The Holywell, home of Hinckley United, in the 1st Qualifying Round of the FA Cup.

Hinckley: Castledine; Randle and J. Harris; Norman, Craig and Webb Harris; Spencer, Herbert, Sealey, Barber and E. Ford.

Nuneaton: Merrick; Taylor and Smith; Green, Homer and Mann; Coley, Dunn, Babbage, Goldie and Ison.

The saucer-like ground had long thick grass on it made good football difficult. Hinckley won the toss and elected to kick with the slope and were first to attack with Barber shooting tamely after receiving Herbert's pass. Taylor cleared when Hinckley pressed again.

Homer and Barber got to loggerheads and the referee offered some advice. Barber gave Spencer a good chance, but he centred outside. From a centre by Ford the Nuneaton goal had another narrow escape when Herbert sent wide. A free-kick taken by Craig also grazed the upright.

So far Hinckley had proved decidedly the better team, and their rushing tactics had Nuneaton completely disorganised. At length, however, the visitors began to settle down and Dunn set Coley going, and from his centre Babbage headed over the bar. Good combination between Babbage and Goldie ended in the latter testing Castledine, who saved well.

Town persisted and opened the scoring after 15 minutes. Dunn headed the ball to the feet of Babbage, who ran between the backs and shot into the net.

Five minutes later Nuneaton added a second through Goldie, who ran from the half-way line, dribbled past three players and scored a brilliant goal. The same player skimmed the bar just after.

Hinckley retaliated and Spencer made a fine run, which he marred by shooting wide. A good centre by Ison saw Dunn almost score, but Castledine saved. Hinckley forwards carried out a strong attack, and the Nuneaton defence was in difficulties until Taylor relieved with a big kick. A magnificent shot by Green was caught by Castledine, who was charged by Goldie and forced to concede a corner. At the break Nuneaton led 2-0.

Nuneaton concentrated on playing more tip-tap football at the start of the second half and lost several chances. Hinckley attacked on occasions but their forwards were easily held by Nuneaton's defence.

Ison shot just wide after good play by Goldie, and the Hinckley goal had a wonderful escape following a scrimmage. Craig defended well. Homer and Herbert collided and the latter had to leave the field, but returned with a bandaged head.

Nuneaton attacked again and Dunn passed to Babbage, who took the ball on the run and scored a great goal. The ball struck the underside of the crossbar, rebounded on to the ground and out again. The referee gave a corner but awarded a goal after Hinckley's Castledine informed him that it crossed the line.

A run by Babbage got close, but he was hampered and Castledine saved. A rush by Dunn, Goldie and Babbage saw Goldie's shot saved by Castledine,

Babbage had an open goal a few yards out, but he did the impossible and hooked it over the bar, a feat repeated by Ford at the other end

## Whitwick Imperial— 2nd Qualifying Round

Nuneaton played host to Whitwick Imperial of the Leicestershire Senior League in the 2nd Qualifying Round of the FA Cup.

Nuneaton: Merrick; Taylor and Smith; Green, Homer and Mann; Coley, Dunn, Babbage, Goldie and Jordan.

Whitwick: Ball; Waterfield and Rollo; Thorpe, Middleton and Elton; Hanson, Burton, Branson, Moore and Graystone.

Dunn opened the action by hitting the juncture of bar and post, and after five minutes Coley got away on the right and centred to Dunn, who ran the ball to the goal-line. He failed to get a shooting position, so hooked the ball back to Goldie, who scored. The referee though, disallowed the goal.

Nuneaton opened the scoring after 20 minutes when Goldie and Babbage tried to break through and eventually succeeded when Goldie hit a shot past Ball. Five minutes later Dunn started a move that brought Nuneaton a second goal. Babbage receiving the ball from Dunn and scoring with a great shot.

For some time Town had the best of the play, but injuries were frequent and Green and Waterfield had to leave the pitch for treatment. The referee had to speak to several of the players.

Both goals had narrow escapes before Branson was badly injured in a tackle with Taylor and he had to be carried off and took no further part in the game.

In the last minute of the first half Whitwick forced a corner and following a melee the ball went to Greystone, who shot. Merrick saved, but the ball rebounded to Hanson who scored.

Nuneaton were easily the better side in the second half and Ball made a good save from Dunn as the visitors' defence was tested. A lot of feeling continued and the referee again called the players together and issued a general warning.

After Babbage had missed an easy chance, Dunn increased Nuneaton's lead following a cross by Jordan. About 15 minutes from time Burton hooked the ball over Smith's head, tricked Taylor and scored with a low shot which deceived Merrick.

No further goals were scored and Nuneaton went through to the 3rd Qualifying Round of the F.A. Cup.

## Coalville Swifts— 3rd Qualifying Round

Nuneaton visited Coalville Swifts of the Leicestershire Senior League in the 3rd Qualifying Round of the FA Cup.

Coalville: Skermer; Pass and Kendall; Mortimer, Brookes and Fairbrother; Mugglestone, Layton, Mattocks, Swain and Bancroft.

Nuneaton: Merrick; Taylor and Smith; Green, Homer and Mann; Coley, Dunn, Roberts, Goldie and Spellman.

Twenty-five minutes after the start of the match Nuneaton were awarded a free-kick about 30 yards out. Green took the kick and put in a great drive, the ball entering the net in the far corner. It was touched by a Coalville player, but its path was not diverted. Coalville almost equalised in the closing minutes of the half.

Curiously enough, the Swifts drew level as a result of a free-kick, which was a rather debatable decision. This was taken from about 20 yards range, and Pass scored with an extraordinary good shot, the ball travelling at a great pace out of the reach of Merrick, after 15 minutes of the second half.

Five minutes later Nuneaton were ahead again. Dunn was the central figure in a move which had the Coalville defence guessing, and there was a tussle in the vicinity of the goal. Homer fastened on to the ball and tried to get a shooting position, but could not, and it was left to Goldie to run in and score with a fine shot.

After the referee had caused a diversion by being knocked out by the ball, the visitors showed their best form of the whole game and might have made the game safe with a little more judgment.

Nuneaton held on to their lead until about 12 minutes from time. Then Smith half kicked the ball, which went into the centre of the field and Fairbrother, rushing up, scored with a beautiful shot from long range

After this Coalville were all over Town and it was odds against the defence holding out. Two minutes after the equaliser came the winner. A series of well placed corners put an unbearable strain on the visitors' defence, and from one of them a scrimmage occurred. The ball was in the air, and Homer was in the act of heading it, when he was charged into the net, the ball being rushed through by Layton, who was accompanied by several colleagues.

Nuneaton were out of the cup and suffered their first defeat of the season.



# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



## Birmingham League: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1922-23

Date	Opposition	Competition	Venue	Score	Scorers
Aug. 26	Worcester City	League	Away	1-1	Cull
28	Atherstone Town	NCC S-F	Home	6-1	Roberts (3), Dunn, Jordan, Spicer
Sept. 2	Stafford Rangers	League	Home	3-1	Green (pen), Dunn, Goldie
9	Burton All Saints	League	Away	1-0	Green
12	Tamworth Castle	NCC Final	Home	2-1	Spicer, Roberts
16	Burton All Saints	League	Home	6-2	Dunn (2), Babbage (2), Goldie, Homer
23	Coalville Town	FA Cup Prelim.	Home	5-0	Goldie (3), Babbage, Homer
30	Wellington Town	League	Home	1-0	Homer
Oct. 7	Hinckley United	FA Cup 1Q	Away	3-0	Babbage (2), Goldie
14	Stourbridge	League	Home	4-0	Coley, Dunn, Babbage, Goldie
21	Whitwick Imperial	FA Cup 2Q	Home	3-2	Dunn, Babbage, Goldie
28	Bilston United	League	Home	3-0	Dunn, Babbage, Goldie
Nov. 4	Coalville Swifts	FA Cup 3Q	Away	2-3	Green, Goldie
11	Darlaston	League	Home	1-0	Mann
18	Shrewsbury Town	League	Home	2-0	Coley, Babbage
25	Cannock Town	League	Away	0-2	
Dec. 2	Redditch	League	Home	4-3	Green, Ison, Homer, Smith
9	Tamworth Castle	BSC3	Away	1-1	Coley
14	Tamworth Castle	BSC3 Replay	Home	3-0	Green (2, 1 pen), Goldie
16	Brierley Hill Alliance	League	Home	9-2	Hawkes (3), Goldie (3), Green, Ison, Dunn
23	Worcester City	League	Home	3-0	Hawkes, Dunn, Homer
30	Stafford Rangers	League	Away	3-3	Goldie (2), Own Goal
Jan. 6	Wednesbury Old Athletic	League	Home	3-1	Hawkes (2), Dunn
13	Wednesbury Old Athletic	League	Away	1-3	Green
20	Kidderminster Harriers	League	Away	0-0	
27	Hednesford Town	League	Home	4-2	Hawkes (2), Spellman, Dunn
Feb. 1	Leamington Town	BSC3	Home	10-0	Goldie (5), Coley, Dunn, Ison, Homer, Spellman
3	Wellington Town	League	Away	1-0	Hawkes
10	Cradley Heath	League	Away	0-4	
17	Stourbridge	League	Away	0-1	
24	Kidderminster Harriers	League	Home	6-1	Hawkes (2), Goldie (2), Dunn, Homer
Mar. 3	Bilston United	BSC4	Away	0-1	
10	Willenhall	League	Home	2-0	Hawkes, Goldie
17	Darlaston	League	Away	2-3	Green (pen), Dunn
24	Shrewsbury Town	League	Away	0-3	
31	Cannock Town	League	Home	2-0	Booton, Green
April 2	Tamworth Castle	League	Away	3-1	Sambrooke, Green (pen), Mann
3	Bilston United	League	Home	2-1	Sambrooke (2)
7	Redditch	League	Away	4-0	Booton, Sambrooke, Roberts, Ison
14	Tamworth Castle	League	Home	7-0	Sambrooke (3), Roberts (2), Dunn, Cull
21	Brierley Hill Alliance	League	Away	0-3	
23	Willenhall	League	Away	0-4	
28	Cradley Heath	League	Home	1-1	Sambrooke
May 1	Hednesford	League	Away	0-0	
5	Bilston United	League	Away	1-3	Dunn

Legend: BSC=Birmingham Senior Cup. NCC=Nuneaton Charity Cup

Nuneaton Scores First



## Emmin Dunn's Departure

The signature of Emmin Dunn for Hinckley United is an event which calls for attention. Somehow or other it forms a definite break in Nuneaton Town's history. His services have been so loyal and valuable, his influence so remarkable that Dunn became almost a tradition. Without him Nuneaton never seemed the same team.

I was one of those who hoped that Dunn would finish his football career with Nuneaton, and that when the arena knew him no more he would give the club the benefit of his knowledge by coaching the youngsters. I have reason to believe that Dunn had similar hopes and intentions.

However, he felt it impossible to accept Nuneaton's terms for next season. Seemingly the directors considered that Dunn's value had depreciated and they only offered to re-sign him on conditions which would not have filled a junior with very great elation...

...Dunn's departure leaves a place hard to fill. He had been a whole-hearted and conscientious servant, a master of strategy, and an inspiring force. If wonder if Nuneaton will see his like again?

## New Full Back Signed: Others Expected

The Secretary of Nuneaton Town AFC, Mr W. A. Thompson, was engaged at Derby yesterday, endeavouring to secure the signature of a well-known Derby County full-back, who has been a prominent defender for the team for several seasons.

A full-back, Gregory, from Loughborough Corinthians, was signed this week as well as another goalkeeper, Manley, who represented the club for a few games in the first season of Birmingham League football.

Last season's captain of the Leicestershire Senior League side, George Paul, has also re-signed. The report of the signature of Villiers from Leicester City, was rather premature, but he is expected to play.

## Nuneaton's New Centre Forward

Late last evening the "Observer" was informed by telephone that the Secretary-manager of the Nuneaton Town FC had secured the signature of Cashmore, of Darlaston, who last season, was the most prolific goalscorer in the Birmingham League. Cashmore, who should make a fine leader of the Nuneaton attack, was formerly with Cardiff City, Notts County and Oldham Athletic.

## Nuneaton Town FC AGM

An optimistic feeling pervaded the annual meeting of the shareholders of Nuneaton Town FC, held at the Bull's Head Inn on Tuesday, and there was little or no criticism forthcoming. Mr. T. Daffern (chairman of directors) presided.

Consideration was given to the directors' report and balance sheet. This showed a loss on the season's working of £283 14s.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the balance sheet, said the directors regretted that the season's finances had not come out on the right side, but the shareholders knew the reason. One reason was the reduction in the admission price, and the other the cost of overhead charges. Until the club could get rid of the overhead charges they would always come with a deficiency on the balance sheet. He was glad to note that there was a movement on foot to wipe out some of the bank overdraft, the burden which hung over the club. If this object was accomplished then the way was open for the success of the club from a financial point of view.

Referring to the land outside the football field which the club owned, the Chairman said the first business of the new directorate would be to consider the sale of this land. They were not estate agents, but a football club, and the aim of the directors was to get surplus land off their hands. They had received a fairly good offer, and this would be considered by the new Board. The Chairman added that the balance sheet came out better than at one time appeared likely, and intimated that he was there to answer any questions. The directors had nothing to hide.

The report was adopted.

...The Chairman referred to the meeting of supporters, which is to be held to wipe out the adverse bank balance, and said it was owing to lack of funds that the directors were not able to retain some of their best players. It was no good shareholders or supporters saying anything because the directors were bound to act as they did.

Nevertheless, they had the prospect of a good team. One or two positions required filling up, but there were plenty of good players left yet, and he had no fear that the coming season would not be so successful as the last. He reminded the meeting that during the season 1921-22 Nuneaton only lost two matches at home, and during 1922-23 they were undefeated at home. These facts proved that the spectators were provided with good football at Manor Park. Yet there were people growling because the team did not win the League. It was the away matches which beat them, but those people who were acquainted with the conditions on Black Country grounds were not surprised. (Laughter)...



## New Forward for Nuneaton

Nuneaton Town have signed on Charles Burton, an inside forward, who for the last two seasons played for Whitwick Imperials, the champions of the Leicestershire Senior League. He scored 36 goals in the last campaign and is a well-built and tricky forward. He formerly played for Nuneaton United FC.

## New Players On View

Nuneaton Town FC has secured the signature of a new back, ahead of tomorrow first practice match. Fred Flanders, who has played for three seasons with Derby County, a season with Newport County and last season with Hartlepool United. He is 25 years of age and was one time captain of the English Schoolboys international team.

Newcomers not previously announced, who are expected to appear tomorrow are Thompson, a speedy outside-right who has rendered fine service for Denaby United; Wilson, a full-back from Leamington Town; Gillett, the well-known centre-half of Stourbridge; Pearson, left-half from a Birmingham Works team; and Woodhouse, an outside-left from the Sutton and District League.

The full list of players includes: Cashmore (Darlaston), Woodhouse (WBA), Villiers (Mansfield and Leicester City), Summers (Tamworth Castle), Smart (Kidderminster Harriers), Burton (Whitwick Imperial), Gregory (Loughborough Corinthians) and Manley (Exhall Colliery).

Old players selected for tomorrows game are: Spicer, Homer, Mann, Coley, Ison and Jones.

## First Practice Game

The process of building up a team to represent Nuneaton Town FC for next season has never been performed with less blare of trumpets than has been the case during the last few months, and the change of method produced a feeling of doubt in the minds of supporters.

There was a gate of 1,200 and most will have been reassured after watching the game. The outstanding item in the game was the smart form displayed by the probable first team forward line: Coley, Summers, Cashmore, Smart and Ison. They fitted into each other's style as though they had been playing together for years.

There was a wealth of half-back and full-back talent on view, although Jack Mann was absent, as he was away on holiday. His place was taken by Villiers, who showed up well...

...The match ended in a win for the "Blues" by five goals to nil. Summers and Cashmore got two apiece and Smart got the other. The "Purples" failed to reply.

## FREE SEASONS FOR MANOR PARK

To the three readers of the "Observer" who send in the greatest number of these Coupons before next Thursday morning first post (August 16th) we will give a Season Ticket for the Manor Park ground for the forthcoming Season.

Name .....

Address .....

A similar coupon appeared in last Friday's "Observer" and any number of these may be sent in. Envelopes must be marked "Season"

## Suggest A Pet Name For Town

The value of a catch name for a football club has been proved right throughout the history of the game. The "Villans," the "Throstles," the "Magpies," the "Bantams," the "Tigers," and the "Adders," are names upon the lips of all football enthusiasts.

Nuneaton Town used to be known as "The Blues," but now they have changed their colours there is need for a new catch-name. What shall it be? The "Observer" readers can decide. It is obvious that suggestions should not only be appropriate, but smart and original. A ten shilling prize will be given for the best suggestion received at the "Observer" Office by first post Friday next (August 17th). All entries must include this coupon and envelopes must be addressed "Pet-Name."

## Second Practice Game

Nuneaton Town FC's second practice game was played at Manor Park on Saturday, before about 1,500 spectators, and the match, though hardly so interesting as that of the previous week, was good, and confirmed the general impressions that the club has some exceedingly good talent at its command.

New players introduced were Hawton (Birmingham Works), Floyd (Birmingham Works) and Shepherd and Forknell, two youths from Nuneaton Sunday School League teams. Flanders was an absentee owing to injury and Riley took his place.

The conditions were not ideal with a strong wind making ball control difficult, but the players did extremely well under the circumstances. The "Probables" beat the "Possibles" by six goals to one. The three inside forwards in the "Probables" team all performed well, as did Homer and Villiers, while Coley and



Ison showed good form. Bacon gave a good display, but Gillett was hardly so impressive as in the first practice game. For the "Possibles", Mann showed himself to be the clever and reliable left half of last season and was warmly applauded by the spectators...

## Nuneaton Town's Pet Name — "The Nuns"

The competition in which the "Observer" asked its sporting readers to find a pet name for the Nuneaton Town FC has proved a tremendous success. Hundreds of suggestions were received and our readers were evidently ready for an opportunity of expressing their opinion on this matter.

By far the most popular suggestion is "The Nuns", with dozens of coupons containing this suggestion and as it is certainly the most appropriate name for the team we have decided to make the prize award to the first one received. This came from Mr. J. H. Gibson, 44 Bracebridge Street, Nuneaton.

Subsequent coupons brought in a host of suggestions, many of them based on the changed colours — "The Robins," "The Reds," "The Redsters," "The Red Wings," "The Scarlet Runners," etc. Two readers suggested "The Parkites," and one even went as far as "The George Eliots"! One fairly good suggestion for a mining district was "The Getters." "The Swifts" was a popular name, but hardly appropriate, whilst other names included "The Hawks," "The Shrimps," "The Limpets," "The Bolshies," "The Naps," "The Merry Mixtures," and "The Ankersiders," etc.

## Advice Which Caused Nuneaton To Withdraw From Southern League

The chief reason which prompted Nuneaton to withdraw from the Southern League was mentioned by the club's chairman, Mr Fred Payne, at Friday's meeting of the supporters. He explained that a certain gentleman holding an important position in the football world advised Nuneaton not to launch out in the way suggested, as it would lead to heavy financial loss. The directors took his advice, feeling that it would be folly to risk the existence of the club with such a venture. Had there been no overdraft at the bank, the plunge would have been taken.

Events have since suggested that the risk would have been nothing like so great as hinted, and that Nuneaton would have had the biggest "gates" in the club's history if they had joined the Southern League. By all accounts the football in the Southern League is of an excellent character. Both Billy Barratt and Hugh Richmond have assured me that the teams give a fast and clever exhibition of the game, and I know that the Leicester City directors are more than pleased with the league. Their "gates" have improved and the football is much better suited to their reserve team.

## 1923-24

### Willenhall v Nuneaton Town

24-08-1923

**Willenhall:** Humphries; Clarkson and Silvers; Spencer, Winsper and Rushton; Silvester, James, Postans, Coglin and Rickhuss.

**Nuneaton:** Woodhouse; Bacon and Flanders; Villiers, Homer and Mann; Coley, Summers, Cashmore, Smart and Ison.

Nuneaton travelled to Willenhall for the first game of the 1923-24 season. They were accompanied by 100 travelling supporters. Rain fell for almost the entire 90 minutes and the ground was in a treacherous state.

The early exchanges were interesting and both attacks moved with speed and dash. Early end-to-end play raised the enthusiasm of the spectators and both keepers were called upon. Woodhouse made a brilliant save from Postans, while Humphries turned a great shot from Cashmore round the post.

Nuneaton took the lead after seven minutes following good combination between Summers, Coley and Cashmore. A pass by Cashmore was picked up by Summers, who tricked the defence and coolly steered the ball out of the reach of Humphries. A pass from Ison put the home defence in difficulties. Summers fastened on to the ball and an exciting moment followed which resulted in Nuneaton appealing for a penalty, which was disallowed and Humphries cleared.

Nuneaton's lead lasted only 13 minutes. Rickhuss sent over a centre which Mann headed clear, but Postans picked up the ball and scored with a fine shot. Cashmore and Summers looked likely scorers, but were caught offside. Willenhall threatened and Postan broke through, Woodhouse ran out to meet him and he shot. The ball hit the post and Bacon cleared.

Silvers brought a move by Summers and Coley to a halt, while at the other end Rushton shot wide. Villiers shot over from 20 yards following a free-kick and just before half-time Coley centred to Cashmore, who headed into Humphries' hands. At the break the score was tied at 1-1.

There was concern for Nuneaton when Bacon miskicked, but the back recovered and made a clearance. Cashmore tricked two men to get in position to shoot, but was robbed. Willenhall had a narrow escape when Humphries failed to hold Homer's shot, but rescued the ball as it was about to go over the line.

An exciting scramble saw Flanders breast the ball down in the area, but couldn't clear, so fell on the ball and it was kicked from under him, but Woodhouse flung himself at the ball and fell on it. Half-a-dozen players were struggling to get possession, but the referee blew for a foul. Mann and a home player came to loggerheads, but things calmed down.

Willenhall forced a corner, which was well placed and the ball was kept in the vicinity of the Nuneaton goal. Half-a-dozen attempts were made to head the ball, but Coglin got in a header and the ball sailed under the bar to give the home side a 2-1 lead. The reverse spurred Nuneaton on and

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



Cashmore was subject to a debatable offside decision when in front of goal, and an accurate cross by Ison was cleared.

Both sides adopted a one-back policy and midfield play reigned until the last 20 minutes when Nuneaton set up an attack which continued almost without interruption. Humphries made saves from all three of Nuneaton's inside men, and Willenhall resorted to kicking out tactics. Humphries made a great save from Sharp, while just before the end Cashmore swerved round the home defence and put in a shot that went a yard wide of the post. At the final whistle Willenhall had won 2-1.

## Nuneaton Town v Hinckley United 26-08-1923

**Nuneaton:** Woodhouse; Bacon and Flanders; Villiers, Homer and Mann; Coley, Summers, Cashmore, Smart and Ison.

**Hinckley:** Allcoat; Randle and Taylor; Herbert, Craig and Webb-Harris; Spencer, Harris, Winterton, Wright and Ford.

Nuneaton welcomed near neighbours Hinckley United to Manor Park on Monday evening for a Nuneaton Charity Cup semi-final. The weather kept down the attendance and only 1,500 spectators were present.

Cashmore started the game and Nuneaton were first to attack when a centre from Ison was nullified by an offside decision. Hinckley countered and Bacon conceded a corner, which Ford took, but which was cleared, but returned and Herbert easily beat Woodhouse to give United the lead after five minutes.

Woodhouse saved brilliantly from Wright, conceding a corner from which Wright shot again, and Woodhouse made another fine save. Hinckley hit Nuneaton on the break following an Allcoat save. Spencer made ground and passed to Winterton, who put the ball in the net, but was given offside.

Allcoat made a great save from Summers before Nuneaton equalised on 35 minutes. Mann sending Ison away, with the winger beating the backs and scoring a fine goal. Ison got in two more telling centres, but to no avail. Woodhouse made two good saves from Spencer, while Wright put wide.

The team turned straight round and from the kick-off "The Nuns" attacked, Smart being pulled up for offside, the referee changing his decision to a bounce up. Winterton made a fine effort, getting the best of Bacon and Flanders, but Homer relieved. Hinckley came near from a free-kick taken by Herbert, Ford just missing the far post. A foul awarded to Nuneaton was taken by Flanders, with Allcoat punching out. Both sides came close to scoring, but defences held out.

## Nuneaton Town v Bilston United 01-09-1923

**Nuneaton:** Woodhouse; Gregory and Wilson; Jones, Homer and Mann; Coley, Burton, Cashmore, Villiers and Ison.

**Bilston:** Finch; Carter and Williams; Evans, Crook and King; Newman, Bowyer, Taylor, Cope and Harrold.

Nuneaton welcomed Bilston United to Manor Park for a Birmingham League match. A thunderstorm broke over the ground just before kick-off and heavy rain fell frequently

during the game, making for difficult playing conditions and mitigating against good football.

There was a sensational start to the game, when straight from the kick-off Cashmore sent Ison away, and from the winger's centre, Williams conceded a corner. Ison took the kick and Cashmore headed a goal. Nuneaton came close to increasing their lead in the next few minutes. Coley got away and centred finely, Villiers fastened on to the ball and shot against the upright. Cashmore put wide from in front of a yawning goal.

Play became tamer after this exciting start, but the exchanges were still interesting. Newman put in a couple of good runs for Bilston and from the second one a corner was gained. This produced an anxious few moments, but the danger was eventually cleared. Cashmore then put in a terrific shot from long range and Finch made a good save.

Bilston made several attacks and came close, but Wilson cleared following a corner. At the other end Burton got into a good position, only for his shot to cannon off a defender. After a spell of even play Villiers sent in a beautiful shot which Finch brilliantly turned round the post for a fruitless corner.

Crossing over with a goal lead, Nuneaton immediately attacked after the break, but it came to nothing. Bilston looked dangerous when Harrold got away with a clear field and centred, but Woodhouse dashed out and cleared.

Two fine shots from Homer earned applause, Finch doing well in saving them. Nuneaton were awarded a free kick for handball, but Cashmore's shot was kicked away. Nuneaton did most of the pressing and gradually outplayed Bilston, who only made spasmodic breakaways.

A great run by Homer, who went half the length of the field narrowly failed, while Cashmore netted after good work by Coley, but was given offside. About 12 minutes from time Villiers made a brilliant run and scored Nuneaton's second goal with a great cross shot. Following the second goal Nuneaton bombarded the Bilston goal, but though Mann and Cashmore went close, there was no further score and Nuneaton ran out 2-0 winners.

## Shrewsbury Town v Nuneaton Town 08-09-1923

**Shrewsbury:** Hauser; Sheldon and Edwards; Lovibund, Crutchley and Hatton; Cull, Elvidge, Thomas, Vaughan and Rhodes.

**Nuneaton:** Woodhouse; Gregory and Wilson; Jones, Homer and Mann; Coley, Villiers, Cashmore, Smart and Ison.

Nuneaton travelled to face the previous season's Birmingham League champions Shrewsbury Town at The Gay Meadow.

Nuneaton lost to a debatable penalty scored two minutes into the second half, when ex-Nuneaton winger Cull swung in a cross for which Gregory and Thomas jumped. The ball drifted out of play midway between the post and the corner flag and the referee blew his whistle and pointed to the penalty mark. The kick was taken by Edwards, who scored easily.



# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



To run Shrewsbury to a single goal was a good performance, but the score was a travesty of the abilities of the respective teams. Shrewsbury had slightly the better of the first-half, but after the interval they were quite definitely outplayed for a full half hour. For the whole of that period a goal for Nuneaton was always a possibility, but it did not come for two reasons. One was the vigorous bustling defence of the home team, and the other was lack of finish on the part of Nuneaton's forwards.

Both Smart and Villiers had opportunities of saving the game, but they failed at the all-important point, while Cashmore was twice in a golden position for scoring when he was ruled offside. One of these decisions was open to question.

The best opportunity of equalising fell to Smart, who after nicely trapping a centre from Ison, shot a yard wide of the posts. In the first-half, Ison had put in a great shot from a free-kick, firing the ball into the side netting at terrific pace.

Shrewsbury's reliance on bustle was surprising, and altogether out of keeping with their traditions. The captain, Hatton was the only member of the rear departments who attempted scientific passing, while of the forwards Cull and Elvidge alone showed footcraft and cleverness. The ball was far too much in the air, and more often than not was kicked without thought to direction.

## Hinckley United v Nuneaton Town 10-08-1923

**Hinckley:** Allcoat; Randle and Taylor; Herbert, Craig and Webb-Harris; Spencer, Harris, Winterton, Wright and Ford.

**Nuneaton:** Woodhouse; Gregory and Wilson; Jones, Homer and Mann; Coley, Villiers, Cashmore, Smart and Ison.

The replayed Nuneaton Charity Cup semi-final took place at The Holywell.

Hinckley United supporters were almost delirious with delight when their team defeated Nuneaton Town's first eleven on Monday evening. There was no fluke about the victory either as Hinckley outpaced and outshone their opponents, and for the major part of the game established a definite supremacy.

It was an exciting game, producing a maximum number of thrills and many incidents. Sometimes the play strayed very close to roughness, and there was any amount of violent charging. In fact, it was a real cup tie game and Nuneaton would have fared much better had they had half a dozen reserve players in the side.

Nuneaton scored first through Cashmore, and several other chances were missed in the early stages. Hinckley equalised through Winterton, and a minute before the interval Ford kicked the ball out of Woodhouse's hands to Wright, who gave the home side the lead.

Nuneaton brought the scored level through a clever shot by Cashmore, but later on Wright scored for Hinckley, while a few minutes later Winterton added the fourth.

Both of Hinckley's last two goals should have been saved by Woodhouse, who did not encourage confidence by the manner he dealt with long shots.

With the exception of Cashmore, who played well, Nuneaton's inside forwards were weak, while Jones was not in the picture at half-back. Wilson was uncertain at full-back and was incapable of stemming Hinckley's rushes. Gregory and Mann both played excellent games.

## Nuneaton Town v Shrewsbury Town 15-08-1923

**Nuneaton:** Woodhouse; Bacon and Gregory; Spicer, Homer and Mann; Coley, Summers, Cashmore, Villiers and Ison.

**Shrewsbury:** Hauser; Sheldon and Edwards; Lovibund, Crutchley and Hatton; Cull, Jones, Hawkes, Elvidge and Rhodes.

Nuneaton welcomed Shrewsbury Town to Manor Park for a Birmingham League game.

Nuneaton had the better of the opening exchanges, but Shrewsbury were the first to score. Elvidge netting after ten minutes play. Nuneaton worked hard for an equaliser and Homer had bad luck with a header, the ball being headed away with the goalkeeper beaten.

Shrewsbury showed up well and Hawkes missed a good chance before Nuneaton set up an attack and Cashmore scored the equaliser following a mistake by Edwards. After that Nuneaton pressed, and the Shrewsbury goal seemed to have a charmed life. The visitors' had many narrow escapes and Hauser made some brilliant saves from all angles. Cashmore went close on two occasions. While handling from Villiers' shot, Hauser was bundled over the line, but the referee refused to award a goal.

During a bombardment, Ison crashed in a great shot which Edwards kicked out from under the bar, while during several scrimmages the ball hovered near the goal-line without being forced over. A few minutes before the interval Shrewsbury broke away and Bacon miskicked, giving Hawkes an opportunity and the former Nuneaton player scored with Woodhouse making a feeble attempt to save.

Ten minutes after the interval Shrewsbury attacked and the the Nuneaton defence was in a quandary, as Rhodes scored with Woodhouse allowing the ball to pass between his upraised arms. Nuneaton retaliated and Coley almost scored, but Hauser saved in fine style.

Following further Shrewsbury pressure Woodhouse ran out in a vain attempt to clear, but the ball was shot towards goal and Spicer stopped the ball with his hands, picked it up and kicked away amidst laughter. Edwards scored the resultant penalty kick. Nuneaton rallied in the last quarter of an hour and after Villiers had scored with a good chance they made desperate attempts to save the game, but the visitors' defence held out. Villiers shot over the bar from close range and Cashmore headed wide, but at the final whistle Nuneaton had been defeated by 4-2.

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



FA Cup match reports appear on later pages.

## Nuneaton Town v Worcester City 29-09-1923

**Nuneaton:** Woodhouse; Holmes and Webster; Villiers, Homer and Mann; Thacker, Spicer, Cashmore, Smart and Ison.

**Worcester:** Crutchley; Young and Bentley; Michael, Wilson and Oakley; Tongue, Holliday, Hall, Parsonage and Gummery.

Worcester City were the visitors to Manor Park for a Birmingham League match.

Despite the result, Nuneaton played some good, attractive football and were unfortunate to meet a goalkeeper on top form. Crutchley was the saviour of his side during the prolonged Nuneaton pressure, and he averted what might easily have been a debacle. One of his saves from Smart bordered on the miraculous and there have been few more spectacular saves at Manor Park. Smart drove with great power from about 18 yards, and the ball appeared to be going into the net. The crowd yelled "goal!"; but Crutchley darted across his line and turned the ball round the post.

This was just one instance of many when Nuneaton had good attempts frustrated. With the half-backs dominating the game the forwards were continually on the attack, and the Worcester goal was besieged. Yet Crutchley proved a stumbling block, and despite Nuneaton's good football he was only beaten once. This happened after 22 minutes when a movement initiated by Homer saw Smart gain possession. The inside-left fired in from 20 yards range, and the ball struck underneath the crossbar and dropped down into Crutchley's arms, but the pace and spin was such that he could not hold it and the ball went into the net. After this Crutchley saved shots too numerous to mention.

The second half was a complete transformation and after only three minutes Hall scored the equaliser for Worcester. The ball had little pace on it, but Woodhouse made a feeble attempt to save. Spicer sustained an injury soon after, spraining tendons in his leg and leaving the field with a lump as big as an orange on his leg. He was forbidden to resume.

Following this setback, Hall went close again and later tricked the backs and Woodhouse, before being hustled out of play by Mann and Villiers. Nuneaton rallied and Cashmore headed wide from Thacker's centre. Cashmore missed a good chance from close range following Smart's pass. Thacker shot wide following Cashmore's pass, but play was being channelled through the youngster, who lacked physique and the support to make an impact following Spicer's departure.

Cashmore tested Crutchley, who saved well, as Nuneaton continued to have the best of the play. However, in the final 15 minutes, Worcester rallied and lapses by the home defence brought about defeat. Gummery put in several good runs and crosses, and from one of them Holliday shot for goal, and Woodhouse handled, but could only turn it round the post, and it went into the net, with ten minutes left

Hall broke through on his own, but Woodhall ran out and took the ball off his toe. Two minutes from the end Holliday scored Worcester's third goal after Woodhouse had stopped a shot from close range. At the final whistle Town had lost 3-1.

## Nuneaton Town v Hednesford Town 13-10-1923

**Nuneaton:** Kester; Holmes and Paul; Villiers, Homer and Mann; Kirkland, Riley, Cashmore, Smart and Ison.

**Hednesford:** Thatcher; Martin and Smart; Corbett, Perry and Lyons; Ash, Rowe, Griffiths, Gibson and Halford.

Nuneaton welcomed Hednesford Town to Manor Park for a Birmingham League game. There was a poor attendance, amounting to only half that required to sustain the club.

However, the faithful patrons, though they did not see Nuneaton victorious, saw some good football, and after all "the game's the thing."

Nuneaton met with an early setback, when two minutes after the start, Hednesford attacked and Kester fumbled a shot from Griffiths, the ball just passing over the line for a goal. Nuneaton retaliated immediately and three free-kicks just outside the penalty area came to nothing. Hednesford were seldom in the picture, and after persistent pressure Nuneaton gained the equaliser 20 minutes after the start, Villiers scoring with a fine drive from fairly long range. A little later Thatcher made a splendid save from Smart. Play switched from end to end, but Nuneaton were the better side and Smart and Ison combined and from one of the winger's centres a visiting defender handled in the area. Smart took the kick, but Thatcher saved, the ball going into touch near the corner flag. Ison secured and centred for Riley to shoot into the net and give "The Nuns" a well-deserved lead after about half-an-hour.

A little later Griffiths engineered an attack for Hednesford, but Homer dispossessed him and passed to Smart, who set Ison going with a well-timed pass. Ison showed a rare turn of speed, and after cleverly beating a defender centred to Cashmore, who headed a glorious goal. It was a superb movement and from the moment it started a Hednesford player did not touch the ball.

On the stroke of the interval Hednesford pressed on the left and Griffiths shot right across the goal, and Rowe ran in and scored. At the break Nuneaton led 3-2.

Seven minutes after the break Ash made a good run for Hednesford, and having Mann in difficulties, he passed to Rowe, who promptly netted before Paul could intervene. Nuneaton pressed on the left and Thatcher made a good save from an overhead kick from Ison. At the other end Kester stopped a shot from Gibson at point blank range, while Smart was applauded for a tricky run which just failed after he had beaten three opponents.

Nuneaton tried hard for a winning goal and after a corner, and exciting melee developed on the Hednesford goal-line. Thatcher nearly threw the ball into the net, but eventually



fell on it with a dozen players surrounding him. The keeper got it away with difficulty. The keeper mishandled several shots after that, but the visitors got away with it. Just before the finish Riley had a great chance of getting his side the winning goal, but instead of centring to Cashmore, who was in position he shot at an awkward angle and Thatcher saved. The score at 90 minutes was 3-3.

## Nuneaton Town v Foleshill Great Heath 15-10-1923

**Nuneaton:** Kester; Holmes and Paul; Villiers, Homer and Mann; Kirkland, Summers, Cashmore, Smart and Chetwynd.

**Foleshill:** Webb; Cooke and Burdett; Paul, Stokes and E. Bowkett; Binks, P. Bowkett, Chapman, Ford and Jones.

Nuneaton entertained Foleshill Great Heath on Monday evening in the Birmingham Senior Cup 2nd Round.

It was a fast and interesting game and the visitors proved to be a very capable side. It was not until the second half that Nuneaton definitely established superiority, building on Summers' first half goal. Kester in the Nuneaton goal made a number of fine saves, one in particular being a brilliant effort.

Foleshill attacked first and a mistake by Paul let in Burke, but the winger lost control of the ball. Nuneaton responded with a good move and Smart tested Webb with a good shot, but the keeper saved well. Burke made ground down the right for the visitors and swung in a good centre, which Holmes almost put through his own goal. Chetwynd put in a good cross for the home side, but it was cleared.

The visitors had a great chance of equalising, but Chapman struck the crossbar from close range. Jones got the better of Villiers and centred well, but Kester made a good save. Foleshill were continually dangerous and Bowkett shot hard from close range, but Kester made another good save. Nuneaton had a penalty appeal just before the break, when Smart, who was working his way through the visitors' defence, looked to have been brought down, but the referee waved appeals away and Nuneaton took a 1-0 lead into the break.

The Heathens were dangerous straight after the break, but Holmes cleared and a run and centre by Kirkland threatened Foleshill's goal. Foleshill pressed again and Kester made a marvellous save from Bowkett, who shot with terrific force from a few yards out. Cashmore and Summers missed good chances as Nuneaton took charge of the game and Foleshill became pinned in their own half. The visitors' keeper Heath made several good saves, but after 12 minutes of the second half Chetwynd made a brilliant run and put over a fantastic cross which Smart headed into the net.

The Heathens attacked again and a bad blunder by Holmes, let in Chapman who beat Kester to make the score 2-1. Nuneaton made the game safe when clever work by Chetwynd and Smart resulted in Cashmore netting Nuneaton's third goal. Nuneaton dominated the rest of the game, but no further goals were scored and the final score was 3-1.

## Directors' Action Consequent Upon Serious Financial Position

Some sensational rumours have been circulated in Nuneaton and district about the financial position of Nuneaton Town FC, and as usual these rumours have been guilty of an exaggeration. It is true that the position is serious and that the directors have had to adopt unprecedented measures to meet their problems, but there is absolutely no danger of the club going out of existence, as has been stated.

The fact is that the directors have realised the needs of the club and have acted in a direction which they dislike, but could not avoid. The big falling off in "gates" consequent upon the team's lack of playing success has totally upset the directors' financial estimates, and instead of recovering from financial embarrassment they have witnessed the debt increase.

After careful discussion the directors approached the players and asked them to accept a lower wage than that for which they signed, the balance to be paid immediately the club's position improves. All liability to the players was admitted, and in effect the proposition meant that the players would temporarily forego a portion of their wages.

## Player Attitude To Financial Crisis

Most of the players proved their sportsmanship by consenting to the arrangement, and a few went so far as to indicate that if the position became worse they would play without any monetary reward. Several players expressed their inability to agree to the proposal, because they were out of work and football was their only available means of livelihood.

The Nuneaton directors informed the players that they regretted the necessity of any such steps, and rather than handicap them in any way, they would give a free transfer to any player who could obtain better conditions elsewhere. As indicated, the majority of the players declared they would abide loyally by the club, but it is probable that a few will be transferred.

## Wednesbury Old Ath. v Nuneaton Town 27-10-1923

**Nuneaton:** Kester; Gregory and Crowther; Jones, Gillett and Paul; Summers, Spicer, Cashmore, Smart and Ison.

Nuneaton travelled to Wednesbury to face the "Old Un's" in a Birmingham League fixture. Conditions were tricky as heavy rains were followed by a gale, making good football difficult.

Wednesbury took the lead 10 minutes after the start. Kester took a goal-kick, which Paul tried to trap, but the ball went



to Davis, who manoeuvred and shot. Kester appeared certain to save, but the ball struck a Wednesbury player on the head and bounced over the keeper's outstretched arms. A few minutes later, following good work by Smart, a chance to equalise came to Summers, but he put the ball wide.

The Wednesbury defence withstood a series of clever runs and centres by Ison and a fine burst through by Smart, while Knight saved well from Cashmore. Summers also went close.

Wednesbury came back strongly and Kester made several good saves, while Crowther made some good clearances. Shaw broke clean through and had an open goal, but hesitated and Gregory cleared. Athletic were almost continually on the attack, but Nuneaton held on and trailed by a single goal at the interval, Wednesbury leading 1-0.

Less than five minutes after the restart Spicer passed to Cashmore, who being harassed gave to Smart. The latter sent in a stinging shot which equalised for Nuneaton. A few minutes later Cashmore sent in a great drive which Knight brilliantly saved, while Smart headed over the bar.

Nuneaton monopolised the play and came close to scoring on many occasions, but the home defence held out. A good run by Summers ended in Knight saving at the foot of the post. Wednesbury occasionally broke away and Kester was given a few awkward shot to negotiate. "The Nuns" forced many corners without avail. Two minutes from time they nearly secured the victory, the home goal escaping luckily following a glorious first-time centre by Ison. At the final whistle honours were even at 1-1.

## Nuneaton Town v Cradley Heath 03-11-1923

**Nuneaton:** Kester; Gregory and Crowther; Jones, Gillett and Mann; Coley, Bacon, Cashmore, Smart and Ison.

**Cradley:** Woodhouse; Evans and Astley; Jones, Round and Parkes; Lowe, Nock, Smith, Boxley and Page.

Nuneaton welcomed Cradley Heath to Manor Park. As with the game at Wednesbury the previous week play was made difficult by the weather conditions, a terrific wind was blowing diagonally across Manor Park from corner to corner, which played all sorts of tricks with the ball.

Cradley won the toss and elected to play with the wind. They were aggressive from the start, but the first scoring chance came to Nuneaton. Coley put in a brilliant run and centre, and Bacon, standing a few yards out, ballooned the ball over the bar. A series of runs by Lowe, the ex-Sheffield United winger, spelt danger to the Nuneaton goal, and Kester was called upon several times. Smith had an open goal and crashed in a terrific shot from point blank range, but Kester brought off a brilliant save.

Several good movements from Nuneaton's left wing caused Cradley Heath some problems and Gillett shot over the bar from a good opportunity. Play had been in progress for about 25 minutes when Nuneaton scored their first goal. This was

the result of a beautiful bit of combination initiated by Gillett. The ball was passed to Cashmore, who gave to Smart for the latter to run in and beat Woodhouse with a ground shot.

Some 12 minutes later Coley put in some good work and the ball eventually went to Bacon, who crashed in a fine shot from 20 yards, the ball entering the net just underneath the bar. Cradley strove desperately to reduce the lead and once got the ball into the net, but the referee had blown for handball.

End to end football featured at the start of the second half, with some excitement being caused by a scrimmage in the Cradley goalmouth following a corner. Woodhouse ran out and punched clear. Smart sent in a great drive which cannoned back off a defender. Nuneaton showed signs of falling off and Cradley maintained the pressure for some time. Lowe made a clever run and appeared a certain scorer when Gregory intercepted in clever fashion and cleared.

Play ruled rather desultory for some time, then Nuneaton had a spell of attacking and Woodhouse was called on to save several times. Cradley retaliated and Nock completely beat the defence and sent in a low shot which Kester saved brilliantly. At the other end Woodhouse distinguished himself by tipping a magnificent drive by Bacon over the bar.

Cashmore made a brilliant run from almost the half-way line but his final shot went wide. In the closing stages, Kester made a number of good saves to keep his goal intact. A welcome two points and a first league win for many weeks.

## Wellington Town v Nuneaton Town 10-11-1923

**Wellington:** Hedgecox; Richards and Doughty; Millington, Riley and Shore; Corkindale, J. White, E. White, Sheldon and Bond.

**Nuneaton:** Kester; Gregory and Crowther; Jones, Homer and Gillett; Coley, Spicer, Cashmore, Smart and Ison.

Nuneaton travelled to The Buck's Head to face Wellington Town in Birmingham League game.

Wellington subjected Nuneaton's defence to a great deal of pressure. It was not ordinary pressure. It was an onslaught of such violence that the inexperienced Nuneaton defence could not withstand. The extraordinary rapidity of movement by the home forwards and clever passing bewildered the Nuneaton backs and the damage done was too great for them to come back.

Wellington opened the scoring two minutes after the start with a remarkable goal. The ball was kicked forward up the centre of the pitch with E. White in close attendance, but not in possession. Gregory and Crowther both closed in, but the ball bounced between them. White shot out a leg and within a fraction of a second the ball was in the net, with Kester nonplussed. The second goal was originated by Bond, who squared the ball to Sheldon. It seemed as though Crowther had time to intercept, but he hesitated, and when he eventually went to tackle Sheldon the latter passed to E. White, who had an open goal and scored easily.





## Nuneaton Town v Kidderminster Harriers 17-11-1923

**Nuneaton:** Kester; Gregory and Crowther; Jones, Homer and Gillett; Coley, Spicer, Cashmore, Smart and Ison.

**Kidderminster:** Perry; Squires and Wood; E. Edwards, Worrall and Russell; Pearce, S. Edwards, Boyman, Dobbins and Lockley.

A scrimmage produced the third goal after 24 minutes' play. The ball hovered near goal for a short time; then a Wellington player shot but partially miskicked. The ball, however, bounced to J. White who netted with a high shot. A few minutes later Corkindale got in a cross for Sheldon to score the fourth. Nuneaton had not been totally out of it during this period, and the scoreline was probably a false representation of the play, with Coley responsible for several fine runs and centres which were frustrated by Wellington's defence and Hedgecox's goalkeeping. When Nuneaton were 4-0 down, their play improved and during the last 15 minutes of the half, they gave Wellington's defence a lot of work to do.

Cashmore put in a great low shot which Hedgecox saved at the foot of the post and the keeper stopped a shot by Ison when he looked certain to score.

After the break Nuneaton attacked through Coley and from his centre a scrimmage developed and Cashmore almost scored with the Wellington defence clearing more by luck than judgement. Good combination by Spicer and Coley brought a goal for Nuneaton four minutes into the second half. The winger beat all opposition and centred to Smart, who headed into the net. A little later Spicer burst through, but passed too far forward and Hedgecox, running out, reached the ball before Cashmore.

Cashmore just missed from Ison's centre and then put in a stinging high shot which Hedgecox tipped over the bar. The first time Wellington attacked in the second half, they scored their fifth goal. Pressure built on the left and Kester saved from J. White. The ball was returned and in his anxiety to clear Crowther kicked the ball into his own net. Nuneaton attacked through Coley, who went on a thrilling run and beat the home defence. Hedgecox ran out but Coley shot past him. The ball looked to be going in the net, but Cashmore followed up to make sure and tried to breast the ball in, but caught the ball with his arm and the goal was disallowed.

Nuneaton made a magnificent rally and outplayed Wellington for the last 20 minutes. The pressure on the Wellington defence was so great that they resorted to questionable tactics and Doughty was cautioned by the referee for a foul on Spicer and committed a further offence against Jones and again against Coley. The two players responsible for denying Nuneaton were Hedgecox and Riley. The keeper saved many good shots and the winger, who possesses a rare turn of speed, repeatedly dropped back in defence.

Hedgecox stopped a hard drive from Cashmore, who drove in the rebound, which hit the keeper's boot and was cleared. "The Nuns" eventually gained another goal when Gillett shot high into the net following a scrimmage in the goalmouth. Spicer had another good effort, but his shot cannoned off a defender, while the same player forced Hedgecox to save at the foot of the post. In the last minute of the game Spicer headed inches over the crossbar and Nuneaton, after 90 minutes, were defeated 5-2.

Nuneaton welcomed Kidderminster Harriers to Manor Park. The crowd was down to the "faithful" with many hundreds having abandoned the club.

Play had only been in progress some eight minutes when Nuneaton took the lead. Cashmore passed out to Ison, who centred for Smart to score with a beautiful first-time shot, the ball flashing into the net. Nuneaton looked likely to score again straight after but Ison failed to get in his centre.

Kidderminster retaliated, but they were constantly caught offside, particularly Bowman. Maintaining their attack, the visitors eventually succeeded when Boyman scored with a high shot which appeared to surprise Kester, for the goalkeeper made little or no attempt to save. The game continued at a fast pace and in an end-to-end fashion.

Good work between Jones, Spicer and Coley ended in a centre from the latter. Smart and Cashmore made attempts to breast the ball into the net. After 25 minutes Town regained the lead as the result of a great combination. Homer won the ball and passed forward to Cashmore, who gave to Spicer. The latter glided the ball up the centre to Cashmore, who took it on the run and scored with a low drive. Perry got his hand to the ball, but could not prevent it from going in.

Towards half-time Nuneaton attacked many times with Ison being particularly prominent. Smart tested Perry, while Spicer also went close. Gillett sustained an injury to his leg and had to be helped from the field. At half-time Nuneaton led by 3-1.

Gillett returned after the break, but only lasted a few minutes before having to retire. Cashmore scored, but was given offside before Nuneaton set up a bombardment of the visitors' goal, with Kidderminster's defence in some difficulty. Ison tricked the visitors' defence and centred, but Coley just failed to time his header and the ball went wide. A run by Boyman at the other end came to nothing after Gregory caught him up and charged him off the ball.

Homer passed out to Ison, who presented Cashmore with an open goal, but the centre-forward blazed over the bar. Cashmore broke through again later, but Perry ran out and took the ball off his toe. Ten minutes from time, Nuneaton, who had been doing practically all of the attacking, increased their lead. One of Harriers' back miskicked and Coley darted for goal at great speed, scoring with an oblique drive.

A few minutes later Boyman slipped past Gregory and struck the post with his shot. Pearce met the rebound and scored, Kester getting to the ball just as it crossed the line. Just on time Harriers came close to equalising, but Boyman passed instead of shooting and an offside was given. Town won 3-2.



## Nuneaton Town v Burton All Saints 19-11-1923

**Nuneaton:** Kester; Gregory and Crowther; Jones, J. M. Riley and Paul; Coley, Bacon, Cashmore, Smart and Ison.

**Burton:** Payne; Hill and Clarke; Harris, Allen and Humphreys; Cooper, Hodgkinson, Andrews, Higgs and Devlin.

Nuneaton welcomed Burton All Saints to Manor Park on Monday afternoon in the Birmingham Senior Cup 3rd Round. There was only a small attendance and Nuneaton had a weakened team with Homer, Spicer and Gillett all being absent. J. M. Riley, Bacon and Paul were brought in.

Burton were first to attack through Devlin, who tricked several players, but the result was a fruitless corner. Bacon got the ball up to Cashmore, who passed to Coley. The latter centred and Cashmore was inches wide with a header. Smart went close as Nuneaton continued to press. At the other end Gregory let Burton in and Hodgkinson scored with a shot which gave Kester no chance.

Riley just missed with a drive, while Ison was involved in a tricky run, but his centre was punched out for a corner by Payne. Coley took the kick and Cashmore shot over the bar. Cashmore handled the ball when Nuneaton looked dangerous. Burton attacked again through Andrews, but Riley tackled him and Kester fell on the ball. Kester saved again from Hodgkinson just after, while at the other end Smart sent in a shot that Payne partially saved. Cashmore rushed up, but shot straight at the keeper. Coley centred following a free-kick, but Payne rushed out and saved. Burton led 1-0 at the break.

Nuneaton attacked after the break and during a tussle in the Burton goalmouth, Bacon headed in from Ison's cross. The ball was going in under the crossbar when a defender punched the ball out. Bacon took the penalty but hit it straight at Payne. Cashmore missed another good chance, shooting over from a corner. Nuneaton did everything but score and the climax came when Coley, following a brilliant run, ballooned the ball over the bar from three yards out.

## Stourbridge v Nuneaton Town 24-11-1923

**Stourbridge:** Adams; Newell and Talbot; H. Smith, Wakeman and Probert; Corbett, C. Smith, Guest, Holcroft and Rogers.

**Nuneaton:** Kester; Holmes and Gregory; Jones, J. M. Riley and Spicer; Coley, Summers, Cashmore, Smart and Ison.

Nuneaton travelled to meet Stourbridge in a Birmingham League match. The playing surface was hard and a thick fog enveloped the ground.

Stourbridge were first to attack and Holcroft missed an easy chance, shooting over. Kester made a good save from C. Smith, who put the rebound over before Summers set Coley away. A good run and centre which Summers put high over the bar. Nuneaton saw off another Stourbridge attack and Ison got over a low cross which was cleared by Talbot as Cashmore closed in.

Stourbridge monopolised play and Kester showed up well, clearing the ball with confidence. Cashmore failed to open out the game and Town's wingers were seldom dangerous. Having been on the defensive, Town finally got the ball away and clever play between Cashmore and Ison saw the former put the ball across, but Summers failed to control and the ball ran to Coley, who shot goalwards, only for Adams to make a superb clearance, with his first save of the game.

Stourbridge continued to have the best of the play and forced a corner, from which Kester made a brilliant save. About six minutes before the interval Holmes let in Smith, who after a dribble, passed to Guest, who placed the ball out of Kester's reach and into the net. Just before the break Kester had to save again from Smith, but at half-time Stourbridge led 1-0.

The second half started in sensational fashion when Rogers sent in a centre which found Rogers, who tricked Riley and scored with a good shot. Stourbridge attacked again straight from the kick-off and Holcroft placed the ball between the backs for C. Smith to score with a shot that hit the underside of the bar before going into the net, putting Stourbridge 3-0 up with just four minutes of the second half gone.

Nuneaton were totally dominated and things took a turn for the worse as Gregory had to leave the field with a knee injury. Stourbridge attacked again and Nuneaton gave away a needless free kick for a foul. Probert placed the free-kick into the area for Probert to head home, putting the home side 4-0 up.

Looking to improve the situation, Nuneaton changed their line-up with Coley going to centre-forward and Summers to outside right. Coley opened the game out well, Nuneaton improved and Stourbridge came under pressure. The last few minutes, however, were dominated by the home side and Kester made a wonderful save from C. Smith, flinging himself at the ball to prevent it going into the net and then clearing the danger.

### Players And Financial Difficulties

Comment has been rife concerning the absence of stalwarts like Homer and Mann from the team, and the announcement that Homer had been suspended came as a surprise. The facts are that Homer did not turn up against Burton in the Birmingham Senior Cup tie, and he was asked to attend a meeting of the directors to explain his absence. Instead of doing so, Homer sent a letter, and the directors regarded this as insubordination. They therefore suspended him and left him out of the team to play at Stourbridge.

On Tuesday morning Homer met the directors and explained that he did not appear for the Burton match owing to his inability to get away from his employment. The directors accepted this explanation and removed the suspension. A settlement was agreed with both Homer and Mann. Both are available to face Redditch.



## Players Transferred

During the week two Nuneaton players have been transferred. Cashmore, who has been disappointing in recent games, has signed on for Shrewsbury Town, and Burton, the reserve inside-left, has returned to his old club, Whitwick Imperial.

The directors desire to contradict the statement that they have placed a transfer fee of £2,000 on Ison. "It is ridiculous nonsense," said Mr Fred Payne. "The truth is that we have received communications from several first-class clubs concerning Ison, but no definite sum has been mentioned. When a suitable offer is made we shall not stand in Ison's way if he wishes to leave."

## Nuneaton Town v Redditch

01-12-1923

**Nuneaton:** Kester; Holmes and Bacon; Jones, Homer and Mann; Coley, Finch, Summers, Smart and Ison.

**Redditch:** Croft; Plant and Chamberlain; Newall, Clay and Clarke; Potter, Hilton, Sambrooke, Robinson and Freeman.

Nuneaton welcomed Redditch to Manor Park for a Birmingham League match. There was a steady downpour at the start of play and conditions underfoot were 'treacherous'.

Nuneaton pressed in the first minute, but Chamberlain robbed Finch and cleared the ball well upfield. Redditch almost scored with their first attack, Hilton hooked the ball onto the crossbar with Kester out of his goal, but Bacon cleared. Croft cleared from Finch and also Summers. Nuneaton continued to attack and Ison put in a perfect cross for Summers to head into the net, off the underside of the bar, with just eight minutes gone.

Nuneaton combined well, and the pressure was maintained. The Redditch goal had a remarkable escape in the next minute, Finch shooting against the upright with Croft beaten. Redditch attempted to hit back, but Sambrooke was caught offside. At the other end Croft had to save from Smart, while Kester averted a goal by throwing himself at the feet of Hilton.

After 20 minutes Nuneaton increased their lead when they forced a corner that was well-placed by Coley. When the ball was cleared, Smart won possession and drove the ball into the net, well out of Croft's reach.

Redditch continued to defend and were lucky not to concede again. Summers missed a good chance, shooting wide from a good position. Redditch broke away and Freeman made progress down the wing, forcing Bacon to concede a corner, from which Sambrooke headed over, while Croft was lucky to get in the way of Finch's shot. At the break Town led 2-0.

Nuneaton attacked strongly after the break and Summers broke through and tested Croft with a stinging shot. The keeper also had to save from Finch. Summer beat the Redditch defence but slipped due to the condition of the ground. Finch also lost his footing when left with a clear field.

With their first really dangerous attack Redditch almost reduced the home side's lead. Potter put in a good cross and Sambrooke headed goalwards, Kester slipped but Bacon cleared the ball from under the bar. Summers put a shot into Croft's hands before Redditch showed some improvement and Kester had to make two good saves in quick succession. The final action saw Bacon let in Sambrooke, but Holmes cleared and at the final whistle Nuneaton had won 2-0.

## Cannock Town v Nuneaton Town

08-12-1923

**Cannock:** W. Smith; Morris and G. Smith; Walker, Bowen and Whitehouse; Wells, Evans, Clare, Needham and Preece.

**Nuneaton:** Kester; Holmes and Gregory; Jones, Homer and Mann; Coley, Finch, Summers, Smart and Ison.

Nuneaton travelled to Cannock for a Birmingham League fixture. The Cannock promotional bills informed spectators that the home side had only lost once in thirteen matches.

Nuneaton showed good form early in the game and Smith had to save twice in quick succession from Ison. In making the second save he collided with the upright and had to leave the field. Needham took over in goal and made two saves before Cannock pressed down the right, and Wells shot wide. Finch picked up the ball and gave Coley possession, but he let the ball get away from him and G. Smith cleared. Summers and Smart were unable to get on the end of a ball driven across the area.

Cannock took the lead after 12 minutes' play. Holmes attempted to clear a shot, but conceded a corner. Kester punched clear from the corner, but Bowen picked up the ball and scored with a good shot. Nuneaton hit back and Smart was just wide with a shot following Coley's cross, while Smith tipped a dangerous centre by Ison over the top. Kester made a great save and clearance from Needham's low drive.

Nuneaton attacked on the right and Coley centred to Finch, who coolly headed the equaliser. Ding-dong play followed and Needham put in another powerful shot from 14 yards, but Kester pulled off a remarkable save. Smith made a mistake from Ison's centre, but Summers wanted too much time and the keeper recovered. Gregory's offside tactics riled the crowd, but Needham did get through and only a timely clearance by Jones saved Nuneaton. Just before the break Summers shot over.

Nuneaton forced the pace at the start of the second half, but Coley put the ball out after a good passing move with Finch. Cannock right wing put pressure on the visitors' defence, but Holmes cleared before the home side won several corners. Whitehouse put in two shots and Clare shot over the bar before Evans struck the upright.

Nuneaton hit back and besieged the home goal and after some pressure, they were awarded a penalty, which Mann missed badly. Twelve minutes from time an attack developed on the Cannock right and Clare scored from a good centre by Wells. Two minutes later Needham scored a third goal for the

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



home side with a magnificent shot. Nuneaton tried hard to reduce the deficit, but Summers missed a good chance near the end and the game finished 3-1 to Cannock.

## Nuneaton Town v Darlaston 15-12-1923

**Nuneaton:** Kester; Holmes and Gregory; Jones, Homer and Mann; Coley, Finch, Summers, Smart and Ison.

**Darlaston:** Farmer; Fieldhouse and Cheer; Butler, Beck and Phillips; Williams, Bird, Hadley, Sullivan and G. Foster.

Nuneaton welcomed Darlaston to Manor Park for a Birmingham League encounter. The poor nature of the game did little credit to either side. Its effect on the crowd can be imagined. Nuneaton's season seems destined to end in disappointment and there was a dejected procession from Manor Park at the end of the game.

There was almost an entire absence of constructive football, and combination was at a discount. The character of the game was indicated by the fact that each of the three goals was poor in its nature. Darlaston's first goal, scored from a breakaway after twenty-four minutes' play, was so obviously offside that one wonders at the referee's decision. Bird received the ball when he was well beyond Nuneaton's backs and the home side waited for the whistle to be blown. The referee, however, never blew and Bird had the simplest of tasks, taking the ball within a few yards of Kester and shooting home.

Darlaston's second goal was an even greater fluke. After they had been almost continuously on the defensive in the second half, they made a sortie and a centre was put in from the left. There was hardly a suggestion of danger, but Gregory, after calling Kester out of goal to make the clearance, for some inexplicable reason headed the ball into his own goal, with 15 minutes to go.

Despite this, Nuneaton almost drew level when Finch hit the upright with the Darlaston keeper out of position. Then, about five minutes from time, Fieldhouse handled in the penalty area and from the resultant kick Holmes scored. In the last minute the home side came very close to equalising.

Nuneaton received a severe blow when Ison incurred a nasty injury shortly after the start. His ankle and leg muscles became very painful, and he left the field. During his absence Darlaston scored and when he returned, he was a passenger.

## Nuneaton Town v Willenhall 22-12-1923

**Nuneaton:** Horsley; Holmes and Gregory; Jones, Homer and Mann; Coley, Spicer, Riley, Smart and Chetwynd.

**Willenhall:** Humphrey; Stokes and Silvers; Spencer, Lakin and Foster; Roberts, Davey, Poulton, Coglein and Rickhuss.

Willenhall visited Manor Park for a Birmingham League encounter. The match was played in a high wind and in front of a very small crowd, which was thought to be the lowest crowd since Nuneaton joined the Birmingham League.

Play had been in progress for about 18 minutes when

Nuneaton scored their first goal. Homer secured possession and placed the ball forward for Riley to accept, and racing between the backs, the centre-forward took the ball within a few yards of goal and shot well out of reach of the keeper.

About 10 minutes later Coley beat the Willenhall left-half in a tackle, dashed forward, and swung over a good centre. Smart fastened on to the ball and with a quick movement gained position and scored with a low shot. Nuneaton maintained this lead until about six minutes from the interval when Willenhall made a sortie. Holmes in attempting to volley the ball, sliced it and went to Davey, who ran in and scored easily, Horsley running out in a futile attempt to save

The Willenhall goal was wiped out two minutes later when Riley and one of the Willenhall backs were in a tussle for the ball. Smart ran in gained possession and shot home to give the home side a 3-1 half-time lead.

There was only one second-half goal, although Town, with the aid of the wind, did most of the attacking. The goal was scored about 20 minutes after the restart, when following one of many corners, Jones saw an opening and scored with a fine drive.

There were shouts of "The Old Five," but this was denied Nuneaton even though Homer, Spicer, Smart, Coley and Riley all came close, with shots galore missing by the narrowest margin. Willenhall were sometimes dangerous with Davey and Rickhuss making good efforts.

Despite the adverse weather conditions, Nuneaton gave an exhibition of skill, pace, power and vitality.

## Burton All Saints v Nuneaton Town 26-12-1923

**Burton:** Payne; Staley and Bradbury; Harris, Allen and Humphries; Cooper, Hodgkinson, Andrews, Higgs and Devlin.

**Nuneaton:** Kester; Gregory and Paul; Jones, Homer and Mann; Coley, Spicer, Riley, Smart and Chetwynd.

Nuneaton travelled to Burton All Saints for a Boxing Day Birmingham League fixture. The visitors lost keeper Kester for most of the first half, after he received a kick on the knee. Paul deputised and surprised everyone with his skills.

Smart shot the wrong side of the post in the first minute of the game, with only the keeper to beat. Play veered from end to end and Hodgkinson tested Kester, and Riley only just failed for Nuneaton. Kester made a brilliant save from Higgs before Burton mounted a fierce attack, and with Kester on the ground Hodgkinson hit the upright, with the ball bouncing behind. Saints attacked again, and while the Nuneaton backs were appealing for offside, Cooper went through on his own and scored a good goal.

Riley made a good solo run, but his final effort went just wide. Kester made another fine save from a free-kick taken by Higgs. A few minutes later the Nuneaton goalkeeper was injured and had to be carried from the field, with Paul taking over in goal. Despite this handicap, Nuneaton did well, and



# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



Riley came near to reducing the lead with a smart header. Just on half-time Higgs increased Burton's lead by shooting past Paul. At half-time Burton led 2-0.

Nuneaton resumed with Kester back in goal and nearly scored in the first minute. Spicer grazing the crossbar with a terrific shot. The ground was very heavy, and the players had great difficulty in getting about. Kester signalled his return by saving from Devlin. Burton, however, continued to play well and following good work by Devlin, Higgs easily beat Kester from only a few yards out. There was no further scoring as Nuneaton tumbled to another away defeat.

## Nuneaton Town v Hinckley United 27-12-1923

**Nuneaton:** Horsley; Gregory and Paul; Jones, Gillett and Mann; Coley, Finch, Riley, Smart and Chetwynd.

**Hinckley:** Allcoat; G. Harris and Taylor; Herbert, Craig and Webb-Harris; Spencer, Norman, Winterton, Wright and Ford.

Nuneaton entertained Hinckley United on Thursday afternoon in the semi-final of the Atherstone Nursing Cup in front of about 4,000 supporters. The Nuneaton team lacked the services of Kester, Holmes, Spicer, Homer and Ison. Hinckley were without Randle and Dunn.

Nuneaton were first to attack and Mann shot wide from long range. Following a centre by Ford, Winterton kicked the ball out of Horsley's hands, but fortunately it went wide. Finch put a ball in to Riley, who crashed in a ground shot, which Allcoat turned round the post. From the corner Allcoat made another save from Riley. Nuneaton pushed forward, and clever play by Smart saw Riley gain possession and he ran forward and scored a fine goal with a low shot.

Nuneaton attacked again and Coley had a clear field, but he centred wide. Hinckley retaliated and Horsley saved from Winterton. The keeper later made a magnificent save from the same player, after the latter had run to within a few yards of goal. Webb-Harris gave to Ford, who centred to Winterton. The latter sent in a great shot which flashed by the post.

Smart got Chetwynd away and he ran right in and shot, but Allcoat saved. Allcoat made a great save from Finch. Mann tricked several opponents, and placed to Chetwynd who put in a good centre, but it came to nothing. Spencer got away at the other end and put a shot into the side netting. Nuneaton's second goal came after about 25 minutes after Coley made a fine run and centre and Smart scored with a low fast drive.

Chetwynd hit the post, while Smart played some brilliant football and beat almost all Hinckley's defence when he was tripped by "Pop" Harris. The Hinckley goal was besieged following the free kick. Herbert made a good run for Hinckley and looked dangerous, until Horsley ran out and punched the ball off his toe. Jones was injured and had to leave the field, but Nuneaton attacked, and Mann was stopped in his tracks.

Horsley made a brilliant save from Spencer and Jones returned to the pitch. Nuneaton missed an open goal

following good work by Coley, when Finch and Riley got themselves in a tangle. Just before the break Smart shot just wide, but at the break Nuneaton were leading 2-0.

An unusual incident featured after the break when the referee gave Ford offside. His father was running the line and made a comment, and the referee ordered him from the field. The game was delayed while another linesman was found.

Nuneaton attacked persistently down the left and Allcoat had to make four good saves, with Riley and Finch being the chief marksmen. Hinckley won a free-kick on the edge of the penalty area, and Ford's kick knocked Gregory out, but he soon resumed. Another unfortunate incident followed when Finch was brought down a few yards from goal and the referee awarded a penalty. Allcoat, in apparent answer to the beckonings of one or two of his fellow players, refused to take up position and Smart shot into the unattended net, amidst cheers and groans from the respective supporters.

Wright shot wide for Hinckley before the game deteriorated, but Town continued to have the best of the game. Spencer created a diversion with a run and shot, which Horsley saved. Tit-for-tat play followed but Hinckley gradually put pressure on Nuneaton and Horsley had to make several good saves.

Nuneaton retaliated and following a tussle in the goalmouth, Smart scored with Hinckley's defence all at sea. Allcoat frustrated Nuneaton's efforts to score further goals and Hinckley gained their only goal of the game with 15 minutes left. Ford sent in a shot from the corner flag and the ball struck the inside of the post and bounced into the net. Nuneaton were awarded another penalty before the end, but Smart hit the kick against the crossbar. The remainder of the game was fairly even, but Nuneaton had secured a 4-1 win and a place in the final.

### Scenes At Yesterday's Match At Manor Park

At one period of the football match between Nuneaton Town and Hinckley United yesterday an ugly scene seemed possible. Feeling ran high when the Hinckley linesman was ordered off by the referee, a very unusual incident which was followed by a penalty given to Nuneaton, and the refusal of the Hinckley goalkeeper to stand in his goal while the kick was being taken.

Hinckley's spectators made a demonstration against the referee, and Nuneaton Town F.C. directors, in order to guard against trouble developing secured the services of the police.

The referee, Mr. Shaw, who officiated in place of the appointed referee, who did not appear, maintained firm control of the game, and the players "kept their heads," with the result that matters calmed down. No untoward incident marred the end of the game.



## Hinckley Protest Letter

“The members of the Committee of the Hinckley United Football Club, who were present at Manor Park on Thursday, December 27th, 1923, desire to place on record their strong protest against the failure of the Atherstone Charity Cup Committee to make adequate arrangements in the matter of the referee, which resulted in the appointment of a local gentleman, who was manifestly not qualified to adjudicate in such a match.

The members of the Hinckley United Football Club Committee also desire to express their appreciation of the sportsmanlike way in which the members of the Nuneaton team played the game, in spite of decisions which they must have recognised as being consciously or unconsciously, grossly partisan.”

## Hinckley Goalkeeper Cautioned and Linesman Suspended

The incidents arising out of the recent Atherstone Nursing Cup-tie between Nuneaton Town and Hinckley United were considered at a meeting of the Leicestershire FA. The Hinckley United goalkeeper, Allcoat, who declined to stand in goal when a penalty was being taken, was cautioned as to his future conduct.

Mr Ford, the Hinckley linesman, who was ordered off by the referee, was suspended from taking part in football or attending football grounds for a month.

## Bilston United v Nuneaton Town 29-12-1923

**Bilston:** Finch; Carter and Ward; Knowles, Crooke and P. King; Newman, Roston, Ferguson, Taylor and Timmis.

**Nuneaton:** Horsley; Holmes and Gregory; Jones, Homer and Mann; Coley, Finch, Riley, Smart and Chetwynd.

Nuneaton travelled to Queen Street, Bilston, for a Birmingham League game against their Black Country rivals.

The first incident of note was a dribble by Finch, who was tripped when careering for goal. Homer shot over from the free-kick. Nuneaton's inside-right later tested the home keeper with a shot. Three abortive corners by the home side followed before Nuneaton relieved the pressure and Homer brought a save out of Finch, who fumbled the ball, but cleared at the second attempt. Ferguson fired a rasping shot over the bar at the other end and play was fairly even.

Bilston began to employ some dubious tactics and conceded several free-kicks. Goalkeeper Finch stopped a shot from his Nuneaton namesake and Horsley saved a sharp drive by Knowles. A few minutes after the restart, a centre by Coley left

Smart in possession a few yards from goal. His aim was true, but the shot lacked pace and Finch saved easily. A little later Riley skimmed the bar with a fast drive.

Coley made a great run and appeared to have an open goal, but passed to Finch, whose shot cannoned off a defender. Coley showed a clean pair of heels to the Bilston defence, and from his centre Smart was only inches wide. Nuneaton had hard luck when Finch, who had tricked several defenders, had a glorious chance, but the referee blew Coley offside.

Nuneaton made some good efforts to secure the lead, but two minutes from time Bilston broke away and from Newman's centre Taylor scored the only goal of the match.

## Nuneaton Town v Oakengates Town 05-01-1924

**Nuneaton:** Horsley; Holmes and Gregory; Jones, Homer and Mann; Coley, Finch, Riley, Smart and Chetwynd.

**Oakengates:** Vaughan; Osborne and Pearson; Dawes, Rushton and Abbott; Sutter, Rowley, Brooks, Moss and Whitefoot.

Nuneaton welcomed Oakengates Town to Manor Park for a Birmingham League fixture. It was a match in which it was said that Nuneaton supporters had to endure '80 minutes of thoroughly disgusting football.'

Although they did the greater part of the attacking, Town fell short and lacked the ability to win. A curious atmosphere of lassitude overhung the home team — was it due to consistent ill luck? If they had plunged straightway into cool, strategic manoeuvring instead of loosely steering the ball about, a better game and a more favourable score may have resulted.

However, nothing succeeds like success, and having once more tasted the sweets of victory, it is hoped Nuneaton will benefit by the tonic.

The first goal was scored ten minutes before half-time. An attack by the left wing saw the ball going outside. Jones endeavoured to keep Whitefoot off the ball, but the latter kept it in play and centred. Brooks had the easiest task in the world of putting the ball into the net. Nuneaton equalised three minutes later following a corner taken by Coley. The ball hovered in the goalmouth and then went to Mann, who scored with a fine low shot.

In the second half there was no change in the score until about 15 minutes from time. Brooks gained possession and finding the Nuneaton backs apart had only to beat Holmes to have a clear run for goal. This he did and scored with a shot which Horsley touched but failed to divert.

Nuneaton retaliated on the right and following a skirmish Riley equalised with a good shot. Immediately afterwards Nuneaton pressed again, and one of the visitors handled in the penalty area. Holmes took the kick and easily scored. Another attack developed at once and Finch lobbed the ball into the goalmouth. Vaughan saved but could not clear, and the ball went to Smart, who from about 12 yards range, scored with a great shot.



## Brierley Hill Alliance v Nuneaton Town 12-01-1924

**Nuneaton:** Kester; Holmes and Gregory; Jones, Crowther and Mann; Coley, Finch, Riley, Smart and Chetwynd.

Nuneaton travelled to Brierley Hill for a Birmingham League fixture, looking for a rare away win, with their only victory away from Manor Park being against Shepshed Albion in the FA Cup. Their hopes took a massive hit before the match with Homer not turning up.

Nuneaton started the match with 10 men in the hope that Homer would arrive late. After some time reserve player Crowther was put on, but the lack of formation and constant changing of positions disrupted the visitors' play.

Alliance took advantage of Town's problems, and pressed strongly. Town's defence resisted though and managed to keep the scoresheet blank and eventually got on top. Despite this, they failed to turn their superiority into goals, as the forwards missed a number of gilt-edged chances. Misses by Riley and Finch were almost inexplicable. In midfield Nuneaton were vastly superior and much of their passing was delightful.

No goals were scored in the first half, but some good chances were missed by Nuneaton's three inside forwards. After 22 minutes of the second half, Goldie scored for the Alliance following a scramble. Four minutes later Smart equalised for Nuneaton following a centre from Chetwynd. After this Riley made a fine run, took the ball to within a few yards of the goal, and then shot straight at the keeper. Finch had previously been an offender in missing a good opportunity.

Three minutes from time Brooks scored the winning goal for the Alliance, the ball passing just inside the post. After this Smart appeared likely to equalise for Nuneaton, but he was brought down from behind. Appeals for a penalty, however, were disallowed. Play finished in semi-darkness.

## Nuneaton Town v Brierley Hill Alliance 26-01-1924

**Nuneaton:** Kester; Gregory and Paul; Jones, Homer and Mann; Coley, Finch, Riley, Smart and Ison.

**Brierley Hill:** Owen; Simpson and Pearson; Roche, Guest and Weston; Boxley, Brooks, Goldie, Morrall and Allen.

Nuneaton welcomed Brierley Hill to Manor Park for a Birmingham League fixture. There was an increased attendance, and although the football wasn't spectacular, those who were at the match had the pleasure of witnessing "The Old Five."

Nuneaton attacked at the start and Finch caused Owen to handle early in the game. Only eight minutes had elapsed when Finch and Coley combined on the right, and from the attack which developed from Coley's centre, Smart secured the ball. He neatly tricked a couple of opponents and scored with a shot which had the goalkeeper beaten all the way. Subsequent play saw both teams on the attack, and the respective goals had narrow escapes with shots going close.

Finch was boring his way through the Brierley defence when he was fouled in the penalty area. Smart took the kick, but hit it straight at Owen, who saved. Alliance got away from the clearance and a centre from Weston was rushed into the net, but the whistle had gone for offside.

Town raised excitement levels by launching a bombardment of the visitors' goal. Smart hit the side netting and Riley, Finch and Homer all put in shots, but Owen was safe in the Brierley goal, with one save from Finch being exceptionally good.

The second half was only two minutes old when Smart received a pass from Riley, tricked several opponents and scored with a high shot — a great individual effort. Coley showed up well for Nuneaton, but Brierley improved and during one attack started by Allen, the Town goal had a narrow escape with Kester and the backs saving the situation on a number of occasions before the danger was cleared.

Nuneaton's right wing got moving, and following some good work Riley fastened on the ball and scored Town's third goal. Riley headed the fourth from a centre by Ison, then Finch received from Riley and scored a clever goal. Subsequently Finch missed a chance for Town and Goldie shot wide when he had a glorious chance of opening the visitors' account

## Worcester City v Nuneaton Town 02-02-1924

**Worcester:** Crutchley; Young and Bentley; Horton, Wilson and Oakley; Tongue, Halliday, Hall, C. Wilson and Gummery.

**Nuneaton:** Kester; Holmes and Gregory; Jones, Homer and Mann; Coley, Finch, Riley, Smart and Ison.

Nuneaton travelled to St. George's Lane to face Worcester City in a Birmingham League fixture. Nuneaton's away form was desperately bad, and although they put in an improved performance, the result was as expected.

Worcester opened aggressively, with Tongue racing down and swinging a centre across, but Gregory cleared the danger. Halliday headed over from the resultant corner before Town retaliated with good work from Finch and Coley which resulted in Riley having a lusty shot blocked by a defender.

Ison came into the limelight with a nice run and centre and Crutchley had to fall on the ball to stop Smart rushing it into the net. City then raced away to the other end and took the lead. The game continued at a fast pace and a raid on the City goal ended with Homer testing Crutchley with a terrific shot, but the keeper saved well, just under the bar. At the other end Kester had to deal with a header from Hall. Gummery got the better of Holmes and gave to Hall, who was about to shoot but Kester cleared, receiving a kick for his trouble.

Smart went close following some clever forward movement from Nuneaton, the ball going just wide of the upright. Nuneaton maintained the pressure and Homer gave Coley a perfect pass. The latter ran down the wing and centred beautifully and Riley let the ball run to Smart who easily netted with a fast left foot drive which left Crutchley helpless.

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



Coley again got away and passed to Smart, who wanted too much time. At the half-time whistle the score was 1-1.

Nuneaton opened the second half brightly and a mistake by Bentley let in Ison, who shot wide. Crutchley was fortunate to save an overhead shot from Riley, but in doing so was penalised for carrying. Ison took the free-kick and shot along the ground and the ball was easily cleared.

Worcester were penned in and Crutchley had to be alert to save a fast ground shot from Ison, and only a free kick for impeding relieved the situation for City.

A curious change came over the game at this stage. Worcester broke away on the left and after shaking off the attentions of Jones, Gummery headed into the net from Worcester's first attack of the half. Nuneaton never recovered from this blow and just before the end, Gummery crossed for Hall to rush the ball into the net.

## Nuneaton Town v Stafford Rangers 09-02-1924

**Nuneaton:** Kester; Holmes and Gregory; Jones, Homer and Mann; Coley, Finch, Riley, Smart and Ison.

**Stafford:** Wilkes; White and Key; Taylor, Woolams and Southall; Cooper, Brett, Blunt, Jackson and Yates.

Nuneaton welcomed Stafford Rangers to Manor Park for a Birmingham League game.

Nuneaton opened at a fast pace and bore well into the visitors' territory where three corners were forced in quick succession. Homer gained possession and caused Wilkes to make a great save. Immediately afterwards Homer struck the upright with a hard drive. Rangers then broke away in a line and with a clear passage to goal, Brett shot wide. Cooper shot into the side netting for the visitors.

After about 15 minutes Nuneaton attacked down the left and Ison sent in a high dropping centre, which Wilkes tipped over the bar in fine style. From the resultant corner Homer headed Nuneaton's first goal. Two minutes later Smart profited from poor play by White, gained possession, ran in and crashed in a shot that left Wilkes helpless.

Stafford retaliated and made several dangerous raids, some of which were brought to a halt by offside decisions. Yates, with a clear field, put in a good run and centre and Blunt had little difficulty in scoring. Nuneaton soon rallied and Wilkes made saves from Smart, Finch and Ison. At the other end Blunt looked a likely scorer, but when he broke through he was overhauled and the danger cleared. Following good play by Coley, there was an exciting scrimmage in the Stafford goalmouth just before the break. Nuneaton led 2-1 at half-time.

Nuneaton pressed straight from the re-start and Wilkes did well to negotiate a centre from Ison, but could only partially clear and a melee resulted. Nuneaton looked likely to score, but a free kick was awarded for impeding the keeper. Later, Jones headed over from a corner, while Yates showed up well for Stafford and from one of his centres Brett fired a shot in

from point blank range, but Kester made a brilliant save and cleared the ball.

Stafford were repeatedly caught offside and had many attacks frustrated by Nuneaton's tactics. The home side attacked again following a good combination between Riley and Smart, the former's shot was brilliantly saved by Wilkes. A little later Finch headed against the crossbar, while after half-an-hour Nuneaton developed an attack which forced Wilkes to leave his goal and Ison scored with a great cross shot from well out.

Kester made another fine save before an incident occurred between Holmes and Jackson and the Nuneaton back was cautioned by the referee. Coley made a spectacular run and centre which resulted in a race for the ball between Wilkes and Smart, which ended in a collision, leaving both players requiring attention.

Riley put in a great run, but shot wide and just before the end Coley got across another splendid centre and Smart scored the fourth goal. The match ended in a 4-1 win for Nuneaton.

## Hednesford Town v Nuneaton Town 16-02-1924

**Hednesford:** Thatcher; Smart and Maiden; Parkes, Lyons and Birch; Rowe, Izon, Davies, Halford and Gibson.

**Nuneaton:** Kester; Holmes and Gregory; Jones, Homer and Mann; Coley, Finch, Gillett, Smart and Ison.

Nuneaton travelled to The Cross Keys, home of Hednesford Town for a Birmingham League match.

Nuneaton attacked from the off, but the pressure was relieved and a centre from Gibson caused some trouble. Hednesford were again dangerous and Izon got the better of Gregory and ran right in close, where only a great save from Kester saved the situation. Mann rounded off a Nuneaton attack by testing Thatcher with a really good shot, while Hednesford's Smart had to clear from Finch, while at the other end Holmes cleared from Rowe.

Izon headed behind from Gibson's centre, while Finch forced his way through and was only inches wide with a fast ground shot. Hednesford returned to the attack and Kester again came to the rescue with a save from Halford, who shot hard from close range. There was little to choose between the teams at this stage and Smart shot over the bar from Coley's cross. Nuneaton's defence looked a little shaky under pressure with Holmes being suspect.

Nuneaton won two corners and from the second Smart just failed to convert. Finch made a great dribble and beat several opponents, passed to Smart, who had a great chance, but was too slow and Malden cleared. Kester punched clear from Davies' corner, while Gillett tried to force his way through the home defence, but was pulled up.

Five minutes from half-time Hednesford took the lead, when a centre from Gibson was followed by a scrimmage in the





Nuneaton goalmouth and eventually Davies shot home with Kester being unsighted. Within a minute the home side doubled their lead when Gregory fouled Ison in the penalty area. Birch took the penalty and scored easily and Nuneaton went in at the break 2-0 down.

Hednesford were again aggressive after the break and Halford had a good chance of putting them further ahead, but with only Kester to beat he shot wildly over the bar. Ison, who had been given few chances to shine, then got in a tricky run and placed neatly for Gillett, who put a header just wide. The same player shot into the hands of Thatcher before play returned to the visitors' end and only fine work by Kester kept the home side at bay. One save from Davies was a masterpiece.

Nuneaton made occasional attacks but Finch and Ison were the only two to cause any trouble. Play deteriorated somewhat and some feeling crept into the game, several players being spoken to by the referee, who also had to speak to a section of the crowd. In the closing stages Finch made a creditable attempt to reduce the lead, with his shot going just wide.

## Stafford Rangers v Nuneaton Town 23-02-1924

**Stafford:** Wilkes; White and Key; Taylor, Woollams and Southall; Lowe, Heineman, Blunt, Jackson and Yates.

**Nuneaton:** Kester; Holmes and Crowther; Jones, Homer and Mann; Coley, Finch, Riley, Smart and Ison.

Nuneaton travelled to Marston Road, home of Stafford Rangers for a Birmingham League game.

Nuneaton had slightly the better of the opening exchanges, but the home team were quick to retaliate and scored a simple goal. Kester saved a hard drive, but the ball was returned by Heineman, who shot without force, but the ball rolled between several players and past Kester, who appeared to be unsighted.

A characteristic dash by Riley looked like bringing an equaliser, but Wilkes ran out and took the ball from his toe. Finch gained possession from the clearance, but missed the upright by a foot. Smart had a first time drive stopped by Wilkes. Crowther was injured and had to leave the field.

Rangers pressed and Kester made a brilliant save from Lowe, who shot at point blank range. Smart set Ison going and from his centre a hot attack developed, both Coley and Finch making efforts to get the ball into the net. Jones finally shot wide with a hard drive. Homer cleared a Stafford corner, while at the other end Finch sent Coley away and from his centre, Wilkes saved well. The pressure became so hot just before the interval that a Stafford back in his anxiety to clear, handled the ball in the penalty area. Holmes took the kick and crashed the ball against the upright with terrific force. At the break Stafford led 1-0.

Nuneaton resumed with Crowther, and they were soon dangerous. An attack by Finch and Riley was rather luckily cleared, before Stafford retaliated and Jackson sent in a drive.

Kester only partially saved, but he recovered and cleared. Both sides adopted offside tactics and the game deteriorated. After good work by Ison and Coley had proved unproductive, Rangers got away and Kester made a magnificent save from Jackson by touching the ball over the bar.

Nuneaton pressed strongly with Ison showing up well, but Stafford pressed again and after Heineman had struck the bar, Jackson headed home from the rebound. Nuneaton were not done with and a shot by Ison was stopped by Wilkes, but the goalkeeper was dispossessed and the ball went to Smart who shot right across goal when the net was unguarded.

In the closing stages Stafford were all over Nuneaton and five minutes from time Lowe got the better of Holmes in a tackle and stuck the bar with his shot. Blunt scored from the rebound with a powerful drive.

## Folkestone v Nuneaton Town 27-02-1924

**Nuneaton:** Kester; Holmes and Paul; Spicer, Homer and Mann; Coley, Martindale, Finch, Smart and Ison.

Nuneaton travelled to Folkestone on Wednesday to play a friendly with the Southern League club. A very pleasant journey was made, the players starting at half-past-seven from the L.M. and S. Railway Station, and arriving at the destination about 1.15. Martindale, the clever Aston and Erdington League player, was tried at centre-forward, George Paul at back, and Spicer right half. Jones being on the injured list.

There was a gate of about a thousand spectators when the game commenced, the half-time score being 2-0 in favour of Folkestone. Nuneaton had more of the play in the second half and showed up well, Finch scoring two goals. However, Folkestone scored three more goals, and eventually won 5-2, after a very pleasant game, free from fouls, and played in sportsmanlike manner on the part of both teams.

Paul was weak at back, and Martindale might have been improved upon, Holmes and Mann being the pick of Nuneaton's team, while the half-backs, backs, and forwards of Folkestone all played a great game.

From a combination point of view Folkestone were superior to Nuneaton, but the latter had three parts of the play. It is understood that Folkestone will visit Nuneaton on Thursday, March 27, when another good fight should result.

## Nuneaton Town v Wednesbury Old Ath. 01-03-1924

**Nuneaton:** Kester; Holmes and Gregory; Homer, Whittaker and Mann; Coley, Finch, Martindale, Smart and Ison.

Wednesbury Old Athletic were visitors to Manor Park for a Birmingham League match. The weather conditions made the game a farce with heavy snow falling throughout the second half, making play almost impossible and the pitch treacherous. The spectators treated events in good humour and Nuneaton's efforts at scoring often met with laughter.



A new centre-half, Whittaker, who has played his football down south, but has now moved to Leicestershire, made a good impression with his passing being well timed and accurate. His tackling was also good despite his small stature.

No goals were scored in the first half, though Nuneaton came very near on one occasion when Knight stopped a low drive by Smart. He partially stopped the ball and it seemed to have gone over the line, but the referee gave the visitors the benefit of the doubt. A scrimmage followed the incident, half-a-dozen players attempting to get the ball, but the danger was cleared.

In the second half, play was one-sided up to the point of being farcical and nearer the close the whole of the Nuneaton team, with the exception of Kester, were in the Wednesbury half. This nearly led to disaster for Nuneaton, for Tustin once gained possession with a clear run for goal, but the referee ruled him offside, which was a wrong decision, as he was in his own half when he received the ball.

Despite a regular succession of chances, Nuneaton could not get the ball into the net and it seemed as though they would not score. However, about six minutes from time, Nuneaton forced one of many corners. Ison took the kick and the ball went to Mann, who centred for Martindale to head into the net. Just before the finish Coley made a characteristic run and centre and Homer scored a second goal.

## Nuneaton Town v Bolton Wanderers Res. 06-03-1924

**Nuneaton: Kester; Holmes and Gregory; Spicer, Homer and Mann; Coley, Finch, Dance, Smart and Ison.**

**Bolton: Bourne; Woods and Birtwistle; McMasters, Round and Thornborough; Joy, Readman, Russell, Murgatroyd and Eatock.**

Nuneaton entertained Bolton Wanderers Reserves in a friendly at Manor Park, in front of about a thousand spectators.

Early in the game Coley took the ball down the wing, but Smart skied from a beautiful centre. At the other end Readman was unfortunate in not scoring, the ball rebounding off one of the Bolton men who was standing in the goalmouth. Coley was again prominent, but Town failed in front of goal. Smart hit the crossbar, the ball bouncing over the top. Shortly after Bolton appealed for offside, but the referee did not allow the appeal and Smart had no difficulty in scoring, with 15 minutes gone. Although Nuneaton were doing the most pressing, Bolton equalised shortly after through Readman.

An absolute sitter was missed by Smart after a good movement between Coley and Finch. After a period of dull play, Dance enlivened the home supporters with a beautiful solo effort, giving Town the lead with a fast ground shot. The same player had hard lines soon after when he took the ball from the keeper's hands. Bolton's equaliser was a marvellous goal scored by Eatock. The player shot from the touch line near the corner flag, and Kester failed to divert the ball. At the break the scores were tied at 2-2.

On the resumption Nuneaton did most of the attacking and the visitors keeper was hard pressed. Dance shot just over the bar and from the goal kick, Bolton relieved. Bolton made periodic raids into the Nuneaton territory and at length they were rewarded through Russell, who was rather lucky with a shot from a crowd of players. Nuneaton forced two corners, but each time Bourne tipped the ball over the bar. Ison had to retire with an injured knee. Nuneaton had most of the play towards the end, but could not get an equalising goal.

## Cradley Heath v Nuneaton Town

08-03-1924

**Cradley: Woodhouse; Evans and Ashley; Buttery, Starling and Jones; Lowe, Smith, Cox, Nock and Caswell.**

**Nuneaton: Kester; Holmes and Gregory; Homer, Whittaker and Mann; Coley, Finch, Dance, Smart and Jones.**

Nuneaton travelled to Cradley Heath to face the "Heathens" in Birmingham League fixture.

The game had been in progress ten minutes when Smith gave Cradley the lead, Kester throwing himself at the ball in vain. Straight from the centre Nuneaton raced away and Finch and Coley combined cleverly, the latter put across a perfect centre, and Finch with a first-time effort scored easily. Caswell, who was giving Homer an anxious time, raced away along the touch-line and placed right into the goalmouth for Lowe to dash up and score with a high shot.

Nuneaton went straight up the other end and once again drew level in quick time. Coley again got the better of Jones and put a cross in which Finch headed into the net. A minute later Finch was only just wide with a fast drive, and Dance, getting between the backs, gave Woodhouse a rare handful. The game was full of incident, and both Woodhouse and Kester had to save awkward shots. Nuneaton pressed strongly, but the home defence was sound. At the break the two teams were level at 2-2.

The second half had been in progress ten minutes when Gregory gave away a penalty, which was converted by Smith. The goal livened things up for a time and Mann executed a nice dribble and was only inches wide with his final shot. The game lost some of its former interest towards the end, but Nuneaton attacked strongly for a time, but the forwards had lost some of their effectiveness in front of goal, although one or two shots extended Woodhouse.

## Nuneaton Town v Wellington Town

15-03-1924

**Nuneaton: Kester; Holmes and Crowther; Homer, Whittaker and Mann; Coley, Finch, Dance, Smart and Jones**

Nuneaton welcomed Wellington Town to Manor Park for a Birmingham League match that turned out to be one of the best games of the season.

Nuneaton opened confidently, looking like a side which had been winning all season. In the first minute of the game Smart



broke through in grand style and scored a great goal — a rude surprise for the visitors. Nuneaton continued to dominate the exchanges, with their form being irresistible. Wellington could only just hold out desperately, but before the interval was signalled, Smart, who had shown wonderful improvement, had penetrated the Wellington ranks again and notched another delightful goal. Nuneaton should have scored on two or three other occasions before half-time arrived but these chances were lost in the excitement of the play.

Immediately after resuming Crowther and Holmes muddled a centre and Sheldon scored for Wellington. The visitors made dangerous strides after this and were rewarded for their perseverance 12 minutes later when Bond scored again and equalised the scores. Nuneaton were nettled by this transformation and made a great recovery to retrieve their lost position.

A thrilling tussle resulted but Nuneaton gradually got on top and from a corner about seven minutes from time, Finch scored the winning goal.

## Kidderminster Harriers v Nuneaton Town 22-03-1924

**Kidderminster:** Lutterthwaite; Davis and Blake; Barber, Worrall and Russell; Pearce, E. Edwards, Hughes, Boyman and S. Edwards.

**Nuneaton:** Kester; Holmes and Paul; Homer, Whittaker and Mann; Coley, Finch, Gee, Smart and Jones.

Nuneaton visited Kidderminster Harriers for a Birmingham League game and came away with the usual defeat.

The football was ragged and elementary all through, with indiscriminate kicking. The ball was in touch with aggravating regularity and when it was not, it was generally punted about high in the air. At times it seemed as if the players were having a competition as to who could kick the highest. Such was the wretched stuff that the spectators had to put up with.

The new Nuneaton centre-forward, Gee, was a failure. He was easily charged off the ball, and possessed but a feeble kick and was slow. Never once did he get the ball out to the wings. The rest of the forwards failed equally as well. Smart and Finch were easily subdued and Jones did not show the good form he surprised spectators with the previous week. Coley was very effectively watched by Russell, the opposing half, but even when he did elude the attentions of this player, he was far from convincing. The Nuneaton halves were only moderate. They never really settled down, and failed to swing the ball out to the forwards.

Mann did some useful things in defensive play, but Holmes was by far Nuneaton's best man. His kicking was a feature of the match and his tackling was good. He extricated the Town from many an embarrassing situation. Paul also did well, and Kester, although having an easy time in goal, brought off some excellent saves.

The only goal of the match was scored by Kidderminster ten minutes from the interval. Boyman and Hughes made

headway for 20 yards or so and then the latter, after getting control rather clumsily and luckily ran on and beat Kester with a fine shot, with the keeper having no chance. Towards the end Boyman nearly added to the Harriers' lead, his shot hitting the crossbar.

## Nuneaton Town v Folkestone

27-03-1924

**Nuneaton:** Kester; Holmes and Paul; Riley, Homer and J. Mann; Coley, Finch, Dance, Smart and B. Mann.

**Folkestone:** Goodman; Fogg and Johnson; Saunders, Middleton and Couchman; Parker, Wighton, Wood, Barnett and Goddard.

Folkestone of the Southern League visited Manor Park for a friendly match.

Folkestone scored in the first minute, Parker tricking Riley and centring to Wood, who easily netted with a low shot. B. Mann nearly equalised a moment later, Goodman bringing off a smart save. Jack Mann put a shot into the side netting before, within three minutes of the first goal, Folkestone scored again. Parker again initiated the attack, and Middleton bore his way through and shot high into the net. Smart with an open goal shot high over the bar.

After 15 minutes, Wighton tricked the defence and scored Folkestone's third goal. Coley made a brilliant run and centre, which Goodman saved. Middleton made a great run and scored another easy goal, after 23 minutes. Although outplayed, Nuneaton had their chances, but failed to seize them. Both Dance and Finch missed opportunities. Nuneaton improved and after some clever passing, Mann ran through and struck the crossbar with a fast drive and grazed the bar a moment later.

After 35 minutes, Coley made a good run and passed to Dance, who ran through and scored a good goal. A little later Holmes fell over with a clear kick and allowed Wood to run on and score a fifth goal for Folkestone.

In the second half, Dance and B. Mann changed places, and Nuneaton put up a few attacks, Jack Mann being prominent with some clever dribbles. He scored a good goal following a move initiated by himself. Wighton added two more goals for Folkestone, who took things easy in the closing stages. B. Mann came near on two occasions for Nuneaton, and Goodman saved from Finch and Smart.

## Nuneaton Town v Stourbridge

29-03-1924

**Nuneaton:** Horsley; Holmes and Paul; Homer, Whittaker and J. Mann; Coley, Finch, B. Mann, Smart and Ison.

**Stourbridge:** Adams; Newall and Talbot; H. Smith, Wakeman and Probert; Corbett, C. Smith, Guest, Holcroft and Rogers.

League leaders and champions elect Stourbridge visited Manor Park for a Birmingham League game.

If the display Stourbridge gave can be taken as anything like their real form they are quite the poorest side that has ever

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



held the highest bid as the Birmingham League champions. In fact, they were about the luckiest team seen on the ground this season and the draw of one goal each was extremely flattering to their abilities.

Although Nuneaton's form was nothing to excite over, they were much superior to Stourbridge and deserved to win by a good margin. They did practically all the pressing with Stourbridge being content to keep Nuneaton out and confined their energies to defence. The visitors' tactics irritated the crowd, especially as Nuneaton's attacks fizzled out woefully.

The first half did not produce any score, and half an hour of the second period had passed before Nuneaton broke down the opposing barrier. A persistent attack forced a corner and this produced a brilliant goal. Ison took the kick and Smart, with a sudden twist, shot the ball into the net with a glorious first time effort.

The cheers which greeted this goal had barely subsided when Stourbridge scored a simple goal. Homer in trying to head the ball to his forwards, saw it go to Probert. The latter punted it up the field and Guest forced his way past Holmes, got the ball over the heads of Mann and Paul and scored. It was the visitors' only breakaway up to that point.

## Risk Of Atherstone Town FC Closing Down

A crisis has arrived in the history of Atherstone Town FC, and unless financial support is forthcoming this week the old club will cease to exist. This state of affairs has come about through the sparse "gates" at the home matches, very few of which have paid their way, and the only surprise is that the Committee have managed to carry on so long as they have done.

On Saturday the "Adders" are due at Bloxwich, but owing to lack of funds a public meeting has been called for tonight at the Red Lion at 7.45pm to decide whether to continue the fixtures or not. Unless funds are forthcoming at that meeting the club will have to close down.

Hopes are entertained, however, that the traditional Atherstone sporting spirit will come to the rescue of the old club in the hour of its adversity.

## Nuneaton Town v Kettering Town 03-04-1924

**Nuneaton:** Neville Lee; Homer and Paul; Spicer, Whitacre and J. Mann; Coley, Finch, Riley, B. Mann and Ison.

**Kettering:** Bird; Stevenson and Bacon; Kirk, Horne and Pickford; Wright, York, Harris and Norton.

Nuneaton welcomed Kettering Town of the Southern League to Manor Park for a friendly game. The visitors were only able to bring a poor team, consisting mainly of reserves and Nuneaton had a comfortable afternoon. The game was very disappointing with both teams taking things easy.

For three-quarters of the game the players kicked the ball about aimlessly and when the shooting zone was reached the ball was either tamely ballooned over the bar, or the movements fizzled out as wretchedly as could be imagined.

Nuneaton occupied the Kettering territory for nearly the whole of the game, but failed to drive home their superiority and it was not until the concluding stages that the teams settled down to any real attacking. The only goal of the match was typical of the game. From a centre by Ison, a scramble ensued in the visitor's goalmouth and the ball was practically pushed over the line by a crowd of home players.

There was very little interest in the first half, with both teams restraining from exerting themselves. The game was much the same after the interval. After 25 minutes' play, however, Nuneaton opened the scoring, Ison putting a beautiful centre into the goalmouth. A rough scramble took place and Nuneaton were awarded a goal, Riley apparently having forced it over the line.

After this play livened up a little and both goalkeepers had hot shots to deal with. Full-time arrived, however, with no further scoring, the final score being 1-0 to the home side.

## Redditch v Nuneaton Town

05-04-1924

**Nuneaton:** Lee; Holmes and Paul; Jones, Homer and Whittaker; Coley, Finch, Riley, Mann and Ison.

Nuneaton visited Redditch for a Birmingham League fixture and although it ended in the usual away defeat for Town, it was their best away display of the season.

Town had never lost to Redditch since joining the Birmingham League and were much superior to the home side, and had the visitors have possessed a marksman, they would have recorded their first away league win of the season.

Both goals were subjected to pressure in the early stages of the game. A splendid move by Homer gave Mann a chance, but he shot over. At the other end Sambrooke sent in a terrific shot which Lee finely saved. Then Sambrooke missed a glorious chance, shooting outside from six yards range with Lee out of goal.

After about half an hour's play Redditch scored the only goal of the match. Davies in getting the ball under control apparently handled, and almost simultaneously Holmes handled. Redditch were given a free-kick, and Clarke placed to Rogers, who headed into the net. Subsequently Nuneaton attacked strongly, but their work in front of goal was ineffective. Coley, Ison, Riley and Finch all tested Arlington, but the shots lacked sting.

Redditch pressed on resuming, and three times in succession Homer headed away from Potter. Then Nuneaton attacked and a brilliant shot by Riley was tipped over the bar by Arlington. A great run by Coley gave Finch a chance, but his shot cannoned off a defender. Redditch made a couple of sorties, which were repulsed, and then Coley set Nuneaton



# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



attacking again. Two of his centres were cleared, and a corner had a similar fate.

Finch had a good chance, but missed the ball completely. Redditch gained a free-kick for a faulty throw-in and Lee punched out the kick. Nuneaton persisted in their attacks through good work by Coley, but could not get the equaliser.

## Nuneaton Town v Cannock Town 12-04-1924

**Nuneaton:** Kester; Holmes and Gregory; Jones, Homer, Mann; Coley, Whittaker, Riley, Smart and Ison.

**Cannock:** W. Smith; Morris and J. Smith; Bradbury, Bowen and Whitehouse; Jones, Wells, Clare, Needham and Preece.

Nuneaton welcomed Cannock Town to Manor Park for a Birmingham League fixture. After a long lapse the old war cry "The Old Five" was heard for the second time in the season so far. The ground was slippery due to the thawing snow. Goalkeeper Ernie Kester was back after injury.

The visitors opened well, and after Gregory had partially miskicked, Preece struck the side netting. Smart set Ison going and that player centred for Riley to test W. Smith with a low shot, which lacked sting. Clare attempted a solo run for the visitors but Holmes just managed to clear. Play lacked interest, but Coley livened up matters with another nice run and centre.

Whittaker forced his way through the defence, but was hustled off the ball at the critical moment. Needham showed up in subsequent Cannock attacks, but Kester was not tested. Clever work by Whittaker gave Riley an easy chance, and after a short run, the centre-forward easily scored. This goal came after 20 minutes play. Clare beat Gregory and tested Kester, but the keeper cleared. Just on half-time Ison put Nuneaton further ahead following a scrimmage in the Cannock goalmouth. At the break Nuneaton led 2-0.

Early in the second-half Coley centred and Morris almost headed through his own goal, but the resultant corner was cleared. Ison put in a clever run and centre, and after Whittaker tried in vain to get in a shot, Smart sent yards over with an open goal. After about 12 minutes Cannock pressed and Wells scored following a centre from the left.

Cannock continued to press and Gregory took the ball off the toe of Jones, when he had an open goal. Following a combined Nuneaton attack, Whittaker ran right in and scored for Nuneaton. The goalkeeper stopped the ball and cleared, but the referee ruled that it had crossed the line and declined to heed Cannock's protests. This happened after 22 minutes, and a few moments later a persistent Nuneaton attack terminated in Mann scoring a fourth with a fine drive, the ball passing between a number of players.

Smith saved two good efforts from Smart before a clever dribble by Homer, who passed to Riley, enabled the latter to run through and score the best goal of the match. Just before time, Needham reduced the deficit for Cannock.

## Darlaston v Nuneaton Town 19-04-1924

**Nuneaton:** Kester; Holmes and Doughty; Jones, Homer and Mann; Coley, Whittaker, Riley, Smart and Ison.

Nuneaton travelled to Darlaston for a Birmingham League match and met with their usual defeat away from home.

Darlaston defeated Nuneaton because they showed greater dash and possessed bigger physical powers. Nuneaton displayed the better footwork and combination, but they were not allowed to readily settle down.

Nuneaton showed their usual away form and were not at all impressive. The opening goal came on about 20 minutes. Holmes miskicked and the ball went to Doughty, who sliced the ball, which went to Bird, who netted. A minute later, a centre by Wright had the visitors defence in difficulties and Goodrick scored a second.

Smart fired in a brilliant swerving shot which appeared to be a certain goal, but Butler made a glorious one-handed save. Crossing over with a two-goal deficit, Nuneaton's chances of pulling the game round were destroyed early on, when Darlaston got a simple, but illegitimate goal after four minutes. The linesman signalled that the ball was out of play, but the referee allowed play to proceed and Wright centred for Sullivan to head into the net.

Nuneaton had much more of the attack than their opponents, but the only goal which was credited to them was one scored by Ison, after a good individual run, in the course of which he tricked several opponents. After 90 minutes Darlaston were 3-1 winners.

## Atherstone Town v Nuneaton Town 21-04-1924

**Atherstone:** Aston; Patchett and Chamberlain; Parkes, Johnson and Spellman; Jennings, Tuckley, Mills, Cockerill and Gibson.

**Nuneaton:** Kester; Paul and Doughty; Gillett, Homer and Mann; Coley, Whittaker, Riley, Smart and Ison.

Nuneaton opened their Easter programme with a visit to Sheepy Road on Easter Monday to face Atherstone Town in the Atherstone Nursing Cup Final.

The opening stages were even and the first incident of note was a corner forced by Gibson which was put over the bar by Parkes. "Adders" shaped well and following clever work by Jennings and Tuckley, Kester had to punch clear. A passing bout between Riley and Smart looked dangerous, but Patchett got the ball away. Riley missed from a good centre from Ison, before Whittaker went through at top speed, but was hustled off the ball. After Doughty had cleared from Jennings, Ison centred, but both Smart and Riley failed to take advantage.

Tuckley made a splendid effort for the "Adders" and taking advantage of a slip by Paul sent in a fine shot which struck the far upright with Kester out of position. Nuneaton exerted pressure and Aston had to run out and clear from Coley. After

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



the inside men had missed a centre from Ison, Smart placed neatly into the goalmouth and Ison headed the ball into the net, with Aston hopelessly beaten.

Atherstone came back in determined fashion, but a free-kick just outside the penalty area was blocked. Nice work by Gillett put Riley in possession, and taking the ball on the run the centre-forward placed just wide. Mills sent Gibson away and the latter hit the side netting with a fast drive. Nuneaton almost increased their lead just before the break when Riley went through, but he put in a weak shot which was partially cleared, but Whittaker ran in and hit the ball against the post. Nuneaton went in at half-time leading by a goal to nil.

Atherstone re-opened strongly, Jennings and Tickley working well together, but nothing accrued. At the other end Coley got round Spellman and placed neatly to Whittaker, who wanted too much time and Patchett cleared. Nuneaton came again and Smart placed between the backs to Whittaker, who scored with ease as the Atherstone defenders appealed for offside.

Mann put Town three goals up, firing home from Coley's corner with Aston getting to the ball, but was unable to keep it out. Nuneaton's forwards combined well and the "Adders" defence was all at sea with several attacks. Coley got clean away on his own, but hesitated with an open goal, and Aston cleared.

Gibson forced a corner from which Kester saved a good header, before Riley got the better of the backs and Whittaker scored another easy goal. After Atherstone had forced a corner, Riley again took the ball through for Whittaker to complete his hat-trick. Nuneaton took the trophy with a 5-0 win.

## Nuneaton Town v Burton All Saints 21-04-1924

**Nuneaton: Kester; Holmes and Doughty; Jones, Homer and Mann; Coley, Whittaker, Riley, Smart and Ison.**

Nuneaton entertained Burton All Saints at Manor Park on Easter Monday afternoon, in a Birmingham League fixture. There was a big crowd and hot, sunny conditions.

The game had a spectacular start with four goals being scored in seven minutes. Twice Burton took the lead and twice Nuneaton drew level. Then Nuneaton forged ahead and never looked back, with Burton being outplayed, especially in the second half.

Nuneaton opened promisingly and Whittaker made a good attempt to score, but was hustled off the ball. After a visitors' attack had been repulsed, Riley made a fine solo attempt to score, but his final shot lacked sting. Lee, however, experienced great difficulty in getting the ball away. After eight minutes' play Cooper got the better of Doughty and placed squarely into the goalmouth to Hodgkinson, who easily scored.

Two minutes later, taking advantage of a slip by the visitors' left back, Coley passed across the goalmouth and Smart dashed up and scored. Less than two minutes elapsed when Burton again took the lead. Vernon easily scoring from a few yards range. In less than another minute Nuneaton were

again on level terms, Coley shooting into the net following a corner taken by Ison.

The game continued to provide plenty of excitement and Ison was going strong when he was brought down unfairly, but the free-kick came to nothing. Coley gave the Burton left-back a warm time and from one of his centres both Riley and Whittaker failed with practically an open goal. At the other end Kester saved well from Devlin. A little later brilliant work by Coley ended in Smart heading a beautiful goal. This came six minutes before the interval.

After the break Nuneaton pressed and a long shot from Smart dropped onto the crossbar and went behind. Noakes forged ahead on the visitors' left wing, but was unable to get in his centre owing to the close attention of the home right back. Coley, who was making the best of all possible chances, again placed across the goalmouth, but no one was up to take the pass. Play was hardly so interesting in this half, but still a fairly high standard of football was maintained.

The Nuneaton forwards again got going, and from Coley's centre, Smart was only just wide with a fast ground shot. Lee made a great save from Smart, who sent in a terrific shot and a minute later Smart scored a great goal from what appeared to be an impossible angle. Smart ran up and dispossessed the goalkeeper before scoring from a shot almost on the goal-line.

This was followed by another excellent goal. Jones passed to Riley, who beat the backs single-handed and shoved the ball past Lee and into the net, with the ball going in off the upright. Nuneaton were winners by 5-2.

## Oakengates Town v Nuneaton Town 26-04-1924

**Nuneaton: Kester; Paul and Doughty; Gillett, Homer and Mann; Coley, Whittaker, Spicer, Smart and Ison.**

Nuneaton travelled to Oakengates for a Birmingham League fixture. There was a surprise in store for the home side when Nuneaton proceeded to win their first away game of the season in the final league fixture.

Nuneaton had the best of the opening play and several good movements were initiated. Smart raced through to hit the side net with a hard drive. A little later the left wing pair were in evidence, a well-judged kick by Doughty placing Ison in possession. The winger passed inside to Smart, who raced between the backs and scored with a fast low shot.

Spicer crashed in a hard drive which looked a likely goal, but the ball struck the hand of the full-back and bounced away. Oakengates attacked, Brooks beat Paul and took the ball to within a few yards of goal and shot. A goal looked likely but Kester made a wonderful one-handed save. Kester made many clearances, but just before half-time Nuneaton's defence failed to stop a home attack, and after Kester had saved, Jones centred to Rowley, who headed the equaliser.

Nuneaton became aggressive on resuming and Coley receiving from Whittaker, centred and caused Vaughan to

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



run out and clear. Davis made a solo dash for Oakengates, but shot just wide. After 10 minutes Nuneaton developed an attack on the right, which resulted in a remarkable goal. One of the home backs was in the act of clearing near the goal line when Spicer ran up, tipped the ball over his head and centred at an awkward angle. Smart ran in and with an exceptionally good effort put the ball into the net.

Soon afterwards Spicer ran strongly for goal and sent in a fine ground shot, which Vaughan turned round the posts in brilliant fashion. Nuneaton held their own, and good defensive work frustrated Oakengates' attempts to equalise. During the last quarter of an hour, Whittaker failed with two chances.

## Kettering Town v Nuneaton Town 28-04-1924

**Nuneaton: Kester; Gregory and Doughty; Gillett, Whittaker and Mann; Payne, Finch, Riley, Smart and Ison.**

Nuneaton Town travelled to Kettering Town on Monday to play a friendly fixture against the Southern League team.

Nuneaton lost the toss and had to face the wind. Play at the start was fairly even, Smart and Ison being prominent on the Nuneaton left wing. The game had been in progress about half an hour when Kettering scored. Nuneaton pressed after this, and in a very short period, Smart struck the framework on three occasions. Finch fed Payne with good effect, and the latter got in a glorious shot which struck the upright. Bacon, the former Nuneaton player, got away on his own but shot wide.

The second half opened with Nuneaton on the attack, Smart being prominent for some nice individual work. Kettering were kept on the defensive, but when they did get away Gregory brought one of their forwards down unfairly in the penalty area. Marquis, who had not missed a penalty throughout the current season, took the kick, but Kester made a fine save.

Following some effective work by Finch and Gillett, Payne again struck the post, the ball rebounding out of play. Doughty, who played finely throughout, went through on his own and sent in a splendid shot which the goalkeeper just managed to tip over the bar. The corner was taken by Payne, who placed neatly into the goalmouth for Ison to head the equalising goal. Nuneaton continued to attack, but were denied the goal which they deserved.

## Coventry City Reserves v Nuneaton Town 01-05-1924

**Nuneaton: Kester; Paul and Doughty; Jones, Gillett and Spicer; Coley, Finch, Riley, Smart and Ison.**

Nuneaton Town met Coventry City's Southern League team at Highfield Road last night in a friendly for the benefit of George Ashfield, who has been the City's groundsman for 20 years. Unfortunately for him May Day demonstrations and the return of the Euston victims proved strong counter-attractions and the attendance did not exceed 100.

Nuneaton, who substituted Gillett for the injured Homer,

swung the ball about freely on the rain-soaked ground, with Ison prominent on the left wing. When Coventry followed their example they were repelled by the excellent defensive play of Doughty and Paul. They should have scored when Gittoes shot wide with Kester out of goal, but he made amends soon after, by netting from a centre by Deeming.

Nuneaton made a successful response, Ison putting across a fine centre which Riley headed home. Coventry regained the lead a moment later through Gittoes.

Considering the state of the ground, the game was quite keen and interesting. Nuneaton playing well above the average Southern League standard, their display, in fact, being better than that of many Southern League teams at Highfield Road. They had a slice of bad luck when Finch shot against the post, but Riley made amends by dribbling the ball into the net, after Findlay had partially saved a close-range shot with his foot.

Coventry had the best of the second half, Kester making some capital saves before Sadler put the ball past him for the City's third and fourth goal. Further fine goalkeeping by him was the outstanding feature of this half, but the custodian had no chance when Parkin beat the defence for him to score the fifth goal. Nuneaton were aggressive in the closing stages, and shots from Sadler and Gittoes were stopped by the woodwork.

## Nuneaton Town v Coventry City Reserves 03-05-1924

**Nuneaton: Kester; Paul and Doughty; Gillett, Homer and Mann; Coley, Whittaker, Riley, Smart and Ison.**

Nuneaton brought the curtain down on a difficult season with a home friendly against Coventry City Reserves. The visitors won a close game by one goal to nil.

## Birmingham League 1923-24

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Stourbridge	34	22	8	4	70	21	52
Shrewsbury Town	34	21	3	10	78	43	45
Willenhall	34	20	4	10	77	47	44
Wellington Town	34	18	6	10	76	42	42
Worcester City	34	16	9	9	61	46	41
Burton All Saints	34	17	4	13	76	54	38
Cradley Heath	34	16	6	12	66	47	38
Redditch	34	16	3	15	56	57	35
Hednesford Town	34	15	5	14	60	67	35
Oakengates Town	34	13	6	15	64	71	32
Darlaston	34	11	10	13	47	64	32
Bilston United	34	13	5	16	55	63	31
Nuneaton Town	34	13	3	18	62	64	29
Cannock Town	34	11	7	16	57	73	29
Kidderminster Harriers	34	12	5	17	44	60	29
Stafford Rangers	34	11	5	18	48	71	27
Brierley Hill Alliance	34	8	7	19	38	81	23
Wednesbury Old Ath.	34	3	4	27	34	98	10

## Nuneaton Town FC Admitted To Northants League

Nuneaton Town FC have secured admission to the Northants League for the reserve team. This League, the headquarters of which are at Wellingborough, consists of sixteen clubs, including the reserves of Peterborough and Kettering, and such clubs as Desborough, Higham Ferrers, Market Harborough and Wellingborough. A special meeting of the management committee of the League was held at Northampton on Friday to consider the question of Nuneaton's admission. Voting had been by letter, and Nuneaton obtained about a two-thirds majority. Fixtures will be made up during the week. It is expected that the Nuneaton team's away journeys will be practically all made by motor charabanc.

## Nuneaton Town Expelled from Birmingham League

Speaking about Nuneaton Town's expulsion from the Birmingham League, due to joining the Eastern Section of the Southern League, while retaining membership of the Birmingham League, Mr Sam Saunders, the secretary of the club, stated that he had given notice to appeal. This would have to come before the Board of Appeal and the Birmingham League, and "if we lose there, we shall follow on to the FA," said Mr Saunders. There was nothing on the agenda, he continued, regarding any complaint against Nuneaton, and they had fulfilled every obligation necessary. They resigned from the Leicestershire League to go into the Southern League, and there was nothing in the rules to say they should not do so. The rule on which he takes it the League acted was rule 5, which states: "All clubs shall notify the secretary at least 29 days before the annual meeting whether it is their intention to continue their membership for the following season, otherwise their places will be filled. If any club signifies its intention of retaining membership and afterwards joins another League it shall be liable to a fine of not less than £10 and not more than £25."

## Signing For Next Season

The following players have been signed up for next season: Kester and Lee; backs F. Clarke (late Bristol City and Peterborough), T. Doughty, M. J. Thomas (Tamworth Castle), Leslie A. Dabble (amateur, London Casuals); half-backs W. McEwan Dovans (Peterborough), W. Porter (Weymouth and Raith Rovers), J. Miller (Greenock Morton), Jack Mann and P. Jones, Jack Whittaker (Portsmouth), T. Gillett and F. Crowther; forwards: H. Coley; B. C. Wighton (Folkestone), C. Smith (Guildford), L. Smart and G. Finch, T. Goddard (Folkestone) and G. Colserill (Torquay).

## Richard "Dick" Jarvis

The death was announced at Nuneaton yesterday morning, after a long illness, of Richard Jarvis, a well-known footballer. He went from Nuneaton Town to Sheffield Wednesday, and after several seasons in the first team figured in Southern League matches on behalf of Luton Town. Injury cut short his football career.

## Miners' Convalescent Home



At a joint meeting of coal owners and workmen, at Nuneaton, in connection with the Warwickshire Convalescent Home, Higham Grange, Alderman E. F. Melly presiding, it was arranged provisionally that the Duke of York's visit to the Home should take place on Thursday, May 29, on his return journey from Tamworth to London. The Convalescent Home has been established by a grant of £20,000 from the Miners' Welfare Fund, and will accommodate 50 patients.

The Home is practically ready for occupation, and patients will be admitted immediately.

## Atherstone Town Financial Position

An adjourned public meeting was held at the Red Lion Hotel, Atherstone, on Monday evening, to consider the present financial position of the Town Football Club, and to take the feeling of supporters as to the advisability of making application for re-election to the Birmingham Combination next season. Mr Stafford Sands occupied the chair, and there was a good attendance of supporters.

The chairman said the main object of the meeting was to decide whether the club should make an effort to continue in the Combination next season or not. Although he did not now hold an official position, he should be sorry to see the club go out of existence. It was purely a question of finance, and the club would need further support if they were to keep in the Combination.



## Shepshed Albion— Preliminary Round

Nuneaton played host to Shepshed Albion of the Leicestershire Senior League in the Preliminary Round of the FA Cup.

Nuneaton: Woodhouse; Gregory and Crowther; Villiers, Homer and Mann; Coley, Spicer, Cashmore, Smart and Ison.

Shepshed: Wright; Brookes and Biddles; Sutton, Middleton and Cramp; Wardle, Moore, Peberdy, Bancroft and Hanson.

There was a sensational start to the game when Peberdy broke through the home defence and scored, with just five minutes gone. Following the goal, Nuneaton dominated play and it was remarkable how the visitors' goal remained intact.

Nuneaton won several fruitless corners, which produced tussles, but no goals. Cashmore almost broke through on a couple of occasions and Spicer had a fast shot cannon off a defender, but the Shepshed keeper was in good form and made two saves from Smart. The inside-left headed the ball into the net following a corner, but the goal was disallowed for impeding the keeper.

Cashmore twice missed easy chances, he raced between the backs and fired in a great shot from close range, but Wright brought off a wonderful save. Spicer hit the crossbar with a terrific shot and Wright made another good save from Smart, but Nuneaton could not score and at half time Shepshed led 1-0.

Shepshed resumed without Biddles, who had been injured, but still caught the Nuneaton defence napping and scored in the first minute after the break, with Peberdy again the scorer. Nuneaton's half-backs then threw caution to the wind and went on the offensive. After seven minutes Homer fed Coley with a glorious pass and the winger centred for Cashmore to score.

Nuneaton monopolised the play at this point and Mann, Spicer, Cashmore and Smart all missed good chances.

Town had three penalty appeals turned down including one glaring handball, but were awarded a spot kick for an offence against Spicer. Villiers scored from the penalty. Nuneaton made desperate attempts to gain the lead and Homer found Spicer, who was tripped, but recovered and passed back to Homer, who scored. The referee, however, disallowed the goal and awarded Nuneaton a free-kick, which came to nothing.

About six minutes from the end Peberdy went on a run and beat the home backs and shot. Woodhouse stopped the ball, but could not clear and Peberdy followed in and scored. It seemed that Nuneaton were destined for defeat, but three minutes later Coley got away and centred for Smart to head the equaliser.

Nuneaton had scraped a lucky draw against a Leicestershire Senior League side, who would have been easy meat for previous Nuneaton sides.

## Shepshed Albion— Preliminary Round Replay

Nuneaton travelled to the Dovecote, home of Shepshed Albion for a Preliminary Round FA Cup replay on Wednesday afternoon.

Shepshed: Wright; Brookes and F. Wright; Sutton, Middleton and Roomes; Cramp, Moore, Peberdy, Bancroft and Harrison.

Nuneaton: Woodhouse; Gregory and Paul; Villiers, Gillett and Mann; Coley, Spicer, Cashmore, Smart and Ison.

Nuneaton started strongly and bombarded the Shepshed goal for the first ten minutes, and were only kept at bay by Wright's brilliant goalkeeping.

The strong wind caused problems for both sides and Wright made good saves from Smart and Cashmore. Good work from Coley and Smart ended with the latter making a strong run down the wing before swinging in a lovely centre, which Spicer headed into the net, well out of Wright's reach.

Spurred on by this success, Nuneaton

continued to attack and Coley was making tracks towards the home goal when he was stopped by Wright. A minute later the winger again won possession and outpaced Roomes and Wright before sending in a hard low drive, which was just wide of the post. Nuneaton came back again and Coley put in a centre to Cashmore who scored a lovely goal.

Shepshed became dangerous and forced a corner, which was well-placed by Wardle, and Peberdy headed against the crossbar, but Woodhouse made a great clearance. Nuneaton remained in control right up to the interval, but could not add to their lead.

The opening to the second half was uninteresting. A run by Spicer relieved the monotony, but Wright made a good save by falling at Spicer's feet and scooping the ball away. Shepshed were awarded a free-kick just outside the penalty area, but Sutton's shot was cleared. Nuneaton broke away and after tricking Brookes, Ison placed nicely to Smart, who taking the ball in his stride, scored a lovely goal with a high shot.

In the closing minutes Woodhouse was called upon on several occasions, but the Shepshed goal had a narrow escape when Cashmore hit the upright.

## Moira United— 1st Round Qualifying

Nuneaton played host to Moira United of the Leicestershire Senior League in the 1st Qualifying Round of the FA Cup.

Nuneaton: Kester; Holmes and Webster; Villiers, Homer and Mann; Kirkland, Riley, Cashmore, Smart and Ison.

Moira: Farmer; G. Morley and Patrick; Clarke, Pratt and H. Evans; Gregory, Redshaw, A. Evans, L. Morley and Fearn.

Within ten minutes of the start, Nuneaton were three goals up — all the outcome of good combination. The first goal came within five minutes when Smart got the better of a defender and passed to Cashmore,



who easily netted. About four minutes later Riley set Kirkland going, and from the winger's centre Cashmore scored again. Immediately after Nuneaton set up another attack and Homer scored the third goal with a great shot. Riley and Smart also went close as Nuneaton dominated the play.

Clarke shot over the bar as the visitors hit back and they then forced a corner, from which Platt picked up the loose ball and gave Kester no chance with a long hard shot. Moira almost scored again straight after when a centre from Gregory was followed by a melee in the home goalmouth. Kester fell on the ball and was surrounded by players, but Nuneaton were eventually awarded a free-kick.

After this attack had subsided, Town pressed again and Smart hit the post. Just after Smart was threading his way through the Moira defence when he was tripped. Smart took the resultant penalty and scored easily.

Cashmore went close, while Smart and Homer both saw shots cannon off defenders. Just on the stroke of half-time, a mistake by Holmes let in Morley, who centred to A. Evans, who had an open goal and made no mistake.

Moira started the second half strongly, but five minutes into the half a Moira defender handled the ball and Smart again scored from the penalty.

Farmer saved from Kirkland before Moira got away, but the ball was quickly returned and Smart headed the ball on to Riley, who took advantage of Patrick's mistimed rush and burst through on his own. He ran nearly 40 yards, chased by two opponents, but kept his cool and scored with a well-placed shot.

Moira still showed fight and Pratt made a fine dribble and was fouled by Homer on the edge of the area. Kester saved the free-kick in style. L. Morley careered towards goal and looked dangerous, but was overhauled by Villiers, who charged him off the ball.

Gregory broke through, but with Nuneaton vainly appealing for offside, shot over the bar. Kester won applause for a great save from close range.

Nuneaton did much as they pleased for the remainder of the game. Mann passed to Ison, who centred for Smart to head the seventh goal. Riley scored the eighth from another Ison centre and then Homer took the ball almost from the halfway line and shaking off the opposition scored the ninth. Just before the final whistle Riley brought the score up to ten.

## Hinckley United — 2nd Qualifying Round

Town travelled to The Holywell to meet Hinckley United of the Birmingham Combination in a 2nd Qualifying Round tie. Hinckley's team contained a number of ex-Nuneaton players including former captain Emmin Dunn.

Hinckley: Allcoat; Randle and Taylor; Herbert, Craig and J. Harris; Spencer, Dunn, Winterton, Wright and Ford.

Nuneaton: Kester; Holmes and Paul; Villiers, Gillett and Homer; Summers, Spicer, Cashmore, Smart and Ison.

Nuneaton were soon on the attack, and Allcoat easily fielded a long shot from Smart, while Taylor kicked away on several occasions. Wright headed wide at the other end, while a mistake by Holmes let in Ford whose centre found Dunn, who put the ball into the goalmouth for Wright to shoot over an open goal. When Nuneaton attacked Allcoat ran out to clear from Ison.

With 11 minutes gone, United took the lead following a corner. Kester punched out Ford's flag kick, but Craig picked up the loose ball and hooked it into the area, where Kester, in attempting to clear, helped the ball into the net.

Inside 17 minutes Town equalised when Cashmore made ground and passed to Spicer, whose centre was touched into the net by Ison. Allcoat saved from Cashmore just after and Summers was robbed by Randle

after a good run. Smart worked his way through and forced Allcoat into a brilliant save. Kester conceded a corner following a United break and then pulled off a fine save from Dunn from close in. Herbert hit the net support with a left-footed drive before Hinckley took the lead when Wright and Winterton beat Paul and the former scored past Kester.

Allcoat had to run out to clear a Nuneaton attack before Cashmore made a fine run and centre to Summers, who netted the equaliser. Before half-time a Summers' centre was headed against the bar by Smart.

Hinckley took the lead three minutes into the second half when Kester saved Winterton's shot, but Wright shot home with Kester on the ground. A minute later Hinckley increased their lead when Winterton tricked the Nuneaton backs and scored easily.

Smart lifted the ball over the goalkeeper, but Harris kicked clear from the foot of the post. A 'goal' from Cashmore was disallowed for offside, a decision contested by Nuneaton.

United further increased their lead after 62 minutes when Ford crossed for Spencer to show a fine burst of speed before scoring with a hard drive. Nuneaton got back on the attack, but although Smart dribbled through, he fell as he was about to shoot.

United scored again on 70 minutes, when Winterton picked up the ball in his own half and went on a run before beating Kester with a great shot. About 15 minutes from time "Pop" Harris cleared and Paul miskicked, allowing Winterton to run through and score the seventh goal.

Allcoat saved from Homer and Spicer shot wide, while Summers crossed for Gillett to head over. The referee awarded a penalty for some reason and Villiers made no mistake with the kick. Although Nuneaton attacked towards the end, no further goals were scored.

## Nuneaton Town FC Annual Meeting

Evidence of a revival of interest and initiative were apparent at the sixteenth annual meeting of the shareholders of the Nuneaton Town Association Football Club which was held at the Bull's Head, Abbey Street on Monday night. Mr. F. Payne presided over a crowded meeting and was supported by Messrs. J. Smith, B. Carris, S. Butler, S. Saunders, H. H. Butler and J. Downs.

The Chairman presented the director's report for the year ending May 31st 1924 which stated that the income and expenditure account for the 12 months showed an adverse balance of £423 16s. 3d., which the directors considered was entirely due to lack of support; the net gate receipts for the twelve months showing a reduction of £914 4s. 7d., as compared with the previous year. A further portion of the company's freehold land had been disposed of during the year; the amount realised, viz. £1,000 had been dealt with as stated in the Land Realisation Account. The two retiring directors were Messrs F. Payne and S. Saunders of whom Mr Payne alone offered himself for re-election. Mr. J. Gray and Mr J. H. Thomas had been nominated as candidates for the vacancies. The decrease in income had been proportionately met by several reductions in expenditure.

Mr S. Saunders (secretary) said they had to cut down expenditure according to the gate receipts or the overdraft would have been something like £8,000 instead of £1,587.

## Slaughtered By Referees

The Chairman said the cause of the income being less was undoubtedly due to the poor team they had. He did not say himself that they did not have good players. They must realise that in playing away from home in the Birmingham and District League, referees last year were

against them. When they had to fight under such conditions as they did at Redditch and Kidderminster and against the slaughter of the referees, it was practically impossible to win. They would notice that they had the football ground and land (approximately 10 acres) together with the fixtures, fencing and stand, valued at £4,750. Taking everything into consideration the club was in a sound position.

## Sale of Land

A shareholder asked whether the land sold had been properly valued at £1,000 and did the directors have power to sell the land without calling a meeting of the shareholders?

The chairman said the directors could sell the land without consulting the shareholders.

Mr Saunders pointed out that the land had been put up for sale by auction and a reserve was put on it for £1,000. The bidding only went up to £720 and Messrs. Paynes afterwards bought it for £1,000...

...Mr Saunders said they were compelled to dispose of the land in order to reduce the overdraft at the bank. Mr Lewis said he would like to congratulate the board on the reduction of expenses on the expenditure side. They had reduced the travelling expenses by £6 but he was surprised at the increase of £20 for refreshments and teas. Footballs, jerseys, boots, etc., were also a rather large item.

## Encouraging The Juniors

The Chairman pointed out that it was suggested at the last annual meeting that the board should give amateurs and local juniors a trial and training at the club. They had to find refreshments and teas for these players and some weeks they had as many as seven amateurs out for the first team. They had 60 to 70 amateurs

on their hands last season. As regards footballs, jerseys, and boots, the item of £51 was reasonable for any club; it would be impossible to get down to a lower figure.

## The Season Tickets

Mr Lewis thought it was an extraordinary balance sheet. They had made £1,000 and nearly lost £1,000 in gate receipts. They had a miserable £30 or £40 in season tickets, while the Rugby Club were getting ten times the amounts in 'seasons'. The more season tickets they had the more money they had to start the season with, and it brought their bank charges down considerably. Had not the directors any idea how to sell them more quickly? The Ford car scheme for instance. He hoped the directors would endeavour to raise that item for the balance sheet next year. He also criticised the decision to stop summer wages. If they had not done that they would have had the winning team that finished somewhere near the top of the league two years ago. It was only a matter of a paltry £150. He believed in spending money to get money. They would have to spend money now they had joined another league.

## Summer Wages

The Chairman said the directors would do their best to quicken the sale of the season tickets. Last year they had only sold two by August 24th and nine when the first match was played...

## Directors and Shareholders Rights

Mr Lewis said that whilst not wishing to hit against the directors, he thought they should consult the shareholders on any fundamental changes they wished to make. The Birmingham League business for instance, where they went and got fined £20. It looked a bit too like an autocratic business.



## Bus tragedy on Cock and Bear bridge.

A horrific bus fire took place on the evening of Monday, 30 August, 1924, when initially five people were burned to death, one died on the way to hospital and another died a couple of days later. Five others were taken to hospital with severe burns, and another two died over subsequent weeks.

The Ford bus was owned the Trelawney Bus Company, of Stockingford, owned by Mr T. Williams. The bus was licensed to seat 14, but was packed. The bus was running from Queen's Road with a final destination of Whittleford, via Haunchwood Road, and ran out of petrol as it ascended the Cock and Bear bridge. A spare can of petrol was located under a seat at the back of the bus. The driver, John Fowler, requested that it be passed down to the front, and as he was filling the tank underneath his seat, unconfirmed reports state that the driver was asked if he need some light at which time the petrol ignited, quickly spreading through the timber framed bus.

According to PC Southall, who was on duty outside the Cock and Bear Inn, the incident occurred at 10.20 pm, by 10.25 pm the bus was a charred wreck. Once flames had died down the bus was tipped on its side to get to those who failed to escape.

In the mayhem passengers rushed for the emergency exit, which unfortunately meant that they became wedged and were unable to escape. The only option was to smash windows which became increasingly difficult as the bus was now an inferno, although reports say two or three escaped by this means. The emergency exit was situated behind a seat which would have involved removing cushions and then the removal of two spring catches.

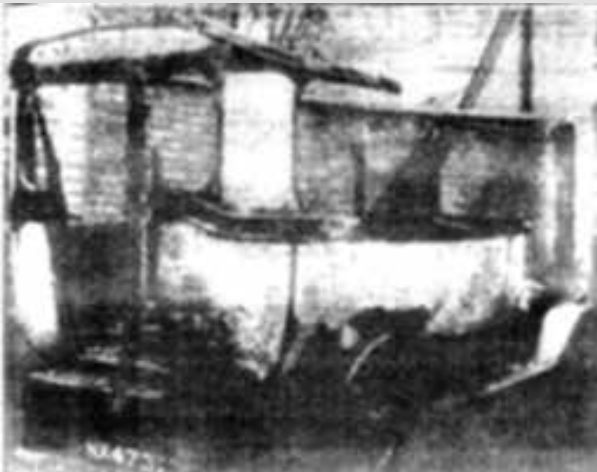


Photo courtesy of Nuneaton Evening News

Herbert Rollason (42), of Cross Street, lost his life as he attempted to save fellow passengers when he could easily have escaped, as was the case with his wife who was also on board. Herbert was a miner and father of eight.

The other fatalities were Walter Smith (27) of Haunchwood Road and his five-year-old daughter Mary; Joseph Rogers (18) of Quarry Yard, Stockingford; Winifred Handley (25) of

Whitehouse Crescent, Stockingford; Louisa Booth (21) and Marjorie Hammersley (19) from Longford Road, Foleshill.

Walter Smith's wife was able to escape along with her son, but unfortunately, she could only look on as Walter and Mary perished as they were crushed at the side of the bus in the panic.

Fortunately a Red Cross ambulance happened to be passing at the time, and were able to ferry survivors to the General Hospital where doctors and nurses worked through the night to comfort passengers, all of whom suffered serious burns. Joseph Rogers died within a couple of days, his sister Helen Rogers remained at his bed side until he passed away.

Sadly there were to be two further victims, Mary Harvey (17) of Cross Street, Stockingford, after being in a serious condition for 13 days. The ninth victim was William Fantham (16) a brick yard hand from Stockingford. William had originally showed sign of improvement but eventually succumbed.

At an inquest held on 15 September, Mr C. W. Iliffe, Coroner, asked the driver John Fowler how many were on the bus, Fowler said as far as he recollected there were 16 or 17. Mr Iliffe responded by stating 'Would you be surprised to learn there were 20, not counting a baby in arms?' The jury returned a verdict of accidental death caused by the ignition of petrol fumes. John Fowler was exonerated of any blame. At the summing up a rider was added that the practice of filling the petrol tank when loaded was to be condemned. Also, emergency exits should be free from obstruction and plainly marked.

Subsequent reports state that passengers were returning home after spending the evening at the cinema, however, two of the survivors, Mary Harvey and Ethel Aucott, were returning from a wedding party at Bedworth. Two of the victims, Louise Booth and Marjorie Hammersley were spending a holiday with relatives in Stockingford.

Passengers surviving the fire were, John Fowler (driver), George Henry Day, who was standing next to the driver, Florence Manning, Ethel Aucott of Tutle Hill, Mr and Mrs Thomas Tibbets of Stockingford, May Harvey, Mrs Smith and baby son, Herbert Rollason's wife, John Seagrave of Haunchwood Road and Ernest Webley of North Street.

Following the tragedy the Mayor of Nuneaton announced that a disaster fund for relations of victims was to be set up. Donations were received from all across the country and indeed from abroad, acknowledging the worldwide press given to the incident. In excess of £4,471 was raised.

A dance at The Assembly Room, Tamworth was supported by 350 people, the local paper reported that 'Wimperis Jazz Band', who gave their service, 'discoursed excellent music'.

On a final note it is interesting that we even have a link from this tragic event to Rob Everitt who has assisted with the 'From Town to Town' project. Joseph Rogers was a brother of Rob's grandmother.

Acknowledgement is made to <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> as a source of information for this article.



# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



## Birmingham League: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1923-24

Nuneaton Scores First

Date	Opposition	Competition	Venue	Score	Scorers
Aug. 24	Willenhall	League	Away	1-2	Summers
26	Hinckley United	NCC S-F	Home	1-1	Ison
Sept. 1	Bilston United	League	Home	2-0	Cashmore, Villiers
8	Shrewsbury Town	League	Away	0-1	
10	Hinckley United	NCC S-F Replay	Away	2-4	Cashmore, Ison
15	Shrewsbury Town	League	Home	2-4	Cashmore, Villiers
22	Shepshed Albion	FA Cup Prel.	Home	3-3	Cashmore, Villiers (pen), Smart
26	Shepshed Albion	FA Cup Prel. Replay	Away	3-0	Spicer, Cashmore, Smart
29	Worcester City	League	Home	1-3	Smart
Oct. 6	Moira United	FA Cup 1Q	Home	10-2	Smart (3, 1 pen), Riley (3), Cashmore (2), Homer (2)
13	Hednesford Town	League	Home	3-3	Villiers, Riley, Cashmore
15	Foleshill Great Heath	BSC2	Home	3-1	Smart, Cashmore, Summers
20	Hinckley United	FA Cup 2Q	Away	3-7	Ison, Summers, Villiers (pen)
27	Wednesbury Old Athletic	League	Away	1-1	Smart
Nov. 3	Cradley Heath	League	Home	2-0	Smart, Bacon
10	Wellington Town	League	Away	2-5	Gillett, Smart
17	Kidderminster Harriers	League	Home	3-2	Smart, Cashmore, Coley
19	Burton All Saints	BSC3	Home	0-1	
24	Stourbridge	League	Away	0-4	
Dec. 1	Redditch	League	Home	2-0	Smart, Summers
8	Cannock Town	League	Away	1-3	Finch
15	Darlaston	League	Home	1-2	Finch
22	Willenhall	League	Home	4-1	Smart (2), Jones, Riley
26	Burton All Saints	League	Away	0-3	
27	Hinckley United	ANC S-F	Home	4-1	Smart (2, 1 pen), Riley
29	Bilston United	League	Away	0-1	
Jan. 5	Oakengates Town	League	Home	4-2	J. Mann, Riley, Holmes (pen), Smart
12	Brierley Hill Alliance	League	Away	1-2	Smart
26	Brierley Hill Alliance	League	Home	5-0	Smart (2), Riley (2), Finch
Feb. 2	Worcester City	League	Away	1-3	Smart
9	Stafford Rangers	League	Home	4-1	Smart (2), Homer, Ison
16	Hednesford Town	League	Away	0-2	
23	Stafford Rangers	League	Away	0-3	
27	Folkestone (SL)	Friendly	Away	2-5	Finch (2)
Mar. 1	Wednesbury Old Athletic	League	Home	2-0	Martindale, Homer
6	Bolton Wanderers Reserves	Friendly	Home	2-3	Smart, Dance
8	Cradley Heath	League	Away	2-3	Finch (2)
15	Wellington Town	League	Home	3-2	Smart (2), Finch
22	Kidderminster Harriers	League	Away	0-1	
27	Folkestone (SL)	Friendly	Home	2-7	J. Mann, Dance
29	Stourbridge	League	Home	1-1	Smart

Continued on next page ...

## Birmingham League: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1923-24 (continued)

Nuneaton Scores First

Date	Opposition	Competition	Venue	Score	Scorers
Apr. 3	Kettering Town (SL)	Friendly	Home	1-0	Ison
5	Redditch Town	League	Away	0-1	
12	Cannock Town	League	Home	5-2	Riley (2), Ison, Whittaker, Mann
19	Darlaston	League	Away	1-3	Ison
21	Burton All Saints	League	Home	5-2	Smart (2), Coley (2), Riley
21	Atherstone Town	ANC Final	Away	5-0	Whittaker (3), Ison, Mann
26	Oakengates Town	League	Away	2-1	Smart (2)
28	Kettering Town (SL)	Friendly	Away	1-1	Payne
May 1	Coventry City Reserves	Friendly	Away	2-5	Riley (2)
3	Coventry City Reserves	Friendly	Home	0-1	

Legend: BSC=Birmingham Senior Cup. NCC=Nuneaton Charity Cup. ANC=Atherstone Nursing Cup



## Nuneaton Town 1923-24

Back row: Dickie Roberts, Billy Holmes (trainer), Cliff Homer, Harry Butler (director), Ernest Kester, Jack Mann, Sam Saunders (secretary), Gregory

Front row: Horace Coley, George Finch, Walter Riley, Leo Smart, Ernest Ison, Percy Jones



## Alterations In The Rules Of The Game

At their recent meeting, the International Football Association Board approved of several alterations to the laws of the game. No drastic alterations were made in the offside law, but it was decided to add a footnote to the effect that —

It is not a breach of the law for a player to be in an offside position, but only when in that position he interferes with an opponent or with the play. If a player who is in an offside position advances towards an opponent or the ball, and in so doing causes the play to be affected, he should be penalised.

There were two decisions regarding the corner kick. Law 10, which states that when a free kick had been awarded the kicker's opponents shall not approach within ten yards of the ball until the kick is taken, will not in future apply to the corner kick.

Law 11 has been altered to read —

That a goal may be scored from a corner kick, or from a free kick which is awarded because of any infringement of Law 9, but not from any other free kick.

Under Law 9 players are penalised for dangerous play, hands, holding, pushing, violent or dangerous charging, and charging from behind.

The present decision of the International Board respecting Law 13 (Duties and Powers of Referee) will be substituted by the following —

If in the opinion of the referee a player has been seriously injured the game shall be stopped, the player at once removed from the field of play, and the game resumed. If a player is slightly injured the game shall not be stopped until the ball has ceased to be in play.

## Final Practice Match

A good crowd assembled at Manor Park, which testified to the growing interest in the soccer club's venture into a new era of football. The 'Stripes', which might be considered the probable team, were clearly superior, though not strikingly so. One cannot, of course, take a practice match too seriously, but some supporters would have wished to see a larger margin than the odd goal in three. The merit of the 'Stripes' display was of the individual rather than the collective order. The requisite cohesion has yet to be acquired.

Halves and backs were all energetic, knowing how to take up position and being pretty sure tacklers as a rule. Porter, the centre-half, has soon established his popularity with the

spectators. His style, by its very coolness, becomes rather spectacular, and often amusing. In his easy way, he gets through a lot of solid work, and one also looks at him as one of the future goal-getters, as there is power in his shooting.

The forward line does not seem, as a whole, to have found itself yet, though individually there was much to admire. Wighton and Goddard, the two ex-Folkestone players, work well together on the left wing. Smith at inside-right, is a new player who inspired a good deal of confidence, while Lunn, at centre-forward, made several useful runs, but did not figure in the scoring.

The 'Reds' team gave a good account of itself, as the score testifies, and considering that the forward line was rather of a scratch nature. The defence generally was good, except that Lee, in goal, was too fond of running out. Whittaker's vigorous display at centre-half deserves special mention. Finch and J. H. Jones were the pick of the forwards.

## 1924-25

### Reading Reserves v Nuneaton Town 30-08-1924

**Reading:** Murphy; Marshall and J. McConnell; Penny, Hart and Ivey; Fell, Braithwaite, Ferguson, Davies and Springwell.

**Nuneaton:** Kester; Lammus and Clark; Dorans, Porter and Mann; Coley, Smith, Lunn, Wighton and Goddard.

Nuneaton opened their Southern League fixtures on Saturday and returned from Reading defeated by two goals to one.

Though defeated, they were by no means disgraced for they played such accomplished football, especially in the first half, that the 3,000 spectators decided that the newcomers would prove a welcome addition to the Southern League.

Though Nuneaton fell away in the second half, there was never any doubt about their ability. Lunn, the centre-forward, was clever with head and feet and plied his wingers with a number of delightful passes. He gave the ball to Smith on many occasions and from one of these passes the Nuneaton inside-right rammed home a great goal.

Everyone in Town's front line showed a nice understanding, and the result was fine combination. Dorans at right-half, was always busy and clever, and Porter and Mann played soundly. Lammus and Clark looked solid at back, while Kester was capable in goal.

Reading had only four forwards for most of the first half. After the interval they were at full strength, and gave the Nuneaton defence a busy time. Davies, at inside-left, was the chief trouble. He was very elusive, and scored the equalising goal, as well as making the opening for the winning goal, netted by Fell. The home team began to have more of the play. They were, indeed, rather quicker on the ball during this latter period of the game. The Town defence coped successfully with many raids, and that it was only twice beaten was no disgrace under the circumstances.



## Nuneaton Town v Reading Reserves 06-09-1924

**Nuneaton:** Kester; Lammus and Clark; Dorans, Porter and Mann; Coley, Smith, Lunn, Wighton and Goddard.

**Reading:** Murphy; Hart and Marshall; Day, Ivey and Penny; Discock, Braithwaite, Davis, Evans and Springell.

Over 4,000 spectators watched Nuneaton Town beat Reading Reserves on Saturday at Manor Park in the return Southern League match. There were several changes to the Reading side that beat Nuneaton the previous week.

Reading won the toss and decided to play towards the Stockingford end. Nuneaton were soon on the attack and won a free-kick in the Reading half, which came to nothing. Two or three passes just failed to reach Coley, while Lunn made an attempt to break through. Goddard got in a nice centre, but Lunn headed over. There was a short stoppage while the Reading keeper received treatment before Davis broke away and threatened the home goal.

Smith forced a corner and Coley's flag kick was headed against the post by Porter. Smith received treatment following a nasty charge. Nuneaton kept up the pressure and a good effort by Lunn won applause. Despite smart tackling by the visitors, the Town continued to press, and Porter tested Murphy with a fierce shot. The Reading keeper failed to clear properly and an exciting scene developed. At the other end, Braithwaite tried to get through before Murphy was tested and the ball found its way to Coley, who centred for Wighton to score with Murphy hopelessly beaten.

Reading retaliated immediately and equalised. The ball hit the referee twice and broke to Springell who shot for goal. The shot didn't have much power, but went over Kester's head and into the net. Davis tested Kester with a fast shot, while Lunn had a good effort at the other end. Goddard, Porter and Lunn were all playing well and were loudly applauded. A flag kick by Goddard saw Porter head just over at terrific speed.

Smith beat Murphy with a strong shot from good range, but was ruled offside. Porter was badly fouled as Reading cut up rough. Smith took the free kick and hit the ball into the net from 25 yards out. Goddard and Wighton ran rings round the visitors' defence and Reading had a narrow escape from another free-kick. Dorans went close and yet another free-kick saw Porter almost beat Murphy with a header. Nuneaton led 2-1 at half-time.

Nuneaton increased their lead five minutes after the break through Goddard. Lunn drew Murphy out of his goal, and as the keeper tried to clear the ball fell to Goddard who hooked the ball into the net before Murphy could get back. Two minutes later Goddard was brought down in the penalty area and Porter took the kick, but failed to score.

A brilliant home passing movement ended in Goddard centring and Marshall clearing. Porter delighted the crowd

with his smart tactics. Lunn again headed over from Goddard's centre. Reading broke away and Springell tested Kester, who conceded a corner. Lunn tried hard to score, and Murphy saved brilliantly but without clearing and Wighton would have scored easily had not Ivey been on hand to clear. Corners were frequent and Murphy was kept busy but at the final whistle the score was 3-1 to Nuneaton.

## Folkestone v Nuneaton Town 13-09-1924

**Folkestone:** W. Goodman; Fogg and Johnson; Pearson, Middleton and Taylor; Sharpe, Parker, Feebury, Leggett and Nunn.

**Nuneaton:** Kester; Lammus and Clark; Dorans, Poster and Miller; Coley, Smith, Herberts, Wighton and Goddard.

Nuneaton visited Folkestone on Saturday for a Southern League fixture, and despite losing 1-0, gave a fairly good account of themselves. The team contained a new centre-forward Herberts, from Guildford.

Nuneaton won the toss, but there was a cross wind which played tricks with the ball and made accurate football difficult. Wighton and Goddard were the first to break through, but the home backs cleared. Goddard managed to swing in a centre, which Smith shot wide. A moment later Smith sent in a shot which was charged down. Nuneaton did most of the pressing and Herberts was ruled offside when ideally positioned to receive from Goddard.

Folkestone took up the offensive and after sixteen minutes play Feebury gave the home team the lead. Play, for a time, was confined to Nuneaton's half, but the visitors defence held out well. Nuneaton's forwards raided the home goal and Herberts put in a good shot, which went just wide of the post.

Folkestone had the best of matters, but the Nuneaton defence was sound. Kester was continually to the fore with some thrilling clearance.

After the break Nuneaton showed up well for a time and Wighton and Goddard made a good run on the left, but Johnson headed the ball away. Herberts was not far off with a long shot before Folkestone won a corner and Nuneaton packed their goal. Kester held two dangerous shots from Middleton, following great pressure on the Nuneaton goal.

The visitors were caught offside many times, while at the other end Johnson cleared a centre from Coley. A good shot from Smith just missed the target before a hot shot from Feebury brought a good save from Kester. Wighton then got clean away and put in a terrific shot, which was well saved by Goodman. Kester was again busy as Folkestone looked to increase their lead, but Coley put in a tremendous shot from 25 yards, which Goodman kept out with difficulty.

Herberts tried hard soon afterwards when Goddard centred, but he was unsuccessful following a free-kick from just outside the penalty area. The home goal came under pressure towards the end of the game, but Fogg cleared and the game ended in a single goal victory for the home side.



# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



## Northampton Town Res. v Nuneaton Town 18-09-1924

**Northampton:** Hammond; Johnson and Jeffs; Evans, Buckley and Hewlson; Malloy, Breedon, Poyntz, Haynes and George.

**Nuneaton:** Kester; Lammus and Clark; Dorans, Porter and Miller; Clack, Smith, Finch, Wighton and Goddard.

Nuneaton visited The County Ground to take on Northampton Town in a Southern League match. The crowd was about 1,000.

The home team were soon on the offensive, with Poyntz sending in a shot which Kester easily saved. Town were not long in hitting back and after Lammus had stemmed a home attack in midfield, he swung the ball out to Clack, who centred, but to no avail. Clack centred again soon after and Wighton tried to turn the ball in, unsuccessfully. The visitors monopolised play for a while and Dorans swung the ball over to the left, where Goddard shot wide.

Both keepers punched clear in quick succession before Finch got through, but shot over. A good pass by Porter enabled Smith to put in a great shot, but Hammond saved. Molloy showed a good turn of speed and put in a centre, which Porter cleared. Another centre by Molloy saw Haynes put in a header, which Kester saved. Porter sent Clack away, but the latter's centre was cleared by Jeffs.

Poyntz tested Kester from a distance, while fine tackling by Lammus saved the Town goal from a dangerous onslaught. After half-an-hour's play Poyntz made a splendid run and after beating both Lammus and Clarke in clever fashion, he beat Kester with a powerful shot into the corner of the net.

Nuneaton equalised immediately when Wighton crossed to Finch, who was tackled, but the ball broke to Smith who shot home from close range. After 40 minutes, Hewlson took the ball down and sent over a lovely centre for Poyntz to head in with Kester completely beaten. Nuneaton made another plucky attempt to equalise when Goddard sent over a good centre, but the ball hit the bar and landed on top of the net.

The home side got away again and George passed to Poyntz. Lammus misjudged the ball, which allowed the centre-forward to fire in a superb shot, which flew over Kester and into the net, completing a hat-trick for Poyntz. Nuneaton attacked brilliantly before the break with Smith, Clack and Goddard shining and Hammond having to punch out on two occasions.

On the restart Goddard got down and after steadying himself send in a hard and accurate shot, which went just wide. A few minutes later Smith grazed the bar with a fast rising shot. Nuneaton relied on the short passing game, while Northampton swung the ball around to good effect.

Wighton headed goalwards from Goddard's cross, but Hammond cleared. In the next few minutes Porter just missed with a terrific shot, while George put in a high swinging cross that Kester dealt with. Nuneaton tended to pass the ball when in front of goal, whereas a shot may have proved more successful. Breedon registered a fourth goal for the home side.

A report on FA Cup matches appears on later pages.

## Guildford United v Nuneaton Town 11-10-1924

**Guildford:** Cooper; Reay and Stevens; Kemp, Edwards and A. Edwards; Moffat, Lucas, Hughes, Wells and Beckford.

**Nuneaton:** Kester; Struthers and Clarke; Miller, Porter and Dorans; Herberts, Smith, Lunn, Wighton and Goddard.

Nuneaton journeyed to Joseph's Road to take on Guildford United in a Southern League fixture. Nuneaton's team contained four ex-Guildford players.

The early action saw former Guildford captain Porter dribble past two opponents and shoot over the bar. The home winger showed good pace and trickiness before centring to Hughes who put the ball in the net, but was given offside. Town came back and Smith centred to Wighton, who scored with a neat downward header to give the visitors the lead after just five minutes. Town almost scored again shortly afterwards.

Moffat made a good run for the home side, but overran the ball, while at the other end Wighton shot wide from an excellent chance. Another home attack saw Wells shoot wide after Struthers had missed his tackle. Guildford pressed hard and Struthers headed away, while A. Edwards caused Kester to tip over the bar. Town had a narrow escape from the corner.

Guildford attacked again after Porter was dispossessed in midfield. Wells found the net from distance, the ball striking the underside of the bar and going into the net. A home raid on the left saw Struthers again beaten, and Kester had to run yards out of his goal to save. Kester made another good save from Hughes as Guildford played some good football. The visitors' keeper had to dash out again just after.

The visitors then got back into the game and Porter tried a dash for goal. Town took the lead ten minutes from half-time, when Lunn headed home from Goddard's centre. Herberts and Lunn both got in good shots and Herberts missed an open goal. Nuneaton led 2-1 at half-time.

Nuneaton showed good form after the break and a pass by Miller found Smith. The inside-right ran down and centred to Lunn, who shot wide. Hughes broke through for the home team, but shot wide as Kester ran out. Hughes again broke through and Kester made a superb save from close range and then saved again from Wells. Wighton shot wide for Nuneaton, while Lunn made a good run, but was tackled as he was about to shoot.

Guildford did most of the attacking for a time, but did not take their chances. Smith shot wide for Nuneaton and a run by Wells was stopped by Struthers. Dorans shot over before Wighton scored Nuneaton's third, the ball hitting the upright and bouncing in. The goal came about 15 minutes from the end and Hughes missed several chances before the end, but at the final whistle, Nuneaton had won 3-1, with Kester having a great game in the Nuneaton goal.



## Nuneaton Town v Brighton & HA Res. 23-10-1924

**Nuneaton:** Kester; Struthers and Clarke; Miller, Porter and Dorans; Herberts, Smith, Lunn, Wighton and Goddard.

**Brighton:** Bunting; Smith and Beech; Wilkinson, Bedford and Beard; Hayland, Dennison, Fuller, Edmonds and Ison.

Nuneaton had an attractive fixture against Brighton on Thursday afternoon, the original game being postponed due to the home side's involvement in the F.A. Cup. Town's former outside-left, Ison, featured for Brighton. The game was kicked off by Captain Hope, the Conservative candidate for the Nuneaton division. About 1,000 people were present at the start.

Town monopolised the play early on with Herberts and Smith working hard. Bunting had to save a shot from the left, while Brighton mounted an ineffective attack. Smith was robbed in the nick of time before Ison attacked and Struthers and Porter got the ball clear, but Bedford returned the ball and Hayland centred. Some clever play by the visitors resulted in Dennison driving the ball into the net to give Brighton the lead.

Lunn skimmed the bar as Town hit back and Brighton had to defend for a while. Herberts centred weakly after a clever run, while Smith put in a weak shot. Hoylands made a speedy run for Brighton before Herberts had a good opening, but failed with his shot. Lunn and Wighton both had attempts, while Porter tried to force an opening, but Brighton were solid.

The nimble Hoyland burst past Dorans, but Struthers averted danger. Porter dribbled through the defence and hit the ball hard for the top corner, but Bunting tipped over. Porter almost headed in from the corner as Town did most of the attacking, but could not get the better of Brighton's excellent defence, in which Smith and Beech were sound backs.

Lunn had a shot that lacked sting and Goddard landed a centre on top of the net as a series of strong attacks by the home side raised enthusiasm. Struthers and Porter tried hard to break through a knot of defenders without success and at the break Brighton led 1-0.

Brighton started the second half with a rush and Kester luckily stopped a shot with his feet, although the whistle had gone for offside. Town attacked, but to little purpose while a Brighton raid saw Boyland centre behind his forwards. After 55 minutes a home attack saw Porter get into position and drive the ball with great force. Bunting stopped the ball, but Lunn picket up and shot. The ball bounced over the bar, appearing to hit the keeper's foot.

About 25 minutes into the second half Dennison increased Brighton's lead, with the home defence left standing. Some rough play developed and Herberts and Smith both had to go off to receive treatment. Porter headed into Bunting's hands from a corner before Town were awarded a penalty a few minutes from time, Lunn having been brought down. Smith converted the penalty kick. Brighton resorted to kicking out for the remainder of the game.

## Nuneaton Town v Portsmouth Reserves 25-10-1924

**Nuneaton:** Kester; Struthers and Clarke; Miller, Porter and Lammus; Coley, Clack, Lunn, Wighton and Goddard.

Town entertained Portsmouth at Manor Park in a Southern League fixture. Mr. H. Willison, Liberal candidate for Nuneaton Division kicked off. The gate was about 4,000 at kick-off.

Portsmouth were first to attack, but were caught offside. Nuneaton looked like getting away from Lunn's pass, but it failed to reach Goddard. Wighton put wide for Town before a mistake by Struthers let in Cook, who kicked across the face of the goal, but no Portsmouth player was able to get a touch.

A shot from distance by Wighton caused excitement, but Town had to defend and McMillan shot over under pressure from Clarke. After a poor effort by Lunn, Porter was fouled close to the penalty line, but the free-kick came to nothing. Town attacks saw shots by Lunn and Goddard. A nice passing move from the visitors ended when Parsons failed to gather the ball.

The visitors' goal had a narrow escape when Coley set up an attack. Lunn tested McPhail following Porter's header before Clarke let in the visitors, but the ball went out. Some good heading work by Lunn and Goddard threatened the visitors' goal, while a brilliant Portsmouth movement saw McMillan miss by inches. Coley got on the end of Lunn's pass and centred to Clack, who tried hard to score, but to no avail.

Strange was fouled by Clarke close to the penalty line, but Kester saved well from the free-kick. Attacks from both sides followed with Portsmouth being more dangerous and playing better football. A corner to the visitors saw Cooke shoot over, while Struthers saved what looked to be a certain goal. Lunn tried to head in for Town and an appeal for a handball was turned down. Coley wasn't seeing much of the ball, and although Nuneaton were on top for the rest of the half, Struthers had to put in some good defensive work.

Just after the break Portsmouth took the lead. McMillan took the ball through the home defence and drew out Kester, who could only partially save. The ball went to Strange who shot home, despite Porter's attempts to clear. Wighton made a good attempt from Lunn's centre as Nuneaton retaliated. Shots from Lunn and Porter followed and then the centre-half severely tested McPhail with a free-kick from 20 yards.

Wighton send Goddard away and the winger's cross landed on top of the net. Lunn was not turning chances to good effect. Cooke burst through the home defence, but was overhauled by Lammus, who was deservedly cheered. Kester made a fine save from Strange, while Porter came close to scoring following a corner. Porter was still the main threat for Nuneaton, but Goddard put in a great shot that resulted in a corner, from which Nuneaton almost scored, Lunn just failing with a screw shot. The same player mulled a golden chance just before the close, while Kester made yet another great save. Porter shot over with the last kick of the match.

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



## Norwich City Res. v Nuneaton Town 08-11-1924

**Nuneaton: Kester; Struthers and Clarke; Miller, Porter and Dorans; Herberts, Smith, Lammus, Wighton and Goddard.**

Nuneaton visited The Nest, home of Norwich City for a Southern League fixture.

Norwich opened aggressively, but Porter tested Williamson with a drive before Norwich went away, and following a scramble Bradbrook gave the home side the lead. Nuneaton came close to equalising following a melee in the goalmouth. Porter missed the target by inches with a good drive.

Herberts and Goddard put in some good crosses, but shooting was at a premium, although Williamson had more to do than Kester. Smith got through twice, but was pulled up for offside on both occasions. With defences holding well, a lot of the play was in midfield and the exchanges evenly contested.

Towards the interval play improved and Nuneaton were seen to advantage, but could not apply the finishing touch to their build-up play. Norwich then attacked desperately, but Kester made magnificent saves on three occasions. Lammus got his side moving in style and Herberts tested Williamson with a beauty. Nuneaton then gave Norwich an anxious time and Wighton was unfortunate when his drive hit the top of the bar.

Both sides pressed hard towards the interval, and play was exciting and full of incident. Shooting, however, was weak and Nuneaton were unlucky to be in arrears at half-time.

Nuneaton opened the second half strongly and swarmed round the home goal, subjecting it to a real bombardment. Recovering from this, Norwich asserted themselves and brought out the best in Nuneaton's defence, in which Struthers and Clarke were solid and Porter always in the action. Kester had no chance when McCudden beat him from close in to give the home side a 2-0 lead.

The home side were now having more of the play and a mistake by Nuneaton's defence let in Blackbrook. Kester advanced to meet him, but was beaten by his shot which found its way into the net. Despite this reverse, Nuneaton were far from beaten and following a neat combination, Wighton tested Williamson. A corner came to nothing as Nuneaton strove valiantly to reduce the lead, but without avail.

Eight minutes from time Struthers retired injured, and this handicapped Nuneaton, but it was a tribute to their defence that they frustrated the Norwich forwards until the end.

## Brighton & HA Res. v Nuneaton Town 22-11-1924

**Nuneaton: Lee; Lammus and Struthers; Miller, Whittaker and Dorans; Herberts, Smith, Winterton, Wighton and Goddard.**

Nuneaton travelled to The Goldstone Ground to face Brighton and Hove Albion Reserves in a Southern League fixture.

The meeting between Brighton Reserves and Nuneaton on Saturday produced few thrills and the exchanges were mostly

fought out in midfield. The result, from the point of view of goals scored, was in favour of the highly-placed Albion side, but on the run of play Nuneaton ought to have returned to the Midlands with at least one point.

The goal which decided the issue was the result of a terrific scramble round Lee, who fell in the melee, and the ball was lobbed into the net over his prostrate form. The visitors hotly contested the goal, and that there was just a doubt about it is evidenced by the fact that even after referee McRill had pointed to the centre, and the players had lined up for the restart, he ran across and consulted the linesman, who agreed with the decision.

The Nuneaton defence, especially Struthers, started very uncertainly, but later on Lammus and Lee, especially, came to work virtual wonders under pressure. They received good support from Whittaker, who played a great game in both attack and defence.

The old Northampton centre-half, Bedford, was the chief thorn in the side of the Nuneaton vanguard, and but for him Herberts and Smith would have accomplished a good deal more than they did. Winterton found Fuller a stumbling block at times, but the still contrived to feed the wing men, and in the first half especially, Goddard did some fine work. Dorans was not always able to hold the speedy Hoyland. Nuneaton's goal was scored by Herberts.

## Luton Town Res. v Nuneaton Town 29-11-1924

**Luton: Orr; Johnson and Till; Davies, Walker and Neal; Mackey, Cockle, Keen, Roe and Robinson.**

**Nuneaton: Kester; Lammus and Struthers; Miller, Porter and Dorans; Herberts, Smith, Winterton, Wighton and Goddard.**

Nuneaton travelled to Kenilworth Road to face Luton Town Reserves in a Southern League match.

Luton kicked off in front of a good crowd, with rain falling. Luton did all the pressing at the start and Mackay got away and centred for Keen to test Kester. Five minutes after the start Luton were awarded a penalty for handball. E. Cockle took the kick and Kester saved a terrific drive. Keen shot wide from the rebound.

Wighton beat the home defence and shot over while Kester saved a sharp header. Clever tackling by Struthers thwarted several home efforts, while Goddard tested Orr, who saved at the expense of a corner and Porter shot over from the corner. Keen shot over for the home side before Luton scored with 23 minutes gone. Mackay centred and the ball cannoned off a Nuneaton defender to Keen, who easily scored with Kester deceived by the deflection. Kester made a great save after Porter and Lammus had been beaten. From a nice pass by Winterton, Herberts darted off and tested Orr with a terrific shot, while Nuneaton went close again straight after.

Luton were too quick for their opponents at this stage, and Kester had to punch away from Mackay. Lammus and

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



Struthers were doing sterling work in defence. A centre by Goddard went begging and a pass by Porter went just too far for Herberts. Wighton shot wide from a free-kick, while a nice centre by the same player again went begging. So far, Nuneaton had only had one shot and Kester was by far the busier of the two keepers. Kester punched away before the break, by which point Luton had enjoyed most of the play and Nuneaton were fortunate in having a good keeper.

Soon after the restart Porter shot hard from a free-kick and the ball hit a Luton player on the back. Wighton miskicked in trying to shoot before Winterton burst through and landed a shot on top of the net with the keeper on the ground. Smith spoilt a good chance by wanting too much time. The Luton goalkeeper collapsed and was replaced by Johnson.

Herberts shot wide following a corner and Nuneaton failed to gain any advantage from a free-kick well into home territory. Kester saved again, but Nuneaton hit back and got on top with Smith working determinedly. Winterton shot wide from long range and Roe shot over for Luton. Wighton became dangerous from a pass by Porter and Orr came back onto the pitch about 20 minutes from the close, while Nuneaton were pressing hard.

Herberts was seeing plenty of the ball, but failed to get in any crosses. Further centres for Nuneaton were ruined by Smith, who did too much fancy work. The home backs had to kick away from Porter's free-kick. Nuneaton were still having the best of the play towards the end, but Kester still had to make two good saves.

## Nuneaton Town v Northampton Town Res. 06-12-1924

**Nuneaton:** Kester; Lammus and Struthers; Miller, Porter and Dorans; Clack, Wighton, Winterton, Smith and Goddard.

**Northampton:** Hammond; Johnson and Jeffs; Evans, Durnin and Chapman; Molloy, Haynes, Buckley, Allen and George.

Nuneaton welcomed Northampton Town Reserves to Manor Park for a Southern League match.

The visitors showed great quickness of movement, but were mostly on the defensive for a while and Nuneaton opened the scoring about five minutes after the start. Smith took a good pass from Winterton, and with the ball on the run succeeded with a brilliant shot.

Molloy beat Struthers and a corner resulted, from which Kester made a smart save from a close range header. The game continued at pace, but Nuneaton were more than holding their own, although Haynes went close following a corner. Nuneaton came under threat again following George's centre.

Twenty-three minutes from the start the home side were awarded a free-kick well into Northampton territory. Porter took the kick, and touched the ball to Wighton, who screwed it into the far corner of the net. Hammond dived in vain.

Evans shot over from a free-kick and Goddard failed at the other end. Winterton's passing enabled Nuneaton to attack,

while George's crosses were a feature of Northampton's attack. Good work by Clack was followed by a failed attempt by Porter to dribble through the visitors' defence.

After George had threatened again for the visitors, there were two splendid combined movements by Nuneaton, which just broke down at the last moment. Buckley shot wide from long range, while Winterton drove the ball out to Clack, who centred for Winterton to head onto the roof of the net with Hammond stranded. Just before the break Northampton's right-half Evans, put through his own goal, when under pressure.

Nuneaton threatened straight after the break following Porter's pass, but Winterton was offside. Buckley shot into Kester's hands at the other end. Following good work by Smith, Porter tested Hammond with a difficult high shot. The visitors put some pressure on but found Struthers up to the task. Northampton attacked again down the left, but Kester made a good save.

Two successive centres by Clack caused problems for the visitors before they hit back and George forced a corner from Lammus, and placed the ball well. Kester punched away, but Allen seized on the ball and scored easily, reducing the deficit after 22 minutes of the second half.

Nuneaton soon pressed again and Winterton had a chance or two. A centre by Molloy caused Kester to tip over, before Smith struck a shot into the side netting following a beautiful dribble. Kester saved in style from Buckley and soon after Buckley got the better of Struthers and raced for goal, but was caught by Porter, who spoilt his shot. Right at the end Wighton came close to scoring again following Clack's centre.

## Southampton Res. v Nuneaton Town 20-12-1924

**Nuneaton:** Kester; Struthers and Lammus; Miller, Porter and Dorans; Clack, Wighton, Winterton, Smith and Goddard.

Nuneaton travelled down to The Dell, to face Southampton Reserves in a Southern League fixture.

Southampton kicked off, but Nuneaton were first to attack, before being caught offside. Southampton pressed for a time, but Clack transferred play to the other end. Kester made two good clearances, while at the other end Wighton shot wide. The home forwards improved on the wet turf and the Nuneaton goal came under a severe bombardment. Kester was in rare form and brought off six impressive clearances in a ten minute period.

Struthers headed out a sure goal and the home defence was stong, with Nuneaton finding it difficult to break through. Winterton just failed to get through the home rearguard and play returned to the other end before Nuneaton attacked again down the right, but the forwards failed to hold the ball. The ball was cleared to the left, where Goddard returned it to the goalmouth, but Winterton was unable to control and a dangerous situation for the home side was relieved.

Kester was applauded as he came out for the second half, in



# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



recognition of his first-half display. Bullock, after missing an open goal, was prominent in another attack and shot from 25 yards, scoring a fine goal for Southampton. At the end Winterton missed a good chance, and the home keeper had to be smart to negotiate a shot from Smith.

Kester saved well when Southampton pressed, but Nuneaton were playing strongly, and at times looked likely to score. Kester gathered a fine screw shot from Bullock while Yeomans also cleared from Smith. At the full-time whistle, Southampton were winners by one goal to nil.

## Millwall Res. v Nuneaton Town 22-12-1924

**Millwall: Lansdale; Tilling and Brown; C. Brown, Walley and Hankey; Bird, Lincoln, Gear, Parker and Crook.**

**Nuneaton: Kester; Lammus and Struthers; Miller, Porter and Dorans; Clack, Wighton, Winterton, Smith and Goddard.**

Nuneaton travelled to The Den, to face the "Lions" of Millwall in a Southern League fixture on Monday afternoon.

Nuneaton opened strongly and were immediately dangerous, but Tilling cleared. A number of Millwall attacks were thwarted. After ten minutes Winterton broke away, and leaving both backs behind went on to beat Lonsdale at short range. Lincoln equalised for Millwall shortly afterwards. Nuneaton were not to be denied and coming again, Goddard placed to Winterton, who had little difficulty in heading into the net.

The game continued to be keenly contested, and once again the "Lions" drew level, this time through Parker. At the half-time whistle the scores were level at 2-2.

Early in the second half Smith made two excellent efforts, both of which nearly brought goals, and Lansdale was frequently in action. Wighton got in a terrific shot, but the goalkeeper brought off a brilliant save right under the bar. Just before the end, Winterton almost gave Nuneaton the lead.

Nuneaton's forward line played one of its best games, and the Millwall defence had a gruelling time. Winterton showed up much better than he has done, and led the line with great determination. He not only scored his side's two goals, but came close to giving them victory in the last few minutes of the game. He broke through the defence, and showing good speed, went up and shot hard for goal. Lonsdale was clearly beaten, but the shot hit his foot and went wide.

The halves were sound in every sense, Porter playing a great game. Lammus and Struthers were thoroughly reliable at the back. Kester had a relatively quiet afternoon, but what he had to do was done with great confidence and ability. Smith and Wighton, who returned to their proper places at inside-right and inside-left respectively were both in fine form, while Clack and Goddard responded well to the demands put upon them.

The visitors played splendid football throughout and thoroughly deserved to have shared the spoils; in fact with a little luck they would have won.

## Nuneaton Town v Coventry City Res. 25-12-1924

**Nuneaton: Kester; Lammus and Struthers; Miller, Porter and Dorans; Herberts, Wighton, Winterton, Smith and Goddard.**

Coventry City Reserves were the visitors to Manor Park on Christmas morning for a Southern League fixture.

It was a strenuously and thrillingly fought game and so even that no goals were registered until the very last minute, and then by some cruel chance. There was a thrilling opening to the game with City being penned into their own half for some minutes, and Town coming near to scoring. Eventually Ballantyne handled in the penalty area. Wighton took the kick, but there was little force behind it, and Findlay easily saved.

City broke through and were very dangerous until Porter brought timely relief with a clearance. Some good passing from the visitors had the home defence guessing, while at the other end Winterton should have scored. Randle was then beaten and Wighton shot wide. A lovely shot by Porter brought hearty applause, and a corner for the City brought great danger to the home goal. At half time the score was 0-0.

Town monopolised play at the start of the second half. Hard fighting was the rule. The City were now very aggressive with Morris shooting wide. The crowd was very disappointed when Winterton ruined the best chance of the game. A terrific tussle in front of the City net roused intense enthusiasm.

Just before time Lammus fouled Morris just inside the penalty area and the latter scored with the penalty kick.

## Coventry City Res. v Nuneaton Town 26-12-1924

**Nuneaton: Kester; Lammus and Struthers; Herberts, Porter and Dorans; Clack, Wighton, Winterton, Smith and Goddard.**

The return match at Coventry on Boxing Day again went in favour of the City team, whose luck seemed to be right in.

Coventry won four goals to none, but Nuneaton had almost as much of the game as the City. In the first half both teams were strong in defence, and Nuneaton had quite as much of the game as Coventry. Winterton and Clack made several fine individual runs, but were poorly supported. Kester saved many shots, but after forty minutes play E. H. Morris put Coventry ahead.

The features of the second half were three fine goals by Fred Morris, the ex-Albion player. Nuneaton persevered to the close, but maintained their weakness in front of goal.

## Nuneaton Town v Southampton Res. 03-01-1925

**Nuneaton: Kester; Lammus and Struthers; Miller, Porter and Clarke; Clack, Smith, Winterton, Herberts and Goddard.**

Nuneaton welcomed league leaders Southampton to Manor Park for the first Southern League fixture of the New Year.

The visitors were a goal up in the first two minutes when



they broke through the centre. Bullock made for goal and Kester came out and partly saved, and Clarke kicked away, but only as far as Bruson, who centred for Bullock to head the opening goal. Town were awarded a corner but Yeomans was not serious troubled, despite hard work by Smith. Struthers saved another critical situation near to goal and Gallagher narrowly missed with a long range shot.

Winterton retired injured at this point. Southampton were confined to their own half for a time and a good centre by Herberts saw Yeomans having to save a low shot from Goddard, which had little power behind it. Winterton returned to the fray before Clarke was carried off injured.

Then came a Southampton attack, but Kester saved from Buson. Clarke returned and Nuneaton set up some fierce attacks, with Herberts distinguishing himself. It was from one of Herberts' crosses that Porter headed the equaliser with four minutes to go before half-time.

Nuneaton opened the second half well, with Herberts playing well. The ball was taken off Smith's toes just as he was about to shoot, and Porter tired to rush another centre through. The game was a roughish nature and the crowd were thrilled by some daring tackles. Kester, who ran out and stopped Bullock, after he had got round the backs, got hurt, but was able to carry on.

Following a magnificent shot by Winterton, which Yeomans saved, the centre-forward passed to Smith, who with a fine opening, beat Yeomans with an unerring shot. Two minutes later Miller miskicked and let in the visitors. Bullock equalised, beating Kester with some ease. Some keen fighting followed with Town having the better of play.

After Kester had made another good save, the visitors returned, about ten minutes from time and, while the home players stood appealing for offside, the ball was centred and Bullock headed downwards into the net. Jones then beat Struthers in a tussle near the goal and hooked the ball over to Price, who looked offside, but netted and the goal was allowed, giving Southampton a 4-2 win.

## Portsmouth Res. v Nuneaton Town 10-01-1925

**Portsmouth:** McPhail; Probert and Clifford; Foxall, Parker and McNab; Kennedy, Parsons, McMellan, Clarke and Cooke.

**Nuneaton:** Kester; Gibson and Struthers; Miller, Porter and Thompson; Clack, Smith, Herberts, Wighton and Goddard.

Nuneaton travelled to Fratton Park to play Portsmouth in a Southern League fixture.

The home team attacked from the start and Nuneaton's goal had several narrow escapes. The visitors' half-back line was practically overwhelmed, and the backs shaky, so that Kester had to take risks. He took a risk after 25 minutes and Parsons shot into an empty net to give the home side a 1-0 lead.

The reverse livened up the away team and Thompson made a determined effort to get the left wing in motion, but most of

Goddard's centres were cleanly fielded by Kane. Herberts also came into prominence with a smart run through, but he was tackled in the act of shooting and Kane succeeded in pushing the ball away. Nuneaton became far more dangerous when the forwards began to swing the ball around, but generally the attack was scrappy and lacked inspiration.

Nuneaton nearly went two goals behind when McMillan neatly beat the visitors' backs just before the interval, but Kester anticipated the centre-forward's shot, and cleared. At the other end Smith had a chance, but put high over the bar.

Thompson and Porter changed places in the second half and the result was a general brightening up of the Nuneaton attack. The ex-Coventry left-half showed nice discretion both in intercepting the ball and passing out to the wings, and Clack came close to scoring with a shot from close in, which the Portsmouth keeper turned round the post for a corner.

When Portsmouth got away, Thompson again came to the rescue with a timely clearance. Nuneaton were showing much better form in this half and deserved to be on level terms, but Probert and Clifford played a sterling game for the home side. Kester was called upon to save from Parsons and Cooke, who proved a thorn in the side of the Nuneaton half-back line.

Wighton took play into the home territory with a brilliant dribble, right from the half-way line, but his shot went wide. Eight minutes before the close Kester dashed out to assist the backs, who had come to a misunderstanding and Clarke put the ball into an empty goal to give Portsmouth a 2-0 win.

## Nuneaton Town v Folkestone

17-01-1925

**Nuneaton:** Kester; Gibson and Struthers; Miller, Thompson and Porter; Herberts, Smith, Winterton, Wighton and Goddard.

**Folkestone:** Goodman; Fogg and Johnson; Sharp, Middleton and Saunders; Pearce, Weale, Leggett, Jolley and Nunn.

Nuneaton welcomed Folkestone to Manor Park for a Southern League fixture.

Nuneaton Town supporters have good cause to be delighted with Saturday's result. At last Town have shown what they can do in the Southern League. Their display was excellent.

Nuneaton kicked off and took the lead six minutes from the start. Herberts dropped a nice centre in front of goal, where Wighton scored with ease. Folkestone retaliated with one or two spirited and speedy attacks, but a centre by Herberts could easily have resulted in another goal.

Good open play was witnessed with Folkestone having some neat touches, and Herberts showing up well for the home side. From a free-kick by Herberts, Wighton headed towards the net, but Goodman cleared in the nick of time. Kester brilliantly deflected a shot by Jolley, while Folkestone lost their left-back through injury.

Wighton shot over the bar from Herberts' centre as the Folkestone keeper was given a busy time. More clever



centring from Herberts followed before the visitors' goal had a lucky escape when Herberts' shot struck the post, but within a minute Smith beat Goodman with a brilliant shot and Town went in at half-time with a 3-0 lead.

Nuneaton attacked straight from the kick-off after the break and Wighton shot over. Both Nuneaton wingers were showing up well and the backs were prominent with some lusty kicking. Winterton headed wide from Smith's centre, while at the other end Kester dived to bring off a great save from Nunn's shot. Goddard's centre should have been converted by Winterton before Folkestone made a great effort to reduce the lead, with Leggett landing the ball on top of the net.

Smith put over the top from Goddard's centre and the visitors' goal had a lucky escape following a centre from Herberts. After 26 minutes of the second half Nuneaton increased their lead when Goddard's centre sailed straight into the top corner of the net, to the surprise of the goalkeeper and everyone else. Nuneaton were then awarded a penalty for handball, which was taken by Smith. Goddard made a good save, tipping the ball over the bar.

A lengthy siege of the Folkestone goal followed before the visitors broke away and Kester had to make a daring save. Town were on top for the remainder of the game and Folkestone lost another player to injury. At the final whistle Town had won 4-0.

## Club Censured

Nuneaton Town FC having been reported by the referee and linesmen at the match with Southampton Reserves at Manor Park on January 3, for alleged bad conduct of the crowd, the matter was investigated by a commission of the FA at Birmingham last night.

The complaint was of bad language by spectators about three minutes before the finish of the game, on account of something that happened near the corner flag. Just about this time Smith, the Nuneaton centre-forward, became hotly embroiled with a tall Southampton full-back, and other players had to separate them to prevent trouble.

The scene caused great excitement amongst spectators near at hand, some of whom invaded the ground. The crowd, by the way, had not been in the best of humour for some time before this, owing to Southampton's methods of play and the frequent injuries to home players.

The Commission decided to severely censure the Town club for not engaging police, and to order it to post warning bills from the FA round the ground and also to pay the costs of the Commission, which will amount to about £3. The Commission found that the Nuneaton club officials did everything they could when the disturbance arose to quell it. No suspension of the ground or players, nor closing of the ground was ordered, but the club was cautioned that in future, if any similar complaints were made, the ground would certainly be closed.

## Peterborough & Fletton U. v Nuneaton Town 31-01-1925

**Nuneaton: Kester; Gibson and Struthers; Miller, Thompson and Porter; Herberts, Smith, Winterton, Wighton and Clack.**

Nuneaton travelled to London Road to face Peterborough and Fletton United in a Southern League Eastern Section fixture. There was a tricky cross-wind that spoilt the game, but Nuneaton did not inspire enthusiasm.

The game opened at a fast pace and Struthers was called on to check a Peterborough raid. Nuneaton pressed strongly and Herberts shot wide. Nuneaton were shaping up well against the awkward wind and Winterton came close to scoring before Nuneaton were awarded a penalty, ten minutes from the start. Thompson took the kick and Whitehead saved well.

Nuneaton were defending most of the time and McQuade went close, though his shot did not test Kester. Clarke missed a great opening for the home side after 25 minutes, as Nuneaton's defence came under severe pressure. They had not crossed the half-way line for several minutes, but eventually Smith passed out to Herberts, who was unable to control the ball.

Just a few minutes before the break, McQuade opened the scoring for Peterborough. The home side continued to attack, but the game was without incident and at the break Peterborough lead 1-0.

Nuneaton had the benefit of the slope and the wind in the second half, and began to have more of the game. Good work by Thompson led to Smith putting in an excellent shot, which the home keeper saved at the expense of a corner. The goalkeeper was injured in saving and had to retire, being replaced by Ford, the outside-right. The home team attacked again with Clarke shooting over with a good effort.

Nuneaton attacked and Wighton tested Ford, who made a good save. The visitors went close again when Clack's centre caused problems in the home goalmouth. The home team had one or two narrow escapes, although Allen went close with a good shot from distance. Porter twice saved Town from disaster after Kester had to run out to save from the left wing.

The deputy keeper saved well from Porter following a free-kick and Winterton was robbed by Salt when in a dangerous position, while a vigorous attack at the other end saw Nuneaton have great difficulty in clearing. Another good shot by Allen was the chief incident before the close.

## Nuneaton Town v Millwall Res. 07-02-1925

**Nuneaton: Kester; Gibson and Struthers; Miller, Thompson and Porter; Herberts, Smith, Winterton, Wighton and Dorans.**

**Millwall: Ender; Tilling and Brown; Whalley, Collins and Amos; Kingsley, Bird, Morris, Dillimore and Oakes.**

Millwall visited Manor Park on Saturday to fulfil their Southern League fixture. The visitors' team was composed of a set of young giants, who played a speedy and hard game.

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



The opening exchanges were mostly in favour of the visitors, who played fast and clever football. Kester had to save three times in the first five minutes. Ten minutes from the start Morris gave the visitors the lead, after dodging the home defence in able fashion.

Smith got the ball into the net following a nice home move, in which Winterton and Wighton shared, but was given offside. A little later Herberts put in a grand centre, which caused the Millwall goalkeeper an anxious moment. The home goal had a narrow escape after Morris beat Struthers, a feat that was repeated just afterwards when Morris missed an open goal.

The home team was re-arranged with Thompson going to centre-forward and Winterton to outside-left. Dorans went to left-half and Porter to centre-half. Smith retired limping. The home defence was again beaten as Kester came out, but was unable to stop a header by Morris, which gave Millwall their second goal. Nuneaton pressed for the remainder of the game up to the half-time whistle.

On the resumption Porter went centre-forward and Smith returning to the fray. Nuneaton improved in attack for a while, but the most dangerous raid came from the visitors when Kester had to rush out and make a very daring save from Morris. Town began to have more of the play and Porter shot wide following a good pass by Winterton. Bird shot wide for Millwall after beating Struthers.

Town hit back through Porter and Herberts caused the Millwall goalkeeper to concede a corner. Thompson forced a corner, but the Millwall defence was equal to all emergencies, with the home attack making little impression. Seven minutes from time Porter reduced the lead with a good shot after receiving the ball from Herberts. It was a clever goal and Nuneaton did all the pressing, but could not score an equaliser.

## Nuneaton Town v Kettering Town 09-02-1925

**Nuneaton:** Kester; Lammus and Struthers; Miller, Thompson and Dorans; Clack, Herberts, Porter, Wighton and Goddard.

**Kettering:** Bird; Morrison and York; Moore, Vyner and Molyneux; Reay, Seddon, Cotton, Simms and Malins.

Nuneaton entertained Kettering at Manor Park on Monday and the team showed several changes following Saturday's defeat. The weather was atrocious and the gate a poor one.

Kettering had the better of the play, but Porter nearly gave Nuneaton the lead when he raced past the backs and sent in a terrific shot that missed the target by inches.

It was not until eight minutes from the break that they succeeded in scoring, Simms netting from a centre by Reay, who with Seddons formed a capable right wing. With the last kick of the first half, Kettering scored again, Cotton shooting past Kester from a free-kick, given against Lammus for a foul on Cotton just outside the penalty area. It was unfortunate in a way as Kester already had the ball when Lammus bowled Cotton over.

The conditions worsened in the second half and Nuneaton's

hopes of saving the game were diminished when Goddard was injured and had to leave the field, taking no further part in the match. With only ten men Nuneaton struggled hard in the mud, but they were opposed to a side possessing better physique and able to stand the strain. However, Nuneaton did most of the pressing, but it was not until ten minutes from time that they scored when Wighton got in a fantastic shot which rebounded off the post to Porter, who tapped the ball into the net.

There was a chance of an equaliser, but the home team failed to maintain their improvement and Seddon scored a third goal for the visitors, from what looked to be an offside position. It was another poor display from the home team which only served to put supporters further into the dumps.

Altogether it was an unsatisfactory exhibition, though scarcely so feeble as the one given against Millwall. The two defeats coming on top of each other, and both the result of poor form have given the directors an anxious problem to solve.

## Nuneaton Town v Leicester City Res. 21-02-1925

**Nuneaton:** Kester; Lammus and Struthers; Miller, Porter and Thompson; Clack, Herberts, Fathers, Wighton and Townsend.

Nuneaton welcomed Leicester City Reserves to Manor Park for a Southern League fixture.

City were first to become dangerous with Heathcock being well tackled by Struthers. Nuneaton were soon on the attack and three minutes after the start, Fathers scored after receiving a pass from Wighton. Heathcock forced a corner, from which Kester had to save from a knot of players by punching clear. Town went close to adding to their score before, with eight minutes gone, a fine pass from Porter found Townsend, who beat the Leicester keeper with his centre, which the goalkeeper could only help into the net.

Wighton put a shot into the side netting before the Nuneaton goal had a narrow escape when a shot from Waterson hit the underside of the bar. Shortly after, a splendid centre by Tompkin saw Struthers miss his kick and Heathcock was left with an easy chance, making the score 2-1 to Town. City began to have more of the play and were quick and clever in attack. Tompkin and Herberts were both injured and the former had to retire, but Herberts resumed. City were the better side for the rest of the half, but were 2-1 down at the break.

City resumed with ten men, Tompkin being injured, and play was pretty even for a time. Porter tried hard to get the forwards away before City broke through and Waterson shot into the side netting from a difficult angle. A centre by Clack was cleared before Fathers opened out the game and Townsend got to the byline, but the ball ran out of play. Town increased their lead when Porter passed to Wighton, who tricked Middleton in great style and scored with an excellent shot. Tompkin came back on and forced a corner off Lammus, which came to nothing.



# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



Porter opened out play once or twice, but the game degenerated and play was mainly confined to midfield. Porter was still providing some openings and Thompson tested the City keeper with a long range shot before Porter shot over. City made one dangerous attack, with Kester throwing away under pressure. At full-time Town were 3-1 winners.

## Kettering Town v Nuneaton Town 26-02-1925

**Nuneaton: Kester; Lammus and Struthers; Miller, Porter and Thompson; Clack, Herberts, Fathers, Wighton and Townsend.**

Nuneaton travelled to Rockingham Road to take on Kettering Town in a Southern League Eastern Division fixture.

Nuneaton were defeated by four goals to two in a fairly even game. The half-time score was 2-1. One of Kettering's second half goals was from a penalty following a handball offence. Wighton and Herbert were Town's scorers.

## Nuneaton Town v Guildford United 28-02-1925

**Nuneaton: Kester; Lammus and Struthers; Jones, Porter and W. Thompson; Herberts, Finch, Winterton, Wighton and J. Thompson.**

Nuneaton entertained Guildford United in a Southern League Eastern Division fixture at Manor Park.

Guildford kicked off and the early exchanges were fairly even. The ground was very heavy with the rain still pouring down. Wighton made a good attempt and Porter kept up the pressure. Struthers made some great clearances, while the home attack failed to make progress. A Guildford corner was cleared by Struthers, but the visitors maintained the pressure and Kester saved the first real shot of the match from Hughes. The visitors were very dangerous for a while and Kester had to deal with another good shot. Porter joined in the attack and put in a fast drive that went just wide as Nuneaton came more into the game. J. Thompson made good progress from midfield and passed to Wighton. The ball went out to Herberts and a Guildford defender made a lucky stop.

Guildford hit back and opened the scoring as Kester made a save, but lost the ball, which was slipped to Young, who scored brilliantly. Town pressed strongly and Winterton went close before Porter put a free-kick just wide of the target. At the break Nuneaton trailed by a goal to nil.

Wighton put in a good shot straight after the break, following Porter's pass, with Cooper saving brilliantly. The ball went to Finch, but the keeper recovered to kick away. Town maintained the pressure and Cooper saved well from Winterton. Town then adopted the one back method, which did not work, as Beckford broke through and shot. Kester stopped the ball, but it broke to Hughes, who banged it into the net.

Nuneaton rearranged the team with Porter going to inside-right, Thompson to centre-half and Finch to left-half. The Guildford goal had a narrow escape from a free kick, which brought a corner. Cooper made a series of great saves from

Herberts, Wighton, Winterton and Thompson. Town were pressing continually and Wighton had hard luck, just missing with a fast drive and then grazing the crossbar. Wighton then received a pass from J. Thompson and raced away, cutting in for goal, dodging two opponents, and shooting from close range. Cooper pulled off a great save high up.

Kester saved well from Hughes and later from a free-kick just near the penalty line. Cooper saved from a corner kick. Porter was going well in the direction of the visitors' goal when the whistle sounded for full-time with Guildford winning 2-0.

## Nuneaton Town v Norwich City Res. 14-03-1925

**Nuneaton: Kester; Gibson and Struthers; Lammus, W. Thompson and Miller; Herberts, Smith, Winterton, Wighton and Clarke.**

Nuneaton welcomed Norwich City Reserves to Manor Park for a Southern League Eastern Section match.

Norwich took the lead about five minutes after the start, when Duffas beat Struthers and put in a great centre for Jackson to beat Kester with a header. Lammus was carried off, having sustained a nasty cut to the face. Norwich extended their lead after 17 minutes when centre-forward Jackson scored again, picking up a centre from the left, beating Struthers before putting the ball into the net.

For quite some time Nuneaton pushed Norwich back with Herberts showing up well for the home side. The play then went from end to end and both keepers had to handle. Struthers was busy in the home defence before Williamson had to field a centre from Clarke and Smith had a hard shot blocked. Herberts saw his flag kick hit the bar and Winterton got the ball into the net, but the whistle had already gone.

Town started the second half without Lammus and Miller went to right-half, Gibson left-half and Clarke left back. The home team pressed hard, but were up against a good defence. Thompson and Smith worked hard to turn things round and Miller was also prominent, but the home side rarely got within shooting distance. Harrison put a cross behind, while Williamson had to save from Gibson.

Nuneaton pressed again through Wighton, whose centre went begging. There were frequent free-kicks awarded against City at this stage. Another shot by Gibson went wide and Roper had to kick back to his keeper. Kester had to field a centre from Harrison before Wighton reduced the lead. This came from a corner kick by Herberts, with a Norwich defender helping the ball into the net with his hand following Wighton's shot.

The game livened up after the goal and both teams attacked strongly. A great run by Wighton brought a corner and the same player showed plenty of artistry towards the close and the crowd became excited, sensing an equaliser. Norwich continued to concede fouls and Thompson struck the bar with a beautiful free-kick. Another corner for Town saw Miller's promising drive blocked and at the final whistle Nuneaton had lost 2-1.



## Bournemouth & Bos. Res. v Nuneaton Town 21-03-1925

**Bournemouth:** Heron; Charleston and Lamb; Lowson, Maitland and Owen; Wakeley, Budden, Readman, Buchman and Maidwent.

**Nuneaton:** Kester; Struthers and Clarke; Jones, Thompson and Miller; Herberts, Clack, Winterton, Wighton and Townsend.

Nuneaton travelled to Dean Court to take on Bournemouth and Boscombe Reserves in a Southern League Eastern Section fixture.

Bournemouth attacked from the start and had hard luck following a mis-kick by Struthers, but Kester cleared. A corner resulted and Kester punched clear with Readman in close attendance. The Bournemouth centre-forward was wide with a shot just after. Nuneaton rallied but found Charleston and Lamb very solid for the home side. Winterton got through after several attempts, but failed with his shot.

The visitors' forwards developed some useful attacks and Heron had to save shots from Clack and Wighton, but had nothing very difficult. Winterton missed a glorious chance, when Lamb miskicked and let in the centre-forward, who headed wide. Thompson was a tower of strength at the back and repeatedly stopped Readman, although the home centre-forward headed just over with Kester beaten.

With the wind behind them in the second half, Bournemouth attacked strongly, but Budden threw away a good chance by shooting too soon when he had worked his way past the backs and only had Kester to beat. Five minutes into the second half, a splendid combination between Wakeley and Budden ended with Readman scoring a fine goal with a first time shot. The home side were showing much improved form in the forward line and Readman put the ball in the net again a few minutes later, but had handled the ball and the goal was disallowed.

Ten minutes later, however, the home side were two goals up when Readman headed home from a corner by Wakeley. Bournemouth continued the pressure and after 25 minutes Budden put across a fine centre from the right and Buchanan scored, giving Kester no chance. During this period the Nuneaton attack was totally subdued, except for two breakaways by Winterton, which failed owing to poor support.

Bournemouth secured a fourth goal about ten minutes from time, from a penalty awarded for a foul by Clarke on Budden. Buchanan took the kick and scored easily. The home side had the best of the game right up to the final whistle when they were 4-0 winners.

## Nuneaton Town v Peterborough & Fletton U. 23-03-1925

**Nuneaton:** Kester; Struthers and Clarke; Dorans, Thompson and Miller; Herberts, Clack, Winterton, Wighton and Townsend.

Nuneaton entertained Peterborough and Fletton United in a Southern League match postponed from December 27th. There were only a few hundred spectators at Manor Park for

the Monday evening game. Nuneaton made one change from the previous match with Dorans replacing Jones.

Kester had to handle in the first minute following an attack down the left, while Nuneaton made headway down the left and Wighton tested Whitehead. A centre by Clack saw Winterton head into the keeper's hands and then Clack shot for goal, with Whitehead making a save. Peterborough attacked and after ten minutes, Saunders gave them the lead with a great shot from 20 yards range. The visitors' centre-forward fastened onto the ball from a semi-clearance by Struthers.

Nuneaton pressed after this setback and Wighton nearly got through after good passing by the inside trio, but he had to pass to Townsend, who forced an abortive corner. A centre by Townsend looked promising, but Winterton failed to get position and Clack could only finish weakly. Another Nuneaton attack ended with Herberts grazing the crossbar. A free-kick for Nuneaton was taken by Clarke and the goalkeeper punched clear.

Nuneaton equalised after 22 minutes, Wighton netting after Winterton had struck the upright. They nearly took the lead a moment later, the Peterborough defence luckily surviving a centre by Clack. Wighton shot over the bar and just later headed into the keeper's hands. A great run by Ford for the visitors ended in Miller forcing him to shoot outside, thus saving a certain goal. Nuneaton returned to the attack and a pass to Clack by Miller developed a movement which left Winterton with a fine opportunity, but he was too slow and his shot was blocked. Peterborough had a spell of attacking and Kester made a clever save from Quinn.

Nuneaton deservedly took the lead just before the interval with Townsend scoring one of the most spectacular goals seen at Manor Park all season. He beat several opponents in a run nearly half the length of the field and drove the ball into the corner of the net. Wighton nearly added to the lead with a cross-shot. At the break the home side led 2-1.

Soon after the break Whitehead made a good save from Thompson, and then made a brilliant save from Herberts following a centre by Wighton. A save by Kester was followed by a delightful Nuneaton movement which ended in Wighton giving Winterton a glorious chance, but he shot wide. Peterborough missed a good opportunity after Kester made a partial clearance, but Burton shot wide.

Nuneaton had hard luck when Wighton missed the upright by inches with a shot from a centre by Herberts. Kester had to make a couple of saves from Ford, and then a fine run by Herberts and Clack ended with Winterton hooking the ball over the bar. The Peterborough goal survived another bombardment following a nicely-placed corner by Herberts.

Some feeling crept into the play and Thompson and two of the Peterborough players were spoken to by the referee. In the closing stages the visitors attacked desperately, but the home defence held out.



## Nuneaton Town v Bournemouth & Bos. Res. 28-03-1925

Nuneaton: Kester; Struthers and Clarke; Miller, Thompson and Dorans; Herberts, Clack, Winterton, Wighton and Townsend.

Nuneaton met Bournemouth Reserves at Manor Park in a Southern League Eastern Section game.

Town pressed from the start, but failed to utilise two good chances. A free-kick by Thompson was put over the top by Wighton and a centre by Clack was put wide by Winterton. Miller performed a good move which Herberts spoilt with a poor centre. Bournemouth attacked and forced Kester to save, while Miller and Clarke both defended well. The visitors kept up the attack and a corner for the visitors led to Maitland putting over the top.

Winterton tested Heron with a header and play continued fast and open. Kester had to deal with a centre from the right and Miller made a chance for Winterton, but the latter was easily dispossessed. A dangerous centre by Miles brought a corner, from which Kester saved three times in succession. Later he saved finely from a free kick not far from the penalty line.

Nuneaton continued to attack and Wighton tried hard to work a position before Winterton got in Wighton's way from Herberts' centre. Just before the interval Winterton sent in a grand shot that Heron luckily knocked onto the upright. At half-time the game was even at 0-0.

The ball was in the visitors' territory for most of the second half and Winterton and Clack were both prominent. Winterton shot wide from fair range and a centre by Herberts caused Heron to handle. Later a pass by Clack saw Winterton robbed in front of goal. Wighton, from a good range sent in an excellent shot. The ball hit Heron, bounced up and struck the underside of the bar, and came back into play.

A great tussle around the visitors' goal saw a narrow escape. Heron saved a shot from Herberts before the visitors made progress, but Haywood sent behind. Thompson put the ball just over the bar from a free-kick outside the penalty line, and at the other end Kester threw away from a dangerous raid. Clack burst through and drew out the keeper and shot past him. The ball was rolling into the net, but Charleston nipped in and kicked away. A clever move by the visitors ended in Wakeley missing an almost perfect open goal. Kester then saved from Miles.

Three minutes from the close, following further pressure by the home team, Winterton nipped through the backs and beat Heron with a grand shot. At the final whistle Nuneaton had won by one goal to nil.

### Share Issue Discussed At Game

During the interval at the Bournemouth game, Alderman J. Randle addressed the crowd on the supporters' share capital scheme, and appealed to them to participate in it.

## Nuneaton Town v Watford Res. 04-04-1925

Nuneaton: Kester; Struthers and Clarke; Miller, Thompson and Dorans; Herberts, Clack, Winterton, Wighton and Townsend.

Nuneaton attacked in the early stages, with some neat work by Townsend and Wighton, after which Winterton nipped nicely past the backs and sent wide with a good effort. Watford continued on the defensive and escaped following a corner. The visitors made several attempts to break, but found the home defence too good, with Thompson in particular doing excellent work.

Pagnam eventually forced a corner, which came to nothing before Watford set up a strong attack and and Clarke tackled Darvell, who was looking dangerous. A centre by Thompson saw Clack, with a splendid chance, have little trouble in opening the scoring, seventeen minutes after the start, with a bustling shot.

A header from Dorans caused problems before Wighton tried an overhead shot from some distance. Winterton was fouled near the penalty line, with Thompson putting the free-kick just wide of the goal. Townsend and Winterton combined for Wighton to shoot over before the inside-left burst through again and looked a certain scorer, but his shot was intercepted by Wright.

Watford equalised in unexpected fashion about two minutes from the interval. A poor clearance by Struthers enabled Pagnam to pounce on the ball and promptly shoot from distance. Kester appeared to have time to save, but must have been deceived, the ball passing him in simple fashion. After this, Nuneaton pressed strongly, with Clack getting in a shot. Winterton and Clack made a great forcing effort and a little later Clack had another shot but was too closely pressed by Carter to take proper aim.

Colledge made progress and got past Struthers, but Thompson successfully intervened. The Watford defence was then given a lively few moments and some neat passing was performed by Clack. Darvell was well tackled in midfield by Struthers and Winterton was hustled off the ball when looking dangerous. Miller centred well, but Wighton was robbed in the nick of time by Carter. Play was rather lifeless.

With Miller and Clack being most prominent on the home side, Nuneaton were still having all the play, Winterton and Miller putting in shots. From a corner kick by Herberts, Thompson almost grazed the bar with a great header. Winterton passed well to Wighton who, after tricking Field, sent in a fast shot from a difficult angle, Dewick saving at the expense of a corner.

A strong Watford attack ended in Baker getting through and firing in a great shot, with Kester saving in style. The Watford goal was besieged again, and Winterton headed over from a pass by Wighton. Nuneaton were pressing up to the end, but did not look like scoring. The match ended in a 1-1 draw.



## Watford Res. v Nuneaton Town 14-04-1925

**Nuneaton: Lee; Struthers and Gibson; Jones, Thompson and Dorans; Payne, Herberts, Clack, Wighton and Townsend.**

Nuneaton travelled to Vicarage Road to face Watford Reserves in a Southern League Eastern Section game.

It was an obviously tired Nuneaton team which visited Watford on Tuesday afternoon, the heavy holiday programme having taken its effect upon the players, who failed to produce their normal form. In the circumstances it is not surprising that a three clear goals defeat was sustained.

In addition the visitors had to make the journey minus several of their best players. Miller, Kester and Clarke were all injured the day previous and their absence greatly weakened the team.

Watford, who had a strong team on duty, took advantage of Nuneaton's weakness in the opening half, when all the goals were scored, the third being from a penalty, Gibson, who played right-back being penalised for pushing. The offence was a very trivial one and certainly did not warrant a penalty.

The visitors showed better form in the second half, and not only did they prevent any further score, but the Watford goal had one or two very narrow escapes.

The home team were anything but great, and had Nuneaton showed anything like their normal form a point would have probably been secured.

## Leicester City Res. v Nuneaton Town 18-04-1925

**Nuneaton: Paul; Struthers and Clarke; Jones, Thompson and Dorans; Herberts, Miller, Clack, Wighton and Townsend.**

Nuneaton travelled to Leicester to face the City Reserves side in a Southern League Eastern Section match.

The absence of Kester through injury was felt and Nuneaton were on the defensive for a long time. Leicester opened the scoring after twenty minutes' play with the visitors' defence well-beaten, and Proctor landed the ball just inside the post. Paul had another good shot to stop just after, and then the visitors transferred matters, Wighton making a good effort, which earned applause from the spectators.

Paul had several shots to deal with, and once had to tip over the bar. Miller opened the game out once or twice before Paul had to kick away from the feet of Proctor. About five minutes from half-time City scored again through Heathcock and Leicester led 2-0 at the break.

The opening of the second half saw City set a good pace and some neat passing was witnessed. Herberts and Miller made a great effort to make an opening, but were outdone by the home defence. Herberts and Jones then co-operated well, and Barratt had to intervene. The visitors now had more of the play and Wighton put in a great shot, which very nearly beat Hebden. A centre by Townsend then caused Hebden to

punch away, and Herberts returned the ball, which resulted in a corner. Centres were put in from the City left and right alternately, while from a nice centre by Townsend, Clack tested Hebden.

Nuneaton attacked again, but neither side was really threatening at this stage. Thompson passed neatly to Clack who moved the ball on to Wighton, whose shot was handled by Barratt, but the referee refused a penalty. Proctor increased the lead about 20 minutes into the second half, with a shot that beat Paul very easily. Heathcock put on a fourth goal about three minutes later and Proctor rushed the fifth goal through.

Wighton was responsible for a clever forcing effort and Hackett responded with a beautiful run. Another nice City effort saw a shot by Proctor blocked by Clarke. The home side again exhibited nippy tactics and a movement which had the Town defence tied up, saw Proctor shoot just over the bar. Nuneaton had little chance in the rest of the game, but Miller went on a good dribble towards the close.

## Nuneaton Town v Luton Town Res. 25-04-1925

**Nuneaton: Pearson; Finch and Clarke; Jones, Thompson and Dorans; Herberts, Miller, Clack, Wighton and Townsend.**

Nuneaton Town welcomed Luton Town Reserves to Manor Park for a Southern League Eastern Division match.

Wighton was soon in evidence and caused Orr to save with difficulty. Mackay put in a dangerous centre, but Finch met the ball with his head and Pearson cleared. After some even and interesting play the Town took the lead thirteen minutes from the start. Miller made an opening and Clack made a fine forcing run, beating the two backs in succession, and drawing out Orr, shot past him into the net.

The home team continued to attack with Miller being active and dangerous and Clack making another great run down the centre. Nuneaton were now having most of the play with halves and forwards both doing well, and Finch kicking superbly at right back. A neat passing move by the home team resulted in Orr having to deal with Jones' centre, while Miller put in a first-time shot from Herberts' centre, which went just wide of the post. A Luton attack was easily dealt with and the Town were back again, playing well and causing plenty of excitement around the Luton goal.

Straight after the restart Herberts centred and Wighton screwed the ball just over the bar with an excellent effort. Luton were kept on the defensive, and Wighton ran cleverly around the backs and centred. Orr, at full stretch, pushed the ball away from the feet of Clack, but Miller ran up and put the ball into the net, five minutes into the second half.

Miller headed into Orr's hands just after, but Luton transferred matters, and there was a lively tussle on the home penalty line. Mackay got away and looked like having a clear run into goal, until Finch dashed across and tackled him as he





was about to shoot. Wighton had two shots, the second of which hit the crossbar. Eventually, Jones neatly tricked two opponents and then shot into the side netting. Twenty-eight minutes into the second half Miller struck the bar and the referee awarded a corner. Herberts took the kick and Wighton converted with a lovely shot high into the net. A great centre by Jones saw Wighton miss the ball in front of the net. At the final whistle Nuneaton had won by four goals to nil.

## Southern League Easter Section 1924-25

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Southampton Res.	32	17	10	5	65	30	44
Kettering Town	32	17	6	9	67	39	40
Brighton Res.	32	15	10	7	68	42	40
Millwall II	32	15	10	7	65	48	40
Peterborough & Fletton	32	15	9	8	56	29	39
Bournemouth Res.	32	15	9	8	66	48	39
Leicester City Res.	32	15	7	10	61	45	37
Portsmouth Res.	32	15	7	10	51	40	37
Folkestone	32	13	11	8	55	46	37
Norwich City Res.	32	13	8	11	65	58	34
Coventry City Res.	32	12	9	11	51	41	33
Luton Town Res.	32	15	2	15	48	63	32
Northampton Res.	32	10	5	17	38	59	25
Watford Res.	32	7	7	18	44	71	21
Nuneaton Town	32	8	2	22	37	62	18
Reading Res.	32	8	1	23	38	87	17
Guildford United	32	4	3	25	40	107	11

## Supporters Club Meeting

Mr E. Poynton presided over the meeting of the Town Supporters' Club held in the dressing rooms, Manor Park, on Wednesday evening.

The chairman said no reply had been received from the Borough band with regard to their terms for open air dancing on Saturdays. In this case he thought that the LMS Band, the Arley Colliery Military Band and the Bulkington Band could be written to.

It was decided to write to the three bands mentioned and also the Borough band again, asking for terms for dancing each Saturday during June and July.

Mr J. Loughlan proposed that the club hold a registered sports meeting on June 27th. Although the Dunlop sports meeting at Birmingham was being held the same day, he did not think this would hurt them, and they had plenty of time to promote their show. This was carried unanimously.

Mr. Poynton said no doubt they were eager to know something of the position of the club, and more so with regard to the players. Many of them had adopted a very sportsmanlike attitude, in promising to meet them and see what could be arranged. There was something like £200 owing to them. They had been very fortunate with regard to the players and injuries and it was a pity they had not been insured. He was not blaming the directors for not insuring the players. Added to that, their trainer had never been really well. If the men had been insured it would have paid them this season. The alterations to the stand had been a tremendous item, and had they had not had the players who were threatening them now and this expenditure on their hands, they would have done very well and finished up with a profit of about £200.

They wished to realise some money sharp, a sum of about £200 and if they could do this, he was sure many of the players would be retained. When the mortgage and a few other things had been cleared there would be about £1,000 left. The Birmingham Combination would next year be a League of Leagues, for many fine clubs were entering. If they would hand in a cheque to the directors of part of the £200 required, it would mean seven or eight players signing on again for them.

Mr Tooby pointed out that a strong recommendation ought to go from them that players ought to be signed on by only one director. There would then be less failures.

Mr Whewey moved and Mr Loughlan seconded that £70 be paid out of the Supporters' Funds to the directors.

This motion was carried unanimously.

## Whitwick Imperial— Preliminary Round

Nuneaton visited Whitwick Imperial of the Leicestershire Senior League in the Preliminary Round of the FA Cup.

Whitwick: Ball; Lacey and Rollo; Thorpe, Smith and Elton; Lindsay, Brewin, Phillips, Danvers and Grayston.

Nuneaton: Kester; Lammus and Clarke; Miller, Porter and Dorans; Coley, Smith, Lunn, Wighton and Goddard.

Whitwick were first to show and Lindsay shot into the side netting. Porter set Goddard in motion with a neat pass, and the latter tricked his way through, but centred too strongly. Porter got the ball to Smith, who in turn passed to Wighton, who easily scored. Lunn almost headed a second goal before Smith scored a goal following a free-kick, with just eight minutes gone.

A Whitwick attack was easily repelled before play was confined to midfield for a while. Nuneaton with their cleverer tactics made the most headway and Porter increased the lead to 3-0. Danvers pulled a goal back for the home team just after.

Kester made a brilliant save from a terrific shot before play was transferred again. Wighton tried a shot which went close and from a free-kick, taken by Smith, Porter headed a magnificent goal, making the score 4-1.

Whitwick had the occasional break, but Kester was safe. From a centre by Goddard, Wighton just failed with a lightning header. Just before the break Lammus had to head away when the home side attacked.

After the break Coley broke through, but Lunn was given offside. A Whitwick attack saw the ball go high over the bar, before Kester had to deal with two successive attacks, as Whitwick began to monopolise play. A shot by Graystone passed across the goalmouth, as the home side continued to cause Nuneaton lots of problems at this stage. Following a

centre by Graystone, Kester had to save following a dangerous scuffle in the penalty area. Town won a corner which was easily cleared.

From a pass by Miller, Smith broke through, but shot wide. Whitwick attacked again, and Kester had to handle on three more occasions. From a foul against Lammus, Smith of Whitwick aimed well and caused Kester to tip over. From the corner Smith shot just wide.

Coley forced a corner after a fine run, from which Smith headed the ball strongly towards the net. The home goalkeeper tried to drop on to the ball, but was just too late to prevent Lunn from rushing up and shooting home.

Another corner obtained by Coley, saw Porter just fail with a header. Smith broke through again and nearly beat the home keeper with a grand oblique shot. Lunn and Wighton both got in dangerous shots before the final whistle, when Nuneaton were 5-1 winners.

## Burton Town— 1st Round Qualifying

Nuneaton welcomed Burton Town of the Birmingham & District League to Manor Park in the 1st Round Qualifying of the FA Cup.

Nuneaton: Kester; Morris and Clarke; Miller, Porter and Dorans; Coley, Herberts, Lunn, Wighton and Goddard.

Nuneaton had the better of the play, but looked to be taking matters too lightly early in the game. The home side had Porter and Miller back in the team, with the presence of the former making a big difference. Once more he proved a useful pivot. His positional play and passing were up to the usual high standard, and he had his usual share of shooting.

Dorans also did able work in both attack and defence. The home backs, Morris and Clarke were not uniformly successful in holding the Burton attack, which had speed and vim in it at times,

if lacking in finishing power. Yet, it speaks well for the Nuneaton defence as a whole that Kester had not a great deal to do in goal.

The home side had an excellent and hard-working forward line, but the sensation of the match was the brilliant success of Herberts, the ex-Guildford player. He developed surprising dash and bustle, and a more thrustful display has not been seen for a long time on the Manor Park ground.

His first goal was the result of a delightfully forceful effort. He hustled his way into the opposition and practically carried it along with him, three defenders being around him when he shot, but helpless to stop him.

Herberts found the net on another two occasions and he ought to have had another goal, had he not been in too much of a hurry to shoot. Lunn was again seen at centre-forward and although he was not as quick on scoring opportunities as his colleagues, Herberts and Wighton, he did some admirable work in making openings and passing.

Two of Herberts' goals were made possible by Lunn and Wighton scored a typical opportunist goal, after Herberts had taken the ball through in style.

The Burton attack did not reveal a great amount of cohesion. Cooper and Harrold were two speedy and clever wing men, but the pick of the front line was Jimmy Nock, formerly of Nuneaton Town, who, though somewhat erratic as usual, had a lot of go in him.

His first goal was well deserved, as he beat Porter and Morris in quick succession. Nock also scored with a penalty kick, which many thought undeserved. Morris fell over the ball, but it is extremely doubtful whether he handled it or in any way obstructed play. The Burton defence was inferior to that of Town, but a word of praise is due to the goalkeeper, Boam, for the way he kept the scored down, especially in the first half.



## Hinckley United— 2nd Round Qualifying

Town welcomed Hinckley United of the Birmingham Combination to Manor Park in the 2nd Round Qualifying of the FA Cup.

Nuneaton: Kester; Struthers and Clarke; Miller, Porter and Dorans; Herberts, Smith, Lunn, Wighton and Goddard.

Hinckley: Castledine; Harris and Taylor; Herbert, Craig and Webb-Harris; Spencer, Dunn, Winterton, Wright and Wesson.

There was a wonderful crowd of 7,000 to witness the cup encounter. Early in the game the visitors set up a strong attack and Dunn got deep into Nuneaton territory, but Porter cut out the danger.

The visitors defended well, but Herberts, from a good centre by Goddard, missed an excellent chance, with Taylor unable to get to the ball. Soon after Lunn refused an open goal. Porter, after dribbling past two or three opponents, had his shot blocked by Taylor, following which a header by Wighton was stopped by Castledine.

Wesson caused problems for the Reds, and got in a centre, which Dunn made a good effort to convert. There was a tussle at the away end, where Castledine saved from Lunn and Wighton.

The United were soon back and a fierce attack ended with Wright putting the ball into the net, but the referee gave offside. Another determined Hinckley raid saw Porter clear from a ticklish situation. The visitors were having a great share of the game at this point, with Wesson being particularly prominent. Herberts had a centre blocked and from a corner kick the Hinckley goal had a narrow escape.

Lunn just missed from a good range before, with just a few minutes to play before the interval, Goddard sent in a great shot, with Castledine making a clever save, first knocking up the ball and then punching it away. Lunn and Goddard put in good shots for the Town and Porter made two great

efforts, one of which struck the post. At half-time the game was tied at 0-0.

Town had the better of the play for some time after the break, with Goddard getting in a shot. Wesson continued to feature on the Hinckley side, and the team as a whole, set up a terrific attack, with Porter having to concede a corner, which was followed by a second, from which Kester made a good save from Winterton.

Castledine was visited again, but remained safe. About 10 minutes after the break Wighton gave Town the lead, when he slipped past Craig, and from a good 20 yards out sent in a superb shot that had Castledine beaten all the way. Wighton made a clever run just after, but Castledine came out and smothered his shot.

Town were now on top and came very close to increasing their lead. A mistake by Clarke gave Winterton a chance, and after taking the ball up to the goal he was overwhelmed by defenders. A free-kick for Town in a good position, saw Porter shoot high over the bar. Goddard beat J. Harris and cut in, dribbling up to the corner of the net before being overwhelmed by numbers.

Dunn and Craig made a heroic attempt to bring about the equaliser. Lunn headed over and a shot by Wesson went wide. United made another strong bid but a timely tackle by Dorans checked them near to goal. Lunn headed home Nuneaton's second goal from a corner three minutes from time.

## Gresley Rovers—3rd Round Qualifying

Nuneaton welcomed Gresley Rovers of the Central Alliance League in the 3rd Round Qualifying of the FA Cup.

Nuneaton: Kester; Struthers and Clarke; Miller, Porter and Lammus; Coley, Herberts, Smith, Wighton and Goddard.

Nuneaton soon showed superiority and were first busy on the left and Smith almost got through before Gresley got away. Fearn made tracks

for goal and a miskick by Clarke all but brought disaster to Town. The visitors withstood a home attack and hit back and Clarke was beaten again, but Lammus tackled well.

Rovers continued to be aggressive, but Miller defended well and Smith got away and beat two defenders before shooting into the side netting. From a centre by Goddard, Holmes was called upon to save.

Gresley pressed again before Smith made a fruitless effort to dribble through. A good pass by Smith sent Coley away, and the winger's centre brought a moment of danger to the visitors' goal. Struthers and Miller made good tackles before Porter put in a long shot that went just wide.

Twenty-five minutes after the start, Town took the lead from a free-kick for a back-charge. Miller took the kick and drove the ball towards goal, where it glanced off Smith's head and into the net. Gresley retaliated and Kester had to make a good save from J. Bird.

Herberts was fouled going strongly for goal, and the free-kick, taken by Porter, brought a fruitless corner. Town kept up the pressure and a kick by Lammus saw Smith shoot over. There was then an exciting scene following a cross by Coley, which dropped in front of the goal, but Wighton was unable to get a touch. Turner shot over for the visitors. The rain continued to fall as Gresley pressed for an equaliser, but to no avail.

There was a thrilling Nuneaton attack just after the break with Goddard and Coley centring in quick succession and Herberts just missing with a hard drive. Coley centred again and Smith tried to turn the ball in, before Gresley grabbed an equaliser five minutes after the break. An attack down the right saw Woodhead centre to Fearn, who was unmarked and scored with ease.

Town attacked strongly and Wighton and Porter banged shots in before Smith robbed an opponent in midfield





and after taking the ball upfield, fired in a superb shot, which Holmes had to fling himself at to save.

Rovers attacked again and Kester had to save twice. Nuneaton forwards began to shoot from distance with Smith testing Holmes. Kester was again visited, but Town were soon back, and the Gresley goal had a miraculous escape from Herberts, who with an open goal, headed the ball into the ground, which bounced up and hit the bar and bounced back into play. Smith just failed to pick up the rebound.

Town got two free kicks just outside the penalty line with Porter having his shots blocked on both occasions. Town took the lead 24 minutes into the second half with Wighton finding the mark with a brilliant shot at good range, Smith having made the opening.

Gresley were not beaten, however, and Kester had to save again. The visitors escaped two more free-kicks near the penalty line before J. Bird equalised about eight minutes from time, after Kester had saved his initial effort.

## Gresley Rovers—3rd Round Qualifying Replay

Nuneaton travelled to the Moat Ground to face Gresley Rovers in a 3rd Round Qualifying replay.

Gresley: Holmes; Gilliver and Warren; T. Warren, Tremelling and Whittaker; Woodhead, Robinson, Fearn, Turner and J. Bird.

Nuneaton: Kester; Struthers and Clarke; Miller, Dorans and Lammus; Herberts, Smith, Porter, Wighton and Goddard.

Nuneaton had the best of the opening exchanges before Gresley retaliated and Struthers was called on to clear. Gresley were penalised for a foul on Smith and were put back on the defensive for a time with Herberts and Smith putting in some dangerous shots. Fearn shot over for the home team before Kester was forced to run out to save from the same player.

Holmes saved from Porter, while J. Bird shot wide for the home team. Gresley

pressed again, but Clarke and Dorans defended well before Smith made an opening with some clever play, but failed to hit the target. A dribble by Fearn led to Kester punching the ball away, while Goddard shot wide.

Porter was fouled just outside the penalty line and took the kick himself and hit the back of the net to give Nuneaton the lead on 25 minutes. Gresley attacked, but found the visitors' defence sound, although Kester had to throw away under pressure. Tremelling shot over from a free-kick just outside the penalty line. An exciting Gresley attack saw Fearn shoot wide and Clarke conceded a corner from another home attack, Kester punching clear.

The game swung from end to end, although Nuneaton appeared to have the upper hand. Porter was again fouled outside the penalty line and hit a terrific kick over the bar. At half-time Nuneaton led 1-0.

Gresley attacked after the break and Woodhead was troublesome, centring dangerously. Eight minutes after the restart, Gresley equalised when Fearn darted through at full speed and beat Kester with a good shot.

A good Nuneaton move followed and Wighton worked his way through and hit the bar with great force and from the rebound, he fastened on the ball again and shot into the net, the ball going in just under the bar.

Smith was fouled by Tremelling, who was sent off by the referee and Smith was carried from the field with Lammus going to centre-forward and Porter to centre-half. Smith came back on and went on to the right wing.

Nuneaton pressed and won further free-kicks before Kester was called on again. Smith forced a corner from which Goddard placed over before Gresley battled heroically to save the match. Miller had to save a difficult situation and Gresley forced a corner right at the end which Porter headed clear.

## Taxi Fire

In the Boot Inn yard, the headquarters of the Gresley Rovers FC, a taxi, which had conveyed spectators from Nuneaton, was found on fire by the landlord's son, who quickly extinguished it.

## Referee Mobbed After Match

The game was of a rough and tumble nature, though the Town were clearly the superior team. Play was marred by a number of fouls, mostly by Gresley players. The home team were very lucky to escape a penalty goal. Lammus, when playing centre-forward during the latter part of the game, was brought down in the penalty area, but the referee only gave a free-kick.

During the second half, after Town had taken the lead, the Gresley centre-half Tremelling, was ordered off the field for kicking Smith while he was on the ground. Gresley players and spectators resented this and protested that the wrong man had been sent off. The referee Mr Max, was escorted through the crowd by police after the match and was subjected to some booing.

## Cup Record

Town accomplished a record on Wednesday, travelling further in the FA Cup competition than they had ever previously done. They defeated Gresley Rovers in the corresponding round to that in which they were beaten by Coalville Swifts two seasons ago.

## Alfreton Town —4th Round Qualifying

Nuneaton travelled to face Alfreton Town in a 4th Round Qualifying FA Cup tie.

Alfreton: Clarke; Hayward and Holden; Barnett, Barlow and Partridge; Lansford, Robinson, Bentley, Cavill and Parkin.

Nuneaton: Kester; Struthers and Clarke; Miller, Porter and Dorans; Coley, Smith, Finch, Wighton and Goddard.



Nuneaton started well and Finch put in a good shot that Clarke saved with difficulty. Lansford beat Dorans and centred to Cavill, who went close as Nuneaton had to defend for some time with some exciting scenes around their goal. Nuneaton pushed forward and Goddard shot, while a pass from Porter led to Goddard and Smith putting in shots.

The home team took the lead after 18 minutes through Bentley, who beat Struthers in a race for possession and shot. Kester ran out and partly deflected the shot, but the ball rolled into the net. The Nuneaton forwards could not get going up the slope and the visitors spent most of the time defending. Kester had to fall on the ball

on one occasion with several attackers around him.

Clarke continued to defend well, but the visitors rarely crossed the half-way line. Smith eventually got forward and fired in a beautiful shot, causing Clarke to save. Porter was then brought down as he dashed for goal, but just failed from the free-kick with an excellent attempt. Cavill shot over for Alfreton, who continued to have most of the play and Kester made a great save from Bentley.

Nuneaton attacked after the break and the ball was put into the area where Coley just failed to get a touch. Alfreton broke away again and Cavill, though obviously offside was left to go on and score with only Kester to beat.

Alfreton pressed strongly again and Kester punched away twice and then saved well, catching the ball from a hard shot. Clarke was injured ten minutes after the break and had to be carried off.

Smith dribbled past two defenders, but could only force a corner, and he was then brought down in the penalty area and Wighton cut the lead to 2-1 from the spot kick.

The home side attacked and Dorans saved the day. Struthers was doing some sterling work in Clarke's absence, but eventually Bentley put Alfreton further ahead from a pass from the left. Before the close, Wighton missed a chance and Smith almost scored with a brilliant shot.



## **Nuneaton Town 1924-25**

**Back Row (left to right):** Struthers, Kester, Clarke, Dorans  
**Middle Row:** Morton (trainer), H. H. Butler (director), Miller, Porter, Lammus,  
F. Payne (chairman), S. Sanders (Hon. Secretary)  
**Front Row:** Coley, Herberts, Smith, Wighton and Goddard.



## Southern League (Eastern Section): Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1924-25

Date	Opposition	Competition	Venue	Score	Scorers
Aug. 30	Reading Reserves	League	Away	1-2	C. Smith
Sept. 6	Reading Reserves	League	Home	3-1	Wighton, Smith, Goddard
13	Folkestone	League	Away	0-1	
18	Northampton Town Reserves	League	Away	1-4	Smith
20	Whitwick Imperials	FA Cup Prelim.	Away	5-1	Porter (2), Smith, Lunn, Wighton
Oct. 4	Burton Town	FA Cup Q1	Home	4-2	Herbert (3), Wighton
11	Guildford United	League	Away	3-1	Wighton (2), Lunn
18	Hinckley United	FA Cup Q2	Home	2-0	Wighton, Lunn
23	Brighton and HA Reserves	League	Home	1-2	Smith (pen)
25	Portsmouth Reserves	League	Home	0-1	
Nov. 1	Gresley Rovers	FA Cup Q3	Home	2-2	Smith, Wighton
5	Gresley Rovers	FA Cup Q3 Replay	Away	2-1	Porter, Wighton
8	Norwich City Reserves	League	Away	0-3	
15	Alfreton Town	FA Cup Q4	Away	1-3	Wighton (pen)
22	Brighton and HA Reserves	League	Away	1-2	Herbert
29	Luton Town Reserves	League	Away	0-1	
Dec. 6	Northampton Town Reserves	League	Home	3-0	Smith, Wighton, Own Goal
20	Southampton Reserves	League	Away	0-1	
22	Millwall Reserves	League	Away	2-2	Winterton (2)
25	Coventry City Reserves	League	Home	0-1	
26	Coventry City Reserves	League	Away	0-4	
Jan. 3	Southampton Reserves	League	Home	2-4	Porter, Smith
10	Portsmouth Reserves	League	Away	0-2	
17	Folkestone	League	Home	4-0	Smith (2), Wighton, Goddard
31	Peterborough & Fletton Utd	League	Away	0-1	
Feb. 7	Milwall Reserves	League	Home	1-2	Porter
9	Kettering Town	League	Home	1-3	Porter
21	Leicester City Reserves	League	Home	3-1	Fathers, Wighton, Townsend
26	Kettering Town	League	Away	2-4	Wighton, Herbert
28	Guildford United	League	Home	0-2	
Mar. 14	Norwich City Reserves	League	Home	1-2	Wighton
21	Bournemouth & Bosc. Ath Res	League	Away	0-4	
23	Peterborough & Fletton United	League	Home	2-1	Wighton, Townsend
28	Bournemouth & Bosc. Ath Res	League	Home	1-0	Winterton
April 4	Watford Reserves	League	Home	1-1	Clack
14	Watford Reserves	League	Away	0-3	
18	Leicester City Reserves	League	Away	0-5	
25	Luton Town Reserves	League	Home	4-0	Wighton, Miller, Clack, Own Goal

Nuneaton Scores First



## East Midland League: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1924-25

Date	Opposition	Competition	Venue	Score	Scorers
Sept. 1	Coventry City Reserves	NCC Final	Home	0-0	
8	Atherstone Town	NHC S-F	Home	1-0	B. Mann
16	Desborough Town	League	Away	2-1	Finch (2)
22	Hinckley United	NHC S-F	Home	1-1	Lunn
25	Peterborough & Fletton United	League	Away	1-2	Wighton
27	Desborough Town	League	Home	1-1	Clack
29	Leicester City Reserves	League	Away	3-1	Whittaker, Wighton, Doughty
Oct. 2	Coventry City Reserves	CNC S-F	Away	0-1	
9	Northampton Town Reserves	League	Away	1-0	Wighton
30	Coventry City Reserves	NCC Final Replay	Away	0-1	
Nov. 20	Kettering Town	League	Home	2-2	Porter, Smith
Dec. 4	Hinckley United	ANC S-F	Away	4-2	Smith (2), Winterton, Porter
11	Luton Town Reserves	League	Home	1-1	Winterton
13	Rushden Town	League	Away	2-1	Wighton, Clack
30	Higham Town	League	Away	3-2	Clack (3)
Jan 1	Leicester City Reserves	League	Home	3-0	Winterton, Smith, Wighton
24	Higham Town	League	Home	3-1	Wighton (2), Fathers
Feb. 14	Luton Town Reserves	League	Away	1-1	Herbert
Mar. 7	Hinckley United	NHC Final Replay	Home	5-0	Wighton (2), Winterton, Smith, Porter
19	Northampton Town Reserves	League	Home	1-1	Winterton
Apr. 6	Kettering Town	League	Away	0-3	
13	Tamworth Castle	ANC Final	Sheepy Road	9-2	Wighton (5), Thompson, Herbert, Miller, Clack
11	Coventry City Reserves	League	Home	2-1	Wighton (2)
13	Coventry City Reserves	League	Away	0-3	
20	Peterborough & Fletton United	League	Home	0-3	
May 2	Rushden Town	League	Home	2-1	Clack (2)

Legend: NCC=Nuneaton Charity Cup. CNC=Coventry Nursing Cup. ANC=Atherstone Nursing Cup.  
NHC=Nuneaton Hospital Cup

Nuneaton Scores First



## Final Practice Match

The final public practice match of the Nuneaton Town players took place at Manor Park on Tuesday and was witnessed by a very good crowd. There was a good line out of the new players and their number included Shankly, the new centre-forward from Halifax and the new half-back Allon from Coventry City. 'Pop' Harris, the half-back from Hinckley was in the half-back line for the Reds.

The Red team possessed the probable first team forward line and the Whites, the probable back division. The game ended in a 3-1 win for the Whites. It was a good match and with the material at their disposal, the Town should be able to build up a good team. Shankly the new centre-forward, did not score but showed plenty of promise and has a dangerous left foot shot.

Tompkin was a success on the wing and his speedy runs were the object of much praise.

## Season 1925-1926

### Nuneaton Town v Reading Res. 29-08-1925

**Nuneaton:** Kester; Lodge and Struthers; Jones, Thompson and Allon; Clack, Deeming, Shankly, Wighton and Tompkin.

**Reading:** Goddard; Marsden and Mason; Dennington, Inglis and Imbry; Kennedy, Graham, Kerr, Oakes and Robson.

Nuneaton entertained Reading Reserves at Manor Park for the opening Southern League Eastern Division match of the 1925-26 season. Four to five thousand spectators were present at kick-off.

From the kick-off, a misunderstanding between Jones and Lodge let in Oakes, who centred well and a corner resulted, but Kerr shot wide. Town raced away to the other end of the field and a nice centre by Tompkins found Shankly, who tested Goddard. The ground was in perfect trim and the game commenced at a fast pace.

Kester was called on to save on two occasions before Jones passed the ball to Wighton, who shot into the keeper's arms. Graham beat Struthers and hit the ball from close range, but Kester punched out. The teams were playing good football and were evenly matched. There was some exciting play in front of the Reading goal and Goddard was forced to his knees to save.

Clack centred to Wighton, and although his shot was blocked by a Reading defender, he caught the ball on the rebound and beat Goddard with a nice screw shot. Reading had the best of the game following the goal and kept Nuneaton's defenders busy, with Kester bringing off two brilliant saves. Shankly missed an open goal and soon after Reading equalised, when Kerr drew Kester out of his goal and tipped the ball over his head. Soon afterwards the half-time whistle was sounded with the score 1-1.

Not long after the break, Thompson hit a shot along the ground from about 30 yards out. Goddard threw himself full length, but the ball bounced over him and into the net. Reading were playing the better football at the time and Kester had been kept busy. The Reading goal was then besieged for several minutes and eventually Clack centred and a defender headed away, but Allon took the ball on the run and scored with a terrific shot that gave the goalkeeper no chance.

Nuneaton's fourth goal was scored after half an hour of the second half and was netted by Shankly. He took the ball through the backs and beat Goddard easily. About three minutes after the same player repeated this performance and scored a similar goal. Needless to say the Nuneaton supporters greeted the 'Old Five' with wild enthusiasm. Just before the close, Wighton added a sixth goal from an opening by Shankly.

There is no doubt about the merits of the new man, Shankly, for he played a sterling and unselfish game throughout the match. His passing was faultless and he fed his colleagues tirelessly and when the time came he showed plenty of dash in his individual efforts. Wighton also played a splendid game and fully deserved the two goals to his credit.

### Leicester City Res. v Nuneaton Town 31-08-1925

**Leicester:** Hudson; Brown and Osborne; Baxter, Findlay and Gouch; Gibbs, Allen, Waterston, Sharp and Webb.

**Nuneaton:** Kester; Lodge and Struthers; Jones, Thompson and Allon; Clack, Deeming, Shankly, Whittaker and Tompkin.

Nuneaton made the short journey to play Leicester City on Monday when they were engaged with the reserve team of the First Division club in a Southern League fixture. A good band of local enthusiasts followed the team and although Nuneaton lost by five goals to two, they did not see their team disgraced.

The game opened sensationally, and both teams were dangerous in the first five minutes. During that time Nuneaton opened the scoring through Shankly after a fine pass by Clack. City made desperate efforts to equalise but were stopped by the safe keeping of Kester, who was responsible for pulling off some brilliant saves.

Their reward came half-an-hour later following a corner. Gouch sent in a terrific drive at close range. Three minutes later Waterston scored again for the City and at half-time the City retained their one goal lead.

Within eight minutes of the resumption, Nuneaton were on equal terms after the home keeper Hudson fumbled a shot from Shankly. It was not long after that the home team scored again through Waterston, whilst the same player made sure of the result by a second goal soon after. The City's fifth goal came from Gibbs, the ball cannoning off Allon into the net, giving Kester no chance.





## Nuneaton Town v Coventry City Res. 05-09-1925

**Nuneaton:** Kester; Conopo and Struthers; Jones, Guest and Allon; Akhurst, Clack, Shankly, Harris and Townsend.

**Coventry:** Findlay; Bellas and Campling; Brown, Jones and Ballantyne; McGregor, Ball, Tufton, Breslin and Parkin.

Nuneaton entertained Coventry City in a friendly match at Manor Park.

Obviously friendly football does not appeal to local soccer enthusiasts, but more than one thousand watched the game, and were treated to an excellent display of football, especially by Nuneaton, who displayed brilliant form.

The game was crammed with incident and there were few dull moments. This was especially so in the second half, when the home forwards played dazzling football. The halves were in constant touch with the forwards, and several swift-moving attacks had the Coventry defence all at sea.

Five goals came within a space of about twenty minutes, the last three goals coming in as many minutes. Seldom, if ever, had there been such a display of quick-scoring at Manor Park.

The match was a personal triumph for Shankly, the Nuneaton centre-forward, who found the net on four occasions. Two of his goals came as the result of sheer opportunism, while the other two were brought about by cleverly conceived forward movements, in which all the forwards participated. Nuneaton's other goal was obtained by Allon, who once again found the net with a terrific shot. He displayed brilliant form against his old colleagues. City's only goal came as a result of Struthers putting through his own goal.

### Nuneaton Supporters' Club

Fred Rose's Elite Entertainers, gave a concert at St George's Hall on Wednesday evening under the auspices of the Nuneaton Supporters' Club. An excellent programme of songs, recitations and sketches was given, those contributing being Fred Rose, Trixie Chester, Walleth Scott, Maude Leyton, Betty Murray and Nellie Forde. Some of the members were enthusiastically encored.

During an interval, Mr E. Poynton, chairman of the Nuneaton Football Club made an appeal on behalf of the club. As one of the founders of the supporters' club, and as its first chairman, he could say that there had never been a more loyal band of workers, and whatever had been asked of them, they had done it wisely and well. The football club itself, could not be complete without the Supporters' Club. He appealed to them to give all the support they could to their club. There was no reason why the townspeople should go to Birmingham, Leicester or Coventry to see better football, for if they would give their support, they would have better class football in Nuneaton very soon (applause), and there was no reason why Nuneaton should not be one of the best clubs in the district.

## Nuneaton Town v Folkestone 12-09-1925

**Nuneaton:** Kester; Lodge and Struthers; Jones, Thompson and Harris; Deeming, Clack, Shankly, Allon and Tompkin.

**Folkestone:** Goodman; Johnson and Hadley; Pearson, Sharpe and Saunders; Fraser, Weale, Middleton, Burnett and Nunn.

Nuneaton entertained Folkestone in a Southern League match at Manor Park. There was a large crowd of spectators.

The first action of the game saw Folkestone force a corner, but Struthers cleared. Deeming got away on the right but his centre went out of play. The same thing happened at the other end with Nunn after a pass from Middleton. Clack shot wide for Town following Tompkins centre, with only the keeper to beat. Shankly then headed over from Clack's cross as Nuneaton were enjoying most of the play and kept the visitors in their own half.

Another header from Shankly was tipped over by Goodman. After a Folkestone raid Shankly got the ball to Deeming, who centred for Harris to head towards goal, from where Goodman cleared, but only as far as Harris, who returned the ball into the area where Handley kicked off the goal line with Goodman out of position. Nuneaton were rewarded for their pressure with a goal after 25 minutes. Deeming centred to Clack who fired the ball into the net.

Play was very exciting at this period and Folkestone looked like equalising when Fraser beat Struthers and only had Kester to beat. The latter ran out and saved a powerful drive. Two fouls were awarded against Nuneaton and from the second Pearson hit the crossbar with a resounding thud.

It was just a minute after that following a melee in front of the home goal, Bennett shot and the ball was partly stopped by Kester, but the ball spun from his hand and into the net. Just before half-time Clack shot and Shankly touched the ball into the net, only to be given offside. Nuneaton players protested that the ball was in the net before Shankly touched it.

Clack went to outside-right after the break. A blunder by Lodge nearly brought disaster for Nuneaton but the Town then attacked and after Goodman had to deal with a header by Deeming, there was an abortive appeal for a penalty for handball by Pearson. A brilliant run by Nunn followed, and a header by Burnett went just over. Shankly was fouled well into Folkestone territory, and Allon drove the free-kick just wide.

Kester made a fine save on his knees following a corner and was tested once or twice again, but was safe. Saunders was laid out in a collision with Thompson, but was able to resume. Folkestone began to have more of the play and Nuneaton's chances were spoilt by poor passing. Clack won a corner, but Town didn't look like scoring.

Tompkin, for once, got in a good centre and Deeming went close. A corner by Clack led to a tussle in front of the visitors' net. Harris tried a shot, but Shankly got in the way of the ball, which was going into the net. Half an hour into the second half,

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



Folkestone broke through, and Burnett, with an open goal, had little difficulty in beating Kester. A long shot by Thompson gave Goodman trouble, while Allon put over from a free-kick.

After Burnett had missed an open goal, Shankly had a shot blocked. There was another home attack and Shankly tried to hook the ball in. Just before the close there was an improved Nuneaton attack and Shankly received a nice pass from Deeming, but failed to force his way through the strong opposition. At the final whistle Folkestone had won 2-1.

## Nuneaton Town v Atherstone Town 14-09-1925

**Nuneaton: Kester; Harris and Struthers; Knaggs, Guest and Allon; Clack, Deeming, Shankly, Claffy and Tompkin.**

**Atherstone: N. White; J. White and Bache; Saunders, Jennings and Challis; Evans, Blower, Fathers, Roberts and Bushnell.**

Nuneaton faced Atherstone Town in a Birmingham Senior Cup 1st Round tie at Manor Park.

Atherstone threatened at the start, but Roberts failed to bustle the ball past Kester. Five minutes after the start, Deeming dribbled the ball from the half-way line and passed to Shankly in the penalty area. The striker gave the Atherstone keeper no chance to save. Atherstone almost equalised a minute later, but Blower headed over.

Nuneaton's second goal was of a copy book style, with the home forwards pressing to perfection. Ultimately Shankly passed to Deeming who beat White with a first time shot. Rarely did Atherstone get out of their own half. Allon and Deeming both had attempts, while Shankly headed onto the crossbar. Atherstone were only playing with ten men and their forward line was disorganised, but the visitors were soon up to full strength again and this signalled their first goal. Blower centred and Fathers tipped the ball over Kester's head. A free-kick to Atherstone was taken by Challis, but Kester made a splendid save. White had to receive attention on the line. In a raid by the visitors, Atherstone looked like equalising, but Roberts placed straight into Kester's hands. The keeper was called on to save again in the next minute before Clack hit the crossbar at the other end. At the break Nuneaton led 2-1.

The opening of the second half saw Tompkin place the ball across the goalmouth, but the ball was cleared. A minute later, White was called on to save from Claffy before the visitors pressed for a while and Challis again tested Kester with a free-kick. Soon after Saunders fouled Claffy and Allon, taking the kick, scored easily. At the other end Blower hit the upright and in the next minute Claffy shot and White only partially cleared to Deeming who scored an easy goal.

Tompkin was busy on the wing and with his speed, he generally beat his man. Three successive raids came to no avail, the forwards failing to control the ball with accuracy. Shankly's splendid team work was rewarded by a good goal, Nuneaton's fifth. Towards the close Shankly scored again following a pass by Deeming and the final score was 6-1.

## Guildford United v Nuneaton Town 19-09-1925

**Nuneaton: Kester; Lodge and Struthers; Payne, Whittaker and Allon; Clack, Deeming, Shankly, Wighton and Tompkins.**

Nuneaton travelled to Surrey to take on Guildford United in a Southern League game

The game kicked off in heavy rain and Edwards gave away a free-kick in the Guildford half and Payne hit the angle from the free-kick, with Sharp having some difficulty in clearing. Nuneaton broke away and Tompkins put in a precision centre, from which Shankly tested Sharp, who tipped over. Sixteen minutes into the first half, Guildford scored when Ship put in a smart centre, Payne missed the ball, and Smith drove the ball high into the net, with Kester hopelessly beaten.

Two minutes later Briggs beat Lodge and had an open goal. Kester saved his shot, but without holding the ball and Markham rushed in and scored with ease. Nuneaton attacked and gained a corner, which proved abortive. Lodge and Struthers defended well during a Guildford attack. There was some excitement in the Nuneaton goal, Kester saving with difficulty. A fast shot by Williams passed just wide of the post.

Shankly made a good forcing run, and dribbled past two opponents, but failed to pass. A little later Shankly took the ball up and after manoeuvring for position, beat Sharp with a brilliant shot. Nuneaton attacked strongly after their goal and Deeming went close to scoring on two occasions. Guildford were then very aggressive and the Nuneaton defence was handicapped by the wind and slope, as well as the rain. A great run by Tompkin followed which he finished by landing the ball on top of the bar.

A strong and nippy attack by the home right wing saw the Nuneaton defence in a tangle, but Payne dashed in and saved the situation. Kester stopped a shot by Williams, just under the bar. At the break the home side had a 2-1 lead.

After the break Nuneaton dominated for some minutes and had two or three dangerous raids. Sharp saved from Shankly, who appeared to have hustled him into the net. Some good kicking by Struthers kept play in the Guildford half and after ten minutes of the second half, Nuneaton equalised. Mistakes by the home defence allowed Deeming to get in a successful shot. Nuneaton monopolised play and both Shankly and Deeming came close to scoring.

There were more thrills at the Nuneaton end, with Kester running out to save on one occasion. Following good defensive work by Struthers, Tompkin broke away and centred, but the goalkeeper threw away.

Another home attack saw Kester run out and was deceived by a pool of water, and it looked as if Guildford would be certain scorers, but Struthers rushed across and cleared. Allon made a good attempt from distance following Tompkin's centre, while Shankly and Deeming both went close to scoring.

After 40 minutes, Guildford took the lead through Ship. Kester

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



fell on the ball just against the post, but the referee ruled that it had gone over the line. The Nuneaton players strongly protested, but at the final whistle Guildford had won 3-2.

## Grays Thurrock Utd v Nuneaton Town 26-09-1925

**Nuneaton: Kester; Lodge and Struthers; Jones, Allon and Whittaker; Clack, Deeming, Shankly, Wighton and Tompkin.**

Nuneaton made the long journey to face Grays Thurrock United in a Southern League Eastern Division match.

The match started in a startling fashion, as within just 20 minutes the home side were three goals in the lead. Their success was due to a young and nimble forward line led by a “star” centre-forward in Allan, who scored the first three goals. The first goal was the result of some lightning quick play in front of the Nuneaton’s goal, which left Kester helpless. Craddock engineered the opening for the second goal, and the third was the direct result of Struthers’ inability to hold on to the ball. Others in Nuneaton’s defence fared no better and Grays took a lot of holding on both flanks as well as in the centre.

In the meantime, Nuneaton had their fair share of attacking, but Grays were as vigorous in defence, as they were in attack and packed their goal with defenders when danger threatened. Wighton got in two good shots in the early stages and Deeming also put in a fierce shot. Shankly was always aggressive. But, no success came Nuneaton’s way and Lodge made their position hopeless by giving away a penalty, which Grays scored. Just before the break, however, Nuneaton’s attack combined brilliantly and Shankly was able to reduce the deficit.

Shankly made a great chance for Deeming shortly after the interval, bustling two defenders off the ball just near the post and then centring, but the inside-right was unable to score, even though he was left with a perfect open goal. The Nuneaton defence was still shaky, and Frost found the net with a surprise shot from range and Hart added a sixth goal. Half-an-hour into the second half, Nuneaton got their second goal, and it was the best of the day, as Tompkin centred strongly after receiving the ball from Wighton. It looked as though it would pass out of reach of Shankly, who was near the far post, but he jumped high, met the ball with his head and just turned it in.

## Nuneaton Town v Leicester City Res. 28-09-1925

**Nuneaton: Kester; Struthers and Lodge; Guest, Bird and Allon; Deeming, Claffy, Shankly, Wighton and Tompkin.**

Nuneaton met Leicester City Reserves in the Nuneaton Charity Cup semi-final at Manor Park on Monday evening and were defeated by three goals to one. There were about 1,500 spectators present.

Leicester opened in a dashing style and some good footwork was seen. Their passing was excellent and nine minutes from

the start, the visitors gained the lead. Carrigan passed out to Glithgo whose centre was converted by Waterson, the Leicester centre-forward.

Five minutes afterwards the same player netted a second goal. It was a screw shot from the centre of a crowd of players, with the ball passing over Lodge, Nuneaton’s left full-back. Nuneaton then asserted themselves and Wighton sent Tompkin away down the wing. The latter placed the ball in the centre for Shankly, who headed a splendid goal. Shortly afterwards, Tuckley missed an open goal, but made amends in the next minute, scoring Leicester’s third goal after a free-kick.

No goals were scored in the second half, mainly due to the spirited play of the Nuneaton full-backs Struthers and Lodge. Kester was also in good form in goal. The home side gave a trial to Bird at centre-half and he had all his work cut out to stop the City forwards. He received good help from Allon, the right-half, who played one of his best games of the season.

Guest, the left-half, was off-colour in the first half but improved in the second. Shankly was the only Nuneaton forward to shine, but Tompkin on the left-wing would have done better if Wighton, his partner had been up to his usual form. After a shaky start, Nuneaton held their opponents, especially in the second half.

## Nuneaton Town v Watford Res. 03-10-1925

**Nuneaton: Kester; Lodge and Struthers; Jones, Dalton and Allon; Deeming, Wighton, Shankly, King and Tompkin.**

Nuneaton faced Watford Reserves at Manor Park in a Southern League game. The home side had two new players in the side, Halton at inside-left and King at centre-half.

Up to the last minute it was doubtful whether King would be playing due to his lack of training, but his performance justified his inclusion in the side. With the exception that Wighton was moved to inside-right, the team was the same as last week. There was a splendid crowd.

The first half was goalless, but Town had the best of the play. They made frequent incursions, and the attacking play inspired confidence. Deeming was well fed by Jones and was often a source of trouble for the visitors. The best shot came from Wighton, but Shankly had several tries at goal.

There was a fierce tussle in front of the Watford net just before the interval, and two or three shots in quick succession, were rather luckily blocked. The Watford defence as a whole performed creditably. The difference between the two teams was in attack, where the home team were clearly superior.

In the second half Nuneaton kept the upper hand and Wighton, after having a great shot well stopped by Fryer, opened the scoring ten minutes before half-time. When Watford equalised from a penalty, it looked likely to be a draw, but Nuneaton played up spiritedly, and Shankly scored the winning goal a few minutes from time.

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



## Nuneaton Town v Guildford United 10-10-1925

**Nuneaton:** Kester; Lodge and Struthers; Jones, Dalton and Allon; Deeming, Wighton, Shankly, King and Tompkin.

Nuneaton welcomed Guildford United to Manor Park for a Southern League Eastern Section match.

Guildford had the better of the opening exchanges, but their movements broke down in front of goal. Nuneaton also attacked and Shankly just failed with a good shot. Ship tested Kester with a good shot before the visitors were caught offside on two occasions near to the home penalty area.

Guildford took the lead after 18 minutes when Smith scored following a pass from Ship. Nuneaton won a corner just after, but Allon shot over the bar. A second corner saw Shankly head over before some exciting play in the Guildford area saw Allon go very close. The Guildford keeper tipped the ball onto the post and the visitors had a lucky escape. Struthers and Lodge defended well under pressure before the break and at half time the visitors led 1-0.

Shankly tested Smith straight after the break and the ball ran all the way across the goal, but there was no-one to take advantage. The home side hit the crossbar before Guildford attacked and missed an open goal with Lodge clearing the danger by kicking over. From the corner Ship headed into the net, giving Kester no chance. Nuneaton went to pieces for a spell after the second goal.

Town got back into the game and attacked, and after 28 minutes they were awarded a free-kick, which was taken by Deeming and Allen scored. This success revived the hopes of the home team and they played with more determination. Smith brought off a splendid save from Wighton. Shankly also had the ball taken from his toe when he was a few yards from the goal. About ten minutes from time a foul charge by Percy Jones resulted in a penalty, from which Gilchrist scored.

## Nuneaton Town v Norwich City Res. 24-10-1925

**Nuneaton:** Kester; Struthers and Lodge; Jones, Bird and Allon; Clack, Wighton, Shankly, King and Tompkin.

**Norwich:** Williamson; Hannah and Camping; Murphy, Davies and Earl; Featherby, Wall, Metcalf, Duthie and Stokes.

Nuneaton welcomed Norwich City Reserves to Manor Park for a Southern League Eastern Division fixture. It was a great struggle and there were plenty of thrills for the 3,000 spectators.

The opening exchanges were fast and Nuneaton asserted themselves with Bird and Jones being prominent. Duthie tested Kester before the home side won three corners in short time. Wighton shot over the bar, while at the other end Duthie drove in a hard shot. Nuneaton attacked again and Shankly tested Williamson from Clack's centre. Bird put in a shot from 30 yards which Williamson saved at the foot of the post.

The Norwich keeper had to punch clear from Shankly before

Tompkin set Shankly clear with an excellent pass and the centre-forward got clean through and beat Williamson with a left-foot shot to give the home side the lead. The visitors made strenuous efforts to equalise and after many fruitless attempts, Duthie got through and scored just before the interval.

Town went ahead straight after the break when Clack finished a nice move by centring to Shankly, who raced forward and bundled both the keeper and the ball into the net. Nuneaton were playing really well at this stage, but Struthers was injured and had to retire. Nuneaton won a free-kick for handball and Bird sent in a stinger, while Shankly had a good chance to increase the lead, but failed to gather Clack's centre. City had much of the play, but were frequently offside.

Shankly forced an abortive corner, after which a rush by the visitors led to Duthie touching the ball in, 23 minutes from the interval. In the meantime King had to retire, but Struthers returned. Clack made strenuous effort to bring about the lead, but Norwich were attacking with skill and speed. City lost a player through injury before Wall put them ahead after 30 minutes, shooting well after a tussle in front of the home goal.

Struthers had gone outside left with Allon dropping back as City continued to enjoy most of the play and Wall netted again close to the end, beating Kester with a fine shot.

## Nuneaton Town v Luton Town Res. 31-10-1925

**Nuneaton:** Kester; Lodge and Struthers; Jones, Whittaker and Allon; Clack, Smith, Shankly, Wighton and Tompkin.

Nuneaton welcomed Luton Town Reserves to Manor Park for a Southern League Eastern Division fixture.

The first half was fairly evenly contested and neither side deserved a lead at the interval, though it was Luton's good fortune to score just a second before the whistle blew. It was one of the softest goals ever seen at Manor Park, and was evidently due to a complete misunderstanding between Lodge and Kester. The home keeper made no attempt to save and the ball simply rolled past him and into the net.

At the start of the second half, Luton, encouraged by their good luck, monopolised play. However, fifteen minutes after the restart, Nuneaton equalised. A prolonged tussle following a flag kick ended in Allon driving the ball through a group of players and into the net.

It was also Allon who, twenty minutes later, put Town ahead. The goal was the outcome of another of the many free-kicks awarded to the home team, and was a little outside the penalty line. Allon hit the free-kick over the heads of the Luton players and into the top of the net with a remarkable shot. A few minutes later Shankly got in a clear run and made no mistake.

In the last minute of play, when darkness had made play almost invisible, Foster Robinson, the Luton outside left and former Nuneaton Town player, reduced the deficit by bustling Kester and knocking the ball into the net.





## Nuneaton Town v Burton Town 07-11-1925

**Nuneaton:** Kester; Conopo and Lodge; Jones, Pratt and Allon; Clack, Smith, Shankly, Wighton and Townsend.

**Burton:** Payne; Langley and Cheer; Locker, Beck and Humphreys; Jordan, Ball, Perks, Maycock and Harrold.

Nuneaton welcomed Burton Town of the Birmingham League to Manor Park for a Birmingham Senior Cup 3rd Round tie.

Supporters were again disappointed when the club was defeated by two goals to nil. Burton fully deserved their victory as the home side were let down in the full-back division, where there was faulty kicking and bad positioning. Burton should not have been allowed to break through as much as they did. The half-backs were a better line, although Pratt was outshone by the opposite pivot, Beck, who was a great asset to the visitors.

The home forwards were not an inspiring lot, which was largely due to Burton's clever defensive tactics. Shankly, always a trier, had hard luck in hitting the post. Clack was perhaps the most successful of the quintet, but Townsend was eclipsed and it was the first match of the season where Town have failed to score. Harrold was the shining light in the Burton attack.

The first half was goalless, Burton being the most aggressive, whilst Nuneaton attacked again and again without result. Both goals had narrow escapes.

After the interval Burton increased the pressure and after six minutes play, Perks had a glorious opening and snapping it up, beat Kester easily with a shot into the far corner of the net. Nuneaton made a strong bid for an equaliser, but Burton were tenacious defenders. Towards the close Jordan netted with a clever screw shot.

A report on the FA Cup match against Worcester City appears on a later page.

### Shareholders To Be Consulted

A meeting of the shareholders of the Nuneaton Town Football Club has been called to discuss the future of the club in view of the present serious financial position brought about by the poor gates at Manor Park.

A meeting of the directors was held on Wednesday evening when the players were also interviewed. They were presented with a financial statement and a compromise was suggested, but without success.

Financially, the position of the club was actually no worse than at the beginning of the season. In fact, they had made a slight profit up to date, which was a big contrast to the position of affairs this time last season, but they were losing so many matches that the funds were going down. They had been building on making money out of the FA Cup, but their hopes were dashed to the ground by Worcester last Saturday.

## Nuneaton Town v Kettering Town 21-11-1925

**Nuneaton:** Owen; Harris and Clarke; Jones, Allon and Conopo; Clack, King, Shankly, Wighton and Tompkin.

Nuneaton welcomed Kettering Town to Manor Park for a Southern League Eastern Division match.

Nuneaton Town supporters were all smiles when the home side were leading easily by 5-2 at half-time, but their faces fell in the second half! Not only did Kettering achieve the apparently impossible and wipe off the arrears, but more extraordinary still, went one better and ended up winning by 6-5. It was one of the most remarkable games seen at Manor Park.

Nuneaton were really brilliant in the first half, and showed what heights they can rise to. Kettering were first to score through Allison, but the home team soon equalised. Kettering took the lead again, but Shankly levelled the scores. After this Nuneaton put on three more goals before the interval, including a penalty, giving them a commanding lead at the break.

The home side's second half deterioration shows that a match is never lost or won till the final whistle. Over-confidence, no doubt, had a lot to do with it, but did not excuse it. In view of the present position of the club, and the great pressure to gain points, it was regrettable that they should have let slip a victory which was already in their grasp. The team lost a good deal of pace and dash in the second half and its grip on the opposition was less pronounced. Too often those last few inches that make such a difference were sacrificed.

## Nuneaton Town v Birmingham City A 28-11-1925

**Nuneaton:** Owen; Struthers and Conopo; Payne, Whittaker and Ballantyne; Deeming, Finch, Dobson, Bromage and Townsend.

With there being no Southern League fixture to fulfil, Birmingham City send their Colts team to Manor Park to assist the home side during their financial difficulties.

The first half provided some attractive play with the lads from "Brum" leading off with several bright movements. Their nippiness troubled the home defence and after ten minutes play Conopo missed his kick when worried by Ellis and Pountney ran in to score with ease. Within another ten minutes play the Colts again had the home defence guessing, and Jones, their centre-forward, netted a good goal.

A few minutes after the interval, Town reduced the lead with an excellent goal from Finch, who converted a centre from Deeming, robbing the Birmingham keeper in the mouth of the goal. Nuneaton had more of the play in what was a scrappy second half, but their forwards had little finish, and the Colts defended coolly. The home team were assisted in this half by the veteran F. Payne, who came out in place of Struthers and went inside-left. He showed good form and towards the close of the game was the most dangerous and hard-working attacker on the home side, as well as the best

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



shot. One of his volleys, a fast ground shot, was particularly good. Birmingham had two good wingers in Pountney and Ellis, who gave a deal of trouble.

## Luton Town Res. v Nuneaton Town 05-12-1925

**Nuneaton: Kester; Lodge and Conopo; Pratt, Whittaker and Allon; Clack, King, Shankly, Wighton and Tompkin.**

Nuneaton travelled to play Luton Town Reserves in a Southern League Eastern Division match. The ground was hard and slippery and there was some doubt as to whether the game would go ahead.

The early stages of the contest clearly revealed the superiority of the visitors, who commenced peppering the home goal with well directed shots. The three inside men were all busy, with Shankly the most dangerous. A lovely effort by the centre-forward was saved by Luton keeper Mingay, who turned the ball round the post.

It was one of the best displays of shooting given by Nuneaton and merited the reward of a goal, which came after 25 minutes. A clever movement led to a tussle in front of the Luton goal, from which Mingay was absent, and Shankly walked the ball into the net. Luton had a similar amount of attacks, but lacked the combination and control of the visitors. Thompson, the home side's inside-right, struck the angle of the post and bar with some force, and towards the interval came a concerted Luton attack, during which Kester showed commendable agility and skill.

The opening of the second half saw Luton having more of the game, but they were indifferent finishers and had it not been for a fortunate penalty, Nuneaton would have had the game pretty much in hand. Conopo was judged to have fouled Littlewood, but the offence did not look a serious one and the full-back protested his innocence. Despite strong protests, the kick was awarded and was successfully converted.

Two or three minutes later, invigorated by their good fortune, Luton scored again from a rounbound, and there was no further score, although Nuneaton had a lengthy spell attacking.

## Brighton & HA Res. v Nuneaton Town 12-12-1925

**Nuneaton: Kester; Paul and Conopo; Pratt, Whittaker and Thompson; Deeming, Clack, Shankly, King and Tompkin.**

Nuneaton journeyed to Brighton to fulfil their Southern League Eastern Division fixture.

Brighton attacked hard at the start and Whittaker did well to check Gilgun when he looked like going through. Ison broke through for the home side and Kester did well to clear from his shot, but a minute later, in the next Brighton attack, Gilgun scored easily.

Brighton were far superior to the visitors, Nuneaton cutting a sorry spectacle against the smartness of the home side's forwards and Ison nearly got through, but Kester came to the

rescue of his backs. Gilgun headed over the top with Kester beaten while Nuneaton forced a fruitless corner. Brighton went further ahead when MacKay headed a brilliant goal from Beech's free kick, which was awarded for a foul on Hoyland.

Shankly was the only Nuneaton forward who ever looked dangerous. Kester had to dive to save from Hoyland before Nuneaton recovered and Deeming got away before centring for King to score. From a good pass from Ison, Cheetham headed in to register Brighton's third goal.

Fuller scored from a penalty early in the second half. Whittaker stopped the next Brighton attack in clever fashion, but Cheetham headed another goal 13 minutes into the second half. Shankly led a hot attack on the Brighton goal, but was beaten by Smith, while Tompkins got in a magnificent drive, but the ball went over the bar. Kester saved magnificently from Ison and in the next minute Hoyland struck the post on two occasions as Brighton continued to dominate the game. Towards the end of the game Paul took a free-kick close in, but the Brighton keeper tipped the ball over the bar.

## Nuneaton Town v Brighton & HA Res. 19-12-1925

**Nuneaton: Kester; Lodge and Conopo; Allon, Thompson and Pratt; Clack, King, Shankly, Wighton and Tompkin.**

Nuneaton welcomed Brighton and Hove Albion Reserves to Manor Park for a Southern League Eastern Section fixture.

The game was well-fought and an interesting struggle, with goals coming at fairly regular intervals. Although Town were leading at half-time, their best work was done in the second half, when the attack played well to a man, and established quite an ascendancy. The defence improved considerably and it was the best half-back display of the season, with Thompson, Allon and Pratt being a great trio, all tackling and passing to good purpose. Pratt also came into prominence as a marksman. The backs rose to the occasion and in the closing stages of the game the defence cleared in fine style, allowing the forwards to give a good account of themselves.

Nuneaton's attack was consistently good and Wighton was presented with two ideal openings by Shankly, which he could scarcely have helped scoring from on each occasion. The inside-left also did some good opening out of play. King gave an excellent display and scored Nuneaton's first goal. Clack put in some good service down the flank and his crosses were of an excellent standard. Tompkin was the weaker of the wingers, although he improved in the second half and it was from one of his centres that Nuneaton scored the fourth goal.

The total ought to have been larger, for two or three good chances in front of goal were missed, but the spectators were highly satisfied. The shining light of the Brighton team was Ison, formerly of Nuneaton and Chapel End.



## Nuneaton Town v Coventry City Res. 25-12-1925

**Nuneaton:** Kester; Harris and Conopo; Allon, Thompson and Pratt; Clack, King, Shankly, Wighton and Tompkin.

Nuneaton welcomed Coventry City Reserves to Manor Park on Christmas morning for a Southern League Eastern Division match. Despite the wintry conditions the match went ahead.

The snow did not affect play greatly, but the home side adapted to the conditions better than their opponents. The hero of the day was Percy Tompkin, the Town outside left, who touched a brilliance of form he had never yet shown this season. He continually got past his man and centred.

The opening exchanges were even, but then Tompkin got through, and put across a lovely centre. Shankly met the ball under the bar with his head, putting the home side 1-0 up. Kester had to deal with a couple of shots from distance before Shankly swung the ball out to Clack who centred for Tompkin to net with a first-time shot, well out of Best's reach.

Coventry hit back and Chapman hit the post before Tompkin broke through brilliantly and supplied Shankly with a perfect pass, but the centre-forward missed with an open goal. City got back on the attack and Nuneaton backs cleared well. About five minutes before the interval, Shankly met a pass by Wighton, and turned the ball past Best and into the net. Straight from the kick-off, Town scored again with Tompkin again the instigator, working well to get the ball, and then passing to Wighton. The latter touched it to Shankly, who netted with two backs in close attendance.

Coventry were outplayed for a while and their goal was besieged. Best was in difficulty again and King promptly put the ball into the visitors' net eight minutes from the interval. City retaliated and McGregor centred well. Kester could only tip the ball up and Chapman pushed the ball into the net. Three minutes later, Pratt was fouled in the City half and took the kick himself. The ball was placed to Shankly, who bustled the ball into the net.

City improved in attack, but Town hit back and Best had to make a save from Wighton. Ball made an excellent run, and followed it up with some good work in front of goal, which led to Breslin aiming for the corner of the net. Kester saved and pushed the ball out for a corner. Both keepers featured well towards the end before Nuneaton very nearly scored again.

## Coventry City Res v Nuneaton Town 26-12-1925

**Nuneaton:** Owen; Harris and Conopo; Allon, Thompson and Pratt; Clack, King, Shankly, Wighton and Tompkin.

Nuneaton travelled to Highfield Road on Boxing Day for a Southern League Eastern Division fixture.

The return game between Nuneaton and Coventry was as well fought and interesting as the Christmas Day fixture. Expectations that Nuneaton would again take the points

were not realised, but at one or two stages of the game, they looked as if they might. City finished stronger than their opponents and had more of the play in the closing stages.

Nuneaton's display was good throughout. It was a pity they were without Kester, for although Owen again did very well, there is every reason to believe that the Dordon youth would have done still better, and would have kept down Coventry's total to a lower figure than five goals.

The Nuneaton forwards were again on excellent form, and soon revealed their scoring skills. In 25 minutes they had put on two goals, and seemed to have victory well in hand, but the City took up the running, and scored three times without further response, although Shankly hit the post.

There was an excellent Nuneaton rally after the interval, and when Shankly equalised, things looked rosy again for the visitors, but the latter exchanges were all in Coventry's favour.

### Statement by Mr F. Payne

#### Nuneaton Combination League Dinner

Mr Fred Payne, Chairman of the Nuneaton Football Combination, a director of Nuneaton AFC, and one of the mortgagees, entertained the officials and club representatives of the Combination to a New Year's Dinner Party on Tuesday.

Commenting on a reference made to the affairs of Nuneaton AFC, Mr Payne said he did not propose to say much about a delicate position, but everything he had ever done in the club's affairs and in its management had been straightforward (applause). The financial position of the club was serious, but he could tell them with confidence that there was still going to be a team in Nuneaton. The Town AFC, would continue to run, and he hoped to see some real friends of the game and the club at the helm, and prosperity reign at Manor Park (applause).

## Reading Reserves v Nuneaton Town 02-01-1926

**Reading:** Goddard; Marsden and Mason; Wilson, Dennington and Penney; Fell, Graham, Imbery, Oakes and Springell.

**Nuneaton:** Kester; Harris and Conopo; Allon, Thompson and Pratt; Clack, Smith, Shankly, Wighton and Tompkin.

Nuneaton travelled to Reading to face 'The Biscuitmen' in a Southern League Eastern Division game.

The visitors surprised the home team by netting in the first two minutes through Shankly. It was an excellent goal with the Reading defence caught napping. Smith gave Clack a good pass and he made rapid progress before centring accurately and Shankly scored with a slashing drive.

Almost immediately after the break the home side got back on level terms through a penalty, when Conopo was penalised for handling. Imbery scored from the spot. Half-



an-hour later Reading were awarded another penalty, again against Conopo, who made unfair use of his elbow when a home forward was going through. This time Kester saved in masterly fashion.

Midway through the concluding portion Shankly again did his side good service by scoring a wonderful winning goal. The lead-up again came from the right as Clack centred the ball with great accuracy and Shankly flicked the ball into the net with his head, with both full-backs standing alongside him. Both goals underwent some narrow escapes, but Reading should have equalised when Oakes hit the post and Imbery headed the ball over with Kester lying on the ground.

The home side continued to have the better of the play after the break, but the Nuneaton backs showed some brilliant form in their defending. Sometimes they were fortunate with their clearances, but they lost little time with their tackling and it was seldom that they wasted a ball. Being under such pressure it was only natural that they should be beaten on many occasions, but Kester then came into his own. He saved shots from every one of the Reading forwards, but his best was a full-length clearance from Graham, which he followed up by punching clear when the ball came back again. During the bombardment of his goal in the closing stages, he averted a certain goal when he saved a terrific drive that was going just under the bar.

## Nuneaton Town v Peterborough & Fletton U. 09-01-1926

**Nuneaton: Kester; Harris and Conopo; Allon, Thompson and Pratt; Clack, Smith, Shankly, Wighton and Tompkin.**

Nuneaton welcomed Peterborough and Fletton United to Manor Park for a Southern League Eastern Section game.

The home team had the best of the opening stages with both Allon and Shankly being dangerous. After being penned in for quite a long time, Burton made a good run for the visitors. Nine minutes after the start Peterborough scored with a simple goal when Willis centred for Thain, who found Kester hesitating, and turned the ball tamely into the net.

The home side had another long spell of attacking and their strenuous efforts for the equaliser caused plenty of excitement for the large crowd. They did not bear fruit, however, though nice form was shown by the whole of the forward line. Peterborough began to have more of the play, and though they showed plenty of skill, Kester was not tested again.

Tompkin came into the picture, but his centre went too far forward. A raid by the visitors saw Pratt intervene and Tompkin burst away again, but his centre was blocked. Wighton put in a shot and Whitehead had to save with Shankly close by. Another centre by Tompkin went over the top while Kester had to save from Burton, but Nuneaton hit back and equalised with a beautiful goal, about half-an-hour after the start.

From a tussle in front of the visitors' goal, Wighton fired in a

terrific shot. Whitehead flung himself full-length towards the ball in vain. Nuneaton were on top after this success and the visitors' goal had several narrow escapes before half-time.

Nuneaton re-opened on the offensive and Wighton and Tompkin worked well together before the latter centred and the ball ran along the bar and came back into play. Smith just missed with a powerful drive, while Peterborough developed a strong attack and Kester had to save Lawson's header from close range. The visitors' goal had a narrow escape when Wighton just failed to get a foot to the ball in the mouth of the net, while the same player headed over from a corner immediately afterwards.

Twenty-three minutes after the break Town were awarded a penalty for handball. Allon took the kick and put the ball wide of the post. Peterborough became very aggressive after this let-off and Burton shot into the side netting. Nuneaton attacked again and Shankly, bustling the Peterborough backs, had hard lines in hitting the post. The visitors retaliated and after Kester had run out to Thain and saved, Salt struck the crossbar with a lusty drive. Nuneaton were attacking persistently towards the end, but failed to gain the lead.

## Mortgagees' Notice to Foreclose

It was announced on Friday last that Messrs. Payne Bros. who hold a £3,000 mortgage on the Manor Park ground had given the Town Club notice that they intended to foreclose.

Something has apparently happened recently to account for the attitude of the mortgagees, and it was significant that at a shareholders' meeting a fortnight ago Mr F. Payne declared that the club was insolvent and that it was impossible to carry on with the present management. Moreover the interest on the mortgage, due to be paid on Thursday, was not paid and this may have been the cause of the firm's action, which, unless something extraordinary happens, means the extinction of the club as at present constituted.

It was proposed some time ago to issue debentures to the value of £4,000 to pay off the mortgage and sundry creditors amounting to between £700 and £800. A fair amount is owing to players in respect of wages. The issue of debentures is now in course of preparation.

Messrs. Payne Bros. in an interview stated: "It is expected that the debentures will be forthcoming and that they would have given us six months' notice to pay off the mortgage; our action of giving them notice to pay off the mortgage will save the club £80 in interest."

The value of the ground and fittings as a sports arena, as estimated by an authorised valuer, is in excess of the club's liabilities. The estate, as originally bought by the club, comprised 23 acres, but about two-thirds of it has been sold in various lots, yielding a handsome profit on the deal. All this money, and other besides, has been lost during the club's existence these last few years.





## Directors Meeting

The Directors considered the position on Monday evening and after the meeting issued a statement to the effect that it was decided to push forward with the scheme for debentures as soon as possible, and also to hold a town's meeting in the near future for the inauguration of the scheme. The Board were absolutely unanimous on the debenture scheme. The prospectus would have been out before now, but owing to circumstances over which the directors had no control there had been some little delay. This is through no fault of the directors. The announcement of the town's meeting will be made as soon as it is possible to fix a definite date.

## Position of Former Director

A former secretary and member of the Board of Directors, of Nuneaton Town FC, Mr Sam Saunders, who was suspended from the directorate some months ago by the FA on the grounds that he was a professional footballer, and had not been re-instated as an amateur, has had his application to again sit on the Board refused. The communication received from the secretary of the FA states: "Rule 27 re: Nuneaton Town FC. Your application for permission to become a director of the above club has been considered. We are unable to accede to your request." No reason is given for the refusal, and Mr Saunders intends writing asking for a further explanation as he has never known an instance where an application from a club for a professional to be placed on the Board of Directors has been refused.

It is over 20 years since Mr Saunders finished playing as a professional footballer, other professionals of that day being W. Bassett, J. Dewey, Howard Spencer and Jack Sharpe, all of whom act in official capacities with well-known clubs.

## Nuneaton Town v Millwall Reserves 23-01-1926

**Nuneaton: Kester; Harris and Conopo; Allon, Thompson and Pratt; Clack, Smith, Shankly, Wighton and Tompkin.**

Nuneaton welcomed Millwall Reserves to Manor Park for a Southern League Eastern Division fixture.

Nuneaton put up another creditable performance and thoroughly deserved a draw with the 2-0 scoreline in favour of the visitors not representing the run of the game.

The Millwall goal had several very narrow escapes. There was one occasion when Clack headed against the upright with the keeper beaten. The opening goal came in the first two minutes of the game when Black, the very elusive outside-right of Millwall, ran half the length of the field before cutting in and touching the ball to Landalls, who had an open goal and made good use of it.

Apart from this goal, it was an even struggle and Millwall's other goal came from a penalty, awarded for an infringement by Conopo. Nuneaton had their full share of the game as could be seen by the large amount of corners they won. The

home team did not take their scoring chances, although there was nothing which could be termed as a serious blunder.

Shankly, the Nuneaton centre-forward was well watched, and had few chances to shine. Wighton was not so much in the picture as usual, the left wing being starved, which was a pity seeing that Tompkin was again in form. Clack had a great day, and made the most of his opportunities. He was Nuneaton's outstanding forward. Smith got through a lot of good work, but the display of the half-back line was patchy, especially in the second half when at times its kicking was faulty, and it seemed to lose a grip.

The excellence of both Harris and Conopo at back was a feature of the game. They were bold and energetic tacklers, and did some sure kicking in moments of emergency.

## Folkestone v Nuneaton Town 30-01-1926

**Folkestone: Goodman; Johnson and Headley; Pearson, Corporal Berry and Saunders; Sharpe, Fraser, Sergeant Hill, Weale and Nunn.**

**Nuneaton: Kester; Harris and Conopo; Allon, Thompson and Pratt; Clack, Smith, Shankly, Wighton and Tompkin.**

Nuneaton travelled to Folkestone for a Southern League Eastern Division match which ended with the home team winning their first game since October.

Folkestone were aggressive from the start, but found the visiting defence sound. Clack went down the field in splendid style on the right, and when Goodman failed to clear his cross, Wighton netted, the ball going in off the upright, with just three minutes gone. In the next minute Folkestone equalised through Pearson. Thompson headed away from a corner kick and Pearson fired a first-time shot, which Kester touched, but could not stop. Nuneaton had a good share of the play and Smith next shot wide following which Headley made a timely clearance in the goalmouth from a header off a corner kick by Wighton.

Kester saved a dangerous header and when Fraser got away, Kester came out to stem the danger. The home keeper then tipped another shot over the bar. At the other end Thompson put in a long shot from a free-kick and Goodman punched clear. Folkestone were not very aggressive and only Kester's brilliance prevented the seaisiders from taking the lead. Shankly put a great chance over the bar from close in before Folkestone were awarded a penalty after Pratt had handled. Kester saved the penalty kick, but the referee ordered it retaken and Kester saved again.

Clack got injured and went off for attention and two minutes before the interval Thompson struck the crossbar with a terrific drive and before Goodman could clear, Shankly scored.

Folkestone were aggressive after the break and gave Nuneaton's defence a busy time. The visitors, however, proved quicker on the ball and eventually more than held their own. Centres by both Clack and Tompkin were effectively smothered, and at the other end, a corner was

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



conceded by Conopo and Folkestone scored following the flag-kick with Sharp netting in a melee.

A free-kick right on the penalty line was given against Folkestone for a foul, and Allon placed the ball right into the goalmouth. During the subsequent scrimmage, two home and one visiting player were injured, and offside relieved the pressure. Pratt and Tompkin engineered a good movement but one of the home backs found touch. Smith put the ball forward to Pratt, but he put behind.

Folkestone fell away and play was frequently in the home area. Black was brought down making a dangerous break, but the free-kick came to nothing. Nuneaton conceded several corners and from one of these Sharp hit the bar. A minute before the end Folkestone made a great effort and following a corner kick, Hill shot into the net during a scrimmage to give the home side victory.

## Nuneaton Town v Northampton Town Res. 06-02-1926

**Nuneaton: Kester; Harris and Conopo; Allon, Thompson and Pratt; Clack, King, Shankly, Wighton and Tompkin.**

Nuneaton welcomed Northampton Town Reserves to Manor Park for a friendly game. The match proved to be an interesting encounter and was worthy of a larger gate.

Nuneaton took the lead in the very first minute of the game. A splendid round of passing sent Tompkin racing along the wing and he centred with a great kick for Shankly to head into the net. Northampton retaliated and Kester had his work cut out. After a quarter of an hour's play Tompkin excelled himself again with a fine centre, but Shankly couldn't get enough force behind the header and Ferrari cleared, but the ball came back to Shankly, who made no mistake on the second occasion and put a shot high into the net. Nuneaton's pace slackened having taken a two goal lead and Buckley, the Northampton Town centre-forward scored. Kester saved his first shot, but Buckley picked up the rebound and shot into the net.

Kester made a magnificent save from O'Rourke, who had an open goal, but the home keeper tipped the ball around the post. Nuneaton changed over with a goal lead and in the first few minutes of the second half looked like adding to their score. They were awarded two corners, but they were to no avail. About ten minutes after, however, Shankly passed to King, who took the ball a short distance and then passed back to the centre and Shankly rushed in and fired the ball past the Northampton keeper.

Shaw struck the crossbar for the visitors, but shortly after Boyd made amends with an excellent solo effort. He bored his way through the defence and finished by beating Kester to cut the deficit to 3-2. The visitors nearly scored again just after, but Kester was just able to save. Kester then fielded a cross, but fell and lost the ball, which Buckley fired past his prostrate body and into the net.

Northampton were on top for a long time and Kester was kept busy. Less than 15 minutes from the close Boyd ran almost half the length of the field and scored as Kester came out. Town pushed for an equaliser, but failed.

## Portsmouth Res. v Nuneaton Town 13-02-1926

**Portsmouth: White; Brent and Russell; Barlow, Forsyth and Davison; Goodwin, McKechnie, Haines, Dearn and Parkin.**

**Nuneaton: Kester; Harris and Conopo; Jones, Thompson and Allon; Clack, Smith, King, Wighton and Tompkin.**

Nuneaton travelled to Fratton Park to take on Portsmouth Reserves in a Southern League Eastern Section game. The home side had not been beaten at Fratton Park since September.

Portsmouth won the toss and following an unsuccessful effort by Smith and Clack, swept down and won a corner from which Kester saved. Goodwin then put in a high shot, but Kester saved. Clack dribbled through to just miss the target from an acute angle. Kester made a daring save from Dearn and in doing so turned a complete somersault.

Wighton initiated a good movement which sent Smith and Clack through the home defence, but King headed over. Dearn broke through for the home side, but Kester beat him in a race for the ball. Nuneaton were having just as much of the play as their opponents and King headed wide.

The Pompey defence kicked wildly under pressure, and Nuneaton fought hard for a goal, a neat backward header by Wighton forcing the home keeper to save low down. Dearn then secured possession close to goal and as Kester dashed out to meet him, he coolly placed the ball past the visiting goalkeeper and into the net. Portsmouth afterwards attacked vigorously and Goodwin, who displayed great liveliness on the right was a source of anxiety for Allon and Conopo and Kester turned one of his pile-drivers aside after he had beaten Allon and Conopo in turn.

Portsmouth went off with a burst after the break, and Haines went close with a header, while Wighton tested White with a hot shot, but this was safely held by the keeper. Nuneaton's defence showed signs of tiring under the pressure. After nine minutes of the second half, Haines trapped a pass from Russell and shot hard and true between both visiting backs and into the net. In the next half-hour Portsmouth simply piled on the goals.

Goodwin shot in the fourth after the inside-left had grazed the crossbar. Then Forsyth scored from 35 yards out, and within hardly a minute's interval, Parsons and Haines added the sixth and seventh goals. Kester had an unenviable task, for he was almost continually bombarded and saved many shots in the last 15 minutes of the game. Parkin eventually beat Kester again, but was given offside. Tompkin scored Nuneaton's only goal two minutes from time, following a desperate rally and centre by Clack.



## Nuneaton Town AFC AGM

At the annual meeting of the above Club, discussion mainly centred around the report of the Special Commission of Enquiry made by the Football Association at the Club's request. There is only one point upon which the "Chronicle" feels disposed to comment. The Commissioners find that the deplorable state towards which the Club has been heading for a considerable time has been brought about by "lack of confidence in the Club engendered by internal dissensions and unwise contributions to the local press". We believe this is a perfectly true diagnosis of the malady which has had such a debilitating effect on the Club's constitution. It is no function of a newspaper to allow itself to be transformed into a cockpit for the exploitation of hot-headed factions, however toothsome the squabbles may be regarded by a certain class of reader. Regular readers of this journal will scarcely need telling that the "Chronicle" is not included in the "local Press" referred to by the Commissioners. A tragic-comic example of the great harm that can befall a club from unwise partizanship was provided by the dissensions that centred last week around Shankly. While one local organ was loudly voicing the attitude of the Club directors and other constituting itself the champion of the fine player in question, Coventry City FC quietly opened its mouth and said: "Come inside, Shankly, out of the storm." By way of thanks for Coventry's hospitality, it was only in the ironic nature of things that Shankly should score the whole of the four goals that were sufficient to win last Saturday's match for Coventry against West Ham. After this I should think all recriminations will now cease, and a serious effort be made to quietly place Nuneaton in the respectable position it ought to occupy in the world of Association Football.

## Nuneaton Town v Fulham Res.

27-02-1926

Nuneaton: Kester; Harris and Conopo; Allon, Thompson and Pratt; Clack, Deeming, King, Wighton and Tompkin.

Nuneaton played host to Fulham Reserves in a Southern League Eastern Division match.

Nuneaton opened aggressively and King missed a good chance in front of an open goal. Within five minutes, however, Tompkin centred and Wighton pounced on the clearance by Boot and drove the ball into the net. Thompson placed a corner kick which the visiting keeper cleared. Ten minutes into the match Linfoot equalised with a fine goal, firing in from forty yards out with great force.

A minute later the same player baffled the home defence with some good footwork in front of goal and then netted again. The game was played at a lively pace with Allon and Wighton

showing up well. The visitors went further ahead when Linfoot turned the ball into the net. The game was evenly contested but the visitors were far more dangerous in attack.

Boot punched clear from Clack and Town kept up the pressure with Allon working a great opening and causing one of the visiting backs to kick out. The ball went out to King, who with the goalkeeper well beaten, scored with a first-timer high into the net. King got the equaliser half an hour from the start, converting a pass by Wighton with a beautiful fast shot which gave Boot little chance.

Fulham were not having so much of the game as at the start, and when they did get anywhere near goal, the Nuneaton defence performed well with Linfoot getting special attention. Town had the better of things up to the interval and the Fulham goal had a couple of narrow escapes.

The visitors attacked straight after the break, but were smartly repulsed by Pratt and Thompson. Neither goalkeeper was being seriously tested. The best shot came from Allon, who from a good distance, caused Boot to concede a corner, which came to nothing. Fulham took the lead about 20 minutes after the interval with a very simple goal. A melee followed a breakthrough by the visiting forwards and Harris and Kester were called on. Both did the right thing under the circumstances, and the latter ran out to stop two of the oncoming attackers, but the ball rebounded off Ranson and rolled tamely into the net.

The game became tame for a period, but the visitors were dangerous once or twice. Both teams were showing the strain after a strenuous contest. Tompkin was much in the picture, and on one occasion got in a brilliant shot. Fulham, who had been playing a four forward formation this half, made further attacks, but could make little impression on the home defence, and their shooting was poor.

Eventually, though, with about five minutes to go, Kester was drawn out and missed the ball, allowing Ruffell to put the ball into the net. Just before the final whistle there was an abortive appeal for a penalty as King was brought down as he went through.

## Mr Fred Payne Resigns

At Monday evenings meeting of the directors of Nuneaton Town Football Club, the resignation of Mr Fred Payne from the board of management was received and was accepted with regret by the directors. It is understood that Mr Payne's action arose out of the report of the recent FA Commission into the affairs of the Nuneaton Town Club, and also out of the events which have taken place with regard to the mortgage on the Manor Park ground. As a member of the firm of Payne Bros., Mr F. Payne is one of the mortgage holders. We are informed that he and his fellow directors parted on good terms.



## Southampton Res. v Nuneaton Town 06-03-1926

**Nuneaton: Kester; Harris and Conopo; Butt, Pratt and Allon; Clack, Smith, Paul, Wighton and Tompkin.**

Nuneaton travelled to face Southampton Reserves in a Southern League Eastern Section match. The day started disastrously with King and Ballantyne having missed their trains. Paul the Town trainer and Butt of the Southampton staff made up the numbers.

Nuneaton kicked off on a pitch made greasy by the rain, and won a corner, which was cleared. Wighton just failed to gather the ball from Tompkin and Nuneaton's wings made several promising moves, while Tompkin had a great chance in the goalmouth with only Hill to beat, but he missed his kick. The Southampton forwards asserted themselves and their passing gave the Nuneaton defence much trouble.

Kester made a clearance from Weston, as the visitors failed to maintain their early promise and the home side put Town under pressure. Harris and Conopo were putting up some resistance and managed to protect Kester. Conopo made a marvellous save on the goal-line with Kester out of position, but the keeper dashed back to make a one-handed save from Shelley. Nuneaton were awarded a penalty, but Allon missed.

At the start of the second half Southampton besieged the visitors' goal. Weston opened the scoring for the home side from good range. Immediately after, Southampton should have scored again following a free-kick just outside the area. At this stage Southampton had all the play and there was continuous heavy pressure on the visitors' goal. Kester was in great form and made some tremendous saves, but Nuneaton were making little progress and Turner scored Southampton's second goal by neatly turning in a centre from the right.

Tompkin nearly succeeded with a good shot whilst Paul missed the ball when well placed in front of the net. Town had several chances towards the end, but failed to turn them to account. Dominy scored Southampton's third goal and in the last minute, Paul reduced the deficit with a great goal.

### Ten Thousand Shilling Fund

A meeting was held at the Cock and Bear on Monday evening to organise the Ten Thousand Shilling Fund in aid of the Nuneaton Town FC.

The Chairman, Mr E. Poynton, presided at the meeting and said the question was could they possibly save the club. If they could not, they would have to face the very humiliating position of winding up the whole concern. He was afraid the public of Nuneaton had never yet realised the serious financial position in which the club was placed. The question of an alternative mortgage was receiving the attention of the directors and they had got certain negotiations in hand.

## TOWN DOOMED

### Will Club Complete Season?

A meeting of Nuneaton Town FC supporters was held at the Co-operative Hall last night in connection with the ten thousand shilling fund. Alderman W. French presided over a moderate attendance. There were some heated scenes.

Mr F. Poynton (Chairman of the Directors) said the position of the club was that they were £1,120 in debt apart from the mortgage and current expenses. If the worst came to the worst he hoped the mortgagees (Payne Bros.) would allow them to finish the season. He knew two people who would buy the ground at its market value under the hammer, but not privately, as they wanted everything above suspicion. If the ground was thus sold every liability could be paid off as the ground would realise at least £4,000. The purchasers would be willing to lease the playing part of the ground to Nuneaton Town FC for two, three or five years at an economic rental (applause). However, unless Payne Bros. allowed them an extension until the 1st May, they could not complete the season. There was a scheme, which given that extension would save the Club.

It was explained in further discussion that the sheriff's officer was in possession and would claim the gate on Saturday.

Mr Poynton said they had not a penny at the moment to carry on with. If Payne Bros. would not foreclose, he would pay the Sheriff's Officer (applause).

Mr J. Payne, who was present said Payne Bros. wanted their money. They had no faith in the present directorate, and would not grant an extension.

Mr H. Harbourne said the club had no money to complete the fixtures.

Alderman French made a final appeal to Mr J. Payne, asking if they would not allow them another month in which to extricate themselves from the present position.

Mr Payne emphatically replied in the negative.

The meeting then closed.

## Millwall Res. v Nuneaton Town

11-03-1926

**Nuneaton: Kester; Harris and Conopo; Allon, Pratt and Whittaker; Clack, King, Clark, Wighton and Tompkin.**

Nuneaton travelled to play Millwall Reserves in a re-arranged Southern League Eastern Division game.

The game took place at New Cross and the "Nuns" were heavily defeated. The home team displayed superior form and were better served in all departments of the game than were the visitors.



# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



The visitors arrived late and the start was delayed. Kester, Harris and Conopo defended well on the whole, but the half-backs were erratic. Wighton and Tompkin showed good form at times.

## Nuneaton Town v Southampton Res. 13-03-1926

**Nuneaton: Kester; Harris and Conopo; Allon, Whittaker and Pratt; Clack, King, Clark, Wighton and Tompkin.**

Nuneaton entertained Southampton Reserves at Manor Park in a Southern League Eastern Division fixture.

The early exchanges were even, but one of the best chances came to King, who missed his kick in front of goal. Southampton were frequently attacking, but were held by the home defence. Good centres were put in by both Clack and Tompkin, and another good chance for the home side was lost when King collided with one of his own players.

Southampton scored a goal, which was given offside before Allon tested Hill with a raking shot. The home side were having the better of matters, and Wighton got in a dangerous shot. The visitors mounted an attack and looked like getting through on the left, but Conopo proved safe in defence. Tompkin forced a corner, following which shots were put in successively by Allon and Clack. Harris stopped another Southampton effort by a neat piece of work and about half an hour from the start there was a very exciting scene outside the Southampton goal and in the melee that followed Town were bombarding the visitors' goal for several moments, with King and Tompkin playing well.

Southampton won a corner from which Turner drove the ball over the bar. Conopo was injured shortly before the interval, but was able to resume. Half-time arrived without any score.

After the break Nuneaton attacked, but without any success before Kester dealt with a header from Turner and shortly after tipped a free-kick from Wilkinson over the bar. Nuneaton were performing well and Hill had to throw the ball away under pressure from King. Southampton attacked briefly, but Nuneaton hit back and a great movement was started by Clark, who swung the ball out to left. Wighton passed well forward for Tompkin to rush in, catch the ball on the run and hit a shot that went just wide.

Southampton lost a player, but still continued to have a good share of the game. The home side then set up a strong attack, during which Clack put in one or two excellent centres, and then, with eight or nine minutes to go, King centred for Clark, who shot over in front of an open goal. Southampton's shooting was no better at the other end.

Tompkin was injured during a home raid about three minutes from the close, but Town kept up the pressure and there was a scramble in front of the Southampton goal as King tried in vain to work the ball through. The visitors hit back, but were ruled offside and the game concluded with the struggle going on in midfield.

## Watford Res. v Nuneaton Town 17-03-1926

**Nuneaton: Kester; Harris and Conopo; Allon, Pratt and Whittaker; Clack, Deeming, King, Wighton and Payne.**

Nuneaton travelled to Watford on Wednesday for a Southern League Eastern Division fixture and after an exciting game were defeated by the odd goal in three. Wighton was the scorer for Nuneaton.

## Nuneaton Town v Portsmouth Res. 20-03-1926

**Nuneaton: Kester; Harris and Conopo; Allon, Pratt and Whittaker; Clack, Bromage, King, Wighton and Deeming.**

Nuneaton welcomed Portsmouth Reserves to Manor Park for a Southern League Eastern Division game.

Only one goal was scored in the first-half and this came from Parkin, Portsmouth's outside-left, about seven minutes after the start. It was a goal of surprising nature, the home defence being caught napping. After this the home backs stiffened and kept the visitors out for the rest of this half. Harris did particularly good work, and was the hero of the game. The home side had a fair share of attacking, but their inside men, with the exception of Wighton, did not seem to get going.

A stroke of hard luck for the visitors occurred when half-way through the first-half, Wighton headed on to the post with the Pompey goalkeeper out of position. Wighton met the ball from the rebound and again tried a header, but White, who proved a great keeper, had jumped into position for this.

After the interval, Portsmouth soon made the game safe by getting two goals in the space of a minute. Nuneaton never made any tangible response to the three goals, but they attacked with plenty of energy at times. Clack was always a useful winger, and with Wighton was the pick of the home forwards. King was a hard-working leader, but had not the requisite finishing power. The Nuneaton halves were in indifferent form. The experiment of transposing Whittaker and Pratt could not be called successful. Neither seemed to be in the right place at the right time. Whittaker had a tendency to wander towards the centre, which did not make Pratt's task any easier. Allon was the best of the halves on the day's play, and would have made a better pivot than Pratt.

The display of 'Pop' Harris, the Nuneaton right-back, was the outstanding feature of the match. Some of his more spectacular interventions were well received by the crowd, who gave him a special ovation at the close of the game.

## Bournemouth & Bos Ath v Nuneaton Town 27-03-1926

**Nuneaton: Kester; Harris and Conopo; Allon, Pratt and Ballantyne; Clack, Bromage, King, Wighton and Deeming.**

Nuneaton journeyed to the south coast to take on Bournemouth and Boscombe Reserves in a Southern League Eastern Division game.

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



The home team had an overwhelming portion of the game and only the fine defence put up by Kester in goal, the two backs and Pratt, saved Nuneaton from a worse fate. The home side were left with only Kester to beat on several occasions, but the home forwards failed badly in driving their advantage home.

A free-kick to Nuneaton ten minutes after the start, was well-placed by Allon and Pratt, who stood on his own, put in a fine drive from 16 yards, which entered the net in the far corner. Kester made a save from Bliss at full-length before Boscombe took complete charge and penned Nuneaton in their own half. Eventually relief was gained and Bromage netted but the referee gave offside. After twenty-five minutes King secured from a throw-in and scored with a beautifully timed shot which left Bow standing. The home side attacked strongly, but the Nuneaton defence prevailed.

Still the home side had the best of the play and only wretched shooting prevented a score, with the visitors having an anxious time. Three corner to Boscombe in quick succession caused excitement, but the visiting defence held out. The Boscombe centre-forward shot over the bar and within two minutes, he shot wide from two yards. The home team were the better side, but could not force a goal, with the visiting goal bearing a charmed life. Half-time arrived with Nuneaton having a 2-0 lead.

Straight after the break, Kester prevented a certain goal by taking the ball from the feet of several players, whilst lying on the ground. A corner fell to the home side and from this the Nuneaton goal underwent a fierce bombardment, three brilliant saves by Kester being the feature. The home side attacked again, on the right, Clifford put in a fine centre and Markland scored with an oblique shot.

The home side were well on top at this stage and attacked continually. The weak link in Town's defence was Ballantyne, who was beaten by Clifford every time they came into conflict.

Huge kicking by the visiting backs brought relief, but the home side were soon attacking again, with Kester making some good saves. After 20 minutes, Clifford scored Boscombe's second goal, while the Nuneaton defence was in a tangle. The standard of play fell away and developed into a kicking duel between the backs. With 10 minutes to go Boscombe attacked hotly, and only good defensive tactics prevented them from scoring. In the last minutes, with only Kester to beat, two home forwards made a mess of a fine opportunity to take the lead.

## Nuneaton Town v Tamworth Castle 29-03-1926

**Nuneaton: Kester; Harris and Clarke; Jones, Allon and Conopo; Clack, Smith, King, Wighton and Townsend.**

Nuneaton welcomed Tamworth Castle to Manor Park for an Atherstone Nursing Cup semi-final.

The opening play favoured Nuneaton, who attacked persistently, but without seriously testing Vaughan in

the Tamworth goal. With virtually their first attack of the match the visitors took the lead, Pearson tricking Harris and shooting into the net. Nuneaton tried to hit back, but Tamworth's defence defended stubbornly. Wighton had a chance which went just wide before Nuneaton bombarded the Tamworth goal and Burton cleared two shots from Clack and Allon off the line.

Townsend was fouled just outside the area and the free-kick was well-placed by the same player, giving Allon the opportunity to beat Vaughan with little difficulty. Tamworth were kept on the back foot, but Wighton placed neatly into the goalmouth for King to head over. However, Tamworth again got in front, Dabell seizing on a centre from Pearson and shooting high into the net. Two minutes later Wighton was brought down in the penalty area, but Clarke hit the penalty straight at Vaughan. Tamworth were awarded a penalty a minute later, but Kester saved from W. Abbott.

Vaughan was having a fine game in the Tamworth goal and saved brilliantly from A. Smith and Conopo. The visitors were making the most of their chances and Dabell shot them further ahead following a centre from Ceney.

The visitors went further ahead in the first minute of the second half, Abbott converting a centre by Ceney. Nuneaton displayed little notion of the game and were seldom dangerous. King was injured and had to be carried off. Wighton went close from Townsend's centre before Nuneaton won another penalty for handball, but Allon shot over the bar from the spot.

The visitors raced away to the other end and Dabell obtained a fifth goal. A bad mistake by Allon presented Pearson with an easy chance, which he took full advantage of, while W. Abbott scored a seventh goal from a centre by Pearson.

## Norwich City Res. v Nuneaton Town 02-04-1926

**Nuneaton: Kester; Harris and Clarke; Allon, Pratt and Smith; Clack, Deeming, Clark, Wighton and Townsend.**

Nuneaton travelled to Norwich for a Southern League Eastern Division fixture on Good Friday afternoon. Nuneaton fielded four reserves and were completely outplayed.

Kester was bombarded with shots and the visitors were lucky in preventing a score during the first half-hour, in which Deeming nearly scored at the other end with a surprise shot. McCudden scored the only goal of the first half with a hot drive, and more success followed after the break.

Howell soon headed home, the ball first touching the post, and the same player placed a corner kick from which North headed through after a prolonged scramble.

Bradbrook got the fourth goal from the penalty spot after Ryder had been tripped. Norwich missed many chances in a one-sided contest, Nuneaton's defence were overworked, but stuck gamely to their task. The forwards were decidedly weak.



## Shareholders Meeting Influential Consultative Committee Appointed

An extraordinary meeting of the shareholders of Nuneaton Town AFC was held at the Newdegate Arms Hotel, Nuneaton, to accept the resignation of the late Board of Directors.

Mr A. Whetstone was appointed chairman.

On the proposition of Mr H. Wilson, seconded by Mr Keeley, it was decided to accept the resignation of the late Board.

Mr Wilson asked why they had resigned.

Councillor Earp suggested that Mr Poynton (chairman of the late Board) could best answer that question.

## Late Chairman's Statement

It was decided to hear Mr Poynton.

Mr Poynton said their case — the old board's case — had never been given to the Press like the other side had. During their term of office they gave nothing to the Press except the notice of the mortgagees to foreclose. Mr Ford and he were co-opted onto the Board 12 months ago, and, naturally, in view of the fact that the previous board had lost something like 12 thousand pounds in the space of five years, it was in the interests of the shareholders that they went into matters. They found this much: that none of the directors except Mr Fred Payne knew anything about the financial position of the club.

The Chairman intervened here remarking that Mr Poynton was rather going into ancient history and would he please keep to the question: Why did the board resign?

Mr Poynton (with heat) retorted that the Board had never stated their case in public. The trouble started before they went into office and he thought the shareholders were entitled to know what they discovered.

Councillor Earp proposed and Mr Stanley seconded that Mr Poynton be allowed to state his case.

The proposition was lost by 11 votes to 12 and the chairman asked Mr Poynton to confine himself to the question.

Mr Poynton, continuing, said they would put their case before the public and let them judge. They had always put football before their position. At the meeting presided over by Alderman French they had reached a position at which they could go no further. He made an offer that if Payne Bros. would not foreclose, and allow them to finish the season, he would pay the Sheriff's officer his money. Payne Bros. blankly refused and said the money to carry on would only be forthcoming if they resigned. "It is a position without precedent in the annals of a limited liability company," added Mr Poynton. "You don't know our case, but you will have it direct. Don't forget we have never stated our case."

## A Bad Advertisement

The chairman said thanks were due to Mr Poynton for his explanation, but he hoped there would be no washing of dirty

linen, whatever the views each individual had. "Undoubtedly the Town club has gained a bad advertisement from what has happened, and I hope, henceforth, whatever happens you will still give the club your support and endeavour to see that it is not abused in the wrong way. I hope there will be no recrimination, but that the welfare of the club will be the motive that will actuate everyone present." (applause)...

...The Chairman explained that when the board resigned the FA allowed Messrs. Payne Bros. to run the club with Mr Harbourne, the secretary manager.

Mr Jim Payne, speaking for Payne Bros., said when they took over the club had no money to carry on and Mr Eden asked if they would finance the club until the end of the season — £100 to £200 was wanted immediately. They quickly consented, on one condition, that Payne Bros. lost no money. They took the teams to Bournemouth and Norwich and paid off a few bills. Whether they had done right or wrong remained for them to say. Concerning Mr Poynton's appeal for a guarantee to let the club finish the season, why did he not see the Sheriff's officer, not Payne Bros. The Sheriff's officer was in possession."

Mr Poynton said he could not let Mr Payne's remark go by unchallenged. He said if Payne Bros. would let them finish the season, he would pay the Sheriff's officer himself.

Mr Payne, replying, said he asked Mr Poynton to send Payne Bros. a letter in a businesslike way, but he did not. He could not personally give a guarantee, it had to be considered by his other brothers also.

## Told To Clear Out

Mr Poynton: You said you would give no guarantee. You told us to clear out.

Mr Payne: You would never have got a guarantee from Payne Bros.

Mr Stanley: That's clear proof that you did not want us to finish the season.

Councillor Earp asked what would be the position of a new board, if elected, and could it carry on?

Mr Payne said before they settled first to elect a board they should know the position of the club. They were, up to that evening £1,300 in debit, plus the £3,000 mortgage. The question was: Could the club carry on and meet its liabilities? Payne Bros. were always willing to assist the club in anything put forward.

Councillor Earp: Can the club be saved?

## The Club's Liability

Mr Payne said if the two persons mentioned by Mr Poynton were still willing to buy the ground at the figure mentioned, he would certainly advise the club to accept it.

Mr Poynton said a remarkable thing was that when the Board resigned the debt was only £1,123 — now it was £1,300.

Mr Payne produced the ledger and said he had gone through

the book with Mr Harbourne and found that his figure, £1,210 was correct. He did not know where Mr Poynton got his £1,123 from.

Mr Poynton said his figures too, were arrived at by Mr Harbourne and their solicitor. The only thing was that something must be wrong with Mr Harbourne's arithmetic.

Mr Harbourne said that the mortgage interest, the bank overdraft, and a week's wages had been added to Mr. Poynton's figures.

Mr Poynton said if these had been added it explained the matter.

## The Election Of The Board

The Chairman said the most important part of the meeting was the election of a new Board of Directors. It was impossible for a meeting of shareholders to enter into agreements, they had to appoint a Board to make negotiations to raise sufficient money to clear off the liabilities which at present amounted to somewhere near £4,300. He emphasised the fact that it was upon this Board the future stability or the downfall of the Club depended. While he realised that the offer made to Mr Poynton by the two gentlemen to buy the ground was a good one, he still thought that it would be better not to sacrifice Manor Park.

Mr Poynton said before a new Board of Directors was appointed he wanted to know if the new Board would take his guarantee at the Bank. He had also loaned the Club money, but in regard to this he would fall in line with the other creditors. He wanted the new Board to take over the responsibility of this overdraft.

The Chairman said the new Board would have to take over all the debts of the club.

## Payne Bros. Decline To Be Directors

Councillor Earp moved that Mr Poynton be relieved of his guarantee.

Mr F. Trinder seconded and it was carried.

The Chairman said he would proceed with the election of the Board and he asked for nominations.

Councillor Earp moved that Messrs. F. Payne and J. Payne be appointed directors. Both gentlemen declined to stand.

Cllr. Earp said if these gentlemen declined there was not need for any further nominations. Without the co-operation of Messrs. Payne Bros. they could not get out of this awkward predicament. That was the reason for asking earlier in the meeting if Messrs. Payne Bros. would make a statement as to the future. If Mr Fred Payne refused to sit on the Board then the position was hopeless and matters took a very serious turn indeed.

Mr J. Payne said in his opinion there were only two ways out of the difficulty. The first was to appoint 2 or 3 gentlemen and with the mortgagees meet the creditors and talk matters

over to see some way out of the difficulty. After the match on Tuesday, a private meeting was held of several gentlemen, including Alderman Reader and matters were then discussed. A suggestion of raising a loan was mentioned and if that could be done, it would save the club. Personally he was in favour of Mr Poynton's offer of the two gentlemen taking over the ground. He wished that the offer had been made earlier.

Mr Poynton: It was made at the Town's meeting and you ignored it. Mr J. Payne: I never heard it.

## Amount Owing To Visiting Teams

In a further discussion it was mentioned that a letter had been received from the secretary of the Southern League in reference to the Club's failure to pay 20 per cent of the gate to the visiting clubs. If this percentage was not paid 7 days after the match they were liable to a fine of £1 per day. There were six or seven teams to which this percentage had not been paid.

Mr Payne said the fine if enforced would run into hundreds of pounds. The exact amount owing was £44.

Mr Poynton said the penalty could not be made retrospective. The Clubs they had visited had not paid them the percentage under instructions from the League secretary who was sending the money to the clubs Nuneaton owed.

## The Alternative

The Chairman suggested that a consultative committee be appointed who would ally themselves with the mortgagees to carry on until the end of the season. This committee could investigate all chances of selling the ground or the possibilities of a loan and report these developments to a meeting of the shareholders. The shareholders must realise that they had to face their responsibilities and take over the mortgage.

Mr Sam Saunders moved that a consultative Committee be appointed to report to the shareholders the first week in May.

Mr Lewis asked if it was the intention of Payne Bros. to carry on until the end of the season.

Mr J. Payne: We have given our promise to the Birmingham FA to carry out the remaining fixtures.

Mr W. E. Lester, the solicitor to the company said it was necessary to do something at once to save the Club going into liquidation.

Councillor Earp asked if Messrs. Payne Bros. would comment to the building estate in connection with the land being sold and thus reduce their liability.

Mr Saunders said that was a matter for the Committee to enquire into.

## The Appointed Committee

After further discussions the following gentlemen were appointed to act as a committee: Aldermen French and Reader, Councillors Earp, Warmington and G. Taylor, Messrs. J. T. Hoof and S. Hands.



# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



Mr Payne wanted to know whether they wanted Payne Bros. to allow the club to complete the fixtures. If no the club was finished.

Councillor Earp: That is a foregone conclusion (hear, hear).

Mr Poynton asked whether the committee elected would take over the guarantee he held with the bank. He wanted to be relieved of all responsibility.

Mr Payne said the club was indebted to Mr Poynton at the bank to the extent of £35 0s 5d due to Mr Poynton. Mr Poynton had been a “brick” and they all appreciated what he had done for the club.

Mr Poynton said if there were any sportsmen left in the club, he would appeal to 20 of them to put down £200 each and so pay off the mortgagees. He would be the first to put down £200 (applause).

The Chairman said the committee would consider the suggestion.

It was decided to held the next meeting in the first week in May.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

## Nuneaton Town v Northern Nomads 03-04-1926

**Nuneaton: Kester; Harris and F. Clarke; Deeming, Allon and Smith; Clack, Pearce, H. W. Clarke, Wighton and Townsend.**

Nuneaton welcomed Amateur Cup winners Northern Nomads to Manor Park for a friendly game.

The game opened in favour of the Nomads who showed speed and skill. Clack got in a good centre which Manham punched away. The Nomads were soon back, breaking through on the right and a good movement ended in Blair hooking the ball past Kester to give the visitors the lead with just eight minutes gone. Nomads continued to have the best of the game and an attack down the length of the field ended with Blair heading against the post. The visitors' goal had come under pressure prior to this, but the home side lacked finishing power.

H. W. Clarke tested Manham following Clack's centre, and keeping up the pressure, the home side equalised through Allon whose cross-shot from 25 yards took the keeper by surprise. Nuneaton now began to outplay the Nomads, whose keeper gave a great exhibition under pressure. Just before the interval the visitors got going and Kester ran out and saved bravely from Blair.

Nuneaton resumed aggressively and Almond almost put through his own goal. Nomads took up the offensive again and Davies got busy, being aggressive and nimble, he got in a centre that Blair tried to screw into the net with a first-timer. Nomads took the lead 20 minutes after the interval when Blair touched the ball past Kester as he came out. Blair just managed to reach the ball and turned it into the net.

Town equalised after 27 minutes, when H. Clarke converted

a centre from Townsend with a first-timer that gave the Nomads' custodian no chance whatever. During the last five minutes shots were put in by Wighton and Townsend, and Abbot saved a certainty by nipping in and clearing when Manham had left his goal to smother a shot by Townsend and missed the ball.

## Nuneaton Town v Leicester City Res. 05-04-1926

**Nuneaton: Kester; Harris and F. Clarke; Allon, Pratt and Whittaker; Clack, Deeming, King, Wighton and Townsend.**

Nuneaton entertained Leicester City Reserves in a Southern League Eastern Section game. There was a good crowd and prior to the match a selection of music was played by the Rum and Aniseed Band, who were in fancy dress. The band caused much amusement to the holiday crowd, who responded liberally in an appeal on behalf of club funds.

Unfortunately, Nuneaton lost full-back Clarke very early in the game, who had to play out the remainder of the game on the left-wing. Allon dropped back to take Clarke's place and showed up well, as did Deeming at left-half. It was a fairly even game until the last five minutes when Leicester scored three goals.

Town opened in promising fashion with Jarvie being tested in the first minute, whilst Pratt forced a corner soon after, Jarvie tipping his shot over the bar. Then came a sustained attack by Leicester, in which Kester was busy in dealing with some hot shots. The Leicester left wing were particularly active and Nuneaton were a little lucky in keeping them out.

The home side had a breakaway and Wighton sent a long pass to Townsend, who sent in a beautiful centre. King jumped well and headed a fine goal. Leicester were not long before they equalised. In a melee in the Nuneaton penalty area, Harris in trying to clear, put through his own goal. For the remainder of the first half, Leicester did most of the attacking, although Deeming had a chance to increase the home team's score, but chose to pass with only the keeper to beat.

After the break, Leicester were again aggressive and forced a corner. Sharpe shot and Kester punched away and the ball was returned, but Pratt headed away from under the bar. Nuneaton regained the lead about 15 minutes after half-time. Wighton passed to Clack, who centred. Gardner, the visitor's full-back miskicked and King promptly netted. Soon after Jarvie made a full-length save from Clack. The latter got going again and from another beautiful centre King sent in a shot that went a few inches over the bar.

Leicester returned to the attack and after several raids, Webb scored. It was in returning the ball after Kester had partially cleared the shot. Immediately on the resumption Townsend sent in a beautiful shot but Jarvie cleared. Leicester increased their lead about five minutes from the final whistle through Allan. The same player scored in the next minute. Kester missed the ball on both occasions and Webb had only to walk the ball into the net. In the next minute Leicester were awarded a penalty, which Carrigan scored.

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



## Nuneaton Town v Grays Thurrock Utd. 06-04-1926

**Nuneaton:** Kester; Finch and Harris; Allon, Pratt and Whittaker; Clack, Bromage, King, Wighton and Tompkin.

**Grays:** Wood; Thompson and London; Clark, Offerd and Slater; Garnish, Clifford, Hart, Leggitt and Barnfather.

Nuneaton welcomed Grays Thurrock to Manor Park for a Southern League Eastern Division fixture, concluding their Easter programme, with their fourth game in five days. It was their first Southern League victory since January 2nd.

The visitors arrived a man short and signed a local player, Clifford, just before the match. The game opened with Nuneaton on the attack and a good movement in which Allon and Clack featured ended in Deeming narrowly missing with a fast rising shot. Play was quickly transferred to the other end and Barnfather centred neatly for Leggitt to shoot wide.

A good piece of work by Clack promised well, but King failed to gather the ball properly and Wood cleared. After eight minutes' play the "Nuns" went ahead, Wighton placing cleverly to King, who had little difficulty in beating Wood from close in. Nuneaton attacked persistently and the goalkeeper had to deal with a header from King before the home goal came under threat when a centre by Garnish saw Barnfather rattle the bar with a cross-shot.

Play was quickly taken to the other end and Deeming got in a first-time shot which went just wide. Grays got on level terms a little later when Hart picked up a pass by Garnish and scored with ease. Immediately afterwards, Wighton shot across the face of goal. A free-kick followed to Nuneaton and Wood had to punch away from Allon. A blunder by the home defence enabled Hart to get clean away on his own, but Kester left his goal and saved finely. A corner was well placed by Clack and Wood had to save at full-length from King's header.

A mistake by Finch nearly cost Nuneaton a goal, but Kester saved the situation by diving at the feet of Hart and throwing away. Nuneaton took the lead again shortly before half-time after clever work by Bromage and Clack ended in Wighton heading a perfect goal. Nuneaton went further ahead in the next minute.

Three minutes after the interval Grays reduced the lead. A quick forward attack had the Nuneaton defence in a hopeless tangle and in the excitement Pratt handled the ball in the penalty area and the penalty kick was easily converted. Nuneaton responded with a sharp attack and for a few seconds the Grays goal came perilously near to falling. Clack, King and Bromage all getting in shots in quick succession.

The home side attacked again and following a centre by Whittaker, King snapped up the opportunity and again found the net, while at the same time completing his hat-trick. A penalty was awarded to Nuneaton shortly afterwards for a foul on King. The centre-forward was entrusted with the kick and shot against the bar.

## Nuneaton Town v Bournemouth & Bos. Res. 17-04-1926

**Nuneaton:** Kester; Harris and Conopo; Jones, Whittaker and Allon; Clack, Wighton, Bromage, A. H. Smith and Deeming.

Nuneaton welcomed Bournemouth to Manor Park for the last Southern League Eastern Division home fixture of the season.

The first goal for the visitors, came seventeen minutes from the start. Harris let in Craig, who shot. Kester appeared to be deceived, and missed the ball completely. Although there was no force behind the shot, the ball rolled tamely past Kester and into the net.

Town showed some skill in attack with Clack performing well and at length a good movement ended in Bromage trying a shot. The ball went obliquely across the goal and A. Smith ran in and planted it high into the net for the equalising goal. Bournemouth attacked again and Kester pulled off a good save. Bow had to come out to punch away from Wighton.

Following a free kick for the Town, Deeming put over a nice centre. Bromage headed onto the post and from the rebound Bow tried to punch away, but missed the ball, which Bromage had just to touch through. Bournemouth made strenuous efforts for an equaliser, and Craig scored, but was offside.

Bournemouth pressed steadily after the break and the Town defence was soon in difficulties. The visitors were awarded a free-kick, and Hayward scored from 20 yards out. Kester having no chance, so fast and high was the shot. Hayward put over the bar from another free-kick just after. Town were kept on the defensive and on one occasion Kester fumbled the ball, and Bournemouth attacked for some time, until Nuneaton broke away and Bromage shot wide.

A corner to Boscombe led to Martland centring for Burton to convert with a fast high shot. Miles, the visitors' centre-half, hit the post with a long drive, and Kester had great difficulty in clearing from the rebound. There were one or two home attacks, one of which caused Bow to step out to check Wighton. Bromage initiated another raid, but Hayward robbed Clack in the nick of time.

## Nuneaton Town v Coventry City Res 19-04-1926

**Nuneaton:** Kester; Harris and Conopo; Jones, Whittaker and Allon; Clack, Wighton, King, A. Smith and Deeming.

**Coventry:** Findlay; Tinning and Randle; Brown, Jones and Wood; Dougal, Patterson, Shankly, Breslin and Walker.

Nuneaton welcomed Coventry City Reserves to Manor Park for a Coventry Nursing Cup semi-final game. The visitors' team included five of the players who had faced Bradford in the Third Division on Saturday.

Early play went entirely in favour of the Bantams and Kester made two very good saves, one from Jones being a very good effort. The wind seriously handicapped the home forwards and a centre by Clack was carried back close to the half-way



line. Shankly, the former Nuneaton player, had a good chance when only two yards from goal, but shot over the bar. King sent Deeming away and the latter centred across goal, but the wind carried the ball behind the forwards and Jones cleared.

After about 25 minutes Coventry took the lead when Paterson scored following a melee in the Nuneaton goalmouth. Kester continued to save shots from all directions, but the home goal had a narrow escape when Breslin, from Brown's centre, headed just wide of the far upright.

Some clever play between Clack and Wighton ended in Deeming equalising after Findlay had only partially cleared from Clack. This goal spurred Nuneaton to further efforts, and they had much more of the game than previously. The home side improved considerably in attack and Findlay was severely tested by King, who promptly seized upon a centre by Clack and immediately shot for goal. At the other end Kester made a couple of glorious saves from Shankly, one being at full length. At the break the scores were tied at 1-1.

The first incident of the second half was a terrific shot by Allon which passed just wide of the upright, while at the other end Shankly hit an upright. Play was quickly transferred to the Coventry territory and following a free-kick, well placed by Deeming, Randle had to kick off the goal line. A clever centre by Clack and a hook shot by King caused Findley trouble, but danger was averted. Coventry were finding the boisterous wind just as troublesome as did Nuneaton in the opening half, and they were kept more or less entirely on the defensive.

A breakaway by the Bantams presented Shankly with an excellent chance, but Kester came out of goal and cleared his lines. Deeming made a clever run on the home left wing and his centre was luckily blocked by a defender. Another breakaway by Coventry resulted in Shankly putting them in front, the ball going into the net off Kester's foot. It was entirely against the run of play. Shankly got away again on his own, but Kester made a brave save by diving at his feet.

## Nuneaton Town And Their Players

A proposal has been put before the Nuneaton Town FC players to accept half of what will be due to them in wages on May 1st, in lieu of the total amount owing to them, which will then be about £400. So far they have refused to agree to this settlement. They have also been told that they could be granted free transfers at once on application in view of the uncertainty of money being forthcoming for wages.

A scheme has been put forward by Mr J. Payne of Messrs. Payne Bros., the mortgagees who are at present carrying on the club, which is designed to save the club and Manor Park ground. Certain conditions laid down by Payne Bros. would have to be complied with. The scheme it is said, has been favourably received by some members of the Consultative Committee.

## Fulham Res. v Nuneaton Town

24-04-1926

**Nuneaton: Kester; Finch and Clarke; Jones, Pratt and Allon; Clack, Deeming, King, A. H. Smith and Townsend.**

Nuneaton travelled to Fulham for a Southern League Eastern Division fixture.

Fulham took the lead about two minutes after the start, L. Smith converting a centre by Bagge and Kester throwing himself towards the ball in vain. Nuneaton began to show up better, Payne working an opening or two.

During a Town raid, Brooks handled in the penalty area, but the referee ignored penalty appeals. Payne tested Blackmore with an excellent shot from good range. Fulham broke through on the left, but Kester went out and checked them. The visitors continued to press forward and Wighton showed up well for a time, while a corner to Fulham saw Clarke relieve.

A Town raid saw Deeming send in a terrific shot from close range, which Blakemore stopped. The visitors were now having most of the play, but eventually Fulham broke away and Pike was presented with an open goal, but Kester smothered the shot. Nuneaton continued to have the best of the play up till the interval, but they failed to find the net.

Town were aggressive for a time after the break, but Fulham retaliated and after seven minutes increased their lead. Kester conceded a corner to Emery and Pike headed into the net. After this Fulham set up a continual bombardment, but Kester was still in good form, although Fulham scored again 15 minutes after the interval, a great move ending in Emery converting a centre by Pike. The home team were very dangerous and Pike netted again three minutes later.

Emery missed another chance, but Wharfe put on another goal with a fine drive from good range, the ball being too fast for Kester to get to. Nuneaton made a solitary attack and Wighton was prevented from scoring with some difficulty. Nuneaton were continually hemmed in, with Pratt, who had been a passenger most of the game, playing outside-left and retiring several minutes before the end. Without four minutes to go Pike netted with the finest shot of the day.

## Kettering Town v Nuneaton Town

26-04-1926

**Nuneaton: Kester; Finch and Clarke; Jones, Pratt and Allon; Clack, Deeming, King, Wighton and Townsend.**

Nuneaton travelled to Kettering on Monday for the penultimate Southern League Eastern Division fixture of the season.

Kettering scored about 25 minutes from the start, and again during the second half. There was some doubt in both cases as to whether the goals were offside or not. There was one incident near the home goal when the visitors appealed for a penalty kick for handball, but the referee ordered play on.

The visitors had a number of shots at goal, and for the last quarter of an hour, were frequently shooting in, with the

Kettering goalkeeper being in difficulty on more than one occasion. Seven or eight hundred people witnessed the game.

## Peterborough & Fletton U. v Nuneaton Town 01-05-1926

Nuneaton: Kester; Finch and Clarke; Jones, Joyce and Farnell; Clack, Deeming, A. H. Smith, Townsend and Baker.

Nuneaton travelled to Peterborough for their final match of the Southern League Eastern Division season.

Town ended the season with the biggest defeat they have sustained, losing to Peterborough 10-0. It was a farcical second half, the home team having things so much their own way that they scored seven times.

In the first half the visitors had a fair share of the game, and their attack showed up quite well. Wighton made an able centre-forward, being a hard worker, and leading several neat movements. His ablest colleagues were Clack and Deeming, though the former did not have many opportunities to shine.

The Nuneaton defence was much below full strength, the only two regular players being Jones and Finch, apart from Kester in goal. In the second half, it fell to pieces. Finch played a strenuous game at the back, and was the outstanding figure in the defence. Kester had a gruelling time in goal, and though he was not at his best, made some brilliant saves.

Some of the shots that beat him, however, were brilliant ones. The home attack was a very praiseworthy one. It was well led by Saunders, but the most shining member was Burton, the outside right, who was continually outwitting the Nuneaton defence. Several of Peterborough's goals came from his centres, and he headed one goal himself. Salt, at centre-half, was also an outstanding figure, and a splendid marksman.

## Club Saved From Liquidation

### Payne's Scheme Accepted After Stormy Meeting

After one of the most unruly meetings in the annals of the club, Nuneaton Town FC shareholders, at a special meeting held at the Newdegate Arms Hotel, on Tuesday evening, accepted a scheme put forwards by Messrs. Payne Bros., to save the Club from liquidation.

Mr Whetstone read the scheme as follows:

Nuneaton Town Association Football Club Co., Limited

1. The Club to sell the ground to Messrs. Payne Bros., for the total amount due to them under the Mortgage Deed Principal and Interest.
2. Messrs. Payne Bros. to give the Club a lease of the playing pitch for three years at a nominal rent of 5s per year.
3. At the end of three years Messrs. Payne Bros. to give the Club a lease of the playing pitch for five or seven years at a reasonable rent to be then agreed upon.
4. Mr Fred Payne to be appointed Managing Director for three years.

5. The whole scheme to be subject to the approval of the shareholders, also the new Board of Directors to take steps to obtain the consent of the creditors
6. If at any time the playing field is to be re-sold, the Football Club to have the first option
7. If any other person is prepared to offer the same terms, Messrs. Payne Bros. will be willing to let them take it over

Councillor G. Taylor moved the adoption of the scheme and said a hearty thanks was due to Payne Bros. for the scheme and the generous manner in which it was done.

Mr Warmington, seconding, said it was the only practicable scheme they had had before them.

Mr Wheway asked if something could be done to meet the creditors, so that the club could start with a clean sheet?

Mr. J. Payne said if the club went into liquidation — which was the only alternative — the creditors would never be paid. If they accepted this scheme all the creditors and the players would be paid. They would have the playing field on a lease for 3 years at a nominal rent of 5s. per year, which would be a saving of £500 and that itself would go some way to meet the creditors. In all £315 14s. 9d. was owing and players' wages due were a further £410 5s. 6d. He personally, had seen the largest amount of creditors, and they had approved of the scheme and would give the club time in which to pay (applause). With a strong supporters' club to use the ground in summer about £200 could be raised to pay off the players' wages. The Birmingham County FA also approved of the scheme and were willing to give the club time in which to pay the players. Of course, they would not pay off £61 per week in wages next season.

Mr Poynton here intervened saying he could place before the club a scheme which went £100 better than Payne Bros. and the club would not be dictated to, but allowed to conduct its affairs in its own way.

Mr P. E. Coleman said three or four of the largest creditors had met the previous day and were willing to give the club time to pull round if Payne Bros. scheme was accepted. They would not however consider any other scheme.

Mr Poynton: You were one of the creditors who pressed us most.

Mr Coleman: Simply because we had no faith in the old board.

Mr Poynton: If you supported us as you damned us, we should have got on better than we did.

Councillor Earp was strongly opposed to the scheme. It would give away the town's birthright to a name, Payne Bros. They would be 100 per cent better off by going into honest bankruptcy. It was a damnable scheme.

Mr G. Lewis appealed for these frictions to be dropped. Councillor Earp and Mr Poynton had promised a certain scheme, but they had not "delivered the goods." He supported Payne Bros. scheme and thought they would play a straight game as they had always done (applause).





Mr Whetstone said it was time they had got rid of these personalities which were making the club the laughing stock of the Town.

Mr Poynton tried to address the meeting at this point but defied the chair, and an uproar followed. After fully two or three minutes order was restored, the chairman remarking “Don’t make a bear garden of it”.

Mr J. Payne: Our offer is now withdrawn.

Councillor Earp: You have done a great service to the town, honourable service to the town.

Mr Payne: I am getting fed up with this.

Mr Lewis implored Mr Payne to see whether Payne Bros. had the confidence of the meeting before withdrawing the scheme.

Eventually, after further heated scenes in which Mr Poynton and Councillor Earp were principals, Messrs Payne Bros.

Scheme was put to the meeting and carried by 466 votes for and 197 against. There was one spoilt paper.

The result, when announced by the chairman was loudly applauded.

Mr Fred Payne thanked the shareholders for the vote of confidence they had placed in Payne Bros. again. Their confidence would not be misplaced (applause).

## The New Directors

The new directors appointed by Payne Bros. are as follows:

Alderman French, Alderman Reader, Councillor Taylor, Messrs. P. E. Coleman, H. Warmington, G. Wheway, H. Watkins, Fred Payne and Sid Hands.

## Southern League Eastern Section

### Final Table 1925-26

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Millwall Res	34	24	6	4	106	37	54
Leicester City Res	34	23	2	9	105	60	48
Brighton & Hove Res	34	21	4	9	105	69	46
Kettering Town	34	19	5	10	98	68	43
Peterborough & F Res	34	19	3	12	76	62	41
Portsmouth Res	34	17	5	12	76	67	39
Norwich City Res	34	17	4	13	85	90	38
Bournemouth & B Res	34	15	7	12	76	67	37
Southampton Res	34	14	7	13	65	72	35
Fulham Res	34	13	6	15	86	77	32
Grays Thurrock United	34	13	5	16	63	77	31
Guildford United	34	11	8	15	71	87	30
Watford Res	34	12	2	20	62	94	26
Luton Town Res	34	11	3	20	70	78	25
Folkestone	34	9	6	19	67	93	24
Reading Res	34	10	3	21	58	84	23
Coventry City Res	34	9	5	20	54	93	23
Nuneaton Town	34	7	3	24	61	113	17

## The General Strike in Nuneaton

The General strike was called for nine days in May 1926, by the Trade Unions Congress in order to protest at the ill treatment of coal miners. The strike effectively shut down most British businesses and services, leading to non-union members mainly from the middle classes, undertaking work that union members would have normally have undertaken. Understandably, this led to social conflict throughout the country. The ‘Nuneaton Observer’ reports on several rather ineffectual examples of intimidation of the strike breakers by union workers – certainly compared with more forceful attempts in nearby Atherstone chronicled in the same issue of the paper. Overall compared with other nearby towns, the Observer thought “Good humour wins the day.”

Two middle aged miners, aged 32 and 42, from Weddington Road and Queens Road, stopped an articulated vehicle in Leicester Road as it passed under Hinckley Road bridge. They stopped the driver who was an employee of Nuneaton Flour Mills by walking into the middle of the road in front of his lorry and asked him what he was carrying. The driver bluffed his way through the roadblock, but that was not the end of the matter as sitting next to him in civilian clothes was P.C. Berry.

As soon as they got to their destination, P.C. Berry phoned his superior, Superintendent Spencer who proceeded to Leicester Road and asked the men what they were doing. “We are stopping food lorries” came the reply, on which point Superintendent Spencer arrested them. The men were bound over for twelve months and fined.

Two similar, although more serious incidents occurred. In Stockingford outside the White Lion Inn, two middle aged miners from the area jumped in front of a bus driven by a strike breaker with weapons in their hands. Upon managing to manoeuvre around the men a first time, the bus returned a second time with two police officers on board who promptly arrested the men who were each sentenced to two months hard labour.

This event undoubtedly aroused passions in the area as another incident occurred outside the White Lion, as a crowd of two hundred people surrounded a food transporter and made threatening gestures. The police arrived, and arrested three individuals who were all, it was noticed under the influence of alcohol, and who also received sentences of two months hard labour.



## Worcester City— 4th Round Qualifying

Town welcomed Worcester City of the Birmingham League to Manor Park in the 4th Round Qualifying of the FA Cup.

Nuneaton: Kester; Struthers and Lodge; Ballantyne, Pratt and Wighton; Deeming, Clack, Shankly, Allon and Tompkin.

Nuneaton almost scored in the first few minutes of the game when Allon shot and Crutchley partially cleared. Shankly just failed to bustle the ball into the net. Ballard got away and shot across the goal mouth, but Struthers cleared. After eight minutes play, A. Smith dashed between the backs and tipped the ball over Kester's head and into the net.

Two minutes later Tongue centred well and Nock netted with a beautiful shot. In eighteen minutes, the visitors were three goals up, Ballard outwitting Ballantyne, centred and A. Smith turned the ball which twisted into the corner of the net just out of Kester's reach.

Nuneaton reduced the lead soon afterwards when Wighton scored a beautiful goal. He shot from near the half-way line, the ball going between Crutchley's legs. A. Smith was fouled and from the free-kick Kester conceded a corner. Tongue placed

the ball for Nock to score Worcester's fourth goal.

Town were awarded a free-kick and Allon took the shot, which Crutchley saved on his knees. Three minutes from half-time, Worcester scored their fifth goal, a fine shot by Nock from near the penalty line. Nuneaton had a goal disallowed, the referee ruled that the ball had gone over the line before Tompkin centred, Clack had hard lines with a good ground shot.

Worcester scored again from Tongue's corner kick, as Kester pushed the ball into his own net. Nuneaton rallied towards the close and after a period of attack, Wighton shot. The ball hit the post and it rebounded onto the other post and the referee ruled that it had crossed the line. Just before time Boyman netted again for Worcester, making the final score 7-2 to the visitors.

Nuneaton's inglorious exit from the FA Cup was a shock to many of the supporters, while some may say that it was not a shock and that they had seen it coming since the beginning of the season.

It would be ridiculous to try and explain away such a defeat. The one and only excuse was that Nuneaton

were beaten by a far superior team, but it was not a brilliant team, nor was the football played of a very high standard.

When one recalls the match to mind there is nothing that was particularly outstanding about the game except the number of goals scored and that is a common occurrence with the new offside rule.

It was a freezing afternoon and the result was like a bucket of cold water in one's face. It was the pessimists' afternoon out. After the match they were talking of what was going to happen to our Town Club. Wild talk like this does nobody any good. It should do more to cement the club and its supporters together than anything else.

After Worcester scored their first two goals on Saturday, both in the first ten minutes, the Nuneaton supporters became a yelling mass of critics. Both the goals were deserved, but they had a large element of luck in them; and were not so much due to faulty play.

Blind to these facts, the home supporters showed undue uncharitableness towards their own team and there was no mistake in the moral effect of the attitude of the crowd.

## An Inglorious Exit

For the 1925-26 season the English Cup took on its present format, with the status of Nuneaton Town giving them exemption to the fourth and final qualifying round. The "Nuns" were rewarded with a home tie against the previous season's Birmingham League champions, Worcester City.

While the Southern League was considered superior to the Birmingham League in football terms, weaknesses in the Town team had been evident since the early part of the season. The only thing done about it was to get two players from the Coventry and North Warwickshire League.

Another warning came the Saturday before the cup tie when Birmingham Leaguers Burton Town defeated the "Nuns" 2-0 in a Birmingham Senior Cup match at Manor Park. The display given by Nuneaton was bad enough to

kill the enthusiasm of their most ardent supporters, but their English Cup tie was a far more important game. A win would do the club an enormous amount of good, while defeat could mean anything. On a freezing afternoon with a frozen pitch, Saturday, November 14, 1925 was one of the blackest days in the annals of Nuneaton Town.

They were not just defeated, they were humiliated by a 7-2 scorline. Worcester, although the superior team, were not brilliant, nor was the football played of a high standard. Nuneaton were three down after 18 minutes and their fans became a yelling mass of critics against their own team, barracking several of the players.

The big weakness was the half-back line, who either lost the ball or kicked it out of play. Kester, often the fans' hero, had a miserable time and was replaced the following week by Bill Owen, but to no avail, as Nuneaton were beaten 5-6 by Kettering Town.

Abridged from an article by Rob Forryan

## Ernest Kester



Ernie Kester made his debut, having signed from Dordon Institute, on 6th October 1923, a day on which the visitors, Moira United, were demolished by ten goals to two in the F.A.Cup.

Most of the games Kester would play for Town would not be much like this. Given the scoreline you might think the Nuneaton goalkeeper had little to do, but it was not quite so easy. Kester had a good debut, making several good saves and one brilliant one at close range, which drew a round of applause from the Nuneaton supporters.

Neither could he be blamed for either of Moira's goals. "True-Blue" wrote in The Observer: "The new goalkeeper, Kester, did very well... It is a pity that Kester has not another two inches in height, but his friends say he has not stopped growing yet".

The 1923-24 team photo does not suggest that Ernie was all that short. Standing in the middle of the back row, he is taller than every other player except Cliff Homer, and he towers over Jack Mann.

Following a disappointing 1923-24 in the Birmingham League, Nuneaton Town spent two seasons in the Southern League where they struggled throughout.

The fact that, despite this, Kester was highly-regarded both by spectators and journalists alike, indicates exactly how good Kester was — and how poor was the Nuneaton Town team of that time, at least when measured against the standards of the Southern League.

It also says that Ernie Kester was a footballer of considerable character. How many goalkeepers could continue to perform week in week out, with shots and headers regularly finding the net, and not lose heart? If Ernie Kester ever lost heart or came to doubt his ability, he never let it show. This is the measure of the man.

During his time at Nuneaton Kester was almost always first choice goalkeeper. In the autumn of 1924 he missed a few games after breaking a finger in a cup tie at Alfreton, and

the following season, his final one with the club, Kester was dropped after a disastrous 7-2 home defeat by Worcester City, also in the F.A. Cup.

It was a sad day for a player who was usually popular with the Nuneaton crowd, when he was barracked for one rare inconsistent performance.

Ernest Kester made 134 appearances for Nuneaton Town, conceding 301 goals. This was not a statistic you would expect from a goalkeeper rated among the best to have played for the club.

A full-time professional during his two seasons of Southern League football, accolades in the press that: "Kester gave a faultless display," or that "Kester played with his usual brilliance" brought him to the attention of Football League clubs.

At the end of the 1925-26 season Nuneaton released all their professional players. Ernie received a good offer from Kettering Town that included a provision for him to learn a trade. It is more likely that he returned to his local colliery, playing for Hinckley United and Atherstone Town.

Another newspaper reporter, 'The Nun', wrote: "Spectators forget the occasions when he alone stood between Nuneaton and defeat... Kester's display against Worcester was about the first real bad display he had given in Nuneaton colours, and yet both spectators and directors turned on him".

But Ernie was soon back in the team, turning in his usual sound performances in match after match and playing in 37 of the 39 games that season — one in which Town finished bottom of the Southern League and which ended in ignominy.

The last two games brought a 6-0 defeat at Fulham Reserves, followed by a 10-0 embarrassment at Peterborough on May Day. The report of the Fulham match stated: "Kester gave a fine exhibition in the Nuneaton goal and undoubtedly saved his side from an overwhelming defeat."

If Nuneaton did so badly with Ernie Kester in goal, one can only imagine how dire the results might have been without him. Ernie Kester was better than good. He had judgement and a sound positional sense which made up for any lack of physical attributes. He also had a safe pair of hands, was astute at set-pieces such as corners and free-kicks, and he saved the odd penalty as well.

J. G. Till of the Nuneaton Observer remembered Kester well and included him in a greatest ever Nuneaton side, remarking: "Kester was never spectacular but he was as sound as the Rock of Gibraltar — and as daring a goalkeeper as ever stepped foot on a football pitch. In my opinion, Kester had better judgement than Merrick (Joe, who went to Manchester United in 1923). He made his work look easy and, therefore, appeared less spectacular."

An abridged version of an article by Robert Forryan

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



## Southern League (Eastern Section): Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1925-26

Nuneaton Scores First

Date	Opposition	Competition	Venue	Score	Scorers
Aug. 29	Reading Reserves	League	Home	6-1	Shankly (2), Wighton (2), Allon, Thompson
31	Leicester City Reserves	League	Away	2-5	Shankly (2)
Sept. 5	Foleshill Great Heath	BC	Away	5-2	Wighton (3), Shankly, Clack
7	Coventry City Reserves	Friendly	Home	5-1	Shankly (4), Allon
12	Folkestone	League	Home	1-2	Clack
14	Atherstone Town	BSC1	Home	6-1	Shankly (3), Deeming (2), Allon (pen)
19	Guildford United	League	Away	2-3	Shankly, Allon
26	Grays Thurrock United	League	Away	2-6	Shankly (2)
28	Leicester City Reserves	NCC S-F	Home	1-3	Shankly
Oct. 3	Watford Reserves	League	Home	2-1	Shankly, Wighton
10	Guildford United	League	Home	1-3	Allon
17	Sunbeam Motors	BC	Home	6-0	Shankly (3), Wighton (2), King
24	Norwich City Reserves	League	Home	2-4	Shankly (2)
31	Luton Town Reserves	League	Home	3-2	Allon (2), Shankly
Nov. 7	Burton Town	BSC3	Home	0-2	
14	Worcester City	FA Cup 4Q	Home	2-7	Wighton (2)
21	Kettering Town	League	Home	5-6	Shankly (3), Allon (pen), King
28	Birmingham City A	Friendly	Home	1-3	Finch
28	Bournville Athletic	BC	Away	2-4	Shankly, Wighton
Dec. 5	Luton Town Reserves	League	Away	1-2	Shankly
12	Brighton & HA Reserves	League	Away	1-5	Shankly
19	Brighton & HA Reserves	League	Home	4-2	Wighton (2), Shankly, King
25	Coventry City Reserves	League	Home	6-1	Shankly (3), Wighton, King, Tomkin
26	Coventry City Reserves	League	Away	3-5	Shankly (3)
Jan. 2	Reading Reserves	League	Away	2-1	Shankly (2)
9	Peterborough & Fletton United	League	Home	1-1	Wighton
16	Foleshill Great Heath	BC	Home	4-2	
23	Millwall Reserves	League	Home	0-2	
30	Folkestone	League	Away	2-3	Shankly, Wighton
Feb. 6	Northampton Town Reserves	Friendly	Home	3-4	Shankly (3)
13	Portsmouth Reserves	League	Away	1-7	Tompkin
27	Fulham Reserves	League	Home	3-5	King (2), Wighton
Mar. 6	Southampton Reserves	League	Away	1-3	Paul
11	Millwall Reserves	League	Away	0-5	
13	Southampton Reserves	League	Home	0-0	
17	Watford Reserves	League	Away	1-2	Wighton
20	Portsmouth Reserves	League	Home	0-3	
27	Bournemouth & Bosc. Ath. Res	League	Away	2-2	King, Pratt
29	Tamworth Castle	ANC S-F	Home	1-7	A. Smith
Apr. 2	Norwich City Reserves	League	Away	0-4	
3	Northern Nomads	Friendly	Home	2-2	Allon, H. Clarke
5	Leicester City Reserves	League	Home	2-5	King (2)
6	Grays Thurrock United	League	Home	4-2	King (4)
10	Bournville Athletic	BC	Home	1-2	
17	Bournemouth & Bosc. Ath. Res	League	Home	2-3	A. Smith, Brommage
19	Coventry City Reserves	CNC S-F	Home	1-2	Deeming
24	Fulham Reserves	League	Away	0-6	
26	Kettering Town	League	Away	0-2	
May 1	Peterborough & Fletton United	League	Away	0-10	

Legend: BSC=Birmingham Senior Cup. NCC=Nuneaton Charity Cup. ANC=Atherstone Nursing Cup. CNC=Coventry Nursing Cup.. BC=Birmingham Combination





## Nuneaton Released From Membership of Southern League

### No Fines Inflicted

At the annual general meeting of the Southern League, held in London on Tuesday evening, Nuneaton Town were excused membership of the League on the ground that the club's position was past redemption.

The "Nuns" were represented by Mr Fred Payne and Mr Harry Watkins, who are members of the new Board of Directors.

Explaining the position of the club and asking for its release, Mr Payne said that so far as money was concerned the club was absolutely on the rocks. Fifteen of the players had reported to the Birmingham County Football Association with regard to wages owing.

### What Would Happen

Speaking with regard to the £1 per day fine which could be enforced in respect of money owing to clubs visiting Manor Park on the twenty per cent basis, Mr Payne said that if the rule was enforced and the club had to pay the £15 9s. 6d which was owing, the only alternative would be for the club to go into liquidation immediately.

After twenty-one years' service to the club, he (Mr Payne), was endeavouring to do his best to save the club from this. So far as the liabilities of the club were concerned he was prepared to pay these as soon as he knew what the amount was.

It was stated that the club's liabilities to the Southern League amounted to £26 1s.

### Pitiable Plight

Mr McCarthy (secretary of Portsmouth FC) said he was deeply sorry for Nuneaton's pitiable plight. After hearing the explanation of Mr Payne, who was an experienced man, it was obvious to him that the club could not carry on. He could not ask the League to enforce the rule with regard to the fine of £1 per day, as this would only force the club into bankruptcy.

After further discussion it was decided to release Nuneaton Town from the League, and no further liabilities were enforced.

At the conclusion of the meeting Mr Fred Payne paid the £26 owing to the Southern League.

## Nuneaton Town to Play in Birmingham Combination

### Signatures for New Season

To give supporters the opportunity of judging for themselves how essential it was to withdraw from the Southern League in favour of the Birmingham Combination, which League the club will compete in next season the new Nuneaton Town AFC Board of Directors have issued an official statement.

Comprehensive in detail, the statement shows clearly the position of the club prior to the decision to seek withdrawal from the Southern League. It is interesting to note that for next season the gate charge will be sixpence as against a shilling last season, which is gratifying.

The statement reads as follows: The new Board of Directors at their first meeting considered the position of the club in regard to the Southern League next season, and after taking into consideration the financial position of the club, decided to ask the Southern League to release them from membership next season. The whole of the clubs in membership with the League were written to, explaining the position of the club and asking them to support their application for withdrawal.

### Money Still Owing

Messrs. F. Payne and F. Perry also paid a personal visit to the Football Association and secured the support of that body. The Club was under many financial obligations to the Southern League from last season, even after the League Management Committee had taken the whole of the twenty per cent from Nuneaton's visits to Folkestone, Portsmouth, Southampton, Millwall, Watford, Bournemouth, Norwich, Kettering, Fulham and Peterborough: the sum of £15 9s. 6d. was still owing to clubs for their visits to Nuneaton, which was not paid at the time.

According to the rules of the League £56 in fines could have been imposed for the non-payment of the 20 per cent to visiting clubs, and over £400 was owing to players for wages, which had also been reported to the FA. It is gratifying to know that at the annual meeting of the Southern League every consideration was given to Nuneaton's appeal, and it was decided to release the club from membership, also to relieve the club for the non-payment of the twenty per cent of the gate.

### Players' Wages

The club had also been given the opportunity by the FA to come to some agreement with last season's players respecting outstanding wages and with the exception of two of them their claims have been settled satisfactorily to the players and the club. If the Directors cannot come to suitable terms with these players, they will leave these cases for the FA to deal with. The majority of the club's creditors have decided not to press their accounts until the football season has opened.

It was essential that some effort should be made to pay the cost of the FA Commission held last February, also the players' wages and monies owing to the Southern League and their clubs, otherwise the club would not have been allowed to commence next season. The new Board have loaned the club £120 to enable these obligations to be met and by doing so will save the club.

## Admission Charges

The Directors have decided to run the first team in the Birmingham Combination and to apply for admission to the Nuneaton Combination for a team, their object being to encourage local junior footballers and give them an opportunity of getting into the premier eleven.

The charge for admission to the Birmingham Combination matches will be 6d. Season tickets are now on sale — ground 10s. 6d., stand 15s. 6d., ladies (stand) 10s. 6d. The directors have placed the position of the club before the supporters to give them the opportunity of judging for themselves how essential it was, in the hope of trying to save the Club, to apply for release from the Southern League and to cut the expenses down to a minimum. They hope the supporters will now rally round the club and so keep it, and in the course of time, have English League football in Nuneaton.

## Players Signed On

The following players have been signed up for next season:

**H. Newnham** — A goalkeeper who comes with a good reputation from away. He has just been demobilised.

**B. Hiorns** — Also a goalkeeper, who last season played with Atherstone Town. He is a local product.

**W. Smith** — A full back from the Birmingham Amateur League. On occasions last season he played for Halesowen.

**W. Norman** — A centre half, of Barwell United, last season's champions of the Leicestershire Senior League. Formerly played with Hinckley United.

**S. Foster** — A left half-back who has been assisting Dadlington. A native of Stoke Golding.

**A. Jones** — Recommended by his brother, Percy Jones. A right half-back who has been playing well in the junior Birmingham League.

**F. C. Moore and A. Humphries** — Two young players who assisted "Nuns" in several games towards the end of last season. They operate on the right wing, and should prove a source of trouble to opposing defences. Moore is a clever winger and has an excellent understanding with Humphries, who is a dangerous shot and takes a lot of holding. Much is expected of these two youthful players.

## A Player Coach

In addition to the above players, who are all amateurs, several of last season's amateurs are expected to sign this weekend. It is important to note that the directors are in negotiation with a well-known centre-half, who, if secured, will act as player coach. At the moment, we are unable to divulge the name of the player in question.

## Player-Coach

### "Nuns" Directors Appoint Fine Footballer

The Directors of the Nuneaton Town Football Club have made their first important decision in regard to the playing team, for this week they met and appointed Mr William George Middleton, of Folkestone, as player-coach.



Mr Middleton is a player of ripe experience, and the choice the directors have made should prove the right one. He is recognised as one of the best centre halves in the Southern League.

Now 29 years of age, he began his playing career with General Electric Co., a Birmingham Works League team, and after doing service for one season with them, was signed on as a professional by Aston Villa.

### With Crystal Palace

Mr Middleton stayed with the famous Birmingham Club for only a season, being transferred to Crystal Palace. With the latter club he played regularly until the 1919-20 season when he removed to Folkestone. He has captained the seaside team and has done yeoman service in the pivotal position.

Nuneaton has good cause to remember Mr Middleton's visit to Manor Park with the Folkestone team last season. The visitors were doing none too well when Mr Middleton changed the game completely around by going centre-forward himself and winning the game.

### Other Applications

The "Nuns" new player coach is 5ft 11in in height and weighs 12st. Several other applications were received by the Directors for the position, including one from Mr B. Porter, who captained the "Nuns" two seasons ago and who was with Mid-Rhondda last season.



**Mr. Ellis**

## Lucky Umbrella Presented To Old Supporter of The “Nuns”

The old blue and white umbrella, which used to be so conspicuous at Nuneaton football matches before the colours of the club were changed, was presented to Mr Henry Ellis, who is one of the oldest and best known supporters of the Town AFC, on Saturday after the “Nuns”

practice match. The presentation was made by Mr G. H. Wheway, on behalf of the Board of Directors.

The umbrella has been renovated, the cost being defrayed by Mr H. Warmington. As the club is reverting to its old colours, it will again be seen on the ground, and it is hoped that the change of colours may bring a change of fortune!

Mr Ellis, who is 75 years of age, has also been made a life member of the club, which carries with it free admission to the ground whenever a match is being played.

Mr Ellis lives at 70 Fife Street, Nuneaton and he told a representative of the “Observer” that he had attended the Club’s matches regularly for the past 25 years — in foul or fine weather. He has seen the club in times of prosperity and during times of trouble, but he has given it his support all through.

He remembers vividly some of the games which used to be played on the Queen’s Road, and old Newdegate grounds.

Mr Ellis has possessed several blue and white umbrellas, and the one which was presented to him on Saturday was actually his own property. He did not intend to have it renovated or recovered because the club’s colours have been changed so often of late.

“I could not afford to have the colouring of my umbrella changed as often as the team’s colours were changed,” he said, “but when someone offered to get it renovated for me I quickly agreed to take it to the Town’s matches this season and so long as I am able.”

## Practice Game

Nuneaton Town FC had a practice game at Manor Park, on Saturday, the proceeds going to the Miners’ Distress Fund. There was a small “gate” however. A number of juniors from Birmingham and Coventry clubs took part, and the teams were designated Whites v. Reds. Only one goal was scored in the first half, Townsend scoring with a fine individual effort, for the Reds. Hall scored for the Whites in the second half and the result was a 1-1 draw.

The teams were fairly well balanced, and perhaps the attack

of the Whites was the superior. Lawrence gave a fine display at centre-half on behalf of the Reds. Townsend, Williams and Hall were the best of the Whites’ forwards. The full-backs were very ordinary, and the goalkeepers were not tested to any appreciable extent.

The players were:

Whites: Bartlett (Birmingham Colts); Cooper (Brinklow) and Reeves (Warwick); Ling (Works League), McFall (Coventry) and Mullit (West Bromwich Colts); Forknell (Griff), Hall (Nuneaton), Williams (Brinklow), Mitchell (Coventry) and Fisher (Aston and Erdington).

Reds: Johnson (Nuneaton); Trew (Coventry) and Simmons (Works League); Fenton (Birmingham Colts), Lawrence (Coventry) and Millerchip (Nuneaton); Dyde, Elburne (Coventry), Hill (Leicester), Whitmore (Smethwick) and Townsend (Nuneaton).

## 1926-27

### Atherstone Town v Nuneaton Town 28-08-1926

**Atherstone: Tucker; Snook and Bache; Buckley, Whittaker and L. Snook; Albrighton, Saunders, Vaughan, Finch and Bushnell.**

**Nuneaton: Hiorns; Harris and A. Page; Lucas, Middleton and Mullet; Reeves, Humphries, Pearce, Smith and Townsend.**

Nuneaton travelled to Sheepy Road for the first Birmingham Combination match of the season against old rivals, Atherstone Town. Despite the weather being more suited to cricket than football, the game was played at a gruelling pace.

The first half produced some really good football and neither team could justly claim any advantage. Although the “Adders” crossed over with the lead, Nuneaton came perilously near to scoring on two or three occasions in the opening half. There was an early thrill when Smith all but found the net with a fine cross-shot, which just passed wide of an upright.

Both goalkeepers had plenty to do and Tucker was severely tested by Pearce on two occasions, but he saved well on each occasion, when a goal seemed practically certain. Atherstone owed a great deal to these two saves, for had the shots found the net a totally different tale might have been told. But, it’s goals that count, and after all Tucker was there to stop shots.

The first goal of the game came just before the interval. Albrighton got away on the home right, and after some clever manipulating, dropped the ball right into the goalmouth. Hiorns came out and punched away, but the long-legged Sanders got his head to the ball and steered into the net. Hiorns had not got back into position and was hopelessly beaten. It was a really good goal, and on the whole, well deserved.

Nuneaton fell away appreciably in the second half, and Harris, Middleton and Co., were severely pressed, although the latter tried desperately hard to turn the game round. On the other hand the “Adders” were ever on the alert, and kept pegging away. The “Nuns” however, showed signs

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



of improvement in the closing stages, and just when they looked like pulling the game out of the fire, the Adders scored again, Saunders heading another good goal. In doing so he was injured and had to receive attention.

## **Nuneaton Town v Hinckley United 30-08-1926**

**Nuneaton: Johnson; Harris and Page; Pratt, Middleton and Mullett; Reeves, Humphrey, Martindale, Pearce and Smith.**

In the final of the Nuneaton Charity Cup, at Manor Park on Monday evening, Hinckley United outplayed Nuneaton Town in the second half and won by three goals to one.

In the first half Nuneaton gave a dashing display, but failed in front of goal. Ford opened the scoring for Hinckley after 30 minutes, and Martindale equalised with a header making the score level at half-time.

After the interval, Brett put Hinckley ahead with a header, and Ford sealed matters with a fast oblique shot. Nuneaton were awarded a penalty, but Humphries failed with the kick. Hinckley's clever forwards shone in attack, Brett and Ford doing great work. Lee was a great spoiler at back, while the defence played a sound game. The Nuneaton attack lacked the constructive idea, but Martindale and Pearce did good work.

Middleton was sound at half-back and Harris a good defender. Johnson was moderate in goal.

Alderman French afterwards presented the Cup to Hinckley.

## **Nuneaton Town v Rugby Town 04-09-1926**

**Nuneaton: Johnson; Harris and Page; Lucas, Middleton and Mullett; Reeves, Humphrey, Martindale, A. H. Smith and Fisher.**

Nuneaton welcome Rugby Town to Manor Park for the first home Birmingham Combination match of the season. There was a fairly good crowd in attendance.

Nuneaton started promisingly, setting up a strong attack. In fact, the Rugby goal was besieged for some time. Humphries had two shots blocked, and Martindale kept close on the goalkeeper. After being mostly on the defensive for about ten minutes, Rugby reached the other end, Granger striking the side netting.

Humphries made a brilliant opening and passed to Reeves, from whose centre Bratt had to handle. A little later Middleton of Nuneaton sent wide with a long low drive through a crowd of players. A strong centre by Fisher caused another exciting tussle outside the Rugby net. A centre from the Rugby right also caused trouble, Granger eventually testing Johnson with a lightning drive, which the keeper saved well.

Nuneaton hit back and Martindale just failed from a difficult angle. Rugby began to have rather more of the game, but without being really dangerous. They won a corner, from which Harris cleared. Some more good work by the Nuneaton right wing pair ended in Reeves testing Bratt. A corner followed, from which Smith headed wide. Bratt saved from

Reeves, who was continually eluding Rugby's Middleton. Nuneaton's Middleton tested Bratt with a great shot.

The next raid by the home right wing ended with an excellent shot by Martindale, after which a splendid shot by Littlechild struck the far post, with Johnson beaten. At the break the game was goalless.

Nuneaton opened the second half well, with a raid initiated by Martindale, which ended in the Rugby goal having narrow escapes from Humphries and Smith. Following a swinging pass from Martindale, Reeves centred and Bratt had to save. This was followed by a great cross from Fisher, which Nuneaton's Middleton nipped in to meet and scored with a cool, neat shot.

Rugby retaliated with great determination, but found Mullett alert. Martindale came within a fraction of increasing the lead. Williams was the author of a brilliant solo effort for the visitors, Johnson tipping up the ball. The home keeper made a brave save on his knees from Wootton, before throwing away. The home defence had experienced a difficult ten or twelve minutes and a good movement on the Rugby left ended with Dobson shooting high over the bar.

Bratt was hard pressed for a while and made two good saves, before Martindale missed a good chance, shooting high over the bar. With nine minutes to go, the visitors, having been penned in their own half, broke away and carried out a good attack. The ball travelled from Granger to Dobson, who touched it neatly to Williams, who had only Johnson to beat. The keeper touched the ball, but could not prevent the goal.

Nuneaton attacked again and after Bratt had made one save, a struggle ensued in front of goal, from which Smith turned the ball in, giving his side the lead with seven minutes left. About two minutes later Martindale broke through and scored with a great shot, the ball flying into the top of the net.

## **Nuneaton Town v Atherstone Town 06-09-1926**

**Nuneaton: Johnson; Harris and Page; Lucas, Middleton and Mullett; Reeves, Humphrey, Martindale, Smith and Fisher.**

**Atherstone: Tucker; Snook and Bache; Jones, Whittaker and Buckley; Albrighton, Pickin, Finch, Bucknell and Vaughan.**

Nuneaton welcomed Atherstone Town to Manor Park for the Nuneaton Hospital Cup semi-final. There was a gate of about 4,000, with about 1,000 of these being unemployed, who were admitted to the ground just after the start.

Nuneaton attacked from the start, but Humphreys was stopped close in by Snook. A corner followed and Whittaker headed away. The "Adders" then attacked and a clever centre by Albrighton was met by Finch, who shot wide. Harris sent Martindale away and the centre-forward placed neatly to Humphreys, but Snook made a fine clearance.

The home goal came under pressure for some time with Harris and Middleton defending stoutly. At the other end Tucker saved from Martindale. Reeves was making tracks for the Atherstone goal when he was tripped by Bache on the



# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



edge of the area. The free-kick was finely placed by Lucas, and Smith was only inches too high with a nice header. The “Adders” went straight to the other end and Finch scored with a great shot from 20 yards.

Stung by this reverse, Nuneaton attacked with great determination, and Tucker had to deal with a shot from Martindale, and later one from Reeves. For a time the Atherstone goal underwent heavy pressure and Tucker again saved well, this time from Smith. Vaughan missed an excellent chance for Atherstone, when he skied over the bar from Albrighton’s cross. Humphreys shot from an acute angle and Tucker threw the ball away from a ruck of players.

Nuneaton forced a corner which was well placed by Reeves, and Smith had little difficulty in turning the ball into the net, after 30 minutes. At this stage the “Adders” defenders appeared rattled under continual pressure and only the alertness of Tucker prevented Nuneaton from taking the lead.

The “Adders” took the lead again, however, Pickin netting after Finch had struck the framework with a lightning drive.

The first incident of note in the second half was a terrific cross shot by Smith which went over the bar. A free-kick to Nuneaton was taken by Lucas and Tucker punched away, while Smith then shot recklessly wide when well-placed. Only brilliant goalkeeping by Tucker kept the “Nuns” in arrears as Atherstone were kept almost entirely on the defensive, but the home forwards failed to profit by some easy chances.

Excitement was intense as the game came to a close and there was a great cheer when Middleton obtained the equalising goal close on time.

## **Bloxwich Strollers v Nuneaton Town 11-09-1926**

**Nuneaton: Johnson; Harris and Page; Lucas, Middleton and Mullett; Reeves, Humphrey, Martindale, Wighton and Smith.**

**Bloxwich: Thacker; Fieldhouse and Fletcher; Martin, Marshall and Wilkes; Potter, Blunt, Pitt, Faulkner and Ellis.**

Nuneaton travelled to face Bloxwich Strollers in a Birmingham Combination game.

Bloxwich opened the scoring after eight minutes when Blunt touched the ball to Faulkner, who gave Johnson no chance with a fine shot. The home team, who had the slope in their favour, kept the upper hand for the time being, booting the ball about to good purpose. A centre from the right led to Faulkner shooting, and Johnson saved well, but did not get the ball away and Pitt increased the home side’s lead. A minute later Pitt scored again and Nuneaton were 3-0 down after 16 minutes.

Nuneaton attacked strongly and Martindale had bad luck in heading against the upright and a little later Wighton skimmed the bar with a fast drive. In another promising Nuneaton raid, which was started by Humphrey, Martindale got in Wighton’s way as he was about to shoot, and Humphrey shot over the top. Good work by Middleton kept

the ball in the Bloxwich half, but one movement was spoilt by a faulty centre by Reeves.

The home side went close to extending their lead and Harris checked another attack and the ball went out to Smith, but nothing came of it. Harris was called on to defend again and had to pass back to Johnson before Nuneaton came more into the game, chiefly through Middleton and Humphrey. Harris had to clear from another home attack.

After the break Nuneaton made good headway, and from a pass by Middleton, Wighton shot wide of the goal. Johnson had to save from Blunt and Ellis in turn, before Town were awarded a penalty for handball and Middleton took the kick and scored. Lucas miskicked in front of goal and Johnson had to punch away at the expense of a fruitless corner. Bad passing by Martindale ruined the next move, while a long drive from Lucas was too high.

The home side went close through Pitt, who headed wide, but Town were defending well, as well as having a good share of the play. A raid was stopped by Fieldhouse, before Middleton accidentally handled in the Nuneaton half and Marshall sent in a great long shot. Johnson knocked the ball away but Blunt screwed the ball into the net before the goalkeeper could recover. Bloxwich monopolised the play and had another free kick, following which Ellis struck the side netting. Nuneaton were weak in attack and re-arranged the team with Middleton going centre-forward and Smith centre-half. This move bore fruit and eventually shots were fired in by Wighton, Reeves, Martindale and Humphrey.

## **Nuneaton Town v Bromsgrove Rovers 18-09-1926**

**Nuneaton: Johnson; Harris and Page; R. Kendell, Middleton and Mullett; Reeves, Humphrey, Smith, Wighton and Townsend.**

**Bromsgrove: Byng; White and Cope; Cochrane, Ragley and Brookes; Smith, Bradbury, Bromage, Tustin and Locke.**

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

Nuneaton were first to attack, but Bromsgrove soon broke, when Locke tricked Harris and centred. Johnson was hustled and lost the ball, but it came to nothing. Wighton had two shots blocked in quick succession, and Nuneaton were pushed back again, but the backs defended well.

Nuneaton attacked strongly and Byng had to run out, but missed the ball and there was an exciting attempt by two or three Nuneaton players to get the ball in. Bromsgrove scored 13 minutes after the start, when ex-Nuneaton player Bromage beat Harris and had a clear run. He finished by beating Johnson with a clever screw shot.

Nuneaton attacked again, Wighton failing with two shots. From a corner on the Nuneaton left, Middleton headed the ball goalwards and White could only save by heading over his own bar. Nuneaton attacked well and had more of the ball for a while with Smith, Wighton and Humphrey trying

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



shots, and Humphrey also heading over the bar when well placed. A lovely pass from Wighton caused danger, but Smith was offside, while a shot from Middleton resulted in a corner as Bromsgrove's goal underwent a prolonged siege. One tussle in front of the net, when Middleton shot, resulted in an appeal for a penalty.

Town resumed in promising fashion, but Humphrey spoilt matters. From a good pass by Smith, Wighton passed out to Townsend, whose failure to gather the ball ruined a golden opportunity for Town. Bromage put the visitors further ahead seven minutes after the break when he steered the ball past Page, drew Johnson out of his goal and shot past the keeper and into the net.

Townsend swapped places with Smith and the new centre-forward swung the ball out to the right and Humphrey centred, only for the ball to run along the crossbar. Humphrey improved matters with a clever dribble and Wighton strove hard to score. Johnson was visited again, but the ball got away from the advancing Bromage. A good centre by Reeves, led to Wighton testing Byng, who made a brilliant save at close range, at the expense of a corner. Before Bromsgrove could get the ball away it went to Smith, who headed the ball into the net.

Rovers attacked again with some vigour and Harris saved a certain goal by kicking out from right in front of the net after Johnson had fumbled the ball. Three successive corners for Town roused hopes of an equaliser, but although Middleton put wide with a good attempt, there was no further scoring.

## Atherstone Town v Nuneaton Town 22-09-1926

**Atherstone: Tucker; Snook and Bache; Buckley, Whittaker and Jones; Albrighton, Finch, Winterton, Jordan and Bushnell.**

**Nuneaton: Hiorns; Harris and Page; Lucas, Middleton and Mullett; Reeves, Humphrey, Williams, Wighton and Townsend.**

Nuneaton travelled to Sheepy Road to play a Nuneaton Hospital Cup semi-final replay. The teams were playing for the right to meet Hinckley United in the final.

The first goal of the game came after three minutes, Winterton beating Harris to score a clever goal. This was the only goal of the first half, although the "Nuns" had considerably the better of the argument. The "Adders" however, made the most of their opportunities and shortly after half-time, a mistake by Middleton let in Albrighton, who found the net with a rasping cross-shot. Stung by this second reverse, the visitors attacked with great persistency, and after Tucker had only partially parried a shot sharp shot from Wighton, Reeves seized his opportunity and drove the ball into the net.

Nuneaton were then awarded a penalty, giving them the chance to get on level terms, after Buckley handled a centre from Townsend in the penalty area, but Tucker tipped Middleton's penalty over the bar. Hiorns' mistake led up to

Atherstone's third goal, while following a melee in the home goalmouth, Wighton reduced the home side's lead.

## Walsall Reserves v Nuneaton Town 25-09-1926

**Nuneaton: Hiorns; Harris and Page; Lucas, Middleton and Mullett; Reeves, Wighton, Williams, Humphrey and A. H. Smith.**

Nuneaton travelled to Walsall to face the "Saddlers" in a Birmingham Combination fixture.

Nuneaton were first to attack with Middleton feeding the forwards with neat passes. Walsall got down, but Scholes could only shoot behind. At the other end Wighton passed to Smith, who was given offside. Saddlers came again and Primford tested Hiorns with a hot shot after Page had failed to clear. Nuneaton were soon on the defensive again and from Haddington's pass, Primford turned the ball towards the net, but Hiorns made a brilliant save.

Nuneaton's forwards got away and Williams made a good attempt to hook the ball in. Reeves forced a corner from which nothing came. A second corner ensued from which Lucas put in a drive. Scholes got round Page, but centred too strongly, then Primford burst through and took the ball up to the net, but Hiorns saved at the expense of a corner.

Nuneaton attacked again, but Williams was stopped by Adams, who twice after this repulsed the visitors in fairly easy fashion. Nuneaton conceded two free-kicks well into their own territory, but they came to nothing and Hiorns tipped over a terrific drive by Adams. From the resultant corner Primford shot just wide. Wighton and Humphrey swapped places, and Scott was called on when one of his own backs had to kick the ball back to him. Then, Smith tricked two defenders in turn and only had Scott to beat, but the latter stepped out and spoilt his shot.

The Saddlers attacked again, but Hiorns was safe, though he had to concede a corner, and it was some time before the visitors could get the ball away. The game continued mostly in Walsall's favour and Hiorns had to deal with a drive by Binks. A good tackle by Page was followed by a Nuneaton breakaway, which ended in Williams shooting wide. The visitors returned and Raynes blocked a centre by Reeves. Humphrey and Wighton played well and Raynes conceded a corner, but the visitors failed to profit. Smith missed a good chance just before the interval.

Nuneaton had the slope in their favour in the second half, but Walsall did most of the attacking, with Hiorns making another good save. Excellent work by the Nuneaton right wing pair led to the home goal being threatened. Mullett returned the ball to the centre and Humphrey made a splendid effort to hook the ball in, but Scott tipped over. Wighton shot over from the corner before Walsall retaliated and Nuneaton's goal had a narrow escape.

A good run by Scholes led to Haddington trying to turn the ball in at close range, but he was thwarted by Hiorns.

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



Nuneaton were on the defensive for a while and Middleton headed out when Walters looked threatening. Williams tested Scott with a low shot that had little force behind it.

Neither side could gain the upper hand, but a spell of pressing by Nuneaton ensued, ending in Scott having to come out to a centre by Middleton. Corner kicks by both teams were got away and the match ended 0-0.

## Nuneaton Town v Birmingham Trams 02-10-1926

**Nuneaton: Phillips; Harris and Page; Lucas, Middleton and Smith; Reeves, Hollingsworth, Capewell, Wighton and Townsend.**

**Trams: Canning; Garrett and Milligan; Herbert, Mason and Tedder; Duffy, Warton, Twomlow, Gray and T. Garrett.**

Nuneaton welcomed Birmingham Trams to Manor Park for a Birmingham Combination game. The home side tried out a new centre-forward, Capewell.

Lucas passed to Hollingsworth, who touched the ball to Capewell, who netted with just eight minutes gone. The home team attacked again, through Harris and Lucas, and Capewell headed the ball neatly to Wighton, who tested Canning with a fast drive, the goalkeeper saving well.

The visitors attacked and a pass by Mason led to T. Garrett firing a shot at Phillips, who saved. Gray also made a good effort to improve matters for his side by a clever centre, but the home defence prevailed. Page relieved from another Trams' raid. A move engineered by Middleton was followed by a centre by Reeves, which saw Capewell robbed just in time by a Trams' back.

Town kept the upper hand, though they had to deal with a free-kick for the visitors just outside the home penalty area. A breakaway ensued and Capewell made tracks for goal. Milligan looked as if he were about to stop him, but the centre-forward steadied himself, and cleverly tricked the opposing back before cutting in and beating Canning with a brilliant left-footer to give Town a 2-0 lead which they took into the break.

Town scored again seven minutes into the second half when Reeves broke away in midfield and, leaving all opposition behind him, cut in and scored with a great shot to put the home side 3-0 up. Twomlow made a gallant effort to improve matters for his side, but the Trams' defence had to stand an almost continuous siege for the next few minutes. Canning had to deal with a long drive from Lucas after which Townsend skimmed the bar with a lovely shot. The Birmingham men broke away 19 minutes after the interval, and a very neat movement ended in Wharton having little difficulty in beating Phillips.

The home side soon returned to the fray, and penned in the Trams for another considerable period with shots by Middleton and a dangerous centre by Wighton almost bringing down the visitors' goal. Shortly before the close there was a fierce Nuneaton attack, from which Trams were

lucky to escape. Another attack followed, with Wighton again prominent, and Townsend tested Canning with a strong shot from the wing. Trams attacked strongly just before the end, but just before the final whistle Nuneaton were pressing with Wighton and Smith showing up well.

## Leamington Town v Nuneaton Town 09-10-1926

**Nuneaton: Phillips; Harris and Page; Lucas, Middleton and A. H. Smith; Reeves, Hollingsworth, Capewell, Wighton and Townsend.**

Nuneaton travelled to The Windmill Lane Ground to face Birmingham Combination champions Leamington Town in a league fixture.

Leamington were the first to get away only for Smith to return the ball, Capewell making a futile effort to charge down Partridge's kick. Nuneaton returned to the attack, but some keen tackling checked them. Nuneaton were playing an open game and holding their own. They pressed heavily for a time with Hollingsworth and Capewell shooting just wide.

Capewell missed a chance from a few yards out before forcing his way through due to sheer persistency, only to see Edgington make a brilliant save. Nuneaton had a fortunate escape at the other end when Wright miskicked. The game was suspended temporarily after Capewell and Partridge had collided and the Town centre-forward had to be carried off, obviously in pain. Despite this handicap Nuneaton still held their own.

Later, however, Harris handled when Shanks would have been through, and from Shanks' centre Wright put Leamington ahead, with Phillips having no chance. With only ten men, Nuneaton fell away, but were defending stoutly. Capewell returned immediately and caused the home defence some concern, Edgington saving a shot which had plenty of spin, but no pace. Although Wright increased Leamington's lead, Nuneaton did not deserve to be behind at half-time.

Early in the second half the referee had to administer a caution to Walker and Harris. Holmes twice intercepted when Town were becoming dangerous, with Wighton being prominent with some good work. Leamington increased their lead, five minutes after the restart when Compton ran in to score while the visitors' defence hesitated, under the impression that he was offside.

The Town were by no means a spent force, but lacked shooting power. Leamington returned to the attack and Walker outpaced Page to send in a terrific drive, which hit the bar. A clever back pass by Harris had Walker off his guard, but when Smith hastily threw in from touch, he was penalised, but no danger accrued. Middleton was playing well at centre-half. It seemed surprising that Nuneaton should be three goals behind, but the secret of it all was that Leamington took their opportunities. Phillips showed commendable anticipation in coming out to meet Walker. At the final whistle Nuneaton had been defeated by three goals to nil.



## Nuneaton Town v Bournville Athletic 16-10-1926

**Nuneaton:** Phillips; Harris and Page; Lucas, Middleton and Smith; Moore, Wighton, Capewell, Townsend and Hollingsworth.

**Bournville:** Wilmott; Passent and Stainton; Birch, Wright and Sheppard; Farman, Plant, Jackson, Owen and Best.

Nuneaton welcomed Bournville Athletic to Manor Park for a Birmingham Combination game

Nuneaton scored in the first few minutes of the game. Moore forced a corner and crossed to Middleton, who manoeuvred for position and scooped the ball into the net. Just after Nuneaton were awarded a free-kick just outside the visitors' penalty area. Middleton took the kick, but shot just wide. Bournville then attacked, but a fine centre by Farman was headed past the post by Jackson. At this stage Nuneaton were defending well. 'Pop' Harris delighting the crowd with some splendid clearances.

Phillips made a brilliant save from Owen, tipping a fast shot over the crossbar. While at the other end Smith and Capewell both had hard luck in not scoring. Wilmott, the visitors' goalkeeper, stopped a surprise shot from the latter just in time. After half-an-hour's play Wighton passed out to Moore who sent in a lovely centre which Townsend headed into the net, giving Wilmott no chance. Bournville made desperate efforts to reduce the lead, but they were weak in front of goal. Several good movements were spoilt by shots that were yards wide of the posts. They were still pressing when half-time arrived.

In the second half the home team attacked on the right wing, but Hollingsworth placed outside. Shortly afterwards Middleton passed forward to Townsend, who beat Passent, but shot over the crossbar. Nine minutes into the second half Bournville scored an easy goal when Best centred for Jackson, who curled the ball round Phillips and into the net. From the kick-off, Nuneaton added another goal. Hollingsworth centred for Wighton to convert.

Nuneaton had the visitors penned in and the Bournville goal had several narrow escapes. Townsend was prominent in one move, whilst Capewell sent in a fast shot that Wilmott saved well. Capewell was carried off just after and Bournville scored again through Plant, from a centre by Best. Capewell returned and Nuneaton again had the best of the play with Wilmott making a fine save from Middleton's free-kick.

Offside spoilt another free-kick, whilst Smith shot over the bar when well placed. Hollingsworth also shot wide when he should have passed. He made amends soon afterwards and sent the ball straight across the goalmouth, and Wilmott only just managed to clear. Nuneaton's reward came soon afterwards, Middleton passed well up the field and Capewell securing, made a beeline for goal. He sent in a terrific shot which Wilmott was unable to stop. The final whistle went soon after with the home side 4-2 winners.

## Dudley Bean v Nuneaton Town 23-10-1926

**Nuneaton:** Phillips; Harris and Page; Lucas, Middleton and Pearce; Moore, Wighton, Capewell, Townsend and Hollingsworth.

Nuneaton travelled to Dudley Bean for a Birmingham Combination fixture.

The opening exchanges were pretty even, and eventually Jasper got a shot in, but Phillips made a good save. The home goal narrowly escaped from a corner forced by Hollingsworth. Nuneaton were on the defensive for a while, the Bean having two free-kicks not far outside the Nuneaton penalty area. From one of these, given for a foul by Middleton, Jasper put in a hard drive, but Phillips made a brilliant save. Bean attacked and from a pass from the right J. Morris had nothing to do but to touch the ball into the net.

Some great kicking by Harris thwarted one or two home raids and Nuneaton had a couple of attacks, but Capewell rather spoilt matters by being in too big a hurry to shoot. A promising Town movement ended in Capewell being offside. A little later Wighton took a long pass from Smith and ran through nicely, though too closely pressed to be able to pass properly.

After 35 minutes, Nuneaton's defence was in a quandary through a miskick by Page. Phillips had to run out to an attacker and the ball flew out to Woodhall, who banged it towards the net and Smith stopped the ball with his hands. J. Morris easily netted from the penalty.

The home goal had a narrow escape from a centre by Moore, the ball dropping on to the bar. Woodhall scored an offside goal just before the interval, but it was allowed.

There was no further scoring in the second half, although Nuneaton strived determinedly, but unsuccessfully, to reduce the deficit. The Nuneaton goal was threatened early on, but Phillips made two brilliant saves to keep the home team at bay. Wighton made a great effort to reduce the lead, testing Tranter with a fine shot. Townsend and Hollingsworth changed places at this juncture. Dudley attacked again, and Woodhall was about to shoot from a good position when Smith took the ball off his toe.

Middleton initiated another raid which ended in Wighton sending just over the bar. From a pass by Townsend, Wighton headed on to the top of the net, and a little later the same player struck the underside of the crossbar. Nuneaton were now having the best of the play, and Moore had a good chance of cutting in, but preferred to centre, and Tranter saved. Nuneaton kept up the pressure with Smith being prominent. About ten minutes before the close Nuneaton were awarded a penalty against James for holding Hollingsworth. Wighton took the kick but did not seem to get properly behind the ball and Tranter saved. Middleton placed over from a free-kick just outside the penalty area. Shots by Lucas and Smith followed, and at the final whistle Dudley were 3-0 winners.



# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



## Nuneaton Town v Foleshill Great Heath 30-10-1926

**Nuneaton: Phillips; Harris and Page; Lucas, Middleton and A. H. Smith; Hollingsworth, Wighton, Capewell, Mullett and Townsend.**

Nuneaton welcomed an old enemy, Foleshill Great Heath, to Manor Park for a Birmingham Combination fixture.

Nuneaton attacked strongly at the start and the visitors' goal had some narrow escapes. An amusing incident occurred 20 minutes from the start when the ball burst in a tussle between opposing players, a loud crack being heard across the ground. About 30 minutes after the start the home team were awarded a penalty for a foul on Capewell by Fletcher. Page scored with the kick, the ball grazing the inside of the upright before going in.

Two minutes later Town might have had another penalty against Pearson for handling, but the referee did not award it. Good work by Hollingsworth brought a corner. The outside-right placed well from the flag kick, and from the resultant scramble, Middleton bundled the ball in.

Foleshill failed to profit from a free-kick, well into home territory and Town soon came back onto the offensive again and from a centre by Townsend, Mullett headed wide. Wighton worked his way neatly into position and fired in a good shot, as Foleshill were lucky to be only two goals down at the interval.

Two minutes after the break, Town went further ahead. A free-kick near the half-way line was taken by Harris and from the struggle which followed Mullett banged the ball high into the net. Middleton shot over as Nuneaton attacked frequently, and came within a whisker of scoring again from a centre by Townsend. Horsley then had to deal with a surprise drive by Middleton.

One or two attempts by the Heathens to get into the home half were easily thwarted by Page, but at length Bourke became rather troublesome, until pulled up by Harris. Another centre by Townsend led to Wighton heading over. Town were now fast and formidable in attack, a feature still being Townsend's centring, though it was a centre by Hollingsworth which led to the next goal, Mullett again finding the mark with a good shot.

Lively scenes continued to take place in front of the visitors' goal, the Town having two corners and Horsley having to save at pretty close range from Capewell. Another goal should have come, but Capewell missed a good chance. Foleshill failed to profit from a free-kick, but Horsley was visited again soon after. At the other end Middleton tried another dribble, which did not succeed. Capewell scored again about ten minutes from the close. Horsley partly stopped his shot, but the force of it was such that the ball twisted out of his hands and went over the line. Following a tame Foleshill attack, the home team raced away to the other end and Wighton scored with a great volley.

## Rugby Town v Nuneaton Town 06-11-1926

**Rugby: Tucker; A. Buckler and Snook; J. Buckley, Whittaker and Peters; Reeves, Dobson, Williams, Littlechild and Granger.**

**Nuneaton: Pearson; Lee and Page; Fletcher, Phillips and Brooks; Robinson, Brindley, Naylor, Whitfield and Bright.**

Nuneaton visited Rugby in the second round of the Birmingham Senior Cup. There was an excellent attendance with Nuneaton having a large following of spectators.

The home keeper had to save a free-kick taken by Fletcher, and immediately after Lee had to save from a Rugby raid. Bright broke through nicely and centred for A. Buckley to relieve from a dangerous situation. Play was ding-dong in nature for a long spell with both sets of defenders showing up well.

Snook aimed well from a free-kick in the Nuneaton half, but Pearson saved. Rugby were dangerous for a few minutes, until Whitfield initiated a raid for the visitors, which was taken on by Robinson, but to no avail. Tucker had to deal with Whitfield's header, while Williams headed over at the other end. Bright made a good break and centred, but Robinson was tackled. Brindley worked hard to create an opening for the visitors, but this failed through Naylor being offside.

A dangerous centre by Granger led to Phillips making a good tackle when things looked threatening for the visitors. Nuneaton played a very quick game, and Phillips showed up well as pivot. Naylor tried to turn the ball in before Rugby retaliated strongly and Pearson saved a hard shot by Reeves.

Nuneaton pressed hard after the break and opened the scoring five minutes after the interval, following a nice movement from which Naylor took aim. The ball struck the inside of the post and curled towards the net. Snook rushed in and tried to rescue it, but could only push it in. A minute or two later, the visitors increased their lead from a free-kick taken by Fletcher, who put in a good kick which Whitfield cleverly converted. The home goal had a very narrow escape when Tucker touched a shot by Naylor onto the post and Robinson shot over the bar.

A little later Tucker had to save on the ground from Brindley. Rugby then began to press, but found the visiting defence in excellent form. After 27 minutes of the second half, Bright netted with a tremendous shot. With a quarter of an hour to go Rugby put on strong pressure and Williams scored following a scramble, with Pearson on the ground and unable to get to the ball. Later Naylor got clean away, but shot wide with only the keeper to beat.

## Sunbeam Motors v Nuneaton Town 13-11-1926

**Nuneaton: Phillips; Harris and Page; Lucas, Middleton and A. H. Smith; Hollingsworth, Wighton, Capewell, Mullett and Townsend.**

Nuneaton travelled to Wolverhampton to face Sunbeam Motors in a Birmingham Combination fixture. The game started late due to the late arrival of several Nuneaton players and only 35 minutes each way was completed.

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



Sunbeam scored seven minutes after the start through Perry, while Nuneaton still had a depleted team. Harris was keeping goal, as Phillips entered the field of play, and though he got into position when the ball was returned from Harris' save, he was unable to stop it, even though he made a good attempt.

Nuneaton were having to fight against both wind and slope in the first half. Hollingsworth got in a shot from good range, which Biddleston saved as Nuneaton continued to have a good share of the play. Middleton worked his way into position but shot wide, while a centre by Townsend saw Sunbeam clear to briefly relieve the pressure. However, Middleton got the ball again, and the visiting attack pressed for some time.

Nuneaton attacked again and Middleton opened the game out well. A centre by Townsend led to Hollingsworth forcing a corner, from which Middleton tested the goalkeeper with a good shot. Sunbeam returned to the attack and after 30 minutes Harris conceded a free-kick, handling the ball just outside the penalty area. Bradley took the kick and Phillips got down and pushed the ball away, but it fell to Perry, who shot home his second goal of the game.

Nuneaton set up another attack and a strong centre by Townsend was cleared. Jordan handled in the penalty area just before half-time and Page scored from the penalty.

With the wind and slope in their favour, Nuneaton kept the Sunbeam in their own half for a long period and equalised nine minutes after the interval when Hollingsworth moved in during a fierce raid, picked up the ball and banged the ball into the net. The home team fought to win back the lead but Harris and Page were safe.

A long shot from Wighton went just wide and Hollingsworth just missed following a touch by Capewell. Twenty minutes into the second half Wighton scored following a tussle in front of goal and about a minute later Whitehouse was fouled in the area by Middleton and Biddlestone equalised. Mullett found the net for Nuneaton a minute later with a rattling shot, and a minute later Page increased the lead with a shot from distance. Middleton had a goal disallowed for offside before Whitehouse had a clear run at the Town goal and took the ball right up to Phillips, who saved superbly. Wighton scored after 34 minutes, dribbling though and netting with a magnificent shot, and the same player completed his hat-trick by scoring again immediately after.

## Nuneaton Town v Hereford United 20-11-1926

**Nuneaton: Phillips; Harris and Page; Lucas, Middleton and Smith; Reeves, Wighton, Capewell, Mullett and Townsend.**

**Hereford: Woodiwiss; Smith and Price; Watson, Morris and Stone; Osborne, Thomas, Gregory, Tranter and Swash.**

Nuneaton welcome Hereford United to Manor Park for a Birmingham Combination fixture.

Nuneaton scored straight from the kick-off when Townsend centred for Capewell to head the ball towards the net, and

Wighton fired the ball home. Hereford retaliated strongly and Phillips made a good save, turning the ball round the post. Hereford kept up the pressure for a few minutes.

Town attacked and Townsend made several good centres, and Town increased their lead when Wighton beat Woodiwiss from one of them, with a good shot. The game was contested at a fast pace and the home goal had a narrow escape when Phillips pushed the ball out to a Hereford attacker, who shot wide with Phillips out of position. Hereford lost centre-forward Gregory 15 minutes before the break and their keeper was injured at the same time, during a fierce Nuneaton attack, in which Wighton went very close. Gregory returned to the field, although Nuneaton still monopolised the play, but had a tendency to over-elaborate. Hereford had a chance before the break, but Phillips ran out and thwarted Thomas with a good save.

The second half was played in semi-darkness. Nuneaton maintained their superiority and should have scored on several occasions. Middleton started another promising move, but Wighton just failed to get to the ball. Osborne attacked for the visitors, but Harris headed clear. Seventeen minutes into the second half, Nuneaton's defence was undone by a clever Hereford attack and Morris planted the ball into the net.

About a minute later Town scored again following a tussle in front of the Hereford goal. The ball went to Smith, who banged it high into the net, giving Woodiwiss no chance. Two minutes later Capewell scored the home team's fourth goal, working an opening on his own before beating the keeper. Morris netted a second goal for Hereford five minutes before the end.

## Cradley Heath v Nuneaton Town 27-11-1926

**Cradley: Woodhouse; Evans and Bridges; Lowe, Gibbons and Jones; Langford, Taylor, Johnson, Wesson and Morgan.**

**Nuneaton: Phillips; Harris and Page; Lucas, Middleton and Smith; Reeves, Wighton, Capewell, Mullitt and Townsend.**

Nuneaton travelled to Cradley for a Birmingham Senior Cup third round tie against the "Heathens".

Cradley soon became dangerous and Phillips dealt with a centre from the right, after which Morgan shot over the bar. Phillips made a brilliant save from Taylor, but could not hold on to the ball and Langford shot home. Nuneaton showed up well for a time and Middleton and Wighton were prominent. Play continued pretty even for a while and a shot by Mullitt went wide, but the home backs were too good for the visitors in the main. Cradley extended their lead after 27 minutes, when Phillips had to rush out to tackle Taylor, and the ball flew to Wesson, who put the ball into an empty goal, with Nuneaton players appealing for offside.

The visitors retaliated and long range shots were put in by Mullitt and Capewell before Langford broke through, but Phillips brought off a fine save and punched away shortly

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



after from a dangerous attack. Nuneaton were hard-pressed for a time and the home side had a penalty appeal turned down. Wighton got away for Nuneaton and hit the post with a fine shot. Woodhouse made two good saves from Wighton before the break.

Langford headed wide from Morgan's centre just after the break, while Middleton, now at inside-left, made strenuous efforts to open the game out. Nuneaton kept up the pressure for a time, with Woodhouse having to save from Townsend, who had received a pass from Wighton. Cradley broke away and got past Page, forcing Phillips to run out to tackle Taylor. Town had another period on top, but apart from Middleton and Wighton, their forwards were not convincing.

Phillips made another good save before Reeves won a corner, from which Mullitt tried to dribble into position, but without success. Town kept up the pressure and shots were put in by Wighton and Middleton, before Cradley scored again after Johnson centred for Wesson to profit from an excellent opening, with the visitors' defence being well beaten by this very rapid move.

Following a save by Woodhouse from Wighton, Langford took a pass from Taylor and cut in and shot well, but Phillips saved. The Town keeper made two more good saves as Cradley proved very dangerous in the closing minutes.

## Nuneaton Town v Atherstone Town 04-12-1926

**Nuneaton: Phillips; Harris and Page; Lucas, Middleton and Smith; Reeves, Wighton, Capewell, Mullitt and Townsend.**

**Atherstone: Tucker; Snook and Finch; Jones, Whittaker and Ellis; Phillips, Saunders, Winterton, Barnes and Hall.**

Nuneaton welcomed Atherstone Town to Manor Park for a Birmingham Combination game.

Nuneaton dominated the early play and Wighton and Mullitt got in shots before, after nine minutes, Nuneaton took the lead when Reeves put in a beautiful centre and Townsend beat Tucker with a great header. The home side increased their lead after 18 minutes through Capewell. Townsend placed the ball towards the Atherstone goal and Capewell followed up and had little difficulty in placing the ball into the open goal.

Good work for Atherstone was done by Whittaker, Winterton and Phillips, who beat Page and tested the home keeper. Barnes became dangerous for the visitors, but Harris brought off a great tackle. Capewell had the ball in the net again, but was given offside. Nuneaton scored a third goal after 39 minutes, when Wighton made an opening for Mullitt to find the net, although there was an appeal for offside. The home side dominated the rest of the half and had no trouble in maintaining their lead.

Winterton threatened at the start of the second half, but was checked by Harris. The visitors kept up the pressure for a while, but Nuneaton broke away and Tucker had to punch away from Reeves. The ball was returned twice and Tucker pulled off a

lucky save from Mullitt at close range. Wighton got in a fierce shot, after nipping neatly into position. Tucker saved, but had to throw away. "Adders" got forward again, but Harris relieved a dangerous situation by conceding a corner. Mullitt scored a fourth goal for Nuneaton with about 15 minutes left, as Atherstone's defence stood appealing for a free-kick.

## Gresley Rovers v Nuneaton Town 11-12-1926

**Gresley: Sherwin; Gilliver and Clements; Hart, Tremelling and Whittaker; Chambers, Brewin, Perry, Fearn and Hoplis.**

**Nuneaton: Phillips; Harris and Page; Kendall, Middleton and Smith; Reeves, Wighton, Bromage, Mullitt and Townsend.**

Nuneaton travelled to Gresley Rovers to fulfil a Birmingham Combination fixture.

Gresley opened the scoring three minutes into the match, with Fearn easily finding the net from a simple movement. A little later Kendall let Gresley in again, but Phillips saved from Fearn. Gresley went close when Perry narrowly missed. A Nuneaton attack started by Middleton was frustrated by Perry, while Townsend shot wide following a corner. Nuneaton made three attacks following brilliant work by Middleton. Bromage just failed to get to a good opening.

Gresley were often dangerous on the left, where there was a weakness in Kendall. A shot by Reeves tested Sherwin before Gresley increased their lead when a pass from Fearn provided Brewin with a chance, that he took with ease. Gresley were the most dangerous side, with most of the threat still coming from the left where Fearn showed some neat touches. After some time Bromage got through and only missed the target by inches. Middleton started another raid and passed to Wighton, who neatly dodged Tremelling, but Hart intervened. Mullitt shot just wide with a fast drive just after Phillips had punched powerfully away from a home attack.

The home defence came under pressure for a spell, but Gresley showed good defence and were also swinging the ball about. Wighton started another attack, but a pass by Reeves was intercepted by Whittaker. Fearn missed a good chance for the home side and at the break Gresley led 2-0.

Nuneaton started the second half well and kept Gresley pinned back for quite a spell and Reeves tested Sherwin with a stinger, from which the keeper conceded a corner with Rovers having a narrow escape following Middleton's shot. Nuneaton were showing a marked superiority and it was no surprise when they reduced the lead eight minutes after the break through Mullitt, whose shot went just under the bar.

Gresley improved and Brewin had two shots, but soon Nuneaton were attacking again and Sherwin had to field a long shot from Bromage. Later, Townsend tested the keeper with a brilliant first-time shot. Wighton shot wide following a corner as Nuneaton continued to look the stronger side, although they were let down by their passing. A corner for Gresley saw Tremelling head over the top and 22 minutes

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



into the second half, Gresley scored an unexpected goal by Chambers, whose shot took Phillips by surprise.

After 30 minutes of the second half, Gresley were awarded a penalty for an infringement by Harris and Brewin scored from the penalty. Nuneaton pressed towards the end and Bromage shot over the top from a good position, while Townsend put in another good shot, but at the whistle Nuneaton had lost 4-1.

## Nuneaton Town v Birmingham City Res. 18-12-1926

**Nuneaton: Phillips; Harris and Page; Lucas, Middleton and Smith; Reeves, Wighton, Capewell, Mullett and Townsend.**

**Birmingham: Hibbs; Brinkwater and Leslie; Staley, Hopkins and Brown; Holdsworth, Firth, Neale, Moore and Wharton.**

Nuneaton entertained Birmingham City in a friendly game, which was in recognition of the services rendered to the St Andrews' club by former Nuneaton goalkeeper Owen.

Nuneaton had the best of the early action and Mullitt headed wide from a corner before Nuneaton kept up the pressure for some time and Leslie had to clear on several occasions. The visitors threatened the home goal after six minutes when Smith miskicked, but Neale shot over the bar. Birmingham began to have more of the play and were neat and nippy in their moves, though Page thwarted their efforts on a couple of occasions. Mullitt got in a splendid shot, but Hibbs brought off a good save and later fielded a long drive from Middleton.

Hopkins led an attack for the visitors which ended in Holdsworth neatly beating Page and testing Phillips with a brilliant shot. Another Birmingham raid saw Smith bring about a timely tackle, almost in the goalmouth. Hibbs, who was giving a fine exhibition in the visitors' goal, stopped a lightning oblique drive from Wighton. A minute later, the visitors took the lead following good work by Holdsworth, who centred strongly for Firth to dodge through and take the ball up to the net and score easily.

Neale missed a chance soon after and Firth was dangerous again. At the other end Townsend put over a good centre, which Capewell failed to convert. Hibbs dealt with a surprise shot by Wighton, which few goalkeepers would have saved. Just before half-time good play by the home right wing led to Reeves dropping a centre almost in the mouth of the goal, where Mullitt shot into the net. At the break the score was tied at 1-1.

Birmingham started the second half with plenty of pace, confining play to the home territory for several minutes. They were especially good in midfield and Phillips was called on two or three times. After some time, Middleton got Townsend away, but he was checked. The home goal had a narrow escape when Phillips ran out and missed the ball, but Birmingham took the lead thirteen minutes into the second half.

Birmingham were continually threatening and Harris was applauded for some good tackling. Mullitt was playing a bustling game and Hibbs had to go out to stop Townsend,

who was injured in the collision. Reeves came into the game more and from one of his centres Capewell all but scored. Hibbs saved a great shot from Wighton and a scuffle between Hibbs and three or four home attackers was more reminiscent of rugby than of the "soccer" code. The "Blues" had a narrow escape when Wighton struck the crossbar, but ran out 2-1 winners.

## Nuneaton Town v Evesham Town 27-12-1926

**Nuneaton: Phillips; Harris and Page; Lucas, Middleton and Smith; Reeves, J. O. Phillips, Capewell, Mullitt and Townsend.**

Nuneaton entertained Evesham at Manor Park on Boxing Day in a Birmingham Combination fixture. J. O. Phillips of Haunchwood Institute, brother of the Town keeper, was given a trial as Wighton was unable to turn out because of a cold.

Town's first goal came six minutes from the start, through J. O. Phillips, although the visitors were unlucky not to equalise soon after, when Smith, the Nuneaton right-half, kicked the ball away from off the goal line. Middleton missed an open goal after a pass from Capewell, while at the other end, Phillips just managed to get the ball away after being hustled into the net. At the break Nuneaton led 1-0.

Evesham started the second half with ten men, as their keeper was out of action, with Stokes deputising. Nuneaton soon attacked as Reeves beat his man, but centred behind. Barnett the Evesham keeper returned and the game became end-to-end in nature. Barnett had to punch away on one occasion before Evesham countered and Humphries shot over the bar. Nuneaton rushed to the other end where Capewell was fouled by Stokes on the edge of the area. Harris took the free-kick and netted with a well-aimed drive.

Capewell led a move towards the Evesham goal in determined fashion before passing out to Townsend, who centred for Phillips to test Barnett from close range. The goalkeeper could only just push the ball away, and Capewell headed into the open goal.

Nuneaton were now in the ascendancy, with the play being based in the Evesham half. Townsend struck the bar with great force from good range and from the rebound Phillips shot over the bar with an open goal. The Evesham goal had several narrow escapes before the final whistle, when the score was 3-0 to Nuneaton.

## Halesowen Town v Nuneaton Town 28-12-1926

**Nuneaton: Phillips; Harris and Page; Lucas, Middleton and Smith; Reeves, J. O. Phillips, Capewell, Mullitt and Townsend.**

Nuneaton travelled to The Grove, to face Halesowen in a Birmingham Combination fixture.

Nuneaton Town put up an excellent fight at Halesowen on Tuesday, and were only defeated by the odd goal in five after a keen struggle. Both Nuneaton's goals were scored by J.



# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



O. Phillips, who again gave an excellent account of himself. The game was vigorously contested, and Nuneaton were unfortunate to lose in so far that Harris, in attempting to clear put through his own goal.

On another occasion, just before half-time, Mullett got the ball into the net, but the referee was not in a position to see that the ball had crossed the line, and disallowed the goal.

Play at the outset was very evenly contested, both keepers being found plenty to do. Phillips effecting several smart clearances. After eight minutes play Halesowen took the lead, Bushnell being the scorer.

This reverse put Nuneaton on their mettle, and Phillips equalised the score, after which came the Mullett incident. Half-time arrived with the score at 1-1.

Early in the second half Harris deflected the ball into his own goal, and Bushnell placed the home team further ahead. The visitors had most of the play after this and Phillips reduced the deficit. The visitors made strenuous attempts to get on an equal footing, but this was denied them. Both teams played with ten men for the greater part of the game, Guest the home goalkeeper and Capewell being carried off injured.

## Nuneaton Town v Gresley Rovers 01-01-1927

**Nuneaton: Phillips; Harris and Page; Lucas, Middleton and Smith; Reeves, Wighton, Capewell, Bromage and Townsend.**

Nuneaton welcomed Gresley Rovers to Manor Park for a Birmingham Combination fixture on New Year's Day.

Nuneaton attacked from the start and Townsend send over a good centre for Bromage to shoot into the net with a first-time shot. Gresley retaliated and Brewin got in a shot, with Tremelling also putting in a couple, although Phillips was not seriously troubled.

Nuneaton were more dangerous in attack and some great centres were put in by Townsend, and from one of them Sherwin had to deal with an awkward bouncing shot from Wighton. The home defence was penetrated and Bird had an excellent opening, but shot tamely wide. The home backs looked uncertain for a time, as Gresley continued to attack.

Another centre from Townsend saw Reeves return the ball into the area where shots were put in by Capewell and Lucas. Gresley attacked again about nine minutes before the break and Phillips had to come out to Brewin, but the keeper failed to stop him and Brewin headed over his shoulder and into the net. About four minutes later Nuneaton were again around the Gresley goal and Reeves bundled the ball in following a scuffle.

Nuneaton were aggressive on the restart, but Gresley broke through on the left and Brewin put in a shot that Phillips saved high up. There was a quick return to the other end, where the Gresley goal underwent a severe bombardment, with Capewell and Wighton being especially prominent. The home side increased their lead ten minutes into the second half when

Bromage worked an opening, taking the ball out to the left and putting it across the mouth of the goal with great speed. A tussle followed and Wighton drove the ball into the net.

The home side kept up the pressure and Bromage got a shot in from Reeves' centre. Town got their fourth goal 15 minutes after the restart with Wighton banging the ball into the net after Sherwin had saved from Smith. Rovers were now mainly on the defensive and their goal had some narrow escapes. Nuneaton's goal also had a close call when Smith had to kick off the goal line following Perry's centre.

Capewell dribbled into position and tested Sherwin with an oblique shot. The goalkeeper fell in trying to save and Bromage put the ball into the net, but it was disallowed for offside. Reeves obtained a corner, from which Wighton shot over before, with 15 minutes to go, Town realised 'The Old Five' with Bromage being the scorer. A concerted movement in which Middleton, Wighton and Capewell took part, led to the Rovers' goal being threatened for a while. Just before the final whistle, Middleton netted following a corner kick.

## Nuneaton Town v Tamworth Castle 08-01-1927

**Nuneaton: Phillips; Harris and Page; Lucas, Middleton, Mullitt; Reeves, Wighton, Capewell, Bromage and Townsend.**

**Tamworth: Pearson; White and Spellman; Ollerenshaw, Morris and Youell; Ceney, Sly, Brewer, Cashmore and Hollis.**

Nuneaton welcomed Tamworth Castle to Manor Park for a Birmingham Combination fixture.

Nuneaton attacked early on and Pearson had to deal with a number of shots, having to punch away on one occasion. A Tamworth raid saw Harris thwart Cashmore in midfield, but in the main the visitors were on the defensive. The Castle goal was in serious danger for a while, Pearson saving a shot at close range by Townsend, and then again from Middleton.

Town remained on top and some brilliant work was done by Middleton in initiating raids on the Tamworth goal. Lucas tested Pearson with a free-kick before the home side launched an onslaught on the visitors' goal, which was started by Middleton and which led to Pearson saving from Capewell. Another tremendous Nuneaton attack, about ten minutes from the interval, saw the Tamworth goal have a narrow escape, with Middleton hitting the bar and Bromage the post, while Capewell also missed the target.

A minute or two later, Nuneaton were again around the Tamworth goal and Spellman, under pressure, handled in the penalty area. Page took the kick, but shot tamely wide, much to the disappointment of the crowd.

Castle attacked after the break, but Harris intervened. The home team threatened several times, Bromage getting in two shots, and Townsend one. Pearson was having an excellent game in the Tamworth goal before the visitors broke away and Hollis tested Phillips. Fifteen minutes after the break the home team scored when, following an opening



from Bromage, Wighton got in a shot that hit the post and rebounded to Middleton, who breasted the ball over the line.

The home goal had a narrow escape from a corner, following which Townsend dribbled the ball neatly into Tamworth territory, but Reeves spoilt a promising move by being too slow to centre. Town increased their lead after about 20 minutes, with Middleton heading the ball home from Lucas' centre. Cashmore tried a shot from distance for the visitors, but was well off target.

Tamworth were now being outclassed, but they made one dangerous attack when Hollis swung the ball across the goalmouth, only for Sly to be tackled by Page. Phillips cleared a dangerous break by Cashmore, as Nuneaton's defence came under some pressure, but coped well. With about five minutes to go Capewell beat the home keeper with a good shot, giving the home side a 3-0 victory.

## Barwell United v Nuneaton Town 15-01-1927

**Barwell: Wale; Moore and Conopo; Payne, Norman and Freakley; Plant, Hextall, Locke, Kind and Corbett.**

**Nuneaton: Phillips; Harris and Page; Lucas, Middleton and Mullitt; Reeves, Wighton, Capewell, Bromage and Townsend.**

Nuneaton travelled to the Holywell Ground, Hinckley, to take on Barwell United in the semi-final of the Hinckley Charity Cup.

Nuneaton were prominent in the early stages and Wighton put in a shot that was too high. Both keepers were tested in quick succession before Middleton initiated another raid, with Wighton struggling in vain to work a shooting position.

Hextall missed a good chance for Barwell, with Phillips coming out, but not being quick enough to tackle his opponent. Norman put in a weak effort from Corbett's centre before Nuneaton transferred play to the other end where a centre by Reeves was cleared by the Barwell defence. Phillips punched away from a Barwell raid. Nuneaton took the lead after 30 minutes when a strong centre by Townsend was deflected into the net by a Barwell defender.

Barwell retaliated, but Harris nipped in to clear, preventing a certain goal. Barwell's goal had a narrow escape from Wighton before Barwell attacked again and got past Page. Locke obtained possession and took the ball in close, where he had little trouble in beating Phillips. Wale had to save from a Nuneaton raid, and at the half-way mark the score was 1-1.

Nuneaton had the advantage of the slope in the second half and were soon on the attack. A promising Nuneaton movement, neatly executed, ended in Bromage shooting over when a goal seemed almost certain. Phillips had to save from a free-kick before a shot by Capewell had to be cleared, with the centre-forward being injured in the process, but he soon resumed. About 20 minutes after the interval Barwell were awarded a free-kick just outside the area for a needless foul by Harris. Locke took the kick and drove it into the net.

Reeves made a good run, but was stopped by Payne and just

after Bromage made great efforts to break through. Nuneaton were soon back again with Capewell and Wighton putting in shots. Corbett made a fine run for United, beating both Harris and Page in succession, but finishing tamely. Middleton forced a corner for Town, which was well-placed by Reeves for Capewell to head a lovely goal, with eight or nine minutes to go. There were exciting scenes at both ends after this and Phillips made a great save from Locke.

## Rugby Town v Nuneaton Town 22-01-1927

**Nuneaton: Phillips; Harris and Page; Lucas, Middleton and Smith; Reeves, Wighton, Capewell, Bromage and Townsend.**

Nuneaton travelled to Rugby to play a Birmingham Combination fixture. The ground was covered in several inches of snow, which made anything like real football out of the question. Due to the state of the pitch only 35 minutes each way was played.

Nuneaton had a good share of the game in the first-half and two excellent chances of scoring were missed by Capewell, one of them in front of an open goal. On the whole Nuneaton were the more dangerous side in the first-half, but could not finish off their efforts properly, in addition to which, the tackling of the Rugby men was good.

All of the scoring was done in the second half as the Nuneaton defence deteriorated considerably after the break, with Harris in particular being below his usual standard. The home team profited and opened the scoring through Williams. Nuneaton equalised straight after with a well worked goal from Middleton. Nuneaton played well after the goal and looked to press home their advantage, but could not keep it up and Rugby began to break through and scored another two goals with comparative ease.

Nuneaton were below their usual form, both at back and half-back, though Middleton played his usual strenuous and skilful game. Smith was weak at left-half and the front line struggled at the centre, but was fairly good otherwise. Wighton tried heroically to work openings and Reeves gave an especially good display at outside right.

## Nuneaton Town v Bloxwich Strollers 29-01-1927

**Nuneaton: Phillips; Harris and Page; Lucas, Middleton and Smith; Reeves, Wighton, Bromage, Mullitt and Townsend.**

Nuneaton played host to Bloxwich Strollers for a Birmingham Combination game at Manor Park. A feature of the game was the introduction of community singing led by conductor Mr Willis and the Nuneaton Town Band. "Tipperary," "John Peel," "Save Your Sorrow," and "Land of Hope and Glory" were heartily rendered.

Nuneaton did all of the attacking and seven minutes after the start, took the lead with a brilliant goal. The movement was started by Middleton, who gave to Bromage, the centre-forward swinging the ball nicely out to the left where

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



Townsend ran in and shot past Thatcher as the visiting keeper came out to meet him. Marshall sent over a free-kick in Nuneaton territory, and on a later occasion Phillips had to throw away under pressure. Another free-kick from the visitors led to a scuffle in front of the home goal. Nuneaton set up another attack and there were some good centres from Reeves. Fletcher had to resort to kicking out under pressure while Thatcher was tested by Bromage's header.

Phillips made a good save at full length from Allcock, while Bromage put in good work for Town. From another centre by Reeves there was an exciting tussle in front of the visitors' goal, which had a narrow escape from a header by Middleton. Harris and Lucas stemmed another Bloxwich raid and Town returned to the attack, but Mullitt wanted too much time.

Lane endeavoured to improve matters for his side, but was well tackled by Lucas, and again the Town were back, shots by Middleton, Wighton and Bromage going over the bar. Nuneaton increased their lead about 10 minutes from the interval following another great centre by Reeves, which was followed by a scuffle in front of goal, which ended in Mullitt shooting into the net, with Thatcher having no chance. Marshall conceded a corner from which Smith headed over and Wighton put in a great shot before the interval.

Nuneaton were first to press after the break, but the Strollers became very aggressive, and after Page had once repelled them, Phillips had to handle following a fierce onslaught. The visitors goal had a narrow escape after Middleton made a beautiful dribble. Strollers made great efforts to score, but Town kept the upper hand, and a promising move initiated by Harris, ended in Townsend driving the ball over the bar.

Strollers pressed again and a prolonged tussle near the Town goal bore an amusing resemblance to a rugby scrum. The home goal was threatened for several minutes and Phillips brought off a good save. Town increased their lead 15 minutes after the interval. A centre by Reeves caused trouble and the ball went to Townsend, who planted the ball into the net. Thatcher performed some excellent goalkeeper work and made saves from Reeves, Bromage and Wighton.

Wighton missed an open goal after working hard and getting into position. Bloxwich attacked and Ellis missed with an oblique drive, as the visitors kept pegging away and with three minutes to go, Allcock shot home. Just before the close Wighton, in a tussle for the ball with Marshall, got his leg jammed. It was reported later that the inside-left had broken his leg below the knee.

## **Bromsgrove Rovers v Nuneaton Town 05-02-1927**

**Nuneaton: Phillips; Harris and Page; Lucas, Middleton and Smith; Reeves, Bromage, Capewell, Mullitt and Townsend.**

Nuneaton travelled to the Victoria Ground, home of Bromsgrove Rovers for a Birmingham Combination match.

Town started the game at a fast pace and after about 20

minutes, a series of brilliant moves were crowned with success, Capewell heading home after Middleton and Mullitt had helped to baffle the home defence. Two more goals followed immediately, through Bromage and Capewell, and Mullitt added a fourth when the game was no more than 30 minutes old. Though Rovers managed to reduce the deficit by one goal, they were a beaten side, although with the advantage of the slope after the break, they made a weak attempt to rally.

Bromsgrove were first to score after the break when a shot by Hadland went into the net, but rebounded out and was cleared. The referee rightly awarded a goal. Nuneaton soon returned to their early brilliance, and completed the Rovers discomfiture with two more goals. Bromage, with a great solo effort, and Townsend, with one of the best shots of the day.

Great play by Town's half-backs had a lot to do with the sweeping victory. Bromsgrove were entirely outshone in the forwards, with the nimble Nuneaton quintet always on the move towards goal, and swinging the ball about in a manner that would have been a handful for any team in the league.

## **Nuneaton Town v Walsall Reserves 12-02-1927**

**Nuneaton: Phillips; Harris and Page; Lucas, Middleton and Smith; Reeves, Bromage, Capewell, Mullitt and Townsend.**

Nuneaton welcomed league leaders Walsall Reserves to Manor Park for a Birmingham Combination game.

It was one of the toughest battles of the season as Walsall proved to be dour and skilful fighters, who stubbornly contested every inch of the way. It was a lack of finishing power when near to goal and also faulty shooting, which were the Saddlers undoing. There were also blemishes in Town's display, the forwards being ragged and disappointing in the passing department. Considering the share of play enjoyed by the home team, and allowing for Walsall's extremely capable defence, the home side should still have scored more goals.

The home right wing was the best part of the front line, though Bromage could not be said to be at his best. Reeves again did some useful centring, and it was from one of his passes that Nuneaton were able to open the scoring, 23 minutes after the start. Bromage putting the ball into the net with the Walsall defence completely beaten. Townsend on the extreme left, was kept quiet, but was dangerous when he had the chance, providing some powerful centres. Capewell opened the game out nicely, but he missed two or three likely scoring chances.

Both sets of defenders acquitted themselves well in general. Town were strong in both halves and backs but some bungling took place at these, especially on the occasion in the second half, when the visitors managed to equalise. However, Town were awarded a penalty soon after, and Harris banged the ball hard and straight, with Scott hardly touching it as it flew into the net.

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



There was some exciting play and missed chances from both sides after this, but no further scoring and Town finished as winners by the odd goal in three.

## **Birmingham Trams v Nuneaton Town 19-02-1927**

**Nuneaton: Phillips; Harris and Page; Lucas, Smith and Paul; Reeves, Bromage, J. Phillips, Mullett and Townsend.**

Nuneaton travelled to King's Heath for a Birmingham Combination fixture against Birmingham Trams.

Trams were a useful and at times, very dangerous, side, but it is pretty safe to say that they would have had the greatest difficulty in obtaining a point had Nuneaton been at full strength. Smith played a sound game at centre-half without showing the domination and masterful engineering of movements associated with Middleton.

Paul, despite it being his first appearance of the season, did yeoman work and was the originator of several attacking movements. In fact there was nothing particularly wrong with the halves, backs and goalkeeper. Lucas, at right-half, gave one of his best displays of the season, worrying his opponents incessantly, tackling neatly and always booting the ball to purpose. Harris and Page, and Phillips, were all in good trim, giving very little away. The forward line, however, was erratic and Jack Phillips was outclassed.

The first half yielded four goals, two to each side. Bromage opened the scoring for Nuneaton and Robotham equalised. The latter, a tall and capable centre-forward, then put the Trams ahead. Later in the game he completed his hat-trick. For their second goal, Town were indebted to Newton, the home right back, who put through his own goal.

The second half was keenly fought and full of incident. Nuneaton, however, had the greater share of play and time after time raided the Trams' goal, only to fail at the last moment. Not until two minutes from time did success come, when Townsend, who had been prominent since the interval, put in a good fast show which Currier, in trying to avert with his arm, deflected into his own net. Trams immediately transferred play to the other end and Robotham levelled the scores in the last minute of the game.

## **Nuneaton Town v Leamington Town 26-02-1927**

**Nuneaton: Phillips; Harris and Page; Lucas, Middleton and Smith; Reeves, Bromage, Capewell, Mullitt and Townsend.**

Nuneaton welcome Leamington Town to Manor Park for a Birmingham Combination game.

Nuneaton were first to attack and after a period of pressure close to the Leamington goal, Bratt had to save from Reeves. Bromage tried to rush a goal, but only a corner resulted. A little later Capewell headed wide and the visitors continued on the defensive, with Middleton doing excellent work, which culminated in Smith hooking the ball towards goal from 25-

30 yards range. Not a single Leamington defender could get to it and it flew straight into the net.

The visitors then got into home territory, but eventually Shanks ruined things with a wild attempt at centring. Homer made valiant attempts to open out the game, but the home team transferred matters again, and after having two shots blocked, came within a hairs-breadth of scoring through Bromage, the ball being very luckily deflected to safety by the keeper. The "Magpies" attacked again and were very aggressive. After Page had cleared once, they attacked again, got into the Nuneaton area and following a tussle, Compton had little to do, other than put the ball into the net with Phillips out of position.

The home goal had a narrow escape shortly after when Wilson struck the bar. Middleton, however, kicked out from almost under the bar. Nuneaton were aggressive again for a spell, with goalkeeper Bratt being hard pressed at times. Phillips had to run well out to deal with another Leamington raid, but play was of an end-to-end nature for a while. Townsend was dangerous as he quickly followed up and then a long-range drive by Smith hit the bar, and from the rebound the Leamington goal had a narrow escape.

The home team pressed strongly after the break and Townsend won a corner from which there was an exciting tussle in front of goal, with Reeves eventually shooting over the bar. Harris went close from a free-kick on the edge of Leamington's area and five minutes after the break, Bromage hooked the ball in from a struggle in front of goal to give the home side the lead. Heavy rain began to fall and a Leamington attack saw Shanks shoot over, following which Phillips fielded a drive by Walker.

The home side got down the other end again and Townsend put in two dangerous crosses. Lucas drove the ball for goal and Mullitt touched the ball into the net, but was given offside. The home team got forward again and reached the vicinity of the visitors goal, where Capewell hooked the ball into the net, easily beating the goalkeeper. Good work by Townsend ended in a good centre which ended in a tussle, with it being a wonder how Bratt got the ball away. Five minutes from the end Townsend scored a wonderful goal from way out near the corner flag and almost on the goal line, he drove it across the area and past several Leamington defenders and into the far corner of the net.

## **Bournville Athletic v Nuneaton Town 05-03-1927**

**Bournville: Wilmott; Passent and Perry; Plant, Lane and Birch; Farman, Styler, Turner, Owen and Best.**

**Nuneaton: Phillips; Harris and Page; Lucas, Smith and Paul; Reeves, Bromage, Capewell, Saunders and Townsend.**

Nuneaton travelled to The Model Village to take on Bournville Athletic in a Birmingham Combination game.

Play was fairly even at the start, but there were two or three dangerous Nuneaton attacks; one of which was spoilt by Saunders being offside. The home defence cleared well from two Nuneaton raids, after which the home team broke



# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



away and Best shot into the side netting. Nuneaton's goal escaped following a corner, following which, Townsend made a fine run and shot, from which Willmott made a great save. Capewell was injured trying to force the ball home and was carried off. Just after this Bournville pressed and Owen scored with 18 minutes gone. Phillips saved well as the home team kept up the pressure.

Capewell came back on and Nuneaton attacked, but the home backs proved too strong. Nuneaton set up another attack and Smith sent over with a good effort. The home team returned to the fray, and half-an-hour from the start Farman got a clear run in and had little difficulty in scoring. Undaunted, Nuneaton kept up a strong pressure and Capewell got in two good shots. Good tackling by both Harris and Page was a feature of Nuneaton's display at this time.

Town were having a good share of the game and some neat touches were put in by Capewell. With only a minute or two to go before the interval a neat Nuneaton movement developed, and the ball went from Townsend to Capewell, and then to Bromage, who reduced the lead. The visitors kept up the attack and another goal came just prior to the interval, Saunders shooting into the net after Willmott had pushed the ball away from a shot by Reeves.

Following a fine save by Willmott, Town pressed again and Willmott had difficulty in saving a shot by Townsend. Ten minutes after the interval the home side took the lead with a goal from Owen, following an attack on the left, which saw Nuneaton's defence completely beaten. Town were still playing well, and Bromage missed by a narrow margin. The most dangerous attack in the next few minutes came from Bournville, and after one narrow escape the Nuneaton goal was pierced by Owen, 25 minutes after the restart.

Bromage made a forceful attempt to improve matters for Nuneaton and Willmott was called on once or twice. The home team got back on top and Phillips saved from Best, but five minutes from the close Nuneaton reduced the lead through Capewell, whose shot struck the post before going in. Turner scored again for Bournville, while Phillips was on the ground, having just made a good save. There was still time left for Nuneaton to score again through Capewell, following a corner from Townsend just before the final whistle.

## Nuneaton Town v Dudley Bean 12-03-1927

**Nuneaton:** Phillips; Harris and Page; Lucas, Middleton and Smith; Reeves, Bromage, Capewell, Mullitt and Townsend.

**Dudley:** Tranter; S. Gibbons and H. Morris; Ward, Lee and C. H. Morris; Kendrick, Turner, W. Pearson, D. E. Pearson and J. Gibbons.

Nuneaton welcomed Dudley Bean to Manor Park for a Birmingham Combination game.

Nuneaton did all the attacking in the first five minutes and Tranter had to tip over from Smith. Grand work by Townsend led to the visitors' goal coming under pressure and it escaped shots from Capewell and Smith. A strong Nuneaton raid

followed and C. H. Smith handled in the penalty area, and Harris scored with the kick.

A long, low drive from Smith hit the upright and 13 minutes after the kick-off Mullitt increased Nuneaton's lead, following a scuffle in front of goal. Tranter was out of position as the ball hit the inside of the upright before going in. Tranter conceded a corner from Townsend's cross and several more corners followed. A solo effort by Townsend brought Nuneaton's third goal, after 23 minutes. Townsend beat two opponents, cut in and, after beating another defender, netted with a fast drive which had Tranter completely beaten.

Townsend continued to be prominent and from his centre, Bromage headed into the net, but was given offside. Townsend continued to put in great centres and from one of them another siege of the Dudley goal took place, and Capewell hooked the ball into the net, well out of Tranter's reach. In one or two solitary efforts, Bean showed some neat touches, and eventually they caused Phillips to handle the ball for the first time, after 30 minutes.

A little later the visitors returned and W. Pearson got through the home defence and fired hard at Phillips, who saved well. A shot by Mullitt went over the bar before a regular bombardment of the Bean goal followed and Tranter made two or three really fine saves.

Town pressed straight after the break and Middleton passed to Bromage, who shot, but the visitors cleared. A Bean raid on the left saw Harris beaten, and for a moment the home goal was in serious danger. Successive attacks by Town, who showed neat combination near goal, kept the spectators on their toes and for several minutes shots were rained in on the Bean goal, and Tranter made more good saves. Bean were able to maintain pressure for a moment and Phillips had to save from Ward.

Townsend fired another volley, from which H. Morris handled the ball just against the post. Harris took the penalty kick and netted with a fast, straight rising shot. Bean got down again, and Turner headed wide. Tranter was kept busy, and continued to play well. With ten minutes to go Bean attacked again, and W. Pearson scored Dudley's consolation goal.

## Foleshill Great Heath v Nuneaton Town 19-03-1927

**Foleshill:** Horsley; Hall and Pearson; Bowkett, Fletcher and Whitehouse; Albrighton, Deeming, Berry, Watson and Cottrill.

**Nuneaton:** Phillips; Harris and Page; Lucas, Middleton and Johnson; Reeves, Bromage, Capewell, Mullitt and Townsend.

Nuneaton travelled to Foleshill Great Heath for a Birmingham Combination fixture.

Foleshill were first to attack, but were caught offside and Town responded with a dangerous attack of their own, which ended with Bromage shooting over the bar, under pressure from Foleshill defenders. Horsley was called on to save a Middleton header, while at the other end Harris and Lucas staved off an attack from the home side's left flank. Some



neat work by Middleton and Johnson led to Townsend forcing a fruitless corner.

The home team were kept on the defensive, and Middleton put a shot into the side netting. Foleshill mounted an attack and Cottrill shot over under pressure from Lucas before the home side came again and Harris tackled Cottrill in style. Capewell and Townsend threatened at the other end, but Foleshill maintained a stout defence.

Deeming burst through Town's defence and his centre was cleared with some difficulty. Both ends were visited in turn and a centre by Albrighton saw Deeming unable to control the ball and play was again transferred. Heathens mounted their most dangerous attack so far, which Harris and Lucas tried in vain to stem, but Watson gave the home side the lead with a fast shot. Nuneaton attacked again and Hall handled in the penalty area. Harris took the spot kick, but Horsley saved.

After another home raid had been repelled, Town became threatening again and Horsley had to stop a shot from Reeves. A little later a centre by Reeves put the home defence in a quandary and Mullitt rushed the ball through. Nuneaton pressed strongly until the interval arrived.

Nuneaton resumed without Harris and Foleshill without Pearson and play was even and lifeless for a spell, but featured good defensive work from Page and Johnson. Harris returned just as Foleshill attacked fiercely on the right, Phillips making a superb save from Albrighton. From a centre by Townsend, Bromage shot hard, but Horsley made a good save.

Twenty-three minutes after the break, Phillips, in attempting to throw the ball away from a home attack, dropped the ball and Deeming had only to shoot into an empty goal. From a centre by Townsend, Capewell made a great attempt to head in, but Horsley saved under the bar. Good work by Page followed and Middleton tried hard to convert a centre from Townsend. At the other end Phillips made a good save, while Mullitt came very close to scoring. Foleshill attacked at the close, but Harris defended well.

## Tamworth Castle v Nuneaton Town 21-03-1927

**Tamworth:** Hubert Pearson; White and Mercer; Lunn, Morris and Youel; Merrington, Ceney, Fox, Perry and Hollis.

**Nuneaton:** Phillips; Harris and Page; Lucas, Middleton and Smith; Reeves, Bromage, Capewell, Gisbourne and Townsend.

Nuneaton travelled to The Jolly Sailor to face Tamworth Castle in the semi-final of the Atherstone Nursing Cup. There was a big crowd to watch a game with many thrills.

Tamworth were first to attack, which ended with a Smith clearance. Town found the small ground a difficult proposition, and were unable to make much headway. Eventually they got away through Reeves, but Pearson threw away, and Gisbourne shot over the bar. End-to-end play followed and after Bromage had headed wide, Merrington forced a corner. White had to head away from Townsend, who sent in a hard drive from close range. A bad mistake by Page, who missed his kick right in front of goal,

resulted in Tamworth taking the lead with Cevey shooting into the net from close range.

Nuneaton equalised soon after, when Townsend made a brilliant run and hit a shot against the post with terrific force and Reeves headed in the rebound. Play was hotly contested and Tamworth regained the lead following another defensive error. This time Lucas let in Fox, who beat Phillips from close range. Middleton was just too high with a great drive, but Tamworth went further ahead through Fox.

Goals were plentiful and after White had failed to clear from Capewell, Gisbourne beat Pearson in a race for possession, and steered the ball into an empty net. A few minutes later Tamworth got a fourth goal, when a pass by Perry was picked up by Merrington, who found the net with a cross-shot.

In the early stages of the second half the home goal had a fortunate escape, the ball hovering dangerously in the goalmouth for some seconds before being cleared. The Tamworth forwards swung the ball about well and Ceney got a fifth with a great header, following an equally good centre by Merrington. Nuneaton were rarely dangerous whereas Tamworth's forwards were always on top of Town's defence.

Capewell missed a good chance for Town, shooting high over the bar from close range, while Middleton tested Pearson with a fast ground shot. Phillips came into the limelight with a couple of good saves, but he was beaten on two further occasions by Ceney. Just before the close, Pearson was penalised and Capewell scored from the spot with a terrific shot.

## Tamworth Castle v Nuneaton Town 26-03-1927

**Nuneaton:** Phillips; Harris and Page; Lucas, Middleton and Smith; Reeves, Bromage, Capewell, Gisbourne and Holdsworth.

Nuneaton paid their second visit of the week to Tamworth Castle, this time for a Birmingham Combination fixture. The pitch was soft underfoot and there was a stiff breeze blowing down the ground.

Townsend was missing for Nuneaton, due to illness and Holdsworth took his place. Capewell's display at centre-forward was patchy, and he experienced his usual injury. There have been few matches during which, at some time or other, he has not had to receive temporary attention. Yet he also has a way of quickly recovering from his mishaps.

Town's only goal came from Capewell, just before half-time, and it was the result of a clever shot. It partly atoned for a deal of ineffective work. Most of the effective shooting for the visitors came from Smith and Middleton, the latter of whom joined the forward line for a brief period, trying hard throughout the game to infuse more vim into the Nuneaton attack. The Nuneaton defence was as good as that of the opposition, but unfortunately conceded two penalties, both of which were successfully converted by Merrington. Phillips on the whole, had a good game in goal, but was unable to stop the two penalties or the effort from Ceney.



## Nuneaton Town v Sunbeam Motors 02-04-1927

**Nuneaton:** Phillips; Harris and Page; Lucas, Middleton and Smith; Reeves, Bromage, Capewell, Brindley and Townsend.

**Sunbeam:** Biddlestone; Harris and Durnall; Jordan, Ferguson and Dean; Arrow, Horton, Edge, Lockley and Hadnett.

Nuneaton welcomed Sunbeam Motors to Manor Park for a Birmingham Combination game.

Rain fell heavily at the start, and the ground was in a wretched condition. The game got off to a sensational start and Town took the lead within the first 30 seconds. Capewell received the ball from Brindley and netted with a fast cross shot, which the Sunbeam keeper touched, but was unable to prevent from going in.

The early reverse put the visitors on their mettle and Phillips had to throw away under pressure from Lockley. A free-kick to Nuneaton saw Harris centre accurately into the goalmouth but Sunbeam full-back Harris cleared. Bromage shot wide from another free-kick.

Middleton sent Bromage away, but he failed miserably with only Biddlestone to beat. Capewell missed a good chance when he failed to gather from Townsend's pass. Phillips had to come to the rescue when Harris miskicked in front of goal. Phillips made a brilliant save from Hadnett and then pushed a header from Horton over the bar.

Sunbeam got a well-deserved equaliser after half-an-hour's play, Lockley scoring with a fine cross-shot, which had Phillips well beaten. Sunbeam improved considerably before the interval, but at the break the score was 1-1.

From Reeves' well-placed corner, Biddlestone saved from Capewell, just under the bar. About eight minutes into the second half, Sunbeam took the lead, Edge picking up a pass by Horton, to go on and beat Phillips from close range. Lockley had a glorious chance of increasing the visitors' lead, but Town were not long in arrears, with Middleton scoring a really great goal. He received close in and after tricking two opponents in quick succession, beat Biddlestone all ends up with an unstoppable shot into the far corner of the net.

A shot by Capewell hit Biddlestone and rebounded clear. Nuneaton had livened up considerably and Smith put the home side ahead with a dropping shot from fully twenty yards range. Sunbeam raced to the other end and Phillips was forced to save, while at the other end Capewell scored an offside goal. The centre-forward had bad luck when he almost headed in Townsend's corner. In between times the visitors were very dangerous, but the Nuneaton defence withstood the pressure. A delightful pass by Middleton was responsible for Nuneaton's fourth goal, Bromage scoring a clever goal.

As the game wore on, Nuneaton's superiority became even more pronounced and Capewell got a fifth goal with a clever shot through a ruck of players, and just before time Brindley found the net.

## Tamworth Castle v Nuneaton Town 06-04-1927

**Tamworth:** H. Pearson; White and Spellman; Sly, Morris and Youell; Merrington, Ceney, Fox, Cashmore and Hollis.

**Nuneaton:** E. Johnson; H. Page and A. Page; G. Paul, Chinner and G. Johnson; E. Paul, Fred Payne, Bromage, Brindley and Townsend.

Nuneaton visited The Jolly Sailor for the third time in a fortnight, this time for a Tamworth Charity Cup semi-final.

Town fielded practically a reserve side with only three first team players available. However, the visitors played a hard bustling game and had they taken their chances, the scores would have been closer. Castle fielded their first team, who adapted themselves better to the treacherous conditions, which were heavy, with standing water in some places.

E. Johnson played a sterling game in the Nuneaton goal, making several good saves. George Paul was the outstanding player with his fearless tackling, and he was well supported by Chinner and G. Johnson.

A. Page won the toss and decided to kick towards the road end of the ground. Nuneaton were soon aggressive and Pearson had to clear. Tamworth then pressed, but Chinner cleared, and the visitors raced up the field to force a corner, which was well placed by Townsend for Bromage to shoot over the bar. Town again forced a corner from which Chinner tried hard to head in, but Pearson pushed the ball out.

After 14 minutes the home side broke away on the right and Merrington centred perfectly for Cashmore to meet the ball and shoot the ball hard into the net, giving keeper Johnson no chance. The Town keeper had to kick clear again and the Tamworth left-wing was dangerous and Ceney almost went through after beating several men, but George Paul cleared in the nick of time. Tamworth went further ahead after 30 minutes, Ceney shooting in with E. Johnson out of position.

Tamworth attacked and were awarded a penalty against E. Johnson for holding. Merrington took the kick, but the Town keeper pulled off a great save. Hollis hit the side netting for the home side before Nuneaton got a look in and Ernie Paul just missed when well placed. The same player scored immediately afterwards following a break away, beating Pearson in a race for the ball. At the break Tamworth led 2-1.

Town forced a corner straight after the break and George Paul kicked the ball into the goalmouth and one of the home defenders headed out, with the visitors appealing for a goal. Castle attacked and following a tussle, the ball was bundled into the net, but the referee ruled offside. Youell had to retire at this stage and was unable to take any further part in the game. Merrington just missed with a first timer, but just after centred for Hollis to turn the ball into the net.

Ceney scored again after 30 minutes of the second half, shooting well out of E. Johnson's reach. Tamworth kept up the pressure and the "Nuns" goal had several narrow escapes before the match ended in a 4-1 win for Castle.

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



## Hereford United v Nuneaton Town 09-04-1927

**Hereford:** Guest; Price and Morris; Osborne, Watson and Stone; Edwards, Newman, Gregory, Thomas and Swash.

**Nuneaton:** Phillips; Harris and Page; Lucas, Middleton and Smith; Reeves, Holdsworth, Capewell, Bromage and Townsend.

Nuneaton journeyed to Edgar Street, home of Hereford United for a Birmingham Combination fixture.

Town started strongly and the home goal came under great pressure. Hereford's right-back Price made a brilliant clearance from Townsend's centre and twice Guest made smart saves. After another Town raid had been repulsed, Stone took a pot shot and was only just wide. Nuneaton pressed heavily and from Bromage's unexpected header, Guest saved well.

Nuneaton were the better team, combined effectively and were quicker to the ball. Townsend's speed was utilised and he showed up well. A breakaway by the Hereford left-wing threatened danger, and Page luckily intercepted Swash's centre. Harris was forced to concede a corner from Newman, following which Edwards went close with a terrific shot.

Guest saved brilliantly from Bromage, while at the other end Gregory shot wide. After 20 minutes Phillips fumbled a shot from Watson and Thomas dashed in to score for Hereford. Townsend was injured and carried off and the Nuneaton goal had miraculous escapes following shots from Gregory and Edwards with Phillips saving from both from just a yard out.

After 35 minutes Newman broke clean through, profiting from the one-back game, and just tapped the ball out of Phillips' reach to score a second goal for Hereford. Town were badly handicapped by Townsend's absence, but showed plenty of fight. Guest had to deal with shots from Bromage and Holdsworth. Before the interval Nuneaton pressed strongly and Guest had to save from Middleton. A moment later Harris scored for Nuneaton from a disputed penalty kick. Almost immediately after that Phillips fumbled a shot and Gregory scored for Hereford and the home side led 3-1 at the break.

Townsend returned to the fray after the break, and the second half opened sensationally when Hereford scored two goals. Only one Town player had touched the ball when Gregory got clean through and scored. Price added another when Middleton gave away a penalty after handling. For some time Nuneaton were completely outplayed, but fought back strongly. Following a great centre from Townsend, Holdsworth shot at point blank range, but Guest made a magnificent save.

Town had the home defence in difficulties for some time, but could not find a way past Guest, who played an excellent game. Hereford got back on top and Phillips was given a great deal of work to do, although he was well protected by Harris, Page and Middleton, who was a tower of strength for Nuneaton in defence and attack. Thomas had a great chance for Hereford, being unmarked with the ball at his feet two yards out, but he shot straight at Phillips.

Nuneaton became very ragged and it was no surprise when Newman, having an open goal, scored Hereford's sixth goal, ten minutes from the end. In the closing stages Nuneaton began to combine once more to better advantage and Reeves seized an opportunity to evade the Hereford defence and score a good goal for Nuneaton.

## Barwell United v Nuneaton Town 12-04-1927

Nuneaton faced Barwell at The Holywell ground, Hinckley, in the replayed semi-final of the Hinckley Hospital Cup semi-final on Monday morning.

Nuneaton fielded practically a reserve side, owing to the fact that they had another match against Evesham on the same day, but the players gave a good account of themselves and Barwell had to work hard for victory.

For the most part of the game the teams were evenly matched, but the Nuneaton forwards lacked finish. Jackson opened Barwell's account after 25 minutes, and Freakley got the second late in the second half. Barwell meet Hinckley United in the final.

## Nuneaton Town v Hinckley United 16-04-1927

**Nuneaton:** Johnson; Harris and Page; Lucas, Middleton and Paul; Reeves, Gisbourne, Bromage, Mullitt and Townsend.

Nuneaton welcomed Hinckley to Manor Park for a Birmingham Combination match, which took place in front of a record crowd. It was one of the most exciting games seen on the ground for some time.

Nuneaton won, and deservedly so, by the odd goal in five, after being in arrears at the break. A great deal of their success was due to Middleton, who played a sterling game for Town at centre-half. Apart from keeping Tuckley, Hinckley's "star" centre-forward in check, he also managed to be all over the field lending a hand where it was required. The veteran footballer worked like a Trojan throughout the match and he was well backed up by Lucas at right-half. A pleasant surprise for the Manor Park supporters was the appearance of Gisbourne, the ex-Tamworth player, in the forward line. He is on the small size, but proved a successful goal-getter, scoring two goals, both of which were surprise shots that gave ex-Nuneaton keeper Kester, no chance.

Reeves also played well on the right-wing, while Harris and Page proved able defenders at full-back. George Paul deputised for Smith at left-half. Nuneaton were the first to score soon after the kick-off. Following a period of attack, Gisbourne put in a surprise shot from outside the penalty area, and though Kester made a good attempt to save the ball, it went into the corner of the net.

This early success was greeted with immense enthusiasm by the home supporters, but it was not long before Hinckley equalised. Tuckley received a pass from King and he headed over Johnson, who came out to meet him. At this time the



# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



visitors tested the home defence severely. Three minutes afterwards Tuckley scored a second goal, in a similar way to the first. Just before half-time Tuckley scored again, but was given offside. Hinckley had a 2-1 lead at the break.

Early in the second half Middleton passed to Mullitt, who made no mistake with the goal, whilst the centre-half was responsible for the movement that led to a shot by Gisbourne that gave Town the lead. Hinckley made desperate efforts to equalise, but the Nuneaton backs were safe. King, the Hinckley player received his marching orders from the referee for striking Paul. Nuneaton were unlucky not to increase their lead in the last few minutes of the game.

## **Evesham United v Nuneaton Town 18-04-1927**

**Nuneaton: Phillips; Harris and Page; Lucas, Middleton and Paul; Reeves, Gisbourne, Bromage, Mullitt and Payne.**

Following their victory over Hinckley United on Saturday, Nuneaton Town visited Evesham on Monday afternoon, and won their return Birmingham Combination fixture by 3-2, before a gate of 2,000. Townsend and Smith were both unable to play due to injuries, and were deputised by Fred Payne and George Paul respectively.

The first half was fairly evenly contested, though Evesham were leading by 1-0 at the interval, scoring about ten minutes from the start with a rather fluky goal, with Phillips saving once by knocking the ball up, but it dropped down again amongst the players and went in from the ensuing scuffle.

During the second half Town had three-quarters of the game, and obtained three goals at intervals of about ten minutes each after half-time. Reeves scored first, Middleton next, and Gisbourne added the third. Nuneaton were pressing almost continuously, and a number of useful and dangerous centres came from Payne on the extreme left, whose prompt crossing of the ball was disconcerting to the home defence. All of Nuneaton's goals followed centres from Payne.

Towards the end, Town slackened off a little and Evesham found the net a few minutes before the finish.

## **Nuneaton Town v Bloxwich Strollers XI 18-04-1927**

**Nuneaton: Johnson; Harris and Hall; Lucas, Middleton and Clarke; Reeves, Bromage, Page, Mullitt and Ison.**

Bloxwich Strollers were the visitors to Manor Park on Wednesday. There were several changes in the Nuneaton team. Hall, of Baddesley Colliery partnered Harris at full-back, Page going centre-forward. Clarke of Mancetter Church was left-half. There was a gate of about 1,000. It was a friendly match to assist B. C. Wighton, the injured Nuneaton forward.

After six minutes play Nuneaton scored through Bromage, from a pass by Middleton. Nuneaton continued to press and Ison sent in a hard shot which Smith stopped. Soon afterwards Page hit the crossbar, and from the rebound Bromage netted. Nuneaton's third goal caused great

amusement. There was a scuffle in front of goal and the visiting goalkeeper ran out. In trying to pick up the ball he tipped it into the net.

The visitors came close to reducing the lead when a nice raid culminated in Thompson striking the crossbar with force. Page scored next from a pass by Bromage, whilst "The Old Five" came from Lucas, who netted from a penalty awarded for handball. Bromage scored again before half-time.

Mullitt and "Pop" Harris, who went centre-forward, scored in the second half. Harris' goal being from a penalty. The final score was Nuneaton 8, Bloxwich 0.

## **Hinckley United v Nuneaton Town 23-04-1927**

**Nuneaton: Johnson; Harris and Page; Lucas, Middleton and Paul; Reeves, Gisbourne, Bromage, Mullitt and Payne.**

Nuneaton travelled to The Holywell to face Hinckley United in a Birmingham League fixture. The home side won the match 3-0 and secured the League Championship into the bargain.

Saturday's game aroused a great deal of interest both in Nuneaton and Hinckley and there was a record attendance. The announcement that Billy Barratt, the ex-Nuneaton and Leicester full-back, had signed for Hinckley, and would play, added interest to the match.

Town played well in the first half against a strong wind and distinct slope. They kept Hinckley's forwards well in check and as half-time arrived with no score, it was felt that the visitors would repeat the previous week's performance. The hopes of the Nuneaton spectators were soon dashed as Hinckley took up the attack immediately on the resumption. Their first goal came from a penalty, Ford converting, five minutes after the break. About two minutes later, Hinckley were through again and Bright found the net. Ford got the third with a fierce shot that Johnson touched, but failed to stop. After this Nuneaton played as if they were a beaten side. They failed to make use of the wind or the slope and their attack was weak.

Middleton was again the hero of the Nuneaton side, and from start to finish he played a sterling game. He held the Hinckley star man, Tuckley, in check throughout the game, whilst he was always on the look out to aid his wing-halves. Gisbourne and Bromage were the only two Nuneaton forwards who shaped anything like. Harris and Page, the Nuneaton backs, maintained their reputation, especially in the first half.

## **Nuneaton Town v WBA XI 30-04-1927**

**Nuneaton: Johnson; Harris and Page; Sear, Middleton and Johnson; Reeves, Gisbourne, Higham, Brindley and Ison.**

Nuneaton entertained West Bromwich Albion Colts in a friendly game at Manor Park.

Play was very even in the first half, as selected in the half-time score of two goals each. The visitors took the lead 13

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



minutes into the first half, from a free-kick just outside the penalty area. Johnson saved the free-kick, but the ball was quickly returned and struck the post before bouncing out to Ferguson, who scored. An excellent movement was started by Middleton, with Reeves taking up the running and centring for Gisbourne to make a great attempt.

A good interception by Page followed by a dribble led to another promising home attack, but the forwards failed to profit, finding Foxton too strong. About half an hour after the start, Town won a free-kick, from which Brindley, taking a neat pass from his left, easily netted. The visitors had more of the game for the next few minutes and set up some neat and quick attacks, but Johnson was safe in the home goal.

A centre from the visitors' outside-left saw the ball bounce awkwardly and curl over the line with the home keeper deceived. Town retaliated and missed a good chance of scoring. The most dangerous attack during the next few minutes came from the Albion, and only good defensive work by Harris prevented them from scoring. Bushell missed an open goal for Albion shortly before the interval, following which Town attacked again and Gisbourne scored with a strong drive from range, the ball striking the inside of the post before going in.

Within a few minutes of the restart Town went ahead when a centre by Ison was netted by Higham. The visitors returned to the attack and the home goal had a very narrow escape from one shot which struck the woodwork with great force. Town increased their lead about ten minutes after the interval, the ball being centred by Johnson for Gisbourne to head home from near the corner of the net. Twenty-four minutes after the restart the visitors got through, but although Johnson ran out, he could not prevent Wilkinson from scoring. Gisbourne scored from a penalty a little later, Ison having been tripped in the area. The visitors got dangerous again, but Johnson brought off another good save. Another corner for Town following a free-kick saw G. Johnson put over the top.

## Nuneaton Town v Halesowen 07-05-1927

**Nuneaton: Johnson; Harris and Page; Lucas, Middleton and Johnson; Reeves, Gisbourne, Brown, Mullett and Townsend.**

**Halesowen: Gibbs; Parkes and Wright; Pegg, Griffiths and Parsons; Rankle, Bushnell, Dent, Jones and Southerwaite.**

Nuneaton played their final game of the season against Halesowen in a Birmingham Combination fixture.

Nuneaton attacked at the start of the game and the new centre-forward, Brown, put in some neat touches. The visitors' goal, however, was not seriously threatened, despite strenuous work by Middleton and Lucas. A centre by Townsend was dealt with by Gibbs. Halesowen had their share of the game and Rankle missed a good opportunity. Gibbs had to punch away from a free-kick by Reeves just outside the visitors' area. Bushnell shot wide, but the home side were having most of the play and after 23 minutes they

took the lead. The ball was centred by Reeves and Gisbourne headed it almost into the net, but Mullitt touched it home.

Halesowen retaliated but without making much impression. Town came back again and a clever opening by Gisbourne went begging, despite a great effort from Middleton. Brown worked his way in nicely, but finished with a tame shot. Middleton made a fine dribble and shot, but the ball hit the outside of the post. Gisbourne headed just wide, while Gibbs had to save at the post from Brown after an effort from Gisbourne. Townsend sent wide after neatly side-stepping past Parkes, and at the other end, from a free-kick awarded against Page, Dent tried to screw the ball in.

After the break, the home side were aggressive again, with good work being put in by Middleton and Gisbourne, whilst Mullitt missed a good chance. From the next Nuneaton attack Townsend tested Gibbs, following which Mullitt shot wide. Play was mainly in the Halesowen half and there was an exciting moment when Gisbourne sent in a lightning centre, but his co-forwards failed to profit. A fast first-timer by Gisbourne went over the bar.

In a subsequent Nuneaton raid Gibbs fumbled the ball and was robbed by Gisbourne, who sent just wide. Keeping up the pressure, Town increased their lead half an hour after the interval, Mullitt putting the ball across for Gisbourne to find the net. The visitors were still moderate in attack, but one dangerous raid led to a centre from the outside-right, from which Johnson had to save. With about two minutes to go, the visitors reduced the lead. A neat movement resulted in Southerthwaite middling the ball for Bushnell to touch it past Johnson.

## Birmingham Combination Final Table 1926-1927

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hinckley United	34	25	3	6	136	49	53
Walsall Reserves	34	25	2	7	100	48	52
Leamington Town	34	22	4	8	99	53	48
Tamworth Castle	34	20	5	9	84	78	45
Bloxwich Strollers	34	21	2	11	108	77	44
Hereford United	34	20	2	12	113	64	42
Nuneaton Town	34	19	2	13	93	69	40
Sunbeam Motors	34	15	2	17	85	101	32
Evesham Town	34	13	4	17	84	89	30
Bournville Athletic	34	12	5	17	85	91	29
Rugby Town	34	12	5	17	70	85	29
Gresley Rovers	34	14	0	20	93	118	28
Atherstone Town	34	12	3	19	72	84	27
Bromsgrove Rovers	34	10	6	18	57	91	26
Birmingham Trams	34	8	7	19	71	104	23
Foleshill Great Heath	34	9	4	21	52	118	22
Dudley Bean	34	7	7	20	55	85	21
Halesowen Town	34	9	3	22	56	109	21

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



## Birmingham Combination: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1926-27

Nuneaton Scores First

Date	Opposition	Competition	Venue	Score	Scorers
Aug. 28	Atherstone Town	League	Away	0-2	
30	Hinckley United	NCC Final	Home	1-3	Martindale
Sept. 4	Rugby Town	League	Home	3-1	Middleton, Martindale, Smith
6	Atherstone Town	NHC S-F	Home	2-2	Middleton, Smith
11	Bloxwich Strollers	League	Away	1-4	Middleton (pen)
18	Bromsgrove Rovers	League	Home	1-2	Smith
22	Atherstone Town	NHC S-F Replay	Away	2-3	Reeves, Wighton
25	Walsall Reserves	League	Away	0-0	
Oct. 2	Birmingham Trams	League	Home	3-1	Capewell (2), Reeves
9	Leamington Town	League	Away	0-3	
16	Bournville Athletic	League	Home	4-2	Middleton, Wighton, Capewell, Townsend
23	Dudley Bean	League	Away	0-3	
30	Foleshill Great Heath	League	Home	6-0	Mullett (2), Capewell, Wighton, Middleton
Nov. 6	Rugby Town	BSC2	Away	3-1	Wighton, Capewell, Mullett
13	Sunbeam Motors	League	Away	7-3	Wighton (3), Page (2, 1 pen), Hollingsworth, Mullett
20	Hereford United	League	Home	4-2	Wighton (2), Capewell, Smith
27	Cradley Heath	BSC3	Away	0-3	
Dec. 4	Atherstone Town	League	Home	4-0	Mullett (2), Capewell, Townsend
11	Gresley Rovers	League	Away	1-4	Mullett
18	Birmingham City Res	Friendly	Home	1-2	Mullett
27	Evesham Town	League	Home	3-0	J. O. Phillips, Capewell, Harris
28	Halesowen	League	Away	2-3	J. O. Phillips (2)
Jan. 1	Gresley Rovers	League	Home	6-1	Wighton (2), Middleton (2), Reeves, Bromage
8	Tamworth Castle	League	Home	3-0	Middleton (2), Capewell
15	Barwell United	HHC S-F	At Hinckley	2-2	Capewell, Own Goal
22	Rugby Town	League	Away	1-3	Middleton
29	Bloxwich Strollers	League	Home	3-1	Townsend (2), Mullett
Feb. 5	Bromsgrove Rovers	League	Away	6-2	Capewell (2), Bromage (2), Mullett, Townsend
12	Walsall Reserves	League	Home	2-1	Reeves, Harris (pen)
19	Birmingham Trams	League	Away	3-3	Bromage, Townsend, Own Goal
26	Leamington Town	League	Home	4-1	Smith, Reeves, Bromage, Capewell
Mar. 5	Bournville Athletic	League	Away	4-5	Capewell (2), Bromage, Saunders
12	Dudley Bean	League	Home	5-1	Harris (2 pens), Capewell, Mullett, Townsend
19	Foleshill Great Heath	League	Away	1-2	Mullett
21	Tamworth Castle	ANC S-F	Away	3-7	Reeves, Capewell (pen), Gisbourne
28	Tamworth Castle	League	Away	1-3	Capewell
Apr. 2	Sunbeam Motors	League	Home	6-2	Capewell (2), Middleton, Smith, Bromage, Brindley
6	Tamworth Castle	TCC S-F	Away	1-4	E. Paul
9	Hereford United	League	Away	2-6	Harris (pen), Reeves
12	Barwell United	HHC S-F Replay	Away	0-2	
16	Hinckley United	League	Home	3-2	Gisbourne (2), Mullett
18	Evesham United	League	Away	3-2	Gisbourne, Reeves, Middleton
20	Bloxwich Strollers XI	*Benefit	Home	8-0	Bromage (3), A. Page, Mullett, Lucas (pen), Harris (pen), Own Goal
23	Hinckley United	League	Away	0-3	
30	WBA XI	Friendly	Home	5-3	Gisbourne (3, 1 pen), Mullett, Townsend
May 7	Halesowen	League	Home	2-1	Gisbourne, Mullett

Legend: NCC=Nuneaton Charity Cup. NHC=Nuneaton Hospital Cup. BSC=Birmingham Senior Cup.  
HHC=Hinckley Hospital Cup.



## Practice Match August 1927

The practice match on Manor Park on Saturday, showed that Nuneaton will have some good material to work with in the coming season. The immediate need is a centre-forward and two wing men. Lucas, Middleton, Smith and Page, last season's players, inspired confidence and promising among the new men were Horsley (goalkeeper); Passey (right-half); Hiley and Clarke (right-backs); and Gumbley, Brown and King. The Whites defeated the Reds by 4-1, after a re-shuffle at half-time. The goalscorers were Middleton, Gumbley, King, Lucas and Horsley (own goal).

## Juniors' Trial Game

A second practice match was held on Wednesday evening, when a number of local players were given a trial. The teams lined up as follows:

Whites: Green; Kyte and Smith; Sear, Chinner and Edwards; Delves, Brindley, Higham, Harris and Ison.

Reds: Patch; Salt and Chetwynd; Paul, Grubb and Johnson; R. Warmington, Davis, Wilmott and Cooper.

In the first-half the Whites scored through Higham and Harris, and the Reds through O. Warmington and Cooper. In the second half Davis put the Reds ahead with a neat shot from a rebound, after a centre from the left. The Whites soon equalised through Higham, with the goalkeeper out of position, having fumbled the ball. Davis netted again with a grand first-timer in the corner of the net and completed his hat-trick with a successful low shot. "Pop" Harris the full-back who had a run in the forward line, found the net twice, and the final score was five goals each.

Amongst the forwards on view, an excellent impression was made by Davis, who comes from Brailes, and last season scored over forty goals, many of them for Banbury Harriers in the Oxford Senior League. He rather lacks height, but is nimble and clever, and outshone the opposition leader, Higham, who himself got through some good work. Amongst the other forwards, the most conspicuous was Harris. Of the half-backs Chinner, Sear and Paul were the pick, and Chetwynd was the best full-back with Kyte next.

Another practice match will take place on the Manor Park Ground tomorrow. The teams will be as follows:

Whites: Wale; Hiley and Page; Lucas, Middleton and Clarke; Fawson, Wiley, A. N. Other, Beale and Twigg.

Reds: Horsley; Chetwynd and Harris; F. Edwards, F. W. Johnson and Sear; Taylor, King, Cresswell, Gumbley and Plant.

## New Forwards Signed Up

Nuneaton Town had their final practice match at Manor Park on Saturday, when more new men were on view.

The "Whites" had last season's intermediate line and practically dominated the play until the second half, when

team changes were made. The pick of the new men were Beale, the old Foleshill Great Heath inside-left, and with Kind from Whetstone, the inside-left position should be well. Horseley has shown admirable qualities as goalkeeper. Harris and Page (backs) and Lucas, Middleton and Smith (halves) all with the Town last season, gave the side great strength behind the attack.

The club's difficulty will be fixing up a capable forward line. No good leader has revealed himself as yet. On Saturday, Taylor (outside-left), Plant and Delvies (outside-right), Gumbley, Brindley (inside-forwards) gave useful displays, and Hiley and Chetwynd at back were promising. Goal-getters were Beale and Gumbley (two each), Brindley, Taylor and Johnson.

## Vic Wright Signs Up

During the week Vic Wright, the well-known inside-forward, previously with Leamington Town and Hinckley United, signed up for Nuneaton.

He is in the selected team for the opening Birmingham Combination match at Manor Park on Saturday, when Sunbeam will be the visitors, which is as follows: Horsley; Harris and Page; Lucas, Middleton and Sear; forwards selected from: Delves, Vic Wright, Fawson, Gumbley, Kind and Taylor. Smith, the regular left-back of last season is under suspension for the month.

## Reeves and Capewell Transferred

Coventry City have signed Frank Reeves, the young Nuneaton and Rugby right winger, who played during the second half with the juniors at Highfield Road on Saturday last. He is on a month's trial, and will play with the reserves on Saturday, as also will Townsend, another transferred Nuneaton player.

W. J. Capewell, the Nuneaton Town FC forward and brother of the Aston Villa player, has joined Willenhall.

## 1927-28

### Nuneaton Town v Sunbeam Motors 27-08-1927

**Nuneaton:** Horsley; Harris and Page; Lucas, Middleton and Sear; Fawson, Wright, Gumbley, Kind and Taylor

**Sunbeam:** Biddlestone; Worrall and Figg; Gittins, Jordan and Bibb; Arrow, Horton, Beddows, Guest and Hadnett.

Nuneaton welcomed Sunbeam Motors to Manor Park for the first Birmingham Combination game of the new season.

The visitors were first to attack, but Nuneaton hit back and made several attacks of their own, which featured some neat passing. Biddlestone was hard-pressed and had some difficulty in getting the ball away. A corner-kick for Nuneaton was well-placed by Taylor, and Middleton send in a lightning header, which was just too high.

Good play between Middleton and Harris kept play in Sunbeam's territory and the next shot came from Middleton.



# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



The visitors then pressed forward and Arrow drove powerfully from the wing, but Horsley was ready. The visitors attacked again and Guest had an open goal and shot hard, but Horsley deflected the ball over the bar. A Nuneaton attack saw Taylor try a shot before, 20 minutes from the start, Fawson broke through and centred. Biddlestone partially cleared, but Gumbley bundled the ball into the net.

Sunbeam's defence was severely tested and Gumbley shot over the bar with a fierce first-timer, after which Biddlestone had to punch away from Middleton. Another shot from Gumbley brought a corner and the Sunbeam goal was besieged. Sunbeam equalised after about 36 minutes, Beddows netting from a centre by Hodnett. Nuneaton pulled ahead again three minutes later. Taylor put in a nice centre and Gumbley deflected the ball into the net. At half-time Nuneaton led 2-1.

Two minutes after the break Gumbley scored again, shooting home from near the post. Sunbeam made headway, and both Harris and Page were taken unawares, allowing Horton to get through, but he made a feeble attempt. Arrow became threatening, but Harris intervened. Sear was applauded for some clever work and after Harris had thwarted another attack, Gumbley just failed to gather a strong cross by Fawson.

Lucas had a fast drive blocked following a corner. Kind gathered a cross from Taylor and touched the ball to Gumbley, who netted his fourth goal, with 73 minutes gone. The visitors had now fallen away completely and Gumbley scored again about six minutes from time. The home team attacked on the right and Gumbley rushed the ball through. The visitors retaliated strongly and Horsley was under fire for a few minutes, but proved safe.

## Nuneaton Town v Hinckley United 29-08-1927

**Nuneaton:** Horsley; Harris and Page; Lucas, Middleton and Sear; Delves, Wright, Gumbley, Kind and Taylor.

**Hinckley:** Kester; Lee and Taylor; Burban, Villiers and Wootton; Clack, Hextall, Tuckley, Williams and Rostall.

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

Nuneaton forced the early pace, but had only feeble attempts to show for it. Hinckley went close when Hextall headed over the bar from a long pass. Town attacked again, but several more attempts came to nothing. A short spell of even play followed until Wright scored for Nuneaton after 28 minutes, hitting in a rebound after Kester had saved his first shot.

Nuneaton attacked again, and from a pass by Lucas, Gumbley beat Kester. Play was fairly even up to the break, at which point Nuneaton led 2-0.

From the restart Nuneaton attacked and missed what seemed a certain goal. The play continued evenly for a while until following an attack by Hinckley, Rostall scored after a sharp tussle with the Nuneaton backs. Hinckley equalised

after another spell of even play, through Tuckley. At this point the game became more interesting, with both sides having good scoring attempts. Horsley made a fine save, but was forced to throw the ball over the line, giving Hinckley a corner, which proved fruitless. Wright shot over the bar following a corner and Kester made a fine save from a long shot by Middleton, tipping the ball over the bar.

The play became faster and Hinckley attacked, but Horsley was in good form, saving three good shots in succession from the three Hinckley inside-forwards. Play continued evenly up until the final whistle when the score was 2-2.

## Nuneaton Town v Atherstone Town 05-09-1927

**Nuneaton:** Horsley; Harris and Page; Lucas, Middleton and Sear; Holdsworth, E. Paul, Gumbley, Kind and Taylor.

**Atherstone:** Tucker; Snook and Harrison; Jones, Whittaker and Finch; Barratt, Gisbourne, Wright, Tustin and Barnes.

Nuneaton welcomed Atherstone Town to Manor Park for a semi-final tie in the Nuneaton Hospital Cup.

It was a closely fought game, thoroughly enjoyed by a crowd of over two thousand. The first ten minutes was very disappointing, but the home side took the lead, through Middleton, who sent in a superb shot. The play became very exciting thereafter, producing thrills galore. Tustin was prominent for Atherstone, who settled down first, and he had a capable partner in Barnes, a speedy winger.

Both got in shots, being well fed by the halves, but Horsley was wide awake and saved brilliantly. Nuneaton played better towards half-time and should have been two goals up.

Exciting play followed after the interval and Paul missed an almost certain goal by rushing wildly forward to a partially cleared ball. Town got a second goal through Middleton, but the lead was reduced by Snook, who converted a penalty awarded against Harris for a foul on Barnes.

Three or four minutes from time Atherstone drew level. Wilson beating Horsley with a good shot. Nuneaton went all out, and thanks to Kind, went through to the final of the Cup with a 3-2 victory to their credit.

## Nuneaton Town v Halesowen 10-09-1927

**Nuneaton:** Horsley; Hiley and Page; Harris, Middleton and Gibson; Holdsworth, Wright, Gumbley, Kind and Taylor.

**Halesowen:** Gibbs; Parks and Wright; Florence, Pratt and Blakemore; Butler, Walker, Saunders, Price and Truman.

Nuneaton Town welcomed Halesowen to Manor Park for a Birmingham Combination fixture.

Halesowen attacked for the first few minutes and after five minutes Walker opened the scoring and a minute or two later the same player scored again to give Halesowen a 2-0 lead.

Town attacked and Gumbley hit the post, with Kind netting from the rebound. Nuneaton drew level four minutes later



with Kind putting in a cross for Holdsworth to score with a brilliant shot. At this point the home team began to have more of the play, but the visitors' defence was sound. Ten minutes from half-time Middleton was injured and had to leave the field, but Nuneaton still maintained the upper hand. Five minutes later Middleton returned, but was lame and went to right-half with Harris taking over at centre-half.

On the restart Harris went to his usual position at right-back and Middleton went to outside-right, Holdsworth inside-right and Wright centre-half. Halesowen set up a raid, but the ball went out. Gibbs saved well when Nuneaton attacked. A centre from Middleton resulted in a corner, which was followed by another, as Town kept up the pressure. Kind put the ball in the net, 15 minutes after the break, after Gibbs failed to get the ball away from Middleton's shot, but the home team were ruled offside.

Halesowen attacked, but were kept out by good work from Harris and Page. Holdsworth failed with a long shot, when he might have done better to pass, and Parkes just managed to dispossess Gumbley as he was about to shoot from a good position. Play was almost all in the Halesowen half and the visitors' defence was under almost continuous pressure. With about 13 minutes to go Hiley was fouled in midfield and Page placed the free-kick well for Middleton to touch the ball back into the centre where Taylor netted.

After this, Halesowen played with real energy and Price found the net with an easy opening, with eight minutes to go. Halesowen escaped from four consecutive corners before Page headed home from another corner, which was greeted by tremendous applause. Gumbley headed home just before the final whistle, but an offside decision was given and at the final whistle Nuneaton had won 4-3.

## Tamworth Castle v Nuneaton Town 12-09-1927

**Tamworth:** Pearson; Evans and Mercer; Gillett, Hall and Sivitter; Albrighton, Jones, Hatton, Bird and Hollis.

**Nuneaton:** Horsley; Harris and Page; Saunders, Chinner and Sear; Plant, Gumbley, Holdsworth, Gibson and Taylor.

Nuneaton visited The Jolly Sailor for a Monday evening Birmingham Senior Cup first round tie. Nuneaton played a much-weakened team.

Tamworth were aggressive at the start, and early on Horsley had to save from Jones. Nuneaton then attacked and Holdsworth had a couple of shots blocked by defenders, but with the slope in their favour the home team did most of the attacking. A centre by Albrighton was cleared by Page, and Taylor got away on Nuneaton's left and after Holdsworth had been stopped, Gibson shot over the bar. Gumbley shot wide with a good effort before more good work by Taylor ended with Holdsworth shooting wide.

Tamworth took the lead after about ten minutes when Jones beat Chinner and banged the ball into the net. The home

side increased their lead in the next minute with Jones scoring another goal after Horsley had punched away from Albrighton. Nuneaton were disappointing, but Gumbley went close with a good shot. The same player was unlucky in the next minute with another good shot, which went just past the post. Nuneaton were unlucky not to reduce the lead, Gumbley striking the upright, with the keeper beaten.

Pearson had to handle a centre by Plant before Tamworth went further ahead shortly afterwards, Bird putting through after Mercer had struck the bar from a free-kick awarded against Page for handling. Horsley made a couple of brilliant saves, one from a free-kick by Mercer and another from a header by Jones. At the break Town trailed 3-0.

The first incident of the second half was a clever cross-shot by Holdsworth, which was well-placed by Pearson. Immediately after Gillett handled the ball in the penalty area, but "Pop" Harris placed wide. Albrighton got away for Tamworth and centred for Bird, who shot over the bar. Holdsworth struck the Tamworth crossbar after a clever dribble before Jones put Tamworth four up after 65 minutes, placing the ball past Horsley after the latter had come out to meet him. Tamworth were dangerous every time they got away, and the visitors' goal had some narrow escapes. Tamworth continued to monopolise the play, and Hollis and Hatton scored further goals.

## Nuneaton Town v Wolves

17-09-1927

**Nuneaton:** Horsley; Harris and Page; Johnson, Midgley and Gibson; Holdsworth, Wright, Gumbley, Kind and Taylor.

**Wolves:** Caravan; Norgrove and Hickman; Higham, Latham and Richards; Lee, Southall, Rotton, Evans and Davies.

Nuneaton entertained a Wolverhampton team at Manor Park in a friendly match.

The visitors scored two goals in about the first five minutes, Rotton netting on both occasions. For the home team Holdsworth performed a brilliant piece of work, and a corner resulted. Gumbley put a long drive over the top and then failed with a well-meant shot just after. After their early reverse, Town played well, and some neat work was done by the left wing pair. Midgley also did well and put in some neat passes.

Nuneaton began to have more of the play, and following a centre by Holdsworth, Kind hit the upright with a nice shot and a sharp tussle followed, but with no result. Neat movements were carried out by Nuneaton, Caravan having to save once or twice. A good movement by Page led to Taylor centring, but Kind missed with an excellent attempt.

The visitors returned on the left, and Rotton found the net for the third time. A Town attack ended in Caravan having to save a warm drive by Taylor. A shot by Holdsworth brought another corner, from which Kind put wide. The Town had had more of the play up to now, but had not been very convincing in their shooting, except for Kind, in addition to which Wolverhampton had been well served by their goalkeeper, who made a brilliant save from Wright just before half-time.

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



The visitors had the better of the play during the opening stages of the second-half, and did a good deal of shooting. Wolves kept up the pressure and Lee found the net. Holdsworth won applause for some good play before a good chance of scoring was missed by Wright.

Kind was promising in several more of the Town's efforts, and at length scored with a fine shot. When Wolves attacked again, they twice got the ball in the net only to be given offside. A little later Horsley tipped over the bar, and from the corner Evans shot over.

## Nuneaton Town v Rugby Town 19-09-1927

**Nuneaton:** Horsley; Chetwynd and Page; G. Sanders, Harris and Gibson; Holdsworth, Brindley, Stubbings, Kind and Taylor.  
**Rugby:** Scrivens; Edge and Jenkins; J. Buckley, A. Buckley and Ellis; Williams, Dobson, Peters, Littlechild and Grainger.

Nuneaton were dismissed from the Atherstone Nursing Cup competition at Manor Park on Monday, when they were defeated by Rugby Town by 4 goals to 1. Nuneaton were without Middleton, Gumbley, Wright and Lucas, and several young players were introduced. For a time the Town held their own, but Rugby gradually obtained the upper hand and finished up easily superior.

The home defence, particularly the half-backs, almost went to pieces in the latter part of the game. In the forwards a bright feature was the display of the youthful right wing pair, Holdsworth and Brindley. The left wing and centre positions were not so well filled. Rugby were a well-balanced and speedy side, and had a powerful forward line. The Town would have put up a better show had they had more bustle in front of goal. Brindley scored for Nuneaton in the first half and Sanders equalised from a penalty. In the second half Granger and Peters (2) scored for Rugby.

## Nuneaton Town v Atherstone Town 24-09-1927

**Nuneaton:** Horsley; Harris and Page; Sear, Middleton and V. Smith; Holdsworth, Wright, Capewell, Kind and Taylor.  
**Atherstone:** Tucker; Snook and Harrison; Finch, Whittaker and Orton; Barratt, Sharman, Ellis, Tustin and Barnes.

Nuneaton entertained Atherstone Town in a Birmingham Combination match.

Nuneaton scored a beautiful goal about 14 minutes after the start. Kind started a lightning movement, and passed to Taylor, who centred promptly and well for Wright to touch the ball home with the Atherstone defence hopelessly beaten. The home team had most of the play and Holdsworth showed some nice touches. Horsley had to save well from a corner kick and Tustin put wide with a poor shot. The home side seemed to slacken off a little after their early success, but they soon came back and Capewell came near to scoring on three occasions. Wright also went close with a nice header. Atherstone's defence was somewhat shaky under pressure,

and Harrison twice kicked out. The visitors then became very aggressive and Barnes looked like going through, but Smith rushed into the goalmouth and saved the day. Finch missed with a header, and the "Adders" continued to put pressure on. Harris did some grand tackling, and Horsley saved from Barnes at the foot of the post.

The home team reached the other end, and after the visitors' defence had stemmed one raid, Wright shot over. Capewell was injured and had to be assisted to the touchline. "Adders" returned to the offensive, but their shooting was poor. Capewell returned, but Middleton was injured about five minutes before the interval and had to be carried off. Wright went to centre-half. "Adders" pressed again, but showed a lack of method in attack, while Nuneaton were dangerous once or twice, and Holdsworth spoilt one chance by miskicking. Kind led another attack in style, Capewell sending wide.

Town resumed without Middleton who had an ankle injury. There were raids by both sides and Capewell missed a gift goal with plenty of time to steady himself. Wright was doing good work at centre-half, but the visitors became very threatening and Ellis shot into the net with an easy opening about 12 minutes after the interval. Town responded with a neat movement, from which Holdsworth shot well, for Tucker to concede a corner, which Taylor placed behind.

Snook had to pass back to the keeper under pressure, while Harris continued to tackle finely and Wright kept the attack going with quick, first-time passes. Two corners for Nuneaton were cleared before the "Adders" goal had a narrow escape from an attack in which Wright and Taylor were prominent. Horsley made a good save from an Atherstone raid, and then the visitors' goal had a narrow escape from Capewell, who from Holdsworth's pass, was just unable to steady himself in time to shoot. Nuneaton were very aggressive in the closing stages and though Tucker fielded the ball smartly, the Atherstone goal had a narrow escape or two.

## Nuneaton Town v Hinckley United 26-09-1927

**Nuneaton:** Horsley; Harris and Page; Wright, Smith and Sear; Holdsworth, Fawson, T. Gibson, Kind and Taylor.  
**Hinckley:** Kester; Lee and Taylor; Belben, Villiers and Wesson; Clack, Hextall, King, Williams and Hougham.

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

Nuneaton attacked from the start and in the first minute, Kester had to punch away a centre by Taylor. Nuneaton had most of the game for a time, and Page broke up the visitor's first attack with commendable ease, after which Villiers shot over the bar. Nuneaton got going in promising style and following another well placed centre by Taylor, Kind headed into Kester's hands.

Hinckley were unable to settle down and the home defence was easily on top. While Page was appealing for offside, King



went through on his own, and when Horsley missed the ball things looked awkward for Nuneaton, but Williams placed wide with an open goal in front of him, whilst at the other end, Kind all but forced his way through and then Kester saved brilliantly from Fawson, when a goal looked certain.

A mistake by Harris nearly cost Nuneaton a goal, but he made a splendid recovery and stopped Hougham when the latter was within an ace of scoring. Horsley saved at the foot of the post from Williams. Hinckley mounted a sustained attack, but Nuneaton defended well. Nuneaton were excellent in attack and gave the Hinckley defence a gruelling time, and Kester again saved his side with another clever save from Gibson, and Kind failed to profit by a second opening, with Kester out of position.

Immediately after resuming, Kester again distinguished himself with another fine save from Fawson, while at the other end Hougham put wildly wide, when only a touch was needed. Nuneaton's only weakness was a lack of finish and Holdsworth missed a splendid chance in front of goal, touching feebly outside with only Kester to beat. Hinckley were inclined to take things rather against the spirit of the game and Wesson was ordered off the field for rough play.

Nuneaton had all the play, but Holdsworth again missed badly when in a good position, but he made amends a little later by scoring a brilliant shot, which left Kester helpless.

At the conclusion of the game, the Cup and medals were presented by Councillor T. Daffern.

## Tamworth Castle v Nuneaton Town 01-10-1927

**Tamworth:** Holmes; Gilliver and Mercer; Gilbert, Hall and Siviter; Albrighton, Jones, Hatton, Bird and Perry.

**Nuneaton:** Horsley; Harris and Page; Wright, V. Smith and Sear; Holdsworth, Brindley, Kind, T. Gibson and Taylor.

Nuneaton travelled to Tamworth Castle for a Birmingham Combination match.

Tamworth took the lead within two minutes of the start. The goal came from a corner, Perry sending the ball in and although Horsley touched the ball, it slipped out of his hands and went in. Stung by this early reverse, Nuneaton retaliated and Holmes had to deal with a shot from Holdsworth, quickly followed by another from Taylor.

Tamworth then notched their second goal. Jones took advantage of an opening and eluding Smith shot past Horsley, who had dashed out. Harris was off the pitch at the time and Smith was at right back. Spurred on by their second goal Tamworth attacked again and soon increased their lead, being 3-0 up with just 15 minutes played. Two minutes later, however, Gibson dribbled through and reduced the deficit. There were no further goals before the break, at which point Tamworth held a 3-1 lead.

In the second half, Nuneaton were easily the better side and Gibson should have netted early on, but tried to walk the

ball in and was thwarted. Gillett got in two good shots, one blocked by Taylor, while the other tested Horsley.

Nuneaton scored their second goal after 65 minutes, Kind rushing in Taylor's centre. Almost immediately after Wright initiated another raid, from which Brindley found the net with Holmes missing the ball. The Town goal had a narrow escape after which it survived two corners. The Castle became aggressive and the Nuneaton goal escaped from a short but fierce bombardment.

At the other end Kind tested Holmes with a good shot. A nice Castle movement led to a corner, but it came to nothing and Kind dribbled upfield, but Gibson missed two chances. Following another save by Horsley, Kind, Taylor and Wright put in good work, but Gibson still tended to hang back. A good save by Holmes from Taylor was followed by a home raid, and Page saved a ticklish situation. Wright swung the ball out nicely for Brindley to beat Holmes with a brilliant shot about three minutes from the close, this being the winning goal. Before the final whistle Holdsworth struck the crossbar.

## Nuneaton Town v Gresley Rovers 08-10-1927

**Nuneaton:** Horsley; Harris and Page; Wright, Middleton and V. Smith; Holdsworth, Brindley, T. Gibson, Kind and Taylor.

**Gresley:** Bromley; Wheeldon and Clements; Chambers, Tremelling and Whittaker; Bird Brewin, Towers, Duggins and Maycock.

Nuneaton welcomed Gresley Rovers to Manor Park for a Birmingham Combination game. There was a good crowd in attendance.

In the early stages of the game, Nuneaton had the better of the play, and carried out some neat movements. Gresley showed nippiness, though Bird spoilt an opportunity of centring through being too slow. An effort by Taylor was followed by a free-kick, from which Middleton tried to head in. Town continued to have most of the play, with Brindley and Kind failing with headers.

Gresley broke through on the left, about ten minutes after the start, and Maycock, beating Page, who had come across, centred for Brewin, who missed with a first-timer. The visitors attacked on the right and Vic Wright was called on to clear near the goalmouth. Gresley were threatening once or twice, and two good chances were missed, by Brown and Towers respectively.

There were attacks by both sides after this, play being fairly even. The visitors pressed strongly and with skill, and Horsley was called on to save. Brindley tried hard to improve matters for Town, and good work was done by him, Middleton and Holdsworth. Gresley gained two corners and were at this stage the better side, though the home side soon attacked again, and Brindley made a good effort to turn the ball in. Gresley were on the attack again, but Brewin shot wildly. Some good work by Brindley followed and then, from a home attack, Smith tried a low drive. The ball struck another player





and went just wide of the post. After Harris had stemmed a Gresley attack, play was once more transferred, and Bromley made a fine save from Brindley. Horsley saved from Duggins just before the interval.

Nuneaton pressed straight after the break and Taylor placed an accurate corner, which Bromley deflected onto the woodwork. Pressure on the Gresley defence was maintained for a while and Taylor hit the side netting. Bromley had to handle Taylor's drive before a good tackle by Harris set him away again, but he was stopped by Wheeldon. Eighteen minutes into the second half Taylor placed beautifully from a corner kick and Middleton headed straight into the net for the first goal of the match.

Horsley was visited soon after, while Brindley was applauded for a forcing effort, which produced a corner. Two more corners ensued, one caused by a shot by Middleton. Play was mostly in Gresley territory and a strong centre by Taylor was blocked.

Gresley equalised 15 minutes from the end when they broke through in the centre and Towers shot from fairly close range. Horsley, though in position for the shot, allowed the ball to go through his hands and legs. Bromley had to punch away from a warm Nuneaton attack, and then made a great save from Gibson.

## Nuneaton Town v Hereford United 15-10-1927

**Nuneaton:** Horsley; Harris and Page; Wright, Middleton and V. Smith; Holdsworth, Brindley, Higham, Kind and Taylor.

**Hereford:** Kemp; Barrett and May; Watson, Morris and Stone; Lewis, Thomas, Cashmore, Newman and Hann,

Nuneaton welcomed Hereford United to Manor Park for a Birmingham Combination game. The home side played a forward line of youngsters, led by Higham, the ex-Abbey Street schoolboy player.

Nuneaton opened their account two minutes from the start. Kemp failed to get properly to a centre by Taylor and knocked the ball to the feet of Higham, who promptly turned the ball into the net. Nuneaton escaped from a free kick just outside their penalty line, Harris and Horsley proving safe.

A home raid saw some lovely work by Kind. Another free-kick for Hereford, well in the Nuneaton half was safely got away. Nuneaton had a free-kick well in the Hereford half, from which Barrett had to clear from Higham. Hereford attacked, and Thomas broke through, causing great pressure on the home defence, which ended in Cashmore shooting, for Wright to accidentally heel the ball into his own goal. The equaliser came after 20 minutes.

Nuneaton pressed again and Brindley tried a shot, but Taylor was fouled and Wright shot wide from the free-kick. Hereford won the first corner of the match and the home defence was kept busy for a while. Both sides attacked in turn with skill and determination, Horsley dealing with fierce volley by Lewis. Smith checked a threatening movement by the United

right wing. Middleton kept the home attack in motion, and Higham passed cleverly to Taylor, from whose centre Kemp was severely assailed. Just before the interval Kind drove in a superb shot which Kemp tipped over for a fruitless corner.

Two minutes from the resumption, Kemp failed to get away a shot by Higham, and a terrific struggle in the goalmouth ended in Middleton netting from close in. Town were soon pressing again and Wright banged the ball hard towards the net, Barrett kicking away from on the line, for another scuffle to occur, from which Brindley netted, just three minutes after the previous goal.

Newman went centre-forward for the United and managed to reduce Town's advantage, 14 minutes into the second half. After a fruitless appeal for a penalty for a foul on Higham, Hereford were penalised for an obvious infringement and Harris easily shot past Kemp. A fine Hereford move, initiated by Barrett, ended in Horsley neatly taking the ball from the toes of Newman. The Hereford goal had another narrow escape before the home side attacked again and Higham beat Kemp, thus completing 'The Old Five'.

## Bromsgrove Rovers v Nuneaton Town 22-10-1927

**Bromsgrove:** Guest; Clarke and Langley; Cochrane, Clay and Harris; Kendrick, Turner, Bushnell, Hitchman and Mansell.

**Nuneaton:** Horsley; Harris and Page; Wright, Middleton and V. Smith; Holdsworth, Brindley, Higham, Kind and Taylor.

Nuneaton travelled to Worcestershire to take on Bromsgrove Rovers in a Birmingham Combination game.

Kind was responsible for Nuneaton's opening goal 13 minutes from the start. Making a wonderful dribble through the opposition, he passed inside and Higham snapped up an easy opening to net the ball. Town kept the upper hand after this, and Higham struck the crossbar with great force, a corner resulting. Brindley then lifted the ball on to the top of the net, which Smith also did soon after.

Nuneaton showed up well in attack, and were dangerous every time they got away. Bromsgrove broke through again and a corner from the right gave Hitchman an easy opening. Horsley touched the ball from his shot at close range, but the force was too much for him to stop it. Several more clever attacks by Nuneaton followed, but Bromsgrove were the next to score, when Clay tried a hook shot from long range. The ball bounced awkwardly in the mouth of the net and completely deceived Horsley. Brindley, however, equalised five minutes from the interval.

For several minutes after resuming, Town had nearly all the play. Brindley headed over, and a Middleton centre was dangerous. Langley gave Town a good opportunity through a mistake, but they failed to profit by it. Holdsworth finished off a Nuneaton raid rather poorly, but Town were soon back. The Rovers shooting was better than Nuneaton's at this stage, and Bushnell found the net about 10 minutes after the interval. Town rallied strongly and won a corner, but Taylor put behind.

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



A great pass by Higham saw Taylor lose control of the ball when a good chance was offered. Another Nuneaton raid ended in Holdsworth putting wide. Bromsgrove increased their lead 30 minutes into the second half through Bushnell, who scored despite Horsley being in position. Higham tried hard to force a goal, and Town continued attacking without success. Turner scored Bromsgrove's fifth goal, while Middleton had stopped playing to talk to the referee. Rovers were now on top, and from another raid Turner pushed the ball into the net. Town lost their unbeaten league record with a 6-2 defeat.

## Nuneaton Town v Walsall LMS 29-10-1927

**Nuneaton:** Horsley; Harris and Page; Wright, Middleton and Smith; Sear, Kind, Higham, Brindley and Taylor.

**Walsall:** Lewis; Frankham and Horan; Ryan, Burns and Wilkins; Liggins, Smith, Walters, Faulkner and Kelly.

Nuneaton entertained Walsall LMS in a Birmingham Combination fixture at Manor Park.

Nuneaton attacked from the start and besieged the Walsall goal. During their first attack Kind's header appeared to be dragged back from over the line by goalkeeper Lewis. Horsley saved from a Walsall attack, and the home team were soon back down the other end, where Franklin back-charged Higham in the penalty area. Harris scored Nuneaton's opening goal from the penalty spot, despite the goalkeeper getting a hand to the ball.

Soon after, Town launched a terrific attack from which Taylor crossed and Lewis was lucky in stopping Higham's fierce drive from close range. Walsall were forced to defend, and Smith shot wide with a good attempt. Following a free-kick for a foul on Middleton, the ball was passed to Taylor, who centred. Kind won possession, steadied himself and shot the ball into the net, well out of the keeper's reach. Another centre by Taylor was converted by Higham, who headed into the net from just by the upright.

Higham put three first-time efforts over the bar and also netted, following Middleton's dribble, but was given offside. Horsley saved for Nuneaton before Lewis saved a close range shot from Taylor, following good work from Middleton. The visitors' keeper also saved from Sear before half-time when the home side had a 4-0 lead.

Nuneaton pressed again after the break and Walsall had some narrow escapes with Middleton being responsible for some good moves. Kind put in a shot that Lewis could only push away as far as Higham, who missed the target with a first-time shot. Lewis pulled off a save from Brindley before Nuneaton attacked again following Page's tackle. Nuneaton scored again after 30 minutes, when Higham headed home following a good move initiated by Smith. The visitors scored unexpectedly, just before the close when Horsley ran out to meet Smith, who put the ball past the keeper and into the net. Walsall almost scored again straight after, but Walters headed over.

## Hinckley United v Nuneaton Town 05-11-1927

**Hinckley:** Kester; Lee and Taylor; Villiers, Belben and Conopo; Clack, King, Dunleavy, Hextall and Bright.

**Nuneaton:** Horsley; Harris and Page; Wright, Middleton and V. Smith; Sear, Kind, Higham, Brindley and Taylor.

Nuneaton made the short journey to The Holywell ground to face Hinckley United in a Birmingham Combination match.

A good chance in front of goal was missed by Brindley, but Town maintained the upper hand and opened the scoring after seven minutes. The move was started by Middleton and taken up by Wright, who sent out to the right. From the resultant centre, Brindley shot home. A dangerous home raid ended in the Nuneaton goal having a narrow escape from a header by King. Play was again in the Hinckley half for a spell, and Taylor had to kick out from a promising attack. A home raid, which was obviously offside, saw Harris and Page defending well.

Even play followed with both sides attacking, and the Town forwards showing great nimbleness. Following a narrow escape of the home goal from Brindley, United broke away, and reached the other end, where King had little difficulty in netting. United were dangerous again once or twice, as were Town soon after, for whom Sear put in two good shots, following excellent combination. Kind and Sear played well in the next Nuneaton attack and the Town defence was again tested, with Page showing good form at full-back.

The Hinckley goal had another narrow escape from a centre by Sear, which went begging across the mouth of the net, with two of the inside forwards in position. Town's goal was severely tested again with Horsley saving well. The game continued full of excitement and incident up to the interval.

Although Nuneaton had the wind and the slope in their favour in the second half, Hinckley attacked first. Good play by Smith and Middleton confined play to Hinckley territory for a time, though Kester was not seriously tested. He had to save a curling shot by Kind a little later and Horsley was visited once or twice, making a great save from Bright. Kester was hard-pressed for a time and, and Sear sent just over with a fine drive. Hinckley then attacked with skill and Clack centred for Dunleavy to shoot against the upright.

Hinckley attacked with skill and Clack centred for Dunleavy to shoot against the upright, and Hextall scored from the rebound. Horsley made a fine save from Bright, following the next home onslaught, and followed it up with a great save from Dunleavy. Wright headed over from a corner, while Middleton performed some fine work, which led to a free-kick just outside the home penalty line, from which United escaped. Middleton headed wide, and Nuneaton kept on the attack for a while, Taylor finishing a promising move with a tame shot. Dick Taylor then checked a dangerous Nuneaton raid, before Kester saved from Higham. Page tackled Dunleavy in the danger zone before Clack scored with a fine shot from the wing in the last minutes of the game.



## Nuneaton Town v Walsall Reserves 12-11-1927

**Nuneaton:** Horsley; Harris and Page; Sear, Middleton and V. Smith; Kind, Wright, Higham, Brindley and Taylor.

**Walsall:** Scott; Groves and Plunkett; Staley, Brookes and Bradford; Fereday, Walker, Walters, Luke and Lonsdale.

Nuneaton welcome Walsall Reserves to Manor Park for a Birmingham Combination game.

Walsall were superior from the start and play was mainly in the Nuneaton half. The visitors were very quick and neat in their touches, and always on the ball. Page tried to get his side going, but the Walsall defence was too good. Harris and Page were playing well under pressure, and Horsley proved safe. Walsall broke through and Lake made tracks for goal, Sear tried in vain to catch him up and the visitors' inside-left had little difficulty in screwing the ball out of Horsley's reach about 10 minutes from the start.

Town rallied and Higham was threatening, with Plunkett having to pass back to his keeper to relieve the pressure. Nuneaton attacked strongly and Higham screwed the ball towards the corner of the net, with Scott beaten, but one of the backs kicked away. Kind performed well and his efforts resulted in Higham making a good effort to finish the move, but the youngster was unable to convert the opening. Middleton was beaten by the greasy ball when about to attempt a drive, and Walsall attacked strongly again. The home team retaliated again, and Wright passed to Kind, who was tackled near the mouth of the net.

From a Walsall raid, Lake would most probably have scored had not Sear been close to him. Kind cleverly initiated a move on the Saddlers' goal, but Brindley was lacking. Horsley then saved from Lansdale and Walsall were shooting in for the next few minutes. Bradford missed with a free kick, just outside the penalty area.

Town resumed with plenty of enthusiasm, Kind having moved to inside right, Sear outside, and Wright right-half. Walsall were still battling in excellent fashion, and Harris performed a notable piece of spoiling work, but was unfortunate to get injured in the process. Sear moved to full-back and the team played with four forwards, who tried really hard against all the odds.

Scott made a lucky save from Higham and The Saddlers escaped two free-kicks from close in. Harris returned and Town had a fair proportion of the play and put Scott under pressure for a few minutes. Higham and Brindley both missed Taylor's centre, while Higham tested Scott a few minutes after. Saddlers pressed strongly and Walters scored from Walker's pass 19 minutes after the interval. The home side reduced the lead almost immediately, when following a scramble, Scott dropped the ball and Brindley put the ball into the net. Walsall scored again 10 minutes from time and following some good work in front of goal Walters converted a pass from Walker.

## Market Harborough v Nuneaton Town 19-11-1927

**Market Harborough:** Berry; Poole and Freakley; Payne, Devlin and Branston; Sargeant, G. Varnham, Baptist, Kilburn and P. Varnham.

**Nuneaton:** Horsley; Harris and Page; V. Smith, Middleton and G. Johnson; Fawson, Wright, Higham, Kind and Taylor.

Nuneaton travelled to Market Harborough for a Birmingham Combination game. Rain fell throughout the game.

Nuneaton scored in the first minute of the game when a good pass from Wright gave Kind a nice opening and he put the ball into the corner of the net. The home side pressed for a spell and missed a couple of chances, but Town returned and another pass by Wright led to the home keeper having to throw over the line when hard pressed by Higham and Kind. Wright headed over from Taylor's corner, while Kind put a good effort wide.

The visitors had the best of the play for a few minutes and Harborough equalised with 25 minutes gone, following a neat movement, which ended in Kilburn finding the net. The game continued, mainly in favour of the visitors, for whom Wright, Kind and Higham were often dangerous. Horsley was called into action as the rain became very heavy and the game became a proper scramble in the mud. Kind made one or two good efforts and Taylor was well supplied with passes, while there were plenty of home raids, with Kilburn missing narrowly from one of them. At the break the score was 1-1.

The home side resumed in determined fashion, but Town had a good share of attacking opportunities, and although the home keeper was in good form, Higham scored about ten minutes into the second half, following an opening created by Kind. The home team retaliated, but Nuneaton defended well and continued to have the best of the game.

The light became very bad, and it was difficult to follow play. The home team escaped from a free-kick for handball, but Town kept up the pressure with Fawson being threatening. Horsley had to punch away P. Varnham's centre and then saved a header. The home side were awarded a penalty with ten minutes to go following a foul by Johnson and Freakley equalised for the home side. Horsley saved a great shot from Payne and the home side pressed towards the close, before the game ended practically in darkness.

## Nuneaton Town v Hinckley United 26-11-1927

**Nuneaton:** Horsley; Harris and Page; Smith, Middleton and G. Johnson; Fawson, Wright, Higham, Kind and Taylor.

**Hinckley:** Kester; Lee and Taylor; Wesson, Belben and Villiers; Clack, King, Dunleavy, Hextall and Bright.

Nuneaton welcomed Hinckley to Manor Park for the final of the Nuneaton Hospital Cup.

Hinckley were first to attack, but Nuneaton soon hit back and Higham skimmed the crossbar. Kester saved well at close range from Wright, but without getting the ball away, and

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



a scuffle ensued in the mouth of the net, from which Kester emerged victorious. There were attacks from both sides, and United were very neat in their play, while Fawson made some good runs for Town. Kester ran out to thwart Kind, and the two collided. Kind was injured, but soon returned. During Kind's absence Kester had to field a shot from Middleton.

The game was contested at a good pace and a good home movement was initiated by Wright, from which Higham was able to burst through and shoot, with Kester saving at the expense of a corner, which was cleared. After 24 minutes, Nuneaton took the lead when Smith started a movement and Fawson centred to Higham, who easily beat Kester. Nuneaton continued to have the best of the play and close to the interval Fawson was fouled in the area and Harris put Nuneaton 2-0 up from the penalty spot.

The home side resumed aggressively and were dangerous for a period. Higham was fouled by Taylor just outside the penalty area and Middleton gave Kester a stiff shot to deal with. Hinckley also won a free-kick well into the Nuneaton half, and it was some time before the visitors could be shaken off. Horsley saved a high shot from King before the visitors reduced the lead 19 minutes into the second half when King shot home following a centre from the left. Horsley got a touch but the ball flew into the net.

United attacked again with skill and energy and Hextall fired a fierce volley, which Page stopped with his foot, right on the line. King started another raid and Dunleavy raced through. Horsley ran out to him and thwarted his shot and the ball went out for a corner. Hinckley mounted a grand attack on the Nuneaton goal and the equaliser came 13 minutes from the close when Bright centred to Dunleavy, who put a left-footed shot well out of Horsley's reach. There were raids by both sides, but no further goals were scored.

## Sunbeam Motors v Nuneaton Town 03-12-1927

**Sunbeam:** Biddlestone; Barwell and Burnall; Partridge, Jordan and Dean; Lockley, Horton, Beddows, Whitehouse and Hodnett.

**Nuneaton:** Horsley; Harris and Page; Smith, Middleton and G. Johnson; Fawson, Wright, Higham, Kind and Taylor.

Nuneaton travelled to Wolverhampton to take on Sunbeam Motors in a Birmingham Combination match.

Sunbeam opened their account ten minutes after the start, following some end-to-end play. Lockley tested Horsley and before he could get the ball away he was bundled by Whitehouse and apparently fell on the line with the ball. The referee decided that the ball had gone over the line. Nuneaton came back well and Higham seized on a good opening, but shot straight into Biddlestone's hands.

Sunbeam threatened once or twice but Horsley was in good form. The home forwards were playing brilliantly and a centre from Hodnett caused an anxious time in front of the Nuneaton goal. Fawson put in several good centres but all of them went begging. Horsley made a good save from

Lockley at close range. Beddows then broke away and beat the Nuneaton backs in a race for goal before finishing with a powerful shot that had Horsley well beaten. Sunbeam scored again soon after following a Lockley corner, from which Whitehouse scored with a fierce shot.

Higham missed a good chance for Town before the home team attacked again and Lockley spoilt a good opportunity with a poor centre. Wright made a good attempt before Fawson again crossed a good ball and Higham missed in front of the net, but Middleton gathered the loose ball and put in a good shot. Close to half-time, Nuneaton had a remarkable escape, but at the break the home team had a 3-0 lead.

Nuneaton resumed in businesslike fashion and went straight upfield where Kind snapped up a good opening to reduce the deficit. With the slope in their favour, Nuneaton were looking more dangerous, but Horsley saved well after a warm raid from the home team. Fawson failed to turn the ball into the net with a good effort. The home team came back and started to have more of the play and Horsley was besieged. Whitehouse extended the home side's lead, scoring from a rebound after a Harris tackle. Hodnett further increased the lead almost immediately after after dribbling neatly into position.

Sunbeam were awarded a penalty, but Horsley saved Whitehouse's spot kick and Horton missed an open goal from the rebound. Lockley broke away and centred for Hodnett to score the home side's sixth goal. Middleton joined the forward line in an effort to improve things for Town, and for a time the visitors were on top and a centre from Taylor produced a penalty when Durnall handled. Harris scored from the spot kick with ten minutes to go. Just after Town attacked again and Middleton passed forward to Higham, who scored. Nuneaton had more of the play for the next few minutes, but Whitehouse scored again just before the close.

## Nuneaton Town v Leamington Town 10-12-1927

**Nuneaton:** Horsley; Harris and Page; Smith, Middleton and Wright; Fawson, Holdsworth, Higham, T. Gibson and Taylor.

**Leamington:** Edgington; Holmes and Partridge; Morris, Homer and McClure; Hunt, Shanks, Gregory, Wilson and Compton.

Leamington Town were the visitors to Manor Park for a Birmingham Combination game.

Leamington were soon on the attack, but were repelled by Page. During the next few minutes the visitors became very dangerous in attack, especially on the left. Nuneaton forced a corner, but Smith shot wide before Leamington won a corner and Hunt's flag-kick was headed away by Smith. Nuneaton mounted an attack down the right and Holdsworth swung a ball in for Gibson, who missed a good opportunity.

Nuneaton were denied a penalty appeal and then spent a period of time defending, during which Page performed magnificently. The home side broke eventually and Higham and Holdsworth severely tested Edgington. At the other end Horsley saved from Hunt after Gregory had led a quick



# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



Leamington attack. The visitors remained aggressive, but Horsley was in good form.

Higham just failed to get onto the end of a fine centre by Taylor, which would have meant a certain goal. Town's forwards were not very convincing at this stage, while the visitors continued to show up well in attack. Pressure from the home side just before the break caused some excitement, but Gibson was unable to turn the ball in following good work from Middleton.

Nuneaton resumed very aggressively and Holdsworth fired in a great shot that Partridge managed to kick off the line with Edgington beaten. Another shot from Holdsworth almost deceived Edgington as Leamington found it difficult to make any headway against the Nuneaton defence. Holdsworth drove in another stinger, which Edgington did well to save, while Higham failed to take advantage of a good chance.

Horsley saved from Compton and then made the save of the match from a terrific drive by Homer. The visitors had the better of matters for a while, but were indifferent finishers. A splendid shot from Holdsworth narrowly missed the mark, after which Edgington had to save from Gibson. After Horsley had saved from Compton, the visitors' inside-left missed a glorious opportunity with only Horsley to beat.

Middleton missed a chance following a centre by Taylor before the first goal of the match came about half an hour after the interval. Harris let in the visitors, who raced away with practically a clear field. Horsley did his best to deal with a critical situation, but the ball rolled into the net from a shot by Gregory. Eighteen minutes from the end Gregory increased the visitors' lead following a tussle in front of goal.

## Rugby Town v Nuneaton Town 17-12-1927

**Rugby:** Sheppard; Edge and Jenkins; J. Buckley, Peters and Littlechild; Williams, A. Buckley, Bancroft, Dobson and Grainger.

**Nuneaton:** Horsley; Harris and Page; Wright, Middleton and Brindley; Fawson, Holdsworth, V. Smith, Kind and T. Gibson.

Nuneaton made the journey to Rugby Town for a Birmingham Combination match.

Nuneaton were first to attack and following a corner, Wright lifted the ball onto the bar. Nuneaton continued to press, and Fawson missed a good chance. Bancroft missed a good opportunity for Rugby, while a nice movement at the other end led to Holdsworth missing an open goal. Nuneaton took the lead about a quarter of an hour after the start when a clever move ended in Gibson working his way into position before scoring past Sheppard.

Rugby were kept on the defensive, but eventually broke away and won a corner, from which Littlechild headed just wide. Harris had to give another corner, which was got away, before yet another corner followed and from Williams' flag-kick Horsley got the ball away, but a scuffle ensued in front of goal, from which Bancroft scored with a rising shot which struck the underside of the bar before going in. Fawson

sent in a cross which resulted in a corner, and eventually Sheppard had to save from Kind. Nuneaton had a narrow escape from a corner, and a drive by Peters.

Middleton went to centre-forward for Nuneaton, and led a promising raid, which came to nothing. Some fine tackling by Harris followed and the same player scored just after from the penalty spot after A. Buckley had handled the ball in the area.

After the break Rugby had the best of matters and Williams missed a good opportunity before Johnson put in a long shot and Bancroft had a warm shot blocked. Horsley had to punch away following a melee, and Rugby kept up the pressure and equalised through Granger, who netted with a fast surprise drive a little under 15 minutes after the break. Nuneaton had a shot through Kind before Bancroft broke away and had no difficulty in beating Horsley.

Horsley made a brilliant save from a fierce raid, and Rugby were now having all the play and Littlechild increased the lead after half-an-hour of the second half. The home team missed a good chance before Nuneaton attacked with more skill, thanks to Wright, who was now centre-half, and Fawson shot over the bar. Nuneaton had an abortive corner before Bancroft broke through again, and although Horsley saved his first shot, he put the rebound in and completed his hat-trick.

## Nuneaton Town v Rugby Town 24-12-1927

**Nuneaton:** E. Johnson; Harris and Page; Wright, Middleton and Paul; Fawson, Higham, Smith, King and Gibson.

**Rugby:** Sheppard; Edge and Jenkins; J. Buckley, Peters and Littlechild; Munns, Buckley, Bancroft, Dobson and Granger.

Nuneaton paid host to Rugby Town for a Christmas Eve Birmingham Combination fixture. The ground was in a 'wretched' state.

Nuneaton had the best of matters for the first few minutes with Gibson and Higham putting in dangerous centres. Middleton broke through, but his shot was headed away by Jenkins. After seven minutes Munns had a clear run through. He sent in a beautiful shot, which sailed just inside the upright, completely beating Johnson. Two minutes later, Nuneaton were on level terms, Smith converting a lovely pass by Middleton. Nuneaton continued to do most of the pressing, but Rugby's defence showed up well.

An exciting tussle in front of the Rugby goal ended in Kind striking the upright with a lusty drive. Nuneaton went ahead on 25 minutes, with Smith netting from near the penalty line. Bancroft ended a Rugby raid with a wild shot and Nuneaton were still pressing when the interval arrived.

There were fruitless attacks from both sides after the break. At length, however, Higham's pass found Smith, who put in a great drive, which struck the bar and rebounded into play. Nuneaton scored again 20 minutes after the break. Wright shot, and a Rugby defender headed the ball towards his own net, and the ball curled in under the bar. Three of the home

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



forwards rushed the keeper, but the ball was already in the net. Sheppard was knocked out in the encounter, but was able to resume after a few minutes. Vic Wright further increased Nuneaton's lead with a great shot, with only a few minutes to go as Nuneaton registered their first win for seven weeks.

## **Bloxwich Strollers v Nuneaton Town 27-12-1927**

**Nuneaton: Horsley; Harris and Page; Wright, Middleton and Brindley; Fawson, Higham, V. Smith, F. Payne and T. Gibson.**

Nuneaton travelled to Bloxwich Strollers for a Birmingham Combination fixture.

Misfortune befell Nuneaton Town at Bloxwich on Tuesday, Middleton being carried off injured after 20 minutes play. Although badly handicapped by playing a man short, Nuneaton played up pluckily and were always fighting hard.

Kind was also a notable absentee from the Nuneaton team, and Fred Payne had to turn out. The visitors, however, put up a very good show, and up to the time of Middleton's injury held their own. Afterwards, as can only be expected, the visitors were always fighting an uphill battle, and in the end they were defeated by two clear goals.

Bloxwich obtained their first goal after 25 minutes play, Webster being the scorer. The second goal came in the second half, Webster again being the marksman. The kick-off was delayed owing to the necessity for clearing away the snow on one side of the ground, and only forty minutes was played each way.

## **Leamington Town v Nuneaton Town 31-12-1927**

**Leamington: Edgington; Holmes and Partridge; McClure, Homer and Morris; Hunt, Shanks, Gregory, Wilson and Compton.**

**Nuneaton: Horsley; Harris and Page; G. Paul, V. Smith and G. Johnson; Fawson, Higham, Fletcher, Neale and T. Gibson.**

Nuneaton travelled to Leamington Town for a Birmingham Combination fixture. The visitors were without Middleton, Kind and Wright. Two players from Nuneaton Bible Class League made an appearance, Fletcher of Coton Church and Neale of Attleborough Baptists.

Fletcher, at centre-forward, played a wonderful game and performed the hat-trick. He is a well-built player and smart on the ball. Neale, at inside left, was a dashing player, very quick and neat in passing, and a dangerous marksman.

It was largely through the play of the two Bible Class players, and good centring from Gibson that Nuneaton led 2-0 at the interval. Fletcher, in particular, was soon in the limelight. He gave the best display in the centre-forward position that has been seen in the Town team this season. He delighted the officials and supporters of the club and proved a great handful to the Leamington defence.

Both Fletcher's goals were brilliant. The first was a lightning first-time effort, and the second the result of good following

up. Leamington were completely subdued in the second half. They did not reveal their true selves till well into the second half, after Fletcher had completed his hat-trick with another fine goal.

The "Magpies" then rallied strongly and twice reduced the lead. They fought hard for the equaliser, but the Nuneaton backs and goalkeeper were too wary and active, and the visitors finished winners by 3-2. Harris and Page tackled well throughout and Horsley was in good form in goal. The half-back line worked, but was disorganised through the absence of Wright, for whom Smith deputised at centre-half. The Leamington forwards were disappointing in their finishing and shooting until the latter stages of the game, which were fought out in a snowstorm.

## **Nuneaton Town v Tamworth Castle 07-01-1928**

**Nuneaton: Horsley; Harris and Page; Smith, Wright and Kind; Fawson, Higham, Fletcher, Neale and T. Gibson.**

**Tamworth: Murphy; Gilliver and Mercer; Hall, White and Siviter; Albrighton, Jones, Hatton, Cook and Spellman.**

Nuneaton welcomed Tamworth Castle to Manor Park for the semi-final of the Hinckley Charity Cup.

Nuneaton pressed early on and Higham shot wide from Gibson's centre. Harris broke up a raid by the visitors before Wright led a Nuneaton attack and Fletcher tested Murphy with a smart header. Spellman came into the picture with a nice dribble, but his shot was saved. At the other end, Fletcher and Higham tried shots as Nuneaton held the upper hand. Wright shot just wide and Murphy deflected a Neale shot over the bar. White skimmed the bar for Tamworth.

Town were on the defensive and Hatton hit the bar with a fine shot before Nuneaton looked dangerous and Fletcher and Neale hit the post and bar respectively. Gibson was performing well and Higham gave Murphy some work to do. Smith set the home attack going, but Castle defended well. After Horsley saved from Hatton, Neale's pass found Fletcher, who neatly tricked a defender before being tackled close to goal. Castle had a good share of the play and Albrighton missed a chance, but there was no score before the break.

Tamworth were very dangerous after the interval and Page was conspicuous with some fine tackling. Higham put in a grand drive which Murphy luckily stopped. Tamworth lost White for a while, who was stunned by a blow from the ball, but he soon returned. A breakthrough by Castle's right wing produced the first goal, Jones netting from a scuffle in front of the net, about a quarter of an hour after the restart.

Town rallied strongly with Fawson and Smith trying hard to force a goal. Smith was now at centre-half. A Castle raid ended in Albrighton testing Horsley with a good shot from the wing. Cook threatened, but was cut out by Page. The visitors continued to dictate play, and Kind had to stem a dangerous raid. Nuneaton attacked briefly but their efforts broke down in front of goal. Castle increased their lead 28 minutes into

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



the second half when the game was opened out by the visitors' halves, who swung the ball around to such purpose that the home defence was tied in a knot and Hatton scored.

Passes by Smith and Kind failed to bear fruit, the home forwards being unable to get into position for shooting, but the Town goal had another very narrow shave. Tamworth cleared from a corner-kick before Fletcher tried heroically to finish off a home movement. Before the close there were further attempts by Fawson and Smith, but to no avail.

## Nuneaton Town v Hinckley United 14-01-1928

**Nuneaton:** Horsley; Harris and Page; Tonks, Smith and Paul; Fawson, Wright, Fletcher, Kind and Gibson.

**Hinckley:** Wale; Lee and Taylor; Belben, Villiers and Wesson; Clack, King, Dunleavy, Hextall and Bright.

Nuneaton entertained Hinckley United in the Nuneaton Hospital Cup Final replay.

Kind gave Town the lead after four minutes, snapping up a centre from Fawson, he dribbled cleverly through the opposition and screwed the ball against the upright, from where it bounced into the net. Nuneaton began to have the best of matters with Fletcher being particularly dangerous. A centre from Gibson flew across the goalmouth and would have meant a certain goal had a Nuneaton forward been on hand.

Fawson skimmed the bar with a lovely drive as Town dominated the play, and from a pass by Paul, the Hinckley goal had a narrow escape. The equaliser came a little under 30 minutes into the half when Dunleavy scored as the home players appealed for offside. Two minutes later, Hinckley went ahead after their forwards manoeuvred the ball around and Clack centred for Dunleavy to touch the ball into the net.

Hinckley scored again a minute later when their forwards again weaved pretty patterns in front of the Nuneaton goal and Hextall beat Horsley with a brilliant shot. United were now on top and had the home defence in a proper tangle as Hextall netted again. Four goals had been scored by the visitors in the space of six minutes. With two minutes to go before the interval, Dunleavy preformed a clever dribble through the opposition and passed out to Clack, and Hextall turned the latter's centre into the net.

Shortly after the interval Hinckley lost Belben through injury. Hinckley attacked skilfully, but Nuneaton reduced the deficit four minutes from the crossover, Gibson shooting from the wing into the far corner of the rigging. The game was now fast and open, and Town were making tremendous efforts to reduce the lead. They attacked in style several times, and a shot by Gibson tested Wale, who made a spectacular save.

Town scored 13 minutes from the end, Kind converting a centre from the right with a timely header. Play was exciting at both ends and a great run by Dunleavy ended in Horsley saving well. United now had the better of matters for a spell, and came near scoring through Hextall and Dunleavy in succession.

About 15 minutes before the close, United broke through and Dunleavy shot. Harris stopping the ball with his hands in the goalmouth. Taylor scored with the resultant penalty kick.

## Nuneaton Town v Market Harborough 21-01-1928

**Nuneaton:** Horsley; Harris and Page; Wright, V. Smith and Sear; Fawson, Kind, Fletcher, Neale and Gibson.

**Market Harborough:** Berry; Thomas and Freakley; Payne, Devlin and Branston; Sargeant, G. Varnham, Vials, Paul and P. Varnham.

Nuneaton welcomed Market Harborough to Manor Park for their first-ever visit, for a Birmingham Combination game.

Harborough were first to threaten, but Page saved the situation after Harris had failed to get the ball away. The visitors showed up well in attack and Vials was all but through, but decided to rush the ball, rather than shooting.

Sargeant hit the post for Harborough and Poole got in a shot before a good move on the home left saw Fletcher come within an inch of scoring. Nuneaton kept up the pressure and Kind scored with a clever screw shot, with Berry nowhere near the ball. The visitors hit back with Devlin putting in a long shot. The ball dropped awkwardly in the goalmouth and Horsley got to it with difficulty, but could only knock the ball down in front of him and G. Varnham touched the ball home.

Play was end-to-end and Horsley was called on again, having to field a good shot by Poole, while Fawson passed up two shooting opportunities. Harborough were the most dangerous side before the break.

The visitors went ahead eight minutes after the break when Page conceded a corner. Sargeant placed the flag-kick well and Nuneaton failed to clear their lines and Sargeant crossed again for Poole to head into the net. Nuneaton tried to hit back, but the Harborough defence was strong. The visitors mounted another attack and Horsley rushed out to stop Vials, but the ball eluded him and Poole ran in to drive the ball into the net.

Berry earned applause for a good save during a fierce Nuneaton raid, while Fawson ruined another home move by failing to gather the ball from Neale's pass. Kind made a determined effort to score, and Fawson's effort went just wide. About five minutes from the end, Harborough were awarded a penalty, but Vials hit the post from his kick.

## Walsall Reserves v Nuneaton Town 28-01-1928

**Walsall:** Scott; Beckley and Walter; Higgs, Brookes and Beck; White, Edwards, Sparrow, Hughes and Lansdale.

**Nuneaton:** Horsley; Harris and Page; Wright, Middleton and Johnson; Fawson, Brindley, Fletcher, Smith and Gibson.

Nuneaton travelled to Fellows Park to take on Walsall Reserves in a Birmingham Combination fixture. Good football was almost impossible on the waterlogged ground.

Walsall settled down quickly and White almost scored, his shot going across the goalmouth. White shot over the bar before Lonsdale aroused enthusiasm with a teaser, which Horsley

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



tipped over. Walsall continued to have slightly the better of matters, although Gibson narrowly missed, and Scott did well to save with Nuneaton's forwards rushing in on him.

Middleton engineered move after move for the visitors and Sparrow, White and Hughes tried hard for Walsall. There was a period of excitement when Walsall next pressed, as several shots went close. The home side were first to score, Harris miskicking to let Sparrow in after 30 minutes. Edwards was prominent on the Walsall right and White finished the move by testing Horsley, who saved well.

Nuneaton found it difficult to get going, with conditions seeming to be against them. On the left wing, Gibson tried a shot which went across the goalmouth. Brindley rushed up, but could not get the ball due to the state of the ground, and a good opportunity was lost.

Walsall went close twice just after the interval, with Nuneaton's goal having a very lucky escape. A free-kick from Middleton was charged down, while at the other end Horsley made saves from Sparrow and Hughes, tipping the ball over the bar. Nuneaton had a good opportunity when Beckley passed back to his keeper, who rushed out and left Fletcher with the goal at his mercy, but his shot was marred by the state of the ground.

Middleton put in an effort on goal, as did Fawson and Brindley, but their efforts met with no success. White was tripped in the Nuneaton penalty area and took the spot kick himself, scoring the home team's second goal. Horsley made a good save from Lansdale, but he was no match for Hughes, who scored Walsall's third goal. At the other end Fawson took a corner for Nuneaton and Brindley picked up the ball and shot high into the net. Walsall restored their three goal lead when Hughes netted their fourth goal.

## Nuneaton Town v Hinckley United 04-02-1928

**Nuneaton: Horsley; Harris and Page; Wright, Middleton and Johnson; Fawson, Davies, Fletcher, Smith and Gibson.**

**Hinckley: Wale; Lee and Taylor; Belben, Villiers and Wesson; Clack, King, Dunleavy, Hextall and Gisbourne.**

Hinckley United paid their fourth visit of the season to Manor Park for a Birmingham Combination fixture.

Hinckley were first to score. A centre by Clack caused the home defence some difficulty and although Page cleared, the ball went to Clack, whose pass found King, who scored with ease. Excitement ran high when Nuneaton attacked, a goal being narrowly missed. Clack was very dangerous on the visitors' right, and it was a run of his which almost brought another goal for Hinckley, when he passed to Dunleavy, whose shot was saved by Horsley, with the keeper saving again from Clack.

Nuneaton attacked and Wale was forced to handle shots from Fletcher and Johnson. Smith was showing up well at inside-left and a rising shot all but scored. Wale had to deal with another Nuneaton attack immediately after, with Gibson and Smith doing some excellent work. At the other end Clack

passed to Dunleavy, who shot wide. Hinckley were now on top and after 32 minutes, their efforts were rewarded when King scored a second goal for Hinckley.

Nuneaton were up against a good defence, but kept trying and after 38 minutes, Gibson put in a run on the touchline, which Johnson followed with a brilliant long shot, which struck the crossbar and rebounded into play. Fawson, running in sent the ball flying into the net.

Hinckley were soon on the attack after the break and a good move ended with Dunleavy notching the visitors third goal. Davies put in a terrific shot for the home side before Gibson put in a tremendous cross shot seconds later. Wright failed to break through following Fawson's corner, but the excitement was maintained and in the next minute Gibson's shot was deflected into the net by a Hinckley defender.

Town had improved dramatically from the earlier stages of the game, and they missed some good chances. Horsley made some good saves in the next few minutes. The rest of the game was fairly evenly contested, but had Town taken their chances they may have scored on several occasions.

### Supporters Club: Whitsun Carnival

The Nuneaton Town FC Supporters' Club are running a Whitsun Carnival on ambitious lines to improve the financial position of the Town FC. Details of the proposed carnival were discussed at a meeting of the Supporters' Club, at Manor Park on Wednesday. There was a good attendance, including representatives of clubs in the Nuneaton Combination, Bible Class League, Nuneaton Schools League and Nuneaton Town directors.

Mr J. T. Hoof, the chairman, outlined the object of inviting the clubs' representation to the meeting. He mentioned that it had been proposed to run a carnival on Whit Monday on a very large scale, which could not be done without the assistance of the clubs and sportmen of the town. The carnival would consist of a procession round the town, sports at Manor Park, with sideshows and dancing in the evening. The object of the carnival was mainly to assist in the scheme to re-purchase Manor Park from the present owner, so that it should remain the home of Association football forever. Secondly, it was suggested that a percentage of the profits should be given to Nuneaton Hospital for the express purpose of supplying and maintaining electric masseur treatment, which was very necessary. It was also suggested that assistance should be given to the junior clubs taking part in the carnival, most of whom it was stated, had difficulty in carrying on owing to the lack of financial support.

After a good discussion, it was decided to form a committee to go into the scheme and report to a general meeting to be held at Manor Park on Wednesday, February 29th.





## Nuneaton Town FC AGM

### Record Profit Since Club Formed

The annual meeting of the Nuneaton Town Football Club was held at the Newdegate Arms Hotel, Nuneaton, last night. Mr. G. H. Wheway presided over a good attendance.

The 20th annual report of the club shows a profit of £242 10s. 4d. on the year's workings. The Directors state that they are pleased to report that the financial position of the company shows further improvement. It would be noticed that whereas £1,038 was owing to creditors and the bank last year, this has now been reduced to £506 0s. 8d., a reduction of over £500.

"This," states the report, "has been brought about by magnanimous concessions on the part of certain creditors and the Directors wish to place on record their thanks and appreciation of such fine sportsmanship."

The Directors add that the club was still being run on lines of strict economy with a view to wiping out the remainder of the adverse balance.

Appreciation is also expressed of the honorary services of the secretaries, as well as the sporting offer by Mr. Fred Payne, who loaned the club £200 free of interest to enable the Directors to meet the pressing creditors.

Of the Directors, Messrs. P. E. Coleman, and G. H. Wheway, retire, and offer themselves for re-election, whilst there are two other vacancies caused by the resignations of Messrs. T. Boffin and H. Warmington. Mr Sam Butler and Mr W. H. Robinson have been nominated for these vacancies.

The "gate" receipts for the year total £1,507 4s. 7d., made up as follows: League matches, first and second teams, £1,020 2s. 11d.; cup-ties, first and second teams (including proportion of away matches) £395 1s. 1d.; friendly and practice games, £92 0s. 7d. The amount paid to visiting teams, including cup-ties and friendly matches, is £160 10s. 3d., while £81 1s. 11d. has been paid to charities from Hospital Cup and practice matches and £52 7s. 8d. in entertainment tax.

Mr H. Warmington observed that the debt of £1,200 had been reduced to £500, but he supposed this was inclusive of the concessions made by creditors. They had not made an actual profit of £700.

Mr Perry said this was explained in the balance sheet.

Mr Warmington said he mentioned the matter because he thought their best thanks were due to the creditors, who had made allowances for their generosity.

Mr F. J. Perry (secretary) said a special letter of thanks had already been sent to these creditors.

Councillor G. Taylor said he thought the balance sheet was very satisfactory. The balance of £242 was the biggest ever made since the club was formed into a company. He thought they ought to pass the balance sheet with the greatest satisfaction.

Mr Warmington said he was not quite satisfied. At present

they were only paying a nominal rent. After another year they would have to pay a proper rent. If they had had to pay £160 rent this year the balance would have been smaller. He hoped the directors would get a winning team. They could only get big gates by a winning team. The Birmingham League ought not to take so much winning.

Mr F. Payne (manager) said he agreed it should not be a difficult thing to win the Birmingham League. He could find them a winning side if he threw finance to the winds, but his policy was not altogether a winning side. They had to wipe out something like £1,200 in three years. Eighteen months had gone. He believed they would clear the debt in another 18 months. Then they could talk about rising again.

On the proposition of Mr Hoof, Messrs. P. E. Coleman and Mr G. H. Wheway were re-elected to the Board of Directors and the whole of the directors were thanked for their services during the past year.

Referring to the splendid form of the Nuneaton schoolboy team, Mr Lewis asked what efforts were being made by the club to encourage junior football.

Mr F. Payne said the directors had offered every facility for the boys to play at Manor Park and had put off four second team matches to enable them to do so. Twelve months ago he wrote to the Playing Fields Association and Lord Leigh replied if an Old Boys' League was formed in Nuneaton the Playing Fields' Association would help in every way possible financially. At present there are only three grounds in the whole of the borough available on Saturday for an Old Boys' League. he thought the Council should be made aware of the shortage of playing fields.

Mr Payne mentioned that he was hoping to form a team from the best boys leaving school and run it in the Nuneaton Combination until players were old enough to enter the Town second team.

Councillor A. Whetstone considered the Borough Council would not provide playing fields until an Old Boys' League had been formed and there was a positive demand for fields. He gave details of the Coventry Old Boys' League — a model organisation — and said gentlemen connected with this league were willing to come to Nuneaton and help in the formation of a Nuneaton Old Boys' League.

### Walsall LMS v Nuneaton Town

11-02-1928

**Walsall:** Russell; Westmancoat and Horan; Ryan, Burns and Horobin; Faulkner, Smith, Bindle, Walters and Barker.

**Nuneaton:** Horsley; Harris and Page; Wright, Middleton, and Johnson; Holdsworth, Brindley, Smith, Kind and Gibson.

Nuneaton travelled to face Walsall LMS in a Birmingham Combination game.

After a long run of ill-luck, Nuneaton Town gave their supporters a characteristic shock by winning 5-1 at Walsall. The display given by Nuneaton was worthy of the best traditions of

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



Birmingham Combination football. Their side was re-arranged, especially in regard to the forward line, but to their credit the forwards played together equal to a set of forwards who have been in each other's company from the start of the season.

Smith, who led the attack, was always dependable and all the passes to him were turned to the best account. He was most decisive in his shooting, and played a fine game. The backs too, were splendid and Horsley, in goal, played a good game throughout. Middleton, whose goal was scored from long range, was a player who brought out the scientific side of matters, and even won the admiration of the home supporters with his excellent judgment.

The forwards, in the earlier stages of the game, now and again overlooked the offside rule in their eagerness, but otherwise they gave a good account of themselves. The home side, although they gave the Nuneaton backs cause to be on the alert, were inferior to the visitors, and failed miserably in front of goal on two occasions when well-placed. Five goals to one quite represented the merits of the respective sides on Saturday's form.

The scorers for Nuneaton were: Smith (2), Kind (2), and Middleton; Walsall LMS: Bindle.

## Nuneaton Town v Bromsgrove Rovers 18-02-1928

**Nuneaton: Horsley; Harris and Page; Wright, Middleton and G. Johnson; Holdsworth, Brindley, V. Smith, Kind and Gibson.**

**Bromsgrove: Byng; Hodelinott and Poysor; Clarke, Coyle and Biddle; Jukes, Bradbury, Bushnell, Chochrane and Langley.**

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

It was a lucky goal which gave Nuneaton the lead, and which, also seemed to shatter Bromsgrove's confidence for a time. Smith got the goal, with Byng running out of his goal and being easily beaten. Up until this point Nuneaton's attack had been very disappointing, lacking the forcefulness which earned them a fine victory over Walsall LMS the previous Saturday.

Although Smith's goal was followed by two good goals by Middleton and Holdsworth, the latter a sparkling affair, the forwards continued in this listless fashion till half-time, when the Town led by three goals to none. They were better in the second half, and though Vic Wright scored the only goal for the Town, the game was a far keener one, both sets of players putting more vim into it. Jukes scored for Rovers, who at the final whistle had been beaten by four goals to one.

Nuneaton's defence was the better part of the side all the way through, although the forwards redeemed themselves with a keener exhibition in the second stage of the game. Horsley, Harris and Page were always prepared and the halves, led by Middleton, were also superior to those of Bromsgrove. For the visitors, the pick of their players were Coyle, Chochrane, Jukes and Clarke.

## Hereford United v Nuneaton Town 25-02-1928

**Hereford: Kemp; Barratt and H. Edwards; Watson, May and Stone; W. Edwards, Hann, Jukes, Swash and Harris.**

**Nuneaton: Horsley; Harris and Page; Wright, Middleton and Johnson; Holdsworth, Brindley, Joyce, Kind and Gibson.**

Nuneaton travelled to face Hereford United in a Birmingham Combination fixture.

The first dangerous attack came from Hereford and W. Edwards tested Horsley with a good shot. Nuneaton retaliated, but failed to make any impression. Hereford were swinging the ball about well and an onslaught by the home team saw Horsley have to punch away twice in quick succession. Kind shot over from Gibson's pass before Hereford returned to the attack, but were weak in their shooting.

It was no surprise when Hereford took the lead a little over 20 minutes from the start, through Hann, whose shot struck the inside of the post before going in. Nuneaton hit back immediately and Gibson got in a centre, which was cleared, but only to Middleton, whose pass found Kind, who nipped in to plant the ball into the Hereford net. Up until this point the game had been fairly even, but just before the break, Jukes and Edwards scored again for the home side.

Shortly after the break, Kind nearly scored again for Nuneaton, but Kemp did well and got the ball away. W. Edwards beat all opposition and centred to Swash, who forced Horsley to save twice in quick succession. The Nuneaton keeper was unable to get the ball away, however, and Jukes headed into the net to put Hereford 4-1 up. Middleton went to centre-forward and Hereford attacked again, with Harris putting a shot over the bar. Following a mistake by May, Middleton broke away and passed to Gibson. The winger crossed for Middleton, who forced an excellent save out of Kemp.

Nuneaton had a spell on the offensive and obtained two corners, which were both cleared. W. Edwards scored Hereford's fifth goal half-an-hour after the break, screwing the ball in from a narrow angle. Horsley got to the ball, but let it elude him. Just before the close Harris sent in a shot that had Horsley beaten, Jukes running in to make sure of the goal. Horsley made a great save following another raid before Barratt rounded off the scoring with a penalty following a handball offence by Harris.

## Gresley Rovers v Nuneaton Town 03-03-1928

**Gresley: Bromley; Wheeldon and Clements; Chambers, Hamson and Whittaker; Bird, Brewin, Maycock, Fearn and White.**

**Nuneaton: Horsley; Harris and Page; Wright, Middleton and Johnson; Payne, Brindley, Saunders, Kind and Gibson.**

Nuneaton travelled to face Gresley Rovers in a Birmingham Combination fixture.

Ten minutes after the start, the home team opened the scoring through Brewin, who converted a centre from the left.



Although Nuneaton were dangerous once or twice, Gresley increased their lead after 20 minutes when Bird put in a centre, which Fearn converted from close range. Middleton showed up well on a couple of occasions, but his fellow attackers were not quite quick enough on the ball. Rovers went close again through Maycock, but Page blocked his shot.

The home team had the best of the play for a few minutes, but did not trouble Horsley and Nuneaton came back into the game for a spell. Horsley made a brilliant save from a free-kick just outside the area, which was followed by a melee just outside the area, which Gresley failed to profit from. Town had a good proportion of the game, but were overwhelmed in front of goal.

After the interval, Brewin got through soon after the restart, but put his shot wide. For quite a while after this, Nuneaton had almost all the play and Bromley had to save from Gibson. Kind shot wide before Gresley attacked and Horsley was called on again. Town responded with centres from Gibson and Payne, but Gresley further increased their lead about 28 minutes after the interval through White, although he appeared to be offside.

Nuneaton were soon on the attack again, and following good work by Middleton, Gibson hit a shot across the mouth of the goal. Gresley increased their lead a few minutes from the close, with White netting with a fast surprise drive from near the penalty line. Nuneaton had a free-kick just before the close, from which Middleton aimed well, but only a fruitless corner resulted. At the final whistle, Nuneaton were a well beaten side.

## Nuneaton Town v Tamworth Castle 10-03-1928

**Nuneaton:** Horsley; Harris and Page; Wright, Middleton and Paul; Holdsworth, Brindley, Higham, Kind and Gibson.

**Tamworth:** Sherwin; Gilliver and Mercer; Gillett, Ellis and Siviter; Albrighton, Jones, King, Cook and Spellman.

Tamworth Castle visited Manor Park for a Birmingham Combination fixture.

Nuneaton started strongly and were first to attack and just two minutes after the start, Middleton scored with a fast drive from close to the penalty line, the Tamworth goalkeeper, Sherwin, being taken completely by surprise. Pressure by the visitors caused Page to have to concede a corner, which was cleared. Nuneaton had the better of matters for the next few minutes and Holdsworth got in a dangerous shot, which came to nothing. Several corners were won by Town as the Tamworth defence was kept busy.

Sherwin twice had to run out to save when Town attacked, but the visitors were dangerous on the breakaway. During a Tamworth raid, Horsley failed to gather the ball from a shot, but the danger was cleared. Kind showed up well and put in a fierce shot, the ball hitting the crossbar and going out for a goal-kick. Horsley had to field a ball from Spellman, while

Gibson tested Sherwin from a free-kick, which the keeper tipped over the bar.

King got the equaliser for Tamworth almost immediately after the break, with a header from close range beating Horsley. Town pressed again, and a prolonged raid ended with Higham scoring from a rebound after the ball had struck the post. Play was pretty even for a while, during which Kind got in two shots for Town and Jones had an effort for Tamworth. At this point the weather took a change for the worse and snow began to fall heavily and visibility became limited.

After 18 minutes of the second half, Middleton brought down Jones in the penalty area and a penalty was awarded, which Cook scored, drawing Tamworth level. Tamworth broke away again, about 28 minutes into the second half and Albrighton raced up to the goal and beat Horsley with an oblique shot. Tamworth fought hard to maintain their advantage, and although Nuneaton made some formidable attacks, the visitors held on to their lead.

## Atherstone Town v Nuneaton Town 17-03-1928

**Atherstone:** Tucker; Snook and Harrison; Orton, Whittaker and Finch; Barratt, Day, Ellis, Ison and Milne.

**Nuneaton:** Horsley; Harris and Page; Sear, Cox and G. Johnson; Wright, Brindley, Kind, Middleton and Gibson.

Nuneaton travelled to Sheepy Road to take on Atherstone Town in a Birmingham Combination game.

The local derby between Nuneaton and Atherstone resulted in the home team winning by three goals to one. Atherstone fully deserved their victory, and on the form they showed in the second half, the only surprise was that they did not get more goals.

Nuneaton's new centre-half, Cox, created a favourable impression. It was one of his passes which led to the visitors opening the scoring within a few minutes of the kick-off, when Wright converted Gibson's centre.

Kind led the attack in creditable fashion, compared favourably with Ellis and did some excellent work in the early part of the game, but was not so prominent in the later stages. Apart from Kind the best Nuneaton forward was Gibson, who was always ready when wanted, and centred to good purpose. The Nuneaton backs and goalkeeper again had a heavy task — too heavy for them to cope with effectively.

Horsley made a number of good saves. Neither side was particularly strong at half-back, Cox rather outshining Whittaker as pivot. Atherstone's full-backs were a formidable pair. The Atherstone centre-forward Ellis, played a big part in bringing victory to his side. He was frequently threatening, and with good support from his fellow forwards, caused the Nuneaton defence many anxious moments. The "Adders" kept up a good pace throughout, and also played in a more organised fashion than their visitors.



## Nuneaton Town v Birmingham Trams 24-03-1928

**Nuneaton:** E. Johnson; Chetwynd and Page; Sear, Middleton and G. Johnson; Cooper, Brindley, Cox, Kind and Gibson.

**Trams:** Canning; Garratt and Jones; Hadley, Hughes and Tune; Robotham, Foy, Davis, Silvester and Gray.

Nuneaton welcomed Birmingham Trams to Manor Park for a Birmingham Combination fixture.

The home side had the best of matters at the outset with Cox and Brindley doing good work. About 15 minutes from the start the home team launched a warm attack and from a centre by Gibson, Cox missed a good chance by shooting wildly. Trams hit back and Hadley hit the bar with a strong drive, with Johnson saving well from the rebound, while Silvester was trying to put the ball into the net.

Trams won two corners, which came to nothing, while the visitors full-backs had to kick back to the keeper once or twice, under pressure from Town forwards. The visitors had a narrow escape from a free-kick just outside the penalty area and also from a severe ordeal just before the break, with successive shots from Cooper and Page being saved by Canning. Three or four corners were won as a result of the attack, but Town failed to profit and with just two minutes to go before the interval Davis put the visitors ahead.

Trams were subjected to a severe onslaught after the break, but the home team's finishing was weak. Middleton went to centre-forward, which improved the attack and he went close on a couple of occasions. He was brought down in the penalty area, but the appeals for a penalty were ignored by the referee. Town equalised after 24 minutes of the second half with Kind heading home following a corner. Trams quickly took the lead again through Gray, who netted from close range. A poor clearance by Chetwynd led to another breakthrough by the visitors and Davis increased the lead with a high shot, 11 minutes from the end. Two minutes later Cooper found the net for Town with a shot from close range.

## Halesowen v Nuneaton Town 31-03-1928

**Halesowen:** Rankin; Parkes and Wright; Smith, Guest and Florence; Butler, Broome, Saunders, Price and Tromans.

**Nuneaton:** W. Sanders; Harris and Page; Sear, Middleton and Johnson; Sanders, Wright, Kind, Brindley and Gibson.

Nuneaton made the journey to Halesowen for a Birmingham Combination fixture.

Halesowen went ahead after five minutes' play, Saunders converting a centre by Broome. Halesowen were dangerous for some time, but Nuneaton asserted themselves and were on level terms seven minutes later, Kind rounding off a nice movement with an unstoppable shot.

For a time Town were very dangerous and the home keeper had his work cut out. Middleton nearly succeeded with a free-kick well into home territory. Soon afterwards, Middleton started a

good move which resulted in Gibson centring to Wright, who put in a great shot, but Rankin in the Halesowen goal saved brilliantly. So far, Town had held their own, and everything promised a keen struggle in the second half. The Nuneaton team as a whole, had played well. Kind had led the forwards in efficient style, and the Nuneaton halves and backs had coped in good style. The ground was in a heavy state, making a fast game impossible.

Halesowen resumed in determined fashion, but after eight minutes of dour struggle, Nuneaton took the lead. The right wing was proving a thorn in the home side and caused Rankin to throw away when hard pressed and Saunders headed home from the resultant corner kick. Nuneaton were awarded a free-kick just outside the penalty area and Rankin tipped Middleton's drive over the bar. Eventually, after 25 minutes of the second half, Tromans burst away for the home side and beat Sanders with a fine shot.

Immediately after Broome gave Halesowen the lead by shooting home during a scramble in front of the Nuneaton goal. There was no further scoring, but Kind went close for the visitors, by heading the ball over the bar.

## Nuneaton Town v Bournville Athletic 07-04-1928

**Nuneaton:** W. Sanders; Harris and Page; Sear, Middleton and Joyce; G. Sanders, Wright, Kind, Brindley and Gibson.

**Bournville:** Wilmott; Passent and Perry; Lane, Cornell and Sheppard; A. Jackson, Spencer, T. Jackson, Astle and Cousens.

Nuneaton welcomed Bournville Athletic to Manor Park for a Birmingham Combination game.

Bournville attacked first and Harris blocked a shot from Spencer, but Nuneaton quickly retaliated and Perry had to save from the Nuneaton centre-forward, Kind. Eight minutes from the start, a penalty was awarded to Nuneaton after Gibson's centre caught Wilmott out of his goal and Passent handled the ball. Harris took the kick and scored. Bournville attacked and won a fruitless corner before Town attacked on several occasions, with Brindley testing Wilmott and Wright shooting over the bar.

The visitors had their fair share of the game and W. Sanders was applauded for good work in the Nuneaton goal. Another attack by the Cocoa-men ended with Cousens shooting wide. The visitors were unlucky in losing Cornell through injury. Kind came very close to scoring following a pass by Middleton, and the visiting keeper, Wilmott, was kept very busy for a time, with Wright heading wide from Brindley's centre. Sanders shot over the bar after working himself into a good shooting position, as the visitors defended well under constant pressure.

After half an hour Kind picked up a long pass, and was travelling well for the goal, but was fouled in the penalty area by the Bournville left back. Harris took the spot kick and the ball hit the bar. Following a Bournville attack, the visitors



# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



equalised after 37 minutes, when Astle converted a centre from the left. Town were on top up until half-time when the score was 1-1.

Bournville started the second half with ten men. Nuneaton took the lead through Kind, who scored from close range. The visitors retaliated and almost scored, but Harris headed away. Now often dangerous, G. Sanders and Sear both tried shots before Sear and Brindley were prominent in the next Nuneaton attack. Wright put the ball out to Sanders, who put in a great shot that hit the far post before going into the net.

The visitors attacked in good fashion, but their outside-right finished poorly by shooting over the bar. Nuneaton maintained the upper hand with Sanders putting a first-timer into the side netting and then forcing Wilmott to handle. Before the visitors could clear the ball, Kind and Brindley were closing in and the former shot home 27 minutes after the break. Two minutes later Wright scored with a shot that seemed to have no force behind it, but Wilmott was deceived and watched the ball roll tamely past him. Gibson headed over the bar following further pressure, but five minutes before the close Bournville burst through and Spencer easily found the net.

## **Evesham v Nuneaton Town 09-04-1928**

**Nuneaton: W. Sanders; Harris and Page; Fletcher, Middleton and G. Paul; Storer, Edwards, Kind, Brindley and Gibson.**

Nuneaton travelled to Evesham for an Easter Monday encounter in the Birmingham Combination.

There were many changes to the Nuneaton side with Wright and G. Sanders missing from the front line. Edwards and Storer (Coton) taking their place. Fletcher and George Paul displaced Sear and Johnson in the half-back line, while the backs and keeper were unchanged.

The score sheet was blank at half-time with the visitors having held their own up till then. Evesham went into the lead about ten minutes after the break, through Holmes, their centre-forward. About ten minutes later the Evesham inside-right Lock got a second goal. He was tripped by Harris, near to the goal, but the ball hit his foot and rolled into the net.

Nuneaton's goal came from a penalty kick, which was taken by Harris about five minutes before the close. The Evesham keeper, Barnett, saved his first shot, but the right back put through from the rebound. The away team did well to keep the score down to 2-1.

## **Nuneaton Town v Evesham 10-04-1928**

**Nuneaton: W. Sanders; Harris and Page; Sear, Middleton and Fletcher; Brindley, Wright, Storer, Kind and Gibson.**

**Evesham: Barnett; Stokes and Spragg; Locke, Johnson and Mason; Bacon, Allen, Holmes, Morris and Houghton.**

Nuneaton entertained Evesham in the return match of the holiday fixtures, with there being a poor gate at Manor Park.

Evesham had the best of the opening exchanges and forced a corner, but nothing resulted from the flag-kick. Shortly afterwards, at the other end Kind placed a beautiful centre into the area, and despite the fact that the ball fell in the midst of three home men, they all failed to net the ball. The home keeper, Stokes, also cleared from under the bar from a header by Storer. Evesham eventually got going on the left, and Mason placed the ball nicely for Holmes but Sanders cleared with a good kick.

Middleton took a free kick just outside the penalty area, but skied the ball. There was not much between the teams, and the game went from one end to the other. Storer put in a nice shot, but it passed inches above the crossbar, while an Evesham attack culminated in Page miskicking and Allen sending in a fast drive. Sanders partially cleared and a foul saved a critical situation. After 28 minutes' play, Barnett punched away from Kind and Brindley returned the ball into the corner of the net.

Nuneaton almost scored again following a good movement in front of goal, in which Storer, Gibson and Kind participated. About 10 minutes afterwards Evesham equalised through Allen, who made the most of a blunder on the part of Page. There was no more scoring in the first half.

In the second half, Nuneaton were soon dangerous, but their shots lacked sting. However, they kept up the pressure and Barnett was brought to his knees from a shot by Brindley. Storer missed an open goal, while Fletcher and Kind had to receive attention for injuries. Evesham then made ground, but Harris cleared his lines. Bacon made some fine individual efforts for Evesham, but neither side was able to score and the game resulted in a draw.

## **Nuneaton Town v Bloxwich Strollers 14-04-1928**

**Nuneaton: W. Sanders; Harris and Page; Sear, Middleton and Fletcher; G. Sanders, Wright, King, Brindley and Gibson.**

**Bloxwich: Bratt; Johnson and Terry; Kenn, Hughes and Preece; Potter, Deeley, Gutteridge, Lane and Gibbons.**

Nuneaton welcomed Bloxwich Strollers to Manor Park for a Birmingham Combination fixture.

Nuneaton kept the visitors' defence busy for a long spell, but the first 20 minutes of the game passed without any score. The home team continued to have a good share of the game, but were not strong in front of goal, despite good work by Middleton and Wright. A Bloxwich raid led to Harris having to clear at the expense of a corner. A home onslaught ended in Gibson missing a good chance.

Sanders, on the right wing, put in some good work and showed plenty of speed, but his centres were not taken advantage of by the home forwards. A corner for the visitors had to be dealt with, and Town had far the best of matters for the next few minutes, but missed further opportunities, Gibson being the chief culprit. Page followed up attacks on

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



several occasions, and tried one or two shots. From another home raid, Gibson shot over with a good shot.

After half-time the game became more even, although Nuneaton took the lead 14 minutes after the break through a penalty, which was taken by Kind. The Bloxwich keeper, Bratt, managed to touch the ball, but could not stop it from going in. Town had the ball in the net again straight after, but were given offside. A few minutes later, however, Nuneaton increased their lead when Bratt partially saved a shot from Kind and Wright followed in to score.

Bloxwich made efforts to reduce the deficit, but found the home defence too good. The visitors showed up moderately in attack. Wright came close to scoring again shortly before the close and Gibbons was tackled by Sear when very close to goal.

## **Bournville Athletic v Nuneaton Town 21-04-1928**

**Nuneaton: W. Sanders; Harris and Page; Elsey, Middleton and Fletcher; G. Sanders, Wright, V. Smith, Kind and Duncalf.**

Nuneaton travelled to The Model Village to take on Bournville Athletic in a Birmingham Combination game.

In the early stages, Nuneaton were the most aggressive of the two sides, and the home goalkeeper had a fairly busy time. A home attack ended in Sanders making a brilliant save at full-length. After being mostly on the defensive, Bournville took the lead 25 minutes from the start. Cousens taking advantage of a good opening and beating Sanders, who had practically no chance.

The visitors escaped from a Bournville corner soon after, when matters looked rather serious. They had a big share of play for the next few minutes, and equalised a few minutes before half-time when Wright passed to Smith, who beat Wilmott with an excellent low shot. Sanders had a shot following another Nuneaton attack before play became pretty even for a spell.

Bournville went ahead again three minutes after the break, Astle easily beating Sanders from a free-kick. Nuneaton came close with two or three forwards around the net, but failed to get the ball in. Bournville monopolised play at this stage and Nuneaton were showing up poorly.

About ten minutes from the close, a Town attack had the home defence in a quandary, and Kind netted with a terrific shot with which the goalkeeper had no chance. Wright placed just wide after Kind had made good progress. Town were again on the defensive for a while, and Sanders made a fine save under the bar. Astle scored Bournville's winning goal close to the end of the game.

Close on time Wright shot into the goalkeeper's hands, after which Page, who had joined the forward line, shot over. There was an exciting finish as Kind missed a penalty kick just before the final whistle.

## **Nuneaton Town v Coventry City 23-04-1928**

**Nuneaton: W. Sanders; Harris and Page; Elsey, Middleton and Fletcher; G. Sanders, Brindley, Naylor, Kind and Duncalf.**

**Coventry: Neale; Jenkins and Berry; Tinning, Hickman and Thorpe; Johnson, Jones, Brooks, Crisp and Townsend.**

Nuneaton entertained a strong Coventry City side in a friendly match at Manor Park.

The visitors line-up included several players who have appeared in the Bantams first team this season, and gave further trials to two local players, Jones of Haunchwood Institute, and Brooks of the Nuneaton Timber Company FC. Nuneaton gave a trial to Naylor of Worksop Town.

Nuneaton had much the best of the game in the first half with the visitors not being able to get into their stride. At one period "Nuns" led by two clear goals, but the City Reserves improved considerably in the latter stages of the game, and though failing with a penalty kick, succeeded in finishing on level terms, with the equalising goal coming in the last five minutes of the game.

The home team opened their account after about a quarter of an hour's play, Kind heading a perfect goal, following a nicely placed centre by Sanders. The home side's second goal came seven minutes after the interval, Naylor heading into the net after Neale had failed to get rid of a centre from Duncalf. The Bantams reduced the lead shortly after with Crisp scoring from a brilliant shot that rattled the crossbar before going into the net. Coventry had the opportunity to go on level terms when a penalty was awarded against Page, but Brooks booted the ball over the bar. Two minutes from the end, Johnson raced through the Nuneaton defence to beat Sanders with a fast low drive.

## **Birmingham Trams v Nuneaton Town 25-04-1928**

**Nuneaton: W. Sanders; Harris and Page; Sear, Middleton and Fletcher; G. Sanders, Wright, Kind, Brindley and Duncalf.**

Nuneaton Town played their final Birmingham Combination match of the season on Wednesday evening, when they met Birmingham Trams on the latter's ground at King's Heath, losing 2-0. A feature of the game was the excellent work of W. Sanders in Nuneaton's goal. The Town did a fair amount of shooting and Middleton had hard lines with one volley after working well into position.

## **Nuneaton Town v Tamworth Castle 28-04-1928**

**Nuneaton: W. Sanders; Harris and Page; Sear, Middleton and Fletcher; G. Sanders, Wright, Naylor, Kind and Ison.**

Nuneaton welcomed Tamworth Castle to Manor Park for the final of the Tamworth Charity Cup. The game was moved to Manor Park in the hope of getting a bigger crowd, but that hope did not materialise.



Nuneaton took the lead less than half-an-hour after the start and were not long in increasing it, but the Castle men reduced the deficit before the interval. In the second half Town put on five more goals, bringing their total up to seven. In no previous match this season had they scored more than five goals. Four out of the five forwards found the net, taking the game as a whole, and two of them, Wright and Kind, scored twice. Outside-right Sanders was the only forward not to score, though he played a great game, and actually did get the ball in once, a goal, however, being disallowed for offside. Middleton was also a scorer.

Two of Nuneaton's goals were of a peculiar nature. When Wright scored his second, the players had come to a standstill, evidently under the impression that an offside decision had been given, and when Middleton got his goal from a free-kick, the ball went right through the side netting, and the goal was disputed by the opposing players on the grounds that the ball had passed wide. It was only after consulting the linesman that the referee awarded the goal.

The Town played well to a man, but interest centred chiefly on the new centre-forward, Naylor from Worksop Town, who appeared for Town on Monday against Coventry City Reserves. He gave another pleasing display, not only distributing the ball well, but making use of his openings, and constantly making tracks for goal. He had some hard luck towards the close, but in the last minute of the game got a fine goal. Vic Wright gave one of his brightest and most polished exhibitions of the season, and in the back division Page contributed with some lusty kicking.

## Birmingham Combination

### Final Table 1927-1928

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Walsall Reserves	34	22	3	9	97	63	47
Bloxwich Strollers	34	20	3	11	81	64	43
Hereford United	34	19	4	11	104	62	42
Halesowen Town	34	20	2	12	89	76	42
Market Harboro' Town	34	18	5	11	93	67	41
Leamington Town	34	19	3	12	83	69	41
Evesham Town	34	16	8	10	66	55	40
Gresley Rovers	34	16	4	14	79	71	36
Hinckley United	34	15	5	14	84	75	35
Sunbeam Motors	34	16	1	17	106	99	33
Birmingham Trams	34	14	5	15	79	81	33
Bromsgrove Rovers	34	13	6	15	83	80	32
Atherstone Town	34	13	4	17	72	76	30
Walsall LMS	34	13	4	17	80	94	30
Nuneaton Town	34	11	4	19	75	90	26
Rugby Town	34	11	0	23	73	131	22
Bournville Athletic	34	6	8	20	69	106	20
Tamworth Castle	34	6	7	21	81	135	19

## Bloxwich Strollers

On the afternoon of April 14, 1928, Nuneaton Town were to play Bloxwich Strollers at Manor Park in a Birmingham Combination fixture.

The home side were nearing the end of a disappointing season, and were lying 4th from the bottom of the league table, whilst Bloxwich were in the runners-up position, still with an outside chance of taking the title. This made their visit an attractive prospect, though few expected Nuneaton to win. The one bright spot was the previous week's 5-2 victory against Bournville — Town's first win in seven weeks.

When the game began, Nuneaton had the better of the early exchanges with their half-backs being particularly effective, both constructively and as a defensive unit. Whether because Bloxwich had an off day or because of Town's brilliance, the home team took control of the game, but somehow contrived to miss a raft of chances in the first half. It was as if the forwards could play perfectly well until they came within shooting distance of the Bloxwich goal.

The following Friday's "Observer" commented, rather colourfully, that "it was the old story of the forwards trying to walk the ball into the net: had they spikes on the toes of their boots one doubts very much whether they would have punctured the ball." For much of this first period Bloxwich did little more than pack their goal and the 0-0 half-time scoreline flattered them considerably.

The second half saw an altogether sharper Nuneaton outfit and, instead of playing pretty football, the forwards took to shooting at every opportunity. After ten minutes or so, this resulted in a Bloxwich defender handling in the area, and enabling centre-forward Kind to convert the penalty which gave Nuneaton a much-deserved lead.

This briefly aroused the visitors, who made some forlorn attempts to keep their championship hopes alive. However, it was not long before Kind got in a shot which the Bloxwich keeper could only parry — allowing Wright to tap the ball home to make it 2-0.

It was a fine performance for one game, which ended the title hopes of Bloxwich Strollers. The club finished bottom of the Birmingham League (Northern Division) in season 1954-55 and folded mid-season in 1955-56.

The club had been in existence since at least 1893 and latterly played their games at the Red Lion ground in Leamore, which is still in use today. After the demise of the Strollers, the ground was home to Blakenhall FC, who merged with Bloxwich Town to form Bloxwich United.



## Stourbridge — Extra Preliminary Round

Town welcomed Stourbridge of the Birmingham League to Manor Park in an Extra Preliminary Round of the FA Cup.

Nuneaton: Horsley; Harris and Page; Lucas, Middleton and G. Paul; Fawson, Wright, Gumbley, Kind and Taylor.

Stourbridge: Adams; Newell and Smart; Moore, Imbrey and Harrold; Macgregor, Mills, Cutler, Edwards and Bowden.

Nuneaton played a good game and probably had a bigger share of the play than their opponents, but their attack was not so brilliant as the visitors, with Fawson being especially weak.

Harris and Page proved equal to the opposing attacks, the former giving a masterly display. Both intermediate lines were good, but the Stourbridge full backs did not seem safe under pressure. They had a fine goalkeeper, however, in Adams.

During the preliminary exchanges, Wright tested Adams, but the visitors hit back and Page gave a corner away under pressure. Macgregor centred well and Horsley made two smart saves.

The home defence was severely tried for a few moments, with the Stourbridge attack being fast and formidable. But eventually Nuneaton broke away in a movement instigated by Middleton. Kind looked favourite to score, but Adams came out and the shot hit the keeper and bounced out. Edwards became threatening at the other end, but Page successively intervened.

The visitors had an abortive corner before Nuneaton pressed again and showed up well in attack, and Gumbley had hard luck in hitting

the post with force. Wright failed to control the rebound before Paul shot over the top with a long drive. Eventually, the Worcestershire men broke and made their way up the other end.

After 20 minutes, Stourbridge broke away and a centre by Bowden was turned in by Cutler from close range.

Stourbridge were in the ascendancy for a while after the goal, and their forwards showed good tactics. Nuneaton, however, still had their share of the play and though their forwards were disappointing for the time being, Taylor got in a good drive, from which Adams had to handle. Lucas defended well for Town and Harris stemmed a Stourbridge attack in style.

Wright hit the post for the home side and the ball rebounded, with Smart being forced to concede a corner. This was the third narrow escape for the visitors' goal. The corner kick was followed by a remarkable siege of Stourbridge's goal, which roused great enthusiasm with Adams having to field the ball on several occasions.

Play was very exciting and the home defence showed up well. Five minutes before the interval, Kind drove the ball into the top corner of the net from about 20 yards out, with Adams comprehensively beaten.

Nuneaton kept up the pressure and Gumbley hit both the bar and post in quick succession as Nuneaton pressed hard right up until the half-time whistle.

The opening of the second half brought some even play. Nuneaton failed to profit from two corners, while Stourbridge were twice stopped for being offside.

Page and Harris delighted the home

crowd with some clever work. Eight minutes from the resumption, Macgregor put in a centre during a Stourbridge raid and Cutler headed in from close range.

Taylor caused Adams to punch away before Nuneaton drew level again a few minutes later. Fawson centred into the goalmouth and Kind neatly headed the ball into the net, with Adams trying in vain to keep the ball out. The visitors made a determined effort to regain the lead, but Middleton proved to be a stumbling block.

However, 19 minutes after the half-time interval, Macgregor put in a fine centre and Moore screwed the ball just inside the far upright, well out of Horsley's reach.

Some attractive play and centring by Taylor saw two home players fail to reach the ball right in front of the goal. The home attackers seeming to want far too much time on the ball during this period.

There was a better understanding among the visiting forwards and Macgregor tested Horsley with a real stinger. Harris averted a certain goal, clearing from the mouth of the net following a corner kick, and then Stourbridge were robbed of what looked like a penalty for handball by Harris, the referee ignoring the Stourbridge appeals.

Nuneaton mounted another onslaught, with plenty of enthusiasm, and gave Adams some work to do. Town still had a good share of play, but were only moderate in attack, though Harris did superb work in defence. Middleton was fouled by Newall just outside the penalty area shortly before the close, and Harris drove the free-kick just wide, with a powerful shot.





## Birmingham Combination: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1927-28

Date	Opposition	Competition	Venue	Score	Scorers
08.27	Sunbeam Motors	League	Home	5-1	Gumbley 5
08.29	Hinckley United	NCC F	Home	2-2	Wright, Gumbley
09.03	Stourbridge	EC	Home	2-3	Kind 2
09.05	Atherstone Town	NHC SF	Home	3-2	Middleton 2, Kind
09.10	Halesowen	League	Home	4-3	Kind, Holdsworth, Page, Taylor
09.12	Tamworth Castle	BSC 1	Away	0-6	
09.17	Wolves	Friendly	Home	1-4	Kind
09.19	Rugby Town	ANC SF	Home	1-4	Brindley
09.24	Atherstone Town	League	Home	1-1	Wright
09.26	Hinckley United	NCC F rep	Home	1-0	Holdsworth
10.01	Tamworth Castle	League	Away	4-3	Brindley 2, Gibson, Kind
10.08	Gresley Rovers	League	Home	1-1	Middleton
10.15	Hereford United	League	Home	5-2	Higham 2, Harris, Middleton, Brindley
10.22	Bromsgrove Rovers	League	Away	2-6	Brindley, Higham
10.29	Walsall L.M.S.	League	Home	5-1	Kind 2, Higham 2, Harris
11.05	Hinckley United	League	Away	1-3	Brindley
11.12	Walsall Reserves	League	Home	1-3	Brindley
11.19	Market Harborough	League	Away	2-2	Kind, Higham
11.26	Hinckley United	NHC F	Home	2-2	Higham, Harris
12.03	Sunbeam Motors	League	Away	3-7	Kind, Harris, Higham
12.10	Leamington	League	Home	0-2	
12.17	Rugby Town	League	Away	2-5	Gibson, Harris
12.24	Rugby Town	League	Home	4-1	Smith 2, Wright 2
12.27	Bloxwich Strollers	League	Away	0-2	
12.31	Leamington	League	Away	3-2	Fletcher 3
01.07	Tamworth Castle	HHC SF	Home	0-2	
01.14	Hinckley United	NHC F rep	Home	3-6	Kind 2, Gibson
01.21	Market Harborough	League	Home	1-3	Kind
01.28	Walsall Reserves	League	Away	1-4	Brindley
02.04	Hinckley United	League	Home	2-3	Gibson, Fawson
02.11	Walsall L.M.S.	League	Away	5-1	Smith 2, Kind 2, Middleton
02.18	Bromsgrove Rovers	League	Home	4-1	Smith, Wright, Middleton, Holdsworth
02.25	Hereford United	League	Away	1-7	Kind
03.03	Gresley Rovers	League	Away	0-4	
03.10	Tamworth Castle	League	Home	2-3	Middleton, Higham
03.17	Atherstone Town	League	Away	1-3	Wright
03.24	Birmingham Trams	League	Home	2-3	Kind, Cooper
03.31	Halesowen	League	Away	2-3	Kind, G.Saunders
04.07	Bournville Athletic	League	Home	5-2	Kind 2, Wright, Harris, G.Saunders
04.09	Evesham	League	Away	1-2	Harris
04.10	Evesham	League	Home	1-1	Brindley
04.14	Bloxwich Strollers	League	Home	2-0	Kind, Wright
04.21	Bournville Athletic	League	Away	2-3	Kind, Smith
04.23	Coventry City	Friendly	Away	2-2	Kind, Naylor
04.25	Birmingham Trams	League	Away	0-2	
04.28	Tamworth Castle	TCC F	Home	7-1	Kind 2, Wright 2, Middleton, Naylor, Ison

Legend: NCC=Nuneaton Charity Cup; EC=English Cup; NHC=Nuneaton Hospitals Cup; HHC=Hinckley Hospital Cup; TCC=Tamworth Charity Cup.

Nuneaton Scores First



1928-29

## First Practice Game

Despite the summer weather, soccer fans turned up in good numbers at Manor Park on Saturday to witness Nuneaton Town's first trial match. One would have expected and pardoned a moderate exhibition during such warm weather, but all of the players displayed a keenness which augurs well for the club's prospects.

There were several new faces to be seen, including a number of promising local lads who were being tried out.

Considerable interest was centred in the Whites' forward line, which is regarded as the prospective first team attack. Unfortunately, Naylor, the centre-forward, injured his wrist early in the game and had to retire. Claffy, who had been leading the Reds' line and who comes from Hednesford, subsequently led the Whites, with the result that the line showed up very well towards the end. Claffy received good support from his winger. Barratt, the extreme right winger, from Southampton, impressed with his nice runs and his powerful and accurate centring. Bright, from Hinckley, looks like a good capture at outside-left. Whitfield, the inside-left winger, from Chesterfield, was one of the most outstanding players and made an impression from the start. He notched two good goals. Sanders, at inside-right worked hard enough, but lacked finish.

Cooper and Fawson were the shining lights of the Reds' attack, the former netting his team's only goal. The defence, naturally, was the strongest department of the side. Devlin from Market Harborough, gave a convincing display in the pivotal position and received excellent support from Fletcher and Sear. Lee, who comes from Hinckley, and Page, made a formidable full-back pair.

Both goalkeepers, E. Johnson and Bonner, were from the Nuneaton Baptist Club, and they shaped very promisingly.

The Whites won by three goals to one, the half-time score being 1-0.

## Second Practice Game

Pearce, the forward from Brierley Hill, made a splendid debut as inside-right in the second practice match held at Manor Park on Monday. The teams, mostly composed of juniors were:

Reds: H. Pearson (Tamworth); D. Green and Chetwynd; Jones, Bonner and Edwards; Fawson, Meads, Higham, Brindley and Cooper.

Whites: Johnson; Orton and Harris; Ashfield, H. Mann and Sear; Millerchip, Pearce (Brierley Hill), J. Barratt, Jenkins and Alcock.

The Whites proved the most dangerous although Higham missed a chance of scoring for the Reds. Pearce was

continually in the picture, but at the outset his efforts proved unsuccessful, the Reds' defence proving strong. Pearson, in goal, had a comparatively easy time, in fact, and when the Whites did manage to break through he effected a clever save from Barratt near the post. The Whites kept up the pressure and Pearce at last shook the net with a lightning shot under the bar. Afterwards, Pearce was well in the picture.

In the second half, Higham and Brindley joined the Whites' attack and the team continued to have the best of the argument. Pearce delighting the crowd with his neat footwork. On one occasion he drew the goalkeeper out, but missed the open goal. Higham put in some good shooting and Brindley showed dash and initiative. Cooper, Alcock and Barratt were the best halves and "Pop" Harris and Chetwynd outshone the rival backs. Near the end Barratt levelled the score for the Reds with a brilliant shot from long range.

## Bloxwich Strollers v Nuneaton Town 25-08-1928

**Nuneaton: Pearson; Lee and Page; Fletcher, Devlin and Sear; Barratt, Pearce, Claffy, Whitfield and Bright.**

**Bloxwich: Biddlestone; Martin and Ferguson; Kenn, Hughes and Cotterill; Paskin, Ball, Gutteridge, Preece and Bradbury.**

Nuneaton travelled to Bloxwich for the opening match of the Birmingham Combination season.

Nuneaton were first to attack and Whitfield was prominent. Bloxwich retaliated strongly, but Devlin eased matters before Whitfield and Sear did well in a Nuneaton raid and Preece hit the upright for the home side. Bloxwich should have been a goal up eight minutes after the start, when they were awarded a penalty, but Martin shot wide. This was followed by a warm siege of the Nuneaton goal, but the ball was got away. The game continued very even.

Nuneaton went ahead after 20 minutes. Pearce started the move which ended in Whitfield netting. After this reverse Bloxwich retaliated vigorously and for some time made things hot for the Nuneaton defence. The home side did not finish very strongly however, and even with the wind in their favour they made no headway, as Page and Lee defended grimly.

Bloxwich did not slacken their efforts and met with success after 33 minutes, when Preece scored with a good shot. Nuneaton nearly went ahead again soon after when Biddlestone was drawn out of his goal, but just managed to get back to stop a header from Whitfield going into the net. Bloxwich did all of the attacking up to half-time.

Nuneaton swept up the field after the cross over and Bright pushed the ball across to Pearce, who just failed to get the ball into the goalmouth. With the wind behind them, Nuneaton came more into the picture and gave the home defence a busy time. Claffy gave Town the lead with a great screw shot after 52 minutes and five minutes later, Nuneaton went further ahead with a great goal. Bright lobbed the ball in and the goalkeeper came out, but Claffy neatly robbed him of the ball and coolly

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



walked it into the net. The Nuneaton goal had a few narrow escapes, but Nuneaton proved to be by far the better side.

## Nuneaton Town v Atherstone Town 27-08-1928

**Nuneaton:** Pearson; Lee and Page; Fletcher, Devlin and Sear; Barratt, Pearce, Claffy, Whitfield and Bright.

**Atherstone:** Aston; Roberts and Barratt; Finch, Spencer and Jackson; Jones, Day, Hatton, Albrighton and Taylor.

Nuneaton welcomed Atherstone Town to Manor Park for a Nuneaton Hospitals Cup semi-final tie. Rain fell heavily throughout the first half and the treacherous state of the pitch mitigated against good football.

Atherstone started a man short, but there was little to choose between the teams at the start. "Adders" were first to attack and Fletcher conceded a corner from Jones' centre. Nuneaton got going, Pearce sent Barratt away and the winger centred, but Finch relieved with a hefty clearance. Atherstone broke away and became threatening, but the danger was averted. At the other end Claffy wasted a good opportunity by hanging on to the ball, with both Barratt and Bright unmarked.

A mistake by Page put the home goal in danger, but Lee cleared. Claffy and Pearce made a good opening for Whitfield, but the inside-left's shot was well off target. Claffy started a movement by passing out to Bright and the winger passed on to Whitfield, who beat an opponent and scored with a beautifully placed shot. A few minutes later the "Adders" should have equalised when Taylor shot wide with just Pearson to beat.

The visitors had hard luck again just after, when a shot from Day passed across the goal with Pearson out of position. At the other end Aston saved well from Pearce. The game was packed with thrilling play and Albrighton had back luck with a shot that struck the bar and a minute later the same player shot over following a well-placed free-kick by Jones.

Brilliant work by Whitfield ended with Aston clearing from Claffy, and then Pearce went close with a terrific cross shot. Jones was dangerous on the visitors' right and from one of his passes, Pearson saved cleverly from a ruck of players. At half-time Nuneaton led 1-0.

The first incident in the second half was a run down the wing by Jones and Day, the latter being foiled by Pearson in the nick of time. Nuneaton went straight away to the other end, and after Roberts had headed away from Bright, the winger again lobbed the ball into the centre for Pearce to score with a smashing drive. "Adders" reduced the lead almost immediately when Pearson was deceived by a shot which he thought was going wide, but which hit the post and rebounded to Albrighton, who shot into an empty net.

A run by Town's left ended in Whitfield putting just wide of the upright. Clever passing by the visiting forwards caused Lee to concede a corner, which came to nothing. Both goals had narrow escapes as Pearson cleared from Jones, while Barratt kicked off the goal-line from Bright. Nuneaton attacked more

and increased their lead after 30 minutes of the second half, Whitfield heading home Pearce's centre. Two minutes later Claffy scored Nuneaton's fourth goal following a scrimmage.

Reports on the FA Cup matches appear at the end of the league and local match reports.

## Nuneaton Town v Hinckley United 03-09-1928

**Nuneaton:** Pearson; Lee and Page; Fletcher, Pratt and Sear; Barratt, Pearce, Claffy, Whitfield and Bright.

**Bloxwich:** Biddlestone; Martin and Ferguson; Kenn, Hughes and Cotterill; Paskin, Ball, Gutteridge, Preece and Bradbury.

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

Hinckley were very dangerous in the first half and early on Pearson, was injured in getting the ball away and had to retire, with Fletcher going in goal. There were narrow escapes at both ends before Stirland gave Hinckley the lead with a great shot and ten minutes later Wesson scored again from a free-kick near the penalty line.

Nuneaton retaliated by redoubling their efforts, and there were many exciting happenings round the visitors' goal. Claffy, was rather disappointing, but just before the interval Bright centred to Whitfield, who sent the ball spinning into the net with a wonderful first-time shot.

In the second-half, Nuneaton were the best side. Pratt, of Coventry, who was playing for Town at centre-half, was a great success, and Claffy showed better form as the game proceeded. The game had only been resumed a few minutes when Kester failed to hold a shot by Bright and the ball almost went over the line. Hinckley were awarded a penalty for handball against Page, but to the relief of the home supporters, McNess kicked wide.

Nuneaton equalised amid great excitement as Kester was drawn out and Pearce walked the ball through. Nuneaton maintained the upper hand and Whitfield scored the winning goal after fine work by Pratt.

## Cannock Town v Nuneaton Town 10-09-1928

**Cannock:** Grey; Hooper and Mason; Blakewell, Buttrey and Smallman; Craddock, Chilton, Jeavons, Wood and Ellis.

**Nuneaton:** Pearson; Lee and Page; Fletcher, Brookes and Sear; Barratt, Pearce, Higham, Whitfield and Bright.

Nuneaton travelled to Cannock to play a Birmingham Combination fixture. Higham, who played for Town a few seasons previous, was brought into the side.

Nuneaton showed up well in the early stages and a centre by Barratt was headed wide by Pearce. Nuneaton were on top for a few minutes, before Cannock successfully asserted themselves and Jeavons netted five minutes after the start, having previously missed a good opening. Nuneaton showed up better after the reverse and Bright grazed the upright.

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



Pearce had the ball in the net, but was given offside. Barratt almost screwed the ball in following a good run by Bright, as Nuneaton continued to have their fair share of the play.

The home defence was kept busy and Higham tested Grey with a good shot. On several occasions Nuneaton came close to scoring and Higham had another goal disallowed, as Cannock maintained their one-goal advantage right up to half-time.

Some exciting scenes marked the resumption of play. Chilton missed at one end and Higham at the other. Nuneaton gained a free-kick well in the home territory. The ball passed right across the goalmouth and Cannock had a lucky escape. Pearce was prominent for Nuneaton, who were still making a good show. The Nuneaton goal had a narrow escape when Pearson was drawn out, but the shot went wide.

Nuneaton carried out some nice attacking movements, and for some time Cannock were content to defend stoutly. Brookes missed a good opportunity to put Nuneaton on level terms before Cannock attacked again and about 30 minutes after the interval Chilton increased their lead. Pearson saved Nuneaton during another attack when the backs had been beaten. There was no further scoring and Cannock ran out 2-0 winners.

Nuneaton's attack did not seem to settle down properly, but the defence and goalkeeper had good games, despite the fact that Cannock deserved their win.

## Nuneaton Town v Atherstone Town 12-09-1928

**Nuneaton: Pearson; Lee and Chetwynd; Fletcher, Chinner and Sear; Barratt, Pearce, Robinson, Whitfield and Bright.**

**Atherstone: Hammond; Finch and Barratt; Jackson, Spencer and Terry; Albrighton, Hatton, Hughes, Pearce and Taylor.**

Nuneaton entertained Atherstone Town in the First Round of the Birmingham Senior Cup. There was a good gate considering the weather.

Defensive mainstay Page was missing from Nuneaton's team. Atherstone were first to attack and scored their first goal through Pearce, following a centre from the right wing after just a few minutes' play. The same player almost scored again when he hit a long-range shot that struck the crossbar and rebounded into play. Nuneaton retaliated and Robinson missed what looked a certain goal before Hammond saved a fine shot from the same player.

Robinson headed a corner towards the goal, and although Hammond fumbled, he recovered and cleared the ball from off the goal-line. Robinson was brought down in the penalty area and a spot-kick was awarded, but Pearce put his shot wide of the goal. Another attack by the home team saw Hammond take the ball off Pearce's toe as he was about to shoot. Atherstone came back and scored a second goal through Albrighton, from a ground shot that slipped through Pearson's hands.

Pearson saved a fine shot from Spencer, touching the ball out of play for a corner, from which nothing resulted. Following

an attack by Nuneaton, Barratt hit the upright from a fine drive. At the interval Atherstone led 2-0.

After the re-start, Nuneaton forced the pace, and from an attack W. Pearce scored Nuneaton's first goal with a great shot. Soon afterwards Pearce scored the equalising goal from a pass by Whitfield. Another attack by Nuneaton resulted in a muddle in Atherstone's goalmouth after Finch had missed the ball, but Hammond touched the ball out for a fruitless corner.

Barratt shot wide with an hard ground drive, while an Atherstone attack ended in Pearson punching the ball out for a corner following Hatton's shot. Nuneaton retaliated and Robinson shot straight at Hammond after beating the backs.

Nuneaton were still on the offensive and shots were saved by Hammond from both Whitfield and Pearce. Following a corner by Barratt, Pearce scored his third goal for Nuneaton, who maintained the upper hand right till the end with both Robinson and Whitfield adding to Nuneaton's score.

## Nuneaton Town v Atherstone Town 15-09-1928

**Nuneaton: Pearson; Lee and Page; Fletcher, Dulson and Brookes; Barratt, Pearce, Robinson, Whitfield and Bright.**

**Atherstone: Hammond; Finch and Ebre; Terry, Jackson and Warren; Milne, Youell, Hatton, Knowles and Albrighton.**

Nuneaton welcomed Atherstone Town to Manor Park for a Hinckley Charity Cup semi-final. Dulson who played centre-half for Nuneaton, previously played for Notts Forest and Luton.

Nuneaton attacked from the start and Whitfield sent in a shot over the bar. Atherstone forced the ball into their opponents' half, which led to Hatton sending in a drive which Pearson diverted for a corner. Atherstone kept up the attack for a few minutes, with Pearson being called on several times. Jackson sent in a fast drive from a free-kick, which was just cleared.

Following ten minutes of fast play, Nuneaton took the lead through Barratt, who sent in a shot which struck the upright and bounced in, following Dulson's pass. Nuneaton were having the best of the play and were dangerous in the Atherstone area. A centre from Bright resulted in Robinson heading over, and immediately after Robinson missed completely after eluding the Atherstone backs. Whitfield sent in a powerful drive that Hammond touched over for a corner.

A run by Albrighton for Atherstone ended in him sending wide. After 30 minutes of play, Whitfield scored with a powerful drive from close range. Another Nuneaton attack saw Hammond take the ball off Whitfield's toe. Bright shot over moments later and immediately after Barratt sent in a cross-shot which Hammond fumbled, but recovered and cleared.

Dulson sustained an injury to his head, which resulted in him leaving the field. Atherstone attacked and Pearson was called upon to save fast shots from both Albrighton and Knowles. The Atherstone forwards shot mostly from long range, which Pearson easily saved. At the break Nuneaton led 2-0.

Dulson resumed after the break and the home team attacked



# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



at once, Robinson sending in a nice ground shot, which Hammond cleared. Two minutes into the second half, Robinson scored with the Atherstone goalkeeper stranded. Five minutes later Bright scored with a fine drive. Soon after Dulson put in a powerful shot from long range which Hammond had difficulty with and was forced to throw away. Bright centred and Ebrey almost headed into his own net. Bright scored a fifth goal for Nuneaton from close range following a great effort by Whitfield.

At this time Nuneaton were just shooting in and Barratt scored the sixth, shooting into the corner of the net after Hammond had knocked down a shot from Bright. The Atherstone keeper made several good saves before Whitfield hit the bar with a powerful shot that rebounded back into play. Pearce scored the seventh goal from a movement initiated by Whitfield and immediately after Pearce headed towards goal, but Hammond pushed the ball out.

Whitfield scored the eighth goal from a short pass by Bright before a feeble Atherstone attack saw Albrighton miss completely. Robinson again scored for Nuneaton about three minutes from time. Nuneaton tried hard for double figures, but at the final whistle they had won 9-0.

## Nuneaton Town v Evesham Town 22-09-1928

**Nuneaton: Pearson; Lee and Page; Fletcher, Dulson and Brookes; Barratt, Pearce, Naylor, Whitfield and Bright.**

**Evesham: Harris; Stokes and Spragg; Davis, Johnson and Mason; Clifford, Allen, Bancroft, Days and Brindley.**

Nuneaton played their first Birmingham Combination home fixture of the season against Evesham Town.

After repelling Nuneaton's initial attack the visitors dictated play for several minutes with both forwards and defence putting in some good work. Pearson was called on to make several saves, before Town began to attack and Dulson put in a shot from a corner which went wide. Evesham were forced back on the defensive and Naylor shot wide before the visitors attacked and Page won the ball and cleared his lines.

Bright failed to get to Barratt's centre before Naylor got the ball out to Whitfield, who crossed in for the centre-forward to head wide. Whitfield tested Harris following a pass by Dulson, while Allen shot wide for Evesham. The game continued fairly even with Lee and Page tackling well. Naylor led a home raid and from a centre by Barratt, Bright was unable to get to the ball. Nuneaton set up some warm attacks and from one of them Naylor was unlucky as Harris just managed to clear.

Pearce hit the Evesham post with a good effort, with the keeper beaten. Dulson picked up an injury and was limping, but on 39 minutes Naylor touched the ball into the net from a scramble following good play and a centre by Bright. Naylor increased the lead just before the break, shooting well from Bright's pass. Nuneaton led 2-0 at the break.

Nuneaton attacked straight from the re-start, and following a forceful movement by Whitfield and Naylor, the centre-

forward completed his hat-trick with a brilliant shot from close range. Bancroft shot wide with a fierce drive, but the ball was soon in Evesham's area again and Naylor all but scored on two occasions. Harris had to field a drive by Pearce as Nuneaton controlled the play with Evesham penned in their own half as Pearce put in another powerful drive.

Evesham attacked, but Page and Lee were too quick and too clever for them. At the other end, Whitfield made a valiant attempt to head in and there were several thrilling scenes outside the Evesham goal after this, but the home team seemed to be taking things easy and with ten minutes to go, Evesham broke away and reduced the lead through Bancroft, whose shot Pearson should have saved. About a minute later, Naylor raced away with the ball from midfield, and finished by easily beating Harris, thus registering his fourth goal. Nuneaton had the best of the play for the remainder of the game.

## Nuneaton Town v Rugby Town 29-09-1928

**Nuneaton: Pearson; Lee and Page; Fletcher, Dulson and Sear; Barratt, Pearce, Naylor, Whitfield and Bright.**

**Rugby: Herbert; A. Buckley and Harrison; J. Buckley, Whittaker and Peters; Reeves, Dobson, Kind, Cheetham and Grainger.**

Nuneaton welcomed Rugby Town to Manor Park for a Birmingham Combination fixture.

Rugby made an unsuccessful attack straight from the kick-off, and then Nuneaton's left-wing got possession and broke through after some clever footwork. The ball was lobbed in and Naylor shot into the net less than a minute after the start. The visitors retaliated strongly and showed good form with Pearson having to save a drive from Dobson, following which Grainger lifted the ball onto the bar.

Rugby equalised from a penalty 17 minutes from the start. Cheetham was fouled by Page in the area, and A. Buckley easily converted. Grainger continued to give trouble and eventually got the ball into the net, but was offside. At the other end, Herbert saved from Pearce. The Rugby goal had a narrow escape following an attack by the home left, Naylor being dispossessed just in the nick of time. Rugby took some holding, but at length the home side got away through Pearce, who made a splendid dribble from midfield, but just failed to finish successfully. Barratt struck a free-kick into the side netting just before the half-time interval.

Nuneaton played indifferently after the break and Rugby came near to scoring on several occasions. Pearce eventually put Nuneaton ahead with a smart left footer, 11 minutes after the break. Ten minutes before the end Naylor notched the home side's third goal, heading home from Barratt's corner. With five minutes to go, Whitfield neatly headed a pass by Barratt into the net and just before the finish, Naylor spectacularly forced his way through, and despite being harassed, he controlled the ball and sent the ball spinning past Herbert. Nuneaton pressed for the last couple of minutes and at the whistle were 5-1 winners.



## Nuneaton Town v Bournville Athletic 06-10-1928

**Nuneaton:** Pearson; Lee and Page; Fletcher, Dulson and Brookes; Barratt, Pearce, Naylor, Whitfield and Bright.

**Bournville:** Wilmott; Perry and Elsdon; Freer, Lane and Sheppard; Cutler, Spencer, Mason, Astle and Price.

Nuneaton welcomed Bournville Athletic to Manor Park for Birmingham Combination fixture.

Town attacked from the start and Barratt shot wide before Bournville retaliated and Astle shot wide for the visitors. Another home attack ended with Whitfield passing to Naylor, who was robbed of the ball on the point of shooting. Fletcher sent in a powerful drive from long range, which went over the bar. An attack by Bournville ended in Spencer shooting for goal, but Pearson saved. Immediately after, Cutler sent in a fast shot, but Pearson gathered the ball well and cleared.

Mason completely missed the ball when shooting for goal before a free-kick to Bournville ended in Fletcher clearing with precision. A Nuneaton attack saw Naylor shoot for goal while Perry was in the process of tackling him and the ball ran out of play. Cutler shot wide from another Bournville attack, while Mason made a feeble attempt, which Pearson cleared.

Town retaliated and from a Bright centre, Pearce shot straight into Wilmott's hands. The home team after a big struggle, took the lead about 25 minutes from the start. Bright, after some tricky work, centred for Naylor to touch the ball to Pearce, who netted with an excellent shot.

The home team kept up the attack, Pearce shot for goal and Wilmott fumbled, but the ball was cleared. The visitors initiated some neat movements in attack, but found worthy defenders in Fletcher, Dulson, Page and Pearson, despite which, however, the Town goal had a narrow escape when Mason shot across the mouth of the net.

Bournville were now having most of the game, but failed to capitalise, while also finding Pearson too alert. The visitors were nearest to scoring up to the interval. Page got the ball away in style from a warm raid, but this did not prevent a Bournville forward from getting in a good shot.

Naylor shot straight at Wilmott after the break, before Bournville retaliated and Mason tested Pearson, but the ball was cleared. Nuneaton increased their lead six minutes into the second half when Bright centred for Whitfield, who passed on for Naylor to beat Wilmott. Bournville hit back, but the home defence were too good and another Nuneaton attack saw Barratt shoot over the bar. Bright centred for Naylor to head goalwards, but Wilmott made a good save.

Whitfield put in a good shot before Bournville launched a counter attack which was spoiled by poor finishing. Sheppard put in a fast ground shot from a free-kick, which Pearson saved. Mason put in an attempt a few moments later, which was followed by a move that saw Naylor passing to Barratt, who sent in a terrific drive, which Wilmott saved.

Brookes shot over the bar before Nuneaton got the third goal when Whitfield headed in from Barratt's pass. Barratt shot over from Bright's centre before the final whistle when the score was 3-0 to Town.

## Darlaston v Nuneaton Town 13-10-1928

**Darlaston:** Dodd; Jones and Osborne; Bayliss, Morgan and Cooper; Ash, Harris, Jackson, Arblaster and Yates.

**Nuneaton:** Pearson; Lee and Page; Fletcher, Dulson and Brookes; Barratt, Pearce, Naylor, Whitfield and Bright.

Nuneaton visited Darlaston for a Birmingham Combination fixture, in their third away match of the season.

There was an excellent attendance and the visitors had a fair share of the play in the opening minutes. Lee tackled the home centre-forward in some style before Naylor was dangerous on two occasions, almost forcing his way through the home defence and then shooting wide. Town held their own, but Arblaster got in two shots before Nuneaton launched a warm attack involving Naylor, Pearce, Bright and Barratt. Naylor opened the scoring after fifteen minutes, when he received a pass from Dulson and took the ball right into the Darlaston area where he beat Dodd from close range with a good shot.

About three minutes later Town increased their lead through Pearce. The movement was started by Bright, who put the ball into the centre for Whitfield to touch it to Pearce, who netted with a lovely shot. Darlaston were dangerous on several occasions, but Pearson was in good form between the sticks. About half-an-hour after the start the visitors set up another strong raid and neat passing between Bright and Whitfield ended with Pearce scoring again when he put in a brilliant shot.

Naylor almost got through again before Pearson had to save from Jackson. Town continued to be the better side, with Whitfield going close with a header as Nuneaton's forwards continued to dominate with shots from Whitfield and Naylor. Ash threatened the visitors goal, but Pearson saved and at half-time the visitors led 3-0.

Darlaston scored from a penalty immediately after the break, after one of the Town backs was adjudged to have handled the ball, and Jackson scored from the spot. Darlaston, now with the slope in their favour, became very dangerous and Pearson was forced to make several good saves. A centre from Naylor went begging before Darlaston had a let-off when a free-kick was awarded on the edge of the Darlaston area, but which looked to be in the area.

Naylor put a fierce shot wide and after a period of midfield play Darlaston attacked again and Ash found the net with a shot from the wing, which went in just under the bar. About a minute from time, Naylor scored, when after his first shot was saved, he put in the rebound. Play became rough towards the end on Darlaston's part and Naylor was injured before the final whistle when the score was 4-2 to Nuneaton.



## Nuneaton Town v Birmingham Trams 20-10-1928

**Nuneaton:** Pearson; Lee and Page; Fletcher, Dulson and Brookes; Barratt, Pearce, Naylor, Whitfield and Bright.

**Birmingham Trams:** Canning; Barrett and Milligan; Hadley, Wright and Vann; Higginson, Robotham, Hughes, Phillips and Gray.

Nuneaton welcomed Birmingham Trams to Manor Park for a Birmingham Combination game. There was a good crowd.

The visitors kicked off towards the town end and put in several dangerous shots early on, with Pearson having to touch Hughes' shot over the crossbar. The home team retaliated and Naylor threatened on several occasions but was robbed on the point of shooting following Whitfield's pass. Barratt tried to break through unsuccessfully before a move initiated by Lee led to good play down the left wing, which ended with Naylor's shot being deflected. Play continued even for a while before Barratt broke through, but his centre was cleared. Hughes looked certain to score when he went round Pearson, but Brookes rushed in to clear. Trams were playing well and their quickness counteracted Nuneaton's play. Pearson had to save following a cross before Whitfield was pushed in Trams' area, but the referee refused to award a penalty.

Brookes put in a good shot from a free-kick, while at the other end Lee ended a Trams raid in style before Naylor played the ball out Barratt, who crashed a fierce shot against the bar. Gray missed an open goal following Higginson's shot. A good move started by Pearce ended with Whitfield shooting over the bar, while Gray for Trams and Pearce and Naylor for Nuneaton, put in good shots before the break.

Town started the second half on the attack and Naylor almost got through on two or three occasions. Trams missed a good chance before Fletcher initiated a good move which Whitmore and then Bright tried to convert. The visitors were again aggressive for a spell, but Nuneaton took up the running again and Naylor was pushed behind in the penalty area, but Barratt missed the penalty kick. The home side won a couple of corners and Pearson had to field a high drive from Hughes.

Twenty-five minutes after the interval Pearce scored the opener for Nuneaton, hitting home a first-time shot from a pass by Barratt. Gray's shot was wide of the Nuneaton goal, while at the other end Pearce put in a good shot after an attempt by Naylor, and the Trams' goal had a narrow escape from the resultant corner. Trams pressed hard for an equaliser and Hughes got in a dangerous low shot. Bright broke away from a scrimmage in midfield and crossed into the area and a corner was conceded by Trams. Pearce headed home from the flag-kick, with just seven minutes left. Nuneaton were hard-pressed before the finish and Pearson made two brilliant saves, one at full-length and the other one by tipping the ball over the bar. At the final whistle Nuneaton were winners by two goals to nil.

## Atherstone Town v Nuneaton Town 27-10-1928

**Atherstone:** Sherwin; Finch and Terry; Higham, Fowler and Haddon; Fawson, Jones, Gregory, Albrighton and Hollis.

**Nuneaton:** Pearson; Lee and Page; Fletcher, Dulson and Brookes; Barratt, Pearce, Naylor, Whitfield and Bright.

Nuneaton Town travelled to Sheepy Road for a Birmingham Combination fixture against Atherstone. Despite the weather the special train from Nuneaton was well patronised.

Atherstone started the match with only ten men and Nuneaton were aggressive from the start, with the home goal having a narrow escape from Naylor's header. Atherstone attacked and Fawson made a speedy run, but keeper Pearson was not tested. Immediately afterwards, Naylor shot into the home goal, but offside was given against him. Just afterwards Sherwin was forced to save from Bright. Eight minutes after the start, the home side took the lead when Fawson got away and centred for Hollis to score following some lax defending from the visitors.

Stung by the early goal, Nuneaton swept downfield and Sherwin made a brilliant save from Whitfield. Atherstone were up to full strength after ten minutes and the game was well contested for a spell, although Fawson continued to cause problems for Nuneaton. A neat forward pass by Dulson forced Sherwin to come out to meet Naylor as the visitors began to gain the upper hand.

Gregory went close following a free-kick, while Fletcher had to concede a corner under pressure, but Nuneaton were unable to do much right at this stage, although just before the break Pearce shot over. At half-time the home side led 1-0.

The game was evenly contested in the early stages of the second half and "Adders" attacked on the right before Naylor was robbed on the point of shooting. Town put the home side under severe pressure and a raking shot was put in by Pearce. After Nuneaton had survived a corner, Whitfield put the ball forward to Naylor, who rushed towards goal. Sherwin came out but could not get the ball, which also eluded Naylor, with the goal at his mercy.

During the scuffle which followed, a fast drive by Fletcher was stopped and Bright centred for Naylor, who shot wide. Twenty minutes after the break Naylor got an equaliser when Pearce put the ball forward to him and he ran past Fowler and into the area where he beat Sherwin. Atherstone now came under some pressure and Sherwin made two saves from Bright and a minute later diverted a warm shot from Pearce.

The home side resorted to kicking out, but Nuneaton took the lead ten minutes from time, when Naylor scored with a well-directed low shot. Sherwin threw himself at the ball, but it passed just inside of the post, much to the delight of the Nuneaton spectators. Atherstone did some pressing in the last few minutes, but Pearson proved safe and Nuneaton held on to win 2-1.



## Rugby Town v Nuneaton Town 03-11-1928

**Rugby Town:** Tucker; A. Buckley and Snook; J. Buckley, Whittaker and Peters; Reeves, Dobson, Williams, Littlechild and Granger.

**Nuneaton:** Pearson; Lee and Page; Fletcher, Phillips and Brookes; Robinson, Brindley, Naylor, Whitfield and Bright.

Nuneaton travelled to Rugby to play a Birmingham Senior Cup Second Round tie. There was an excellent attendance with Nuneaton having a large following of spectators.

The home team had the better of the opening exchanges but did not look like scoring. The home keeper had to save a free-kick taken by Fletcher and immediately after, Lee had to save from a Rugby raid. Bright broke through and centred, but A. Buckley relieved a dangerous situation. Play was of a ding-dong nature for a long spell, with both sets of defenders playing well. Snook aimed well from a free-kick in Nuneaton territory, but Pearson saved. Whitfield initiated a raid for the visitors, which was taken up by Robinson, but failed to bear fruit and a corner to Nuneaton was cleared.

A good centre from Bright resulted in the visitors defence clearing, while just after Tucker had to deal with a Whitfield header. Williams headed over at the other end before Bright made a clever break and centred but Robinson was tackled. Nuneaton quickened the pace before the break and Naylor tried in vain to turn the ball into the net, while Rugby retaliated strongly and Pearson saved a hard shot from Reeves.

Nuneaton pressed straight after the break and opened the scoring after five minutes when a nice combined movement resulted in Naylor's shot hitting the post and rolling towards the goal. Snook rushed in and tried to clear, but only succeeded in putting the ball into his own net. A minute or two later the visitors increased their lead when a free-kick from Fletcher was cleverly converted by Whitfield.

The home side had another very narrow escape when Tucker touched a shot from Naylor onto the post and Robinson shot over. A little later Tucker had to save on the ground from Brindley. Rugby pressed, but the visitors' defence was in excellent form and after about 27 minutes, Naylor led another Nuneaton attack, from which Bright netted with a brilliant shot. Rugby reduced the lead when Williams scored following a scramble, with Pearson grounded. Before the end Naylor got away, but shot wide with only the goalkeeper to beat.

## Leamington Town v Nuneaton Town 10-11-1928

**Leamington:** Edgington; Holmes and Partridge; Shanks, Millard and Clarke; Hunt, Cooper, Walker, Gisbourne and Compton.

**Nuneaton:** Pearson; Lee and Page; Fletcher, R. Phillips and Brookes; Barratt, Pearce, Robinson, Whitfield and Bright.

Nuneaton Town journeyed to face Leamington Town in a Birmingham Combination fixture. Naylor was unable to play due to an ankle injury and was replaced by Robinson. There was another large following from Nuneaton.

Nuneaton were first to press, but Leamington soon hit back and Gisbourne shot over, while Pearson made two good saves from Walker. Edgington had to save from Phillips and Nuneaton took the lead after 11 minutes. The move was started by Phillips, with a long forward pass which found Pearce, who centred to Whitfield, who backheeled the ball into the Leamington net.

Shots were put in by Barratt and Whitfield, but after 20 minutes, Leamington equalised through Walker when Pearson came out, but failed to gather the ball, which rolled tamely into the net. Phillips put in a good shot for Nuneaton and then shot over the bar just afterwards. Lee tackled Gisbourne in the danger zone and Nuneaton broke away, but a promising centre by Bright was not converted.

A fine Nuneaton movement was spoiled by wild shooting before Phillips was injured in a collision with Walker, but kept playing. Rain was falling heavily as Whitfield tried to head home just before half-time.

Leamington pressed hard after the break and the Nuneaton goal had a very narrow escape. From a home attack, Gisbourne shot wide from a good position, after which Pearson made a good save from Walker, as did Edgington from Whitfield's long volley. Gisbourne put in a dangerous shot, and then Partridge let in Pearce, who raced down the wing from midfield and got past Holmes, taking the ball up to goal and then netting. It was a neat solo effort, but Edgington was at fault and ought to have saved.

Leamington made a strong bid for the equaliser, and after Pearson had saved a fine shot by Holmes, Walker headed a brilliant goal from a warm attack, with Pearson having no chance. Leamington had an appeal for a penalty turned down and Nuneaton broke away and Barratt passed beautifully to Pearce, who had a clear run to score with a superb shot into the corner of the net.

There were exciting scenes at both ends and Barratt struck the bar before Nuneaton broke away again and Leamington's goal had a miraculous escape from a great effort by Whitfield. Leamington pressed again and several shots went very close. Pearson also saved once or twice in good style before Leamington equalised from a penalty, given for handball. Millard scored from the spot. With only a minute to go, Leamington took the lead when Compton headed in.

## Nuneaton Town v Birmingham A 17-11-1928

**Nuneaton:** Pearson; Lee and Page; Fletcher, Dulson and Brookes; Barratt, Phillips, Naylor, Whitfield and Bright.

**Birmingham A:** Owen; Smith and Thompson; Gilbert, McClure and Wallington; Harvey, Porter, Morfitt, Love and Spencer.

Nuneaton played host to Birmingham City A in a Birmingham Combination league match. Pearce did not turn up for Nuneaton and Phillips took his place.

Town were soon on the attack, with Naylor making one or



# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



two good efforts to get through. Birmingham also showed up well and Pearson was called upon two or three times, but showed his usual agility. Owen had to save from a home attack while at the other end, Love missed a golden opportunity. Good work by Dulson stopped Birmingham.

Excitement built among the home supporters, when Town's left wing pair worried the Birmingham defence, but an offside flag ruined the move. Fletcher was carried off with a facial injury before Pearson had to kick away following an attack from the visitors before McClure won applause for a good effort on the Nuneaton goal. Bright put in a weak effort and Barratt landed the ball on top of the net before the Birmingham keeper had to retire injured. Fletcher came back onto the pitch.

The Blues' goal had a narrow escape from Bright before Town took the lead through Phillips, who scored with a fine shot after 37 minutes. Phillips got away in midfield, but a City back intervened before Naylor could reach the ball. Pearson saved Love's header before Town increased their lead with a gem, three minutes before the interval. Phillips swung the ball right across to the left for Bright to return it to the centre, where Whitfield met the ball and fired home from distance.

After the break Owen returned, as did Fletcher, whose face was bandaged. Morfitt got in a terrific shot, the ball hitting the post and rebounding out to Love, who also hit the post. Town increased their lead six minutes into the second half after Barratt drove the ball just inside the post with great force. Town almost scored again before Birmingham set up a series of warm onslaughts, which gave Pearson a chance to shine.

Nuneaton also got away again several times, and Owen had to come out to Naylor, who had raced away from midfield, only to lose control of the ball. A free-kick taken by McClure in home territory failed and Nuneaton got their fourth goal when Whitfield put in a first-timer, which Owen put out for a corner, from which Bright shot the ball into the top of the net

Birmingham had another shot strike the upright and Pearson made a great save from Wallington, after which Naylor made tracks and was fouled just outside the penalty area, the free-kick being saved. Bright broke through, but Owen saved at the expense of a corner. At the whistle Town had won 4-0.

## **Nuneaton Town v Brierley Hill Alliance 23-11-1928**

**Nuneaton:** Pearson; Lee and Page; Phillips and Brookes; Barratt, Pearce, Naylor, Whitfield and Bright.

**Brierley Hill:** Tranter; Rees and Davis; Wilson, Wakeman and Connor; Birch, Riley, Thomson, Taylor and Brooks.

Nuneaton welcomed Brierley Hill Alliance to Manor Park for a Birmingham Senior Cup 3rd Round tie. Dulson failed to turn up for Nuneaton, who played with ten men, as did Brierley Hill for the first 16 minutes.

Nuneaton opened with an attack down the right, but Brierley Hill hit back and put a shot over the bar. Fletcher made a good tackle when the visitors next attacked. Bright

and Pearce featured in a Nuneaton attack, with the latter shooting after brilliant work by the home front line. Pearson had to deal with a tame long effort by Thomson before Town put Brierley Hill under intense pressure and following a long raid, Whitfield gave Nuneaton the lead after 10 minutes play.

Pearson had a long drive to deal with and shortly afterwards Tranter had to save a header from Naylor following Bright's centre. Harris came on for Brierley Hill, putting them up to full strength after 16 minutes, but Town still had a good share of the play, although Page came to Nuneaton's rescue on a couple of occasions. A good shot from Birch resulted in a corner, as Alliance showed up well, playing some neat football.

Fletcher started another home attack, which was taken up by Pearce and Barratt, who gave Brierley Hill an anxious moment or two. Naylor broke through, but Bright's centre was cleared, while at the other end Lee cleared. Bright headed wide from Fletcher's pass and Whitfield did the same from a corner. Brierley Hill mounted a strong raid before the break, but Town defended well and at the break they led 1-0.

Alliance attacked at the start of the second half and Pearson had to save from Riley. Page and Lee brought off good tackles in succession, and then from a pass by Whitfield, Naylor burst through, but sent wide. Nuneaton kept up the pressure and Bright performed well for Naylor to shoot over. Play became very keen and the visitors' left-half was spoken to by the referee. The visitors went close on a couple of occasions before Bright broke clear again, but was fouled and another Brierley Hill defender was spoken to.

Pearce made a good effort at breaking through before Bright and Whitfield combined, with the latter being fouled, but nothing came of the free-kick. Pearson had to stop a drive by the visiting right-half before Alliance equalised 25 minutes after the break. Thomson's shot bounced awkwardly and deceived Pearson, passing tamely into the net.

The visitors had a close call from a free-kick before Pearson made a wonderful save at close quarters, when a goal seemed certain. The visitors monopolised the final twenty minutes, but were erratic in their shooting, although Pearson had to save from a good volley. Alliance were awarded a penalty ten minutes from the end for a handball by Brookes. Riley took the kick, but Pearson saved to the delight of the spectators. The game ended 1-1.

## **Nuneaton Town v Aston Villa Colts 30-11-1928**

**Nuneaton:** Pearson; Lee and Page; Fletcher, Dulson and Harris; Barratt, Pearce, Naylor, Whitfield and Bright.

**Villa:** Wright; Corbett and Gettins; Wilkin, Lawrence and Jennings; Wilkin, Tunstall, Ashford, Harris and Ward.

Nuneaton welcomed Aston Villa Colts to Manor Park for the semi-final of the Leamington Cup.

The visitors were first to attack and Page was called on several times to clear. Pearce made several attempts to create an

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



opening for Nuneaton and Bright showed up once or twice, but was unable to get in accurate centres. Dulson had to retire hurt a few minutes after the start as the visitors still had most of the play and Pearson had to save from Tunstall. Some good work by Bright and Naylor raised hopes for the home side, but nothing developed and Pearson had to clear.

Town lost Bright after about 24 minutes and the home side conceded twice as Ashford converted a centre from the right and after Pearson had saved from Ward, Harris increased the visitors' lead with a drive from distance. Shortly afterwards Bright returned and Nuneaton attacked through Pearce, Whitfield and Naylor, and the home centre-forward scored from close range after 32 minutes.

Town's forwards showed up well after the goal and Lee and Page were solid in defence. The visitors had an escape from a free-kick for a foul on Bright, and another good effort saw Wright make a superb save from Naylor, before saving a long range shot from Pearce. Villa missed a good chance, but at the break they led 2-1.

Town resumed without Dulson, who had sustained a shoulder injury, but despite the handicap they were soon attacking and Naylor put wide with the Villa keeper out of position. The visitors had chances, but were wild in their shooting and the home side, despite being a man short, continued to attack. Pearce shot over after good work by Whitfield before Town equalised about 11 minutes after the break. Following a fierce attack, Naylor and Pearce tried to force the ball into the net, but it went to Bright, who headed home.

There was an exciting period of play around the Villa goal during the next few minutes, with the home forwards being irresistible. Pearce had a goal disallowed, while a great run by Barratt followed, which ended in Wright again being tested. Wilkin missed an easy chance before good work by the Villa left wing pair followed. Shots were put in by Naylor and Pearce, while Pearson had to save twice from Villa raids.

About 36 minutes after the interval, Naylor got the ball into the net, but offside was given. Nuneaton's Harris skimmed the bar with a free-kick just outside the Villa area and the home team had all the play for the remainder of the game, which ended in a 2-2 draw.

## Halesowen v Nuneaton Town 08-12-1928

**Halesowen:** Rankine; Parker and Wright; J. Court, Guest and Walker; Smith, Salisbury, Saunders, S. Court and Tromans.

**Nuneaton:** Pearson; Lee and Page; Fletcher, Phillips and Harris; Barratt, Pearce, Naylor, Whitfield and Bright.

Nuneaton Town travelled to The Grove, Halesowen for a Birmingham Combination fixture. Brookes again failed to turn up for Nuneaton and was replaced by Phillips.

The home team opened aggressively and scored after only five minutes, when Saunders' shot gave Pearson no chance. Nuneaton had appeals for a penalty for handball turned

down. Halesowen were quick to break and put in some good centres and after ten minutes they went further ahead from a scuffle near the post. Nuneaton made another penalty appeal, which was also turned down. Halesowen were still the stronger side in attack and Saunders should have scored again, missing a good chance.

Town made good progress and Naylor threatened from Phillips' pass, but he was robbed in the nick of time. Barratt put in a good centre, which Rankine fielded before Pearce shot wide. Halesowen dominated the play and they scored a third goal after 25 minutes through S. Court, with Pearson deceived as the ball cannoned off another player. Barratt won a corner, which Bright tried to convert, but failed, and Halesowen were put on the defensive for a spell. Pearson only just managed to get the ball away from a raid by Halesowen's left, while clever work by Bright led to a free-kick well in Halesowen territory, but Harris drove wide. Naylor tested Rankine with a stinger following Whitfield's pass, but the half ended after a disappointing first-half display with Nuneaton trailing 3-0.

Naylor shot over straight after the break, but Halesowen hit back and Salisbury scored two minutes after the break, with Nuneaton's defence being too slow to react. Rankine made a rather lucky save from Whitfield before Walker got Halesowen's fifth goal, 11 minutes after the break. He dribbled in, and no one made an effort to tackle him as he netted with an oblique shot, which Pearson dived at in vain.

Pearce reduced the deficit 15 minutes after the break when he slipped past one of the backs and put in a good first-timer that took Rankine by surprise. Pearce aimed well from a free-kick for a foul on Naylor, after which Rankine made a splendid save from a long shot by Barratt. Mistakes by Phillips let in the home side on two successive occasions. Town returned, and from a great forcing effort by Naylor the ball went to Whitfield, who scored with an unerring drive, 30 minutes after the break. The home side pressed right up until the end with Pearson making three or four brilliant saves before the close.

## Nuneaton Town v Walsall LMS 15-12-1928

**Nuneaton:** Pearson; Lee and Page; Fletcher, Spencer and Brookes; Barratt, Pearce, Naylor, Whitfield and Ison.

**Walsall LMS:** Lewis; Westmancoat and Horan; Holt, Burns and Odams; Longmore, Barker, Bendle, Mansell and Kelly.

Nuneaton welcomed Walsall LMS to Manor Park for a Birmingham Combination fixture. Town made two changes with Spencer replacing Phillips and Ison replacing Bright. Owing to bad light only 35 minutes each way was played.

The ground was very hard and Town kicked off without Page and Spencer, and had some defensive work to do in the first few minutes. Lee and Fletcher played well before the two missing players made an appearance and Nuneaton made tracks to the other end where Naylor tried to screw the ball in from a difficult angle, after taking a great pass from Pearce.



Naylor forced a corner, from which Lewis conceded another, and the home team kept up the pressure with Lewis having to field a good shot from Barratt. Lee easily thwarted a Walsall effort, and the Town were back again, Whitfield having a header blocked. Town took the lead with a brilliant goal sixteen minutes from the start. The movement started in midfield, and after some clever passing, which had the Walsall defence in a tangle, Naylor had a clear opening from a difficult position, and drove the ball in. It looked to be going wide, but Holt touched it through his own goal.

The Railwaymen retaliated strongly, and won an abortive corner. Pearson then saved a good shot by Bendle, and dealt with another dangerous volley soon after. From a quick centre by Ison, Naylor was threatening in front of goal, but Odams managed to prevent him from shooting. After Town had been on top for a while, they scored again, when Fletcher passed up to Naylor, who had a good opening, from which he drove into the corner of the net. The ball hit the inside of the post and went in.

Three minutes later Naylor got another when he got onto the end of a centre by Ison. The keeper came out, but Naylor got the ball past him in a very neat fashion and walked it into the net, giving Nuneaton a 3-0 half-time lead.

The visitors attacked after the break, but Bendle misplaced his pass and Nuneaton got forward following a rush and Naylor headed over from close range. The visitors had a fair share of the play for a few minutes, but their finishing was weak. Nuneaton attacked again and Naylor worked a fantastic opening for Whitfield, who was well-placed, but missed what looked a certain goal with a first-time shot that went well wide.

Several thrilling raids were mounted by the home side and at this stage the Railwaymen were being outplayed. Lee gave away a free-kick which came to nothing and Town attacked again, with Lewis saving Barratt's shot. Both goals were visited with Pearson saving from Bendle and Lewis from Naylor. The home side continued to have the greater share of the play and they got a fourth goal a minute before the end when Fletcher centred and the inside-left beat Lewis in a tussle and shot the ball home.

## **Brierley Hill Alliance v Nuneaton Town 22-12-1928**

**Brierley Hill:** Tranter; Rees and Davis; Wilson, Connor and Taylor; Birch, Riley, Thomson, Emery and Brooks

**Nuneaton:** Pearson; Lee and Page; Fletcher, Spencer and Brookes; Barratt, Pearce, Naylor, Whitfield and Bright.

Nuneaton travelled to Brierley Hill to replay a 3rd Round Birmingham Senior Cup tie.

The home side were first to show and Pearson had to save from Birch and then Lee stopped another shot in the same raid. Bright centred when Nuneaton attacked, but Naylor could not get hold of the ball. Pearson made a fine save from Thomson at the near post, while the visitors made several raids, but could not get into position for scoring.

Pearson made a good save and then went out bravely to Thomson and robbed him in the nick of time. Nuneaton were put on the defensive for a spell and Pearson had to dive full length to stem an onslaught from the home side. Pearson continued to play well, as did Lee, before Nuneaton attacked and a centre from Barratt went begging. Brierley hit back and were very dangerous on two occasions. Nuneaton's passing left much to be desired and although there was no score after 25 minutes, Nuneaton were very much indebted to Pearson.

The visitors began to have more of the play and Pearce tried to force an opening before Barratt broke away and centred well, but Tranter cleared. Bright missed a gilt-edged chance about 30 minutes after the start. Pearce put the ball across to him, but the outside-left refused an open goal when well placed. Alliance attacked again and the Town goal had a narrow escape. Naylor almost got through before Pearson was called on to save again.

Town took the lead on 35 minutes when Pearce made a opening for Barratt to centre for Naylor to head in. Riley scored for Brierley Hill from the penalty spot just before the interval and the scores were level at 1-1 at half-time.

Alliance pressed on the restart, and won three corners in succession, after which Whitfield tested the home keeper and the same player headed on to the top of the net from a free-kick. Birch made a brilliant run and beat Page, but finished poorly. Naylor put a shot over the top before Whitfield gave Nuneaton the lead with a first-time shot 15 minutes after the break. Tranter got to the ball, but fumbled it into the net.

Alliance won two fruitless corners and Birch finished off a good move with a poor finish. Tranter had to deal with a shot by Pearce and Nuneaton were now always dangerous when they got away. The light was very bad and play was centred in Nuneaton's territory for a spell, but the visitors defended stoutly, and two more home corners failed. Pearce shot over from a Town raid and the visitors' defence stemmed another couple of attacks. Near to the end, Naylor broke through and might have scored, but the referee gave a foul.

## **Hinckley United v Nuneaton Town 25-12-1928**

**Hinckley:** Kester; Belben and Conopo; Wesson, Bird and Holt; Clack, Tuckley, Stirland, Sheldon and Cross.

**Nuneaton:** Pearson; Lee and Page; Johnson, Spencer and Brookes; Barratt, Pearce, Naylor, Whitfield and Bright.

Nuneaton travelled to The Holywell on Christmas Day to face Hinckley United in a Birmingham Combination match.

Nuneaton started with the slope in their favour and soon made use of it when Bright scored with a brilliant shot from Johnson's centre after just five minutes. United retaliated but were well held by Town's defence. Nuneaton mounted more dangerous attacks and Whitfield increased their lead after 25 minutes, with Kester appearing to touch the ball as it went in. The Nuneaton captain got in further shots after this and Clack



sent wide for the home side. Hinckley reduced the deficit after 30 minutes when Stirland drew out Pearson before shooting into an empty net.

United played up strongly after this success and Clack was a source of danger more than once, while Pearson and Lee distinguished themselves in the Nuneaton defence. Half-time arrived with Nuneaton leading 2-1.

About a minute after the interval, Nuneaton were awarded a penalty after a foul by one of the home backs. Naylor took the kick and found the net, Kester getting to the ball but failing to break the force of the shot. Town were now in the ascendancy and Bright tested Kester. Hinckley did not show up greatly in attack, although Pearson had once to tip over from Tuckley following Clack's centre.

Tuckley missed a great chance a little later and then Nuneaton increased their lead, Naylor heading Bright's centre into the net 13 minutes after the interval. There was no further scoring and Nuneaton won by four goals to one.

## Nuneaton Town v Hinckley United 27-12-1928

**Nuneaton:** Pearson; Lee and Page; Fletcher, Spencer and Brookes; Barratt, Pearce, Naylor, Whitfield and Bright.

**Hinckley:** Kester; Taylor and Conopo; Wesson, Belben and Holt; Clack, Tuckley, Bird, Stirland and Cross.

Nuneaton welcomed Hinckley United to Manor Park for a Birmingham Combination game on Boxing Day in front of a crowd of 5,000. There was a heavy shower of rain which made conditions slippery and the ball difficult to control.

Hinckley pressed hard from the kick-off, but Town hit back and Kester saved well from Pearce and Barratt, after which Naylor shot wide from a pass by Whitfield. The visitors kept up a good pace and good crosses were put in by Clack, two of which produced shots at goal. Pearson made a brave save from Cross and Naylor tested Kester before Hinckley monopolised play for a time. Kester saved a long drive by Pearce, while Naylor and Whitfield were dangerous in home raids, and Pearson saved from Bird.

Play was even for a time before Naylor made a run from midfield, which produced a corner. Barratt levelled the scores following Bright's centre and at the break the score was 1-1.

Bird put Hinckley ahead straight after the break, converting a centre from Clack and about five minutes later Bright equalised with a superb shot following a great move involving Pearce and Whitfield. United escaped following a free kick on the edge of their area, as Nuneaton had most of the play for a time. Pearson was injured and Fletcher had to go in goal and shortly afterwards Bird gave Hinckley the lead.

About five minutes later Nuneaton were awarded a penalty for a foul. On the referee awarding the penalty, Wesson, the Hinckley right-half, in an apparent fit of temper, deliberately kicked the ball out of the ground and was promptly sent off. Naylor successfully converted the penalty to the great delight

of the home spectators. Pearson returned a few minutes before the end and there was no further scoring, the game ending in a 3-3 draw.

Following the award of the penalty kick, there was a stoppage, during which some of the visiting players became over-excited and a number of Hinckley supporters encroached onto the pitch and it was thought necessary to send for police assistance, but fortunately, no serious trouble ensued.

### A. S. Fletcher for Sheffield United

A. S. Fletcher, Nuneaton Town's right half-back, was transferred to Sheffield United last weekend, and turned out for his new club against Burnley on Saturday.

Negotiations have been proceeding with the First Division club for some weeks. The transfer fee is understood to be in the neighbourhood of £1,000, and the Nuneaton club will be able to clear itself from debt.

Fletcher is aged 21, and only a year ago was figuring in the Nuneaton Bible Class League. At first he was a forward, but was tried at half-back and showed steady improvement.

Fletcher is the second Nuneaton Town player to be transferred to Sheffield United, the other being George Green, the international half-back.

### Sheffield United Team To Visit Nuneaton

Sheffield United have, in connection with the transfer of Fletcher, the Nuneaton Town right half-back, to that club, promised to send a strongly representative side to play Nuneaton Town towards the end of the season. Both Fletcher and George Green, the two players they have secured from Nuneaton, will be included in the team.

## Nuneaton Town v Halesowen 29-12-1928

**Nuneaton:** Pearson; Lee and Page; Johnson, Spencer and Brookes; Barratt, Pearce, Naylor, Whitfield and Bright.

**Halesowen:** Rankine; Parker and Wright; J. Court, Guest and Walker; Smith, Rankle, Salisbury, S. Court and Tromans.

Nuneaton welcomed Halesowen to Manor Park for the final Birmingham Combination fixture of 1928.

The home team started aggressively and some good passes were put in by Whitfield. Parker put the visitors' goal in danger by missing the ball, but Nuneaton could not take advantage. The home side took the lead after six minutes through Naylor who scored following a brilliant movement in which Whitfield was prominent. The visitors hit back and Lee defended well in defence, though Halesowen went very close. A prolonged siege of the visitors goal followed and Naylor put in a lot of good work, with Whitfield, Brookes and Barratt also distinguishing themselves.



# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



Rankine had great difficulty in dealing with a centre by Bright, and could not properly clear, but no Nuneaton forward was able to get to the ball as it dropped in front of the net. A centre from Bright won a corner from which Rankine pulled off a good save from Pearce at close range. Whitfield shot over after Rankine had saved from Bright, and then Salisbury got through for the visitors after a good run, but Pearson came out bravely and stopped him.

Whitfield tested Rankine, and after 30 minutes' play, Pearce ran through on his own and netted Town's second goal. Halesowen had a spell on the attack, but did not make a great deal of impression in front of goal, and play was transferred by Naylor with a clever run from the half-way line. About three minutes before the interval, Pearce sent Naylor through, and the centre-forward drew out Rankine, shooting past him into the net. Lee headed clear from a dangerous raid by the visitors, with Pearson stranded, and at half-time Nuneaton led 3-0.

Halesowen were kept on the defensive for long spells after the break and Pearce tested Rankine twice with stinging shots. Immediately after Whitfield had just failed to get to the ball in front of goal from a centre by Barratt. Nuneaton increased their lead eight minutes after the break when Whitfield headed home from Barratt's corner.

Play was concentrated in midfield for a while and then Pearson saved a surprise long-range volley by the Halesowen centre-half, Kenn. Page blocked a centre by Smith, but Nuneaton could not make progress for the time being, despite the clamour by the home crowd for another goal. This came 23 minutes after the interval, and the opening was made by Pearce, from a good pass by Spencer. The inside-right performed a neat piece of work, and centred for Whitfield to turn the ball in with a lightning first-timer.

Pearson saved a good shot from Salisbury, as Halesowen improved for a spell, and S. Court reduced the deficit 30 minutes after the restart with a dropping shot, the ball going in just under the bar, and giving Pearson no chance whatsoever. A minute or two later, Whitfield found the net again from Barratt's centre following a great move in front of goal. Naylor scored again seven minutes from the end with the goalkeeper and back on the ground in the mouth of the goal. Almost immediately after, Naylor went through again and scored, while some of the visiting defenders were appealing for offside. Pearson saved a warm shot just before the close.

## Nuneaton Town v Aston Villa Colts 05-01-1929

**Nuneaton:** Pearson; Lee and Page; Johnson, Fields and Brookes; Barratt, Pearce, Naylor, Whitfield and Bright.  
**Villa Colts:** Wright; Young and Gettins; Corbett, Bradford, and Florence; Armfield, Wilkin, Wright, Carr and Harris.

Nuneaton welcomed Aston Villa Colts to Manor Park in a replay of the Leamington Cup semi-final.

Town were first to press, but Villa hit back and gave the home defence some anxious moments. Bright made a good attempt

before Brookes cleared well forward and Town pressed for a time. Lee attempted to stem a warm Villa raid, but the ball was centred and a shot by Wright was blocked by Page.

Pearce and Bright showed up well for Town before Armfield made a speedy run up the wing, which came close to producing a goal. At the other end, Barratt put in a good centre and a little later Whitfield's shot resulted in a corner. Bright placed the flag-kick well and Whitfield headed downwards into the corner of the net. The visitors retaliated, but found Lee too smart, and the home team got to the other end again, where a centre from Bright was volleyed over the bar by Whitfield. Pearson deflected a shot from Carr.

Pearson tipped over the bar from Corbett's shot and following the corner kick, Wilkin headed into the net for the equaliser on 27 minutes. Bright spoiled a good chance from a Barratt centre, while Brookes made a nice opening for Bright, who put the ball across for Pearce to touch on to Taylor. The latter shot at close range and Wright saved, but without holding the ball, which went to Whitfield, who hit the ball into the net on 31 minutes.

Armfield skimmed the bar with a good drive from distance, and Wright, the Villa keeper, had to field a centre by Bright. Lee stopped an onslaught by Villa, but the visitors were not continually on the attack and at length Wilkin tested Pearson with a ground shot. Town got up the other end in style and Naylor tested Wright from Barratt's centre and the Villa keeper then had to save from Whitfield. Brookes shot wide before the half-time whistle, when Nuneaton led 2-1.

Town showed up well on the resumption and Wright had to deal with a stinger by Pearce. Villa attacked strongly two or three times, but Pearson was solid. Pearce scored Town's third goal five minutes after the break when Wright came out and cleared badly to Pearce, who shot home from 30 yards before the keeper could get back. Eight minutes later Harris reduced the lead when he hooked the ball over the head of Pearson and into the net. Pearson made two or three more good saves after this before Nuneaton monopolised play for a time.

Barratt shot wide from a good pass by Pearce before Pearson was called on again. Town dictated the play and Naylor increased the lead after 78 minutes, rushing the ball through from Barratt's corner. A minute later Bright raced away and crossed for Naylor to score with a brilliant shot. Nuneaton held the upper hand for the remainder of the game with Naylor making a great run and Pearce shooting over with a fine drive.

## Nuneaton Town v Burton Town 12-01-1929

**Nuneaton:** Pearson; Lee and Page; Johnson, Spencer and Brookes; Barratt, Pearce, Naylor, Whitfield and Bright.  
**Burton Town:** Samson; Wheeldon and Cheer; Locker, Walker and Humphreys; Bird, Causer, T. Warren, Price and Gummery.

Nuneaton entertained Burton Town in the semi-final of the Birmingham Senior Cup. There was a good attendance.

Burton kicked off and the opening exchanges were well

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



contested, but the home side began to get on top following good work by Page. Whitfield headed wide from a good move and Barratt was prominent on several occasions. Town were awarded a penalty after 12 minutes when Naylor was tripped. Naylor himself took the kick, but Samson saved.

The visitors attacked well after their let-off and Warren shot over. Following an attack by Nuneaton, Pearce tested Samson with a volley. Pearce caused the visitors trouble before Burton won a corner and Brookes cleared. The game continued evenly matched with both teams struggling for a goal.

Nuneaton were all over their opponents for a spell and a neat headed pass by Spencer led to Pearce testing Samson with a stinging shot. Brookes also put in excellent work, and Nuneaton kept up the pressure as Samson had to save a superb shot from Barratt. Burton then attacked and Warren was dangerous, while the Burton right-wing showed up well.

Naylor looked like scoring for the home side, but Samson came out and smothered his shot. The visitors pressed hard and won two corners before Pearce broke away, but Samson came out and saved. The visitors came on strongly and Nuneaton defended well through Lee, Page and Johnson.

Pearce made a great run straight after the break, before shooting wide. The struggle continued to yield plenty of thrills, and two or three home raids followed, one of which saw Whitfield get in a shot. Pearson dropped the ball at the feet of a Burton attacker and then had to handle a shot from Bird. Pearce shot over from a free-kick, but play was mainly in midfield. Brookes shot wide from a corner before the visitors got penned into their own half for a time, but defended well.

Pearson saved from Bird before the home team had a let-off when Bird hit the post and Causer missed the rebound with an open goal. Pearson had to make two or three saves from close range, while Price shot over the top. The visitors pressed hard, but were over-excited when in front of goal, while just before the end, a Nuneaton rush came to nothing.

## Nuneaton Town v Market Harborough 19-01-1929

**Nuneaton:** Pearson; Lee and Page; Johnson, Spencer and Brookes; Barratt, Pearce, Naylor, Whitfield and Bright.

**Market Harborough:** Berry; Thomas and Almey; Law, Medhurst and Branston; Sargeant, G. Varnham, Freakley, Kilborn and P. Varnham.

Nuneaton welcomed Market Harborough to Manor Park for a Birmingham Combination fixture.

The visitors opened on the offensive, but were repelled by Page. Nuneaton attacked, but the ball went out of play on several occasions during the next few minutes. Harborough had a good share of the game and G. Varnham sent wide with a shot that had little force before Nuneaton hit back and won a corner from which Naylor tested Berry with a header. The visitors attacked at pace and Freakley was threatening before play again transferred to the other end where Berry made a good save from Naylor at the expense of a corner.

Pearce shot wide from a Nuneaton raid before a splendid movement led to Bright centring, but it was behind Naylor and the visitors cleared. Whitfield tried hard to get the ball in, while Sargeant just skimmed the bar for the visitors. Lee cleared for Town, while Pearce shot wide at the other end. Pearson had to field a great volley from G. Varnham, while Bright did some neat work and passed to Whitfield, who shot. The ball struck Law and the deflection deceived Berry, who recovered and touched it out. Another good home attack developed in which Bright, Naylor, Whitfield and Pearce all played their part, but it was left to Barratt, who notched the first goal. He had a clear opening for shooting, and drove the ball well out of Berry's reach.

Harborough came back well and there was an exciting scene outside the home goal, where Pearson had to dive to the ball and it was some time before the Town defence could clear. G. Varnham, Medhurst and Freakley were dangerous in Harborough raids and for Nuneaton, Naylor tested Berry. The ground was in a heavy state and some of the players were plastered in mud. Nuneaton passed up a good opportunity when Naylor failed to pass to Pearce, who was in a good position. However, three minutes from the interval Pearce scored with an excellent shot, while just before the break Johnson cleared from a warm Harborough attack.

A Harborough attack was repulsed straight after the break, before Thomas almost put through his own goal in trying to clear from Whitfield. Town kept up the pressure and Barratt shot wide before Harborough tried to force a way through, but were harried by Johnson, Spencer and Lee. Naylor made a heroic attempt to force an opening for Town. The visitors' goal was besieged for a spell with Berry having to save from Pearce and Whitfield in quick succession.

Pearson was warmly tested before Nuneaton were awarded a penalty when Barratt was tripped. Page scored from the kick, 15 minutes into the second half. About five minutes later the visitors attacked on the right, and Pearson had to save, but as he caught the ball, Freakley bundled him over the line and a goal was awarded. The visitors continued to press, but unfortunately they lost Freakley, who was struck hard by the ball and had to be assisted off the pitch. Despite being down to ten men Harborough continued to press and tested Pearson again, while at the other end Berry saved from Pearce. Freakley returned and broke through the home defence, but shot wide. The remainder of the match was fairly even and Nuneaton held on to win 3-1.

## Burton Town v Nuneaton Town 23-01-1929

**Burton:** Samson; Staley and Cheer; Locker, Walker and Humphreys; Bird, Warren, C. Evans, Price and Gummery.

**Nuneaton:** Pearson; Lee and Page; Johnson, Phillips and Brookes; Barratt, Pearce, Naylor, Whitfield and Brindley.

Nuneaton travelled to Burton Town on Wednesday in the Birmingham Senior Cup semi-final replay.

Nuneaton held their own for the first half and really should

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



not have been a goal in arrears at the interval, Whitfield missing a gilt-edged chance of equalising about two minutes before the interval. Still for all that it looked as though the home team would have to fight hard to win, judging by the way Nuneaton stuck to their guns in the first half, but after the change of end, the visitors fell away rather badly and in the end were rather easily overcome.

The visitors, who had Phillips at centre-half and Brindley for Bright at outside-left, played much below par, even allowing for the admitted strength of the opposition. They never seemed able to get into their stride and the forwards were very disjointed, Bright being very badly missed on the left. His replacement, Brindley, did well enough but his crossing was not of the same standard.

There were occasions, however, when Nuneaton threatened the Burton goal and two or three simple scoring chances were missed through rank bad finishing. Naylor, although carefully watched, often got past the backs, only to fail at the last hurdle. Pearson and Page were the two shining lights in the Nuneaton team. The former gave a grand exhibition in goal and made some remarkable saves apart from saving Walker's penalty kick. Page was far and away the best full-back on the field. He intercepted with great judgment, tackled with skill, and generally placed the ball to advantage.

On top of that, he got his side's only goal from a penalty, his shot leaving Samson helpless. Apart from these two players, the rest of the team were very moderate with Pearce having an unusually quiet afternoon.

To cut a long story short, Nuneaton were beaten for speed and cleverness and were on the whole greatly inferior to the home team, who it is said, gave their best performance of the season.

## Nuneaton Town v Birmingham City A 26-01-1929

**Nuneaton:** Fraser; Paul and Page; Johnson, Spencer and Brookes; Barratt, Pearce, Naylor, Whitfield and Bright.

**Birmingham:** Burton; Bennett and Bullock; Gilbert, McClure and Wallington; Horsman, Riley, Haywood, Robinson and Spencer.

Nuneaton welcomed Birmingham City A to Manor Park for a Birmingham Combination game. The home side were missing Pearson, who was replaced by Fraser, and Lee, who was replaced by Paul. There was a good attendance.

Birmingham were first to attack, but Town hit back and Naylor forced a fruitless corner. Good work by Johnson led to another home raid and Town forwards showed up well. Fraser had to field a shot by Robinson and play was again transferred as Pearce sent Naylor away. The centre-forward broke through and scored with a lovely shot, after just seven minutes. Robinson missed a great chance of equalising, shooting wide when well placed, but the Blues kept up the pressure for a while and Fraser performed some powerful throwing of the ball. A home movement ended in Pearce just failing to gather the ball from Naylor's pass.

The visitors equalised sixteen minutes into the match. Paul, in the first instance, failed to clear properly and the ball eventually went to Birmingham's Spencer, who centred for Haywood to head in. A great dribble by Page was a feature in the next attack. A fine shot by Barratt saw the ball pass just over the angle of the post and crossbar. Birmingham took the lead at the end of 25 minutes. McClure set the forwards going with a good pass, and two of the Birmingham forwards made a dash for goal, with Haywood putting the ball into the net.

The visitors attacked again and were dangerous on two or three occasions, with Fraser having to kick away under pressure on one occasion. Birmingham had a lucky escape when Pearce headed against the upright following a cross by Bright and ten minutes before the interval, following a forcing run from Pearce, Naylor swerved past Bullock and beat Burton with a magnificent shot. Bright and Whitfield changed places, the latter having gone lame. A few minutes before the interval, a clever touch by Barratt to Naylor enabled the latter to shoot, and the ball hit the inside of the post and rebounded into the net, giving the home side a 3-2 half-time lead.

Riley equalised for Birmingham just after the break. The ball rebounded off the post and hit Riley before going into the net. Almost immediately after the home defence was again caught napping and Riley scored again, meaning Birmingham had scored twice in two minutes. A little later Town were awarded a penalty for a foul on Naylor and Page converted the kick making the score 4-4.

Birmingham went 5-4 into the lead when Horsman netted from a free-kick, Fraser touching the ball as it went in. Town made the score 5-5 when Page tried a shot from a Bright corner and Naylor latched onto the ball and scored. Bright put in some splendid work and Nuneaton were showing up well in attack. Barratt gave the home side the lead when he put in a shot from out on the wing, which curled in under the bar.

McClure equalised a few minutes later, making the score 6-6, with a shot from a free-kick close to the half-way line. Fraser was at fault and should have saved the shot. Shortly before full-time Blues were again attacking and Haywood bundled the ball into the net, with Fraser making a poor attempt to save. Nuneaton had lost their first home game of the season.

## Nuneaton Town v Leamington Town 02-02-1929

**Nuneaton:** Pearson; Lee and Page; Johnson, Getgood and Brookes; Barratt, Pearce, Naylor, Bright and Ison.

**Leamington:** Edgington; Holmes and Partridge; Shanks, Millard and Clarke; Hunt, Cooper, Walker, Gisbourne and Compton.

Nuneaton welcomed Leamington Town to Manor Park for a Birmingham Combination match. There was a very good attendance considering the wretched weather. The pitch was in a sodden condition and conditions were tricky in the first 20 minutes when there was a continual downpour.

Page captained Nuneaton and won the toss, choosing to kick towards the Varnum's Lane end. A neat movement initiated

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



by Getgood ended in Pearce kicking too far and the ball went into touch. Pearson was tested shortly after, but proved safe. Following an attack by the home team, Naylor headed on to the crossbar from a pass by Barratt. From the rebound a scuffle outside the goalmouth followed, but a back managed to clear. The home team still maintained their forcefulness, but found their match in the visiting team's defence. Leamington were awarded a free-kick just outside the home penalty area, but nothing resulted. Immediately afterwards, Nuneaton were awarded a free-kick, but Barratt put his shot over the bar.

Pearce sustained an injury 20 minutes after the start and was forced to retire. Both team had several narrow escapes, Naylor, for Nuneaton, having his shot blocked, and Walker, for Leamington, had hardlines. Johnson, the home team's right half, was playing a great game, his placing of the ball being very clever and accurate. The only goal of the game was scored after 34 minutes, when following an attack by the visitors, Cooper found the net from a pass by Millard.

Pearce returned to the field and went outside-right. Immediately after, Edgington made a brilliant save from a shot by Brookes at the expense of a corner. End-to-end play followed until half-time, when the "Magpies" were leading 1-0.

On the restart, both teams attacked in turn, and following an attack by the visitors, Pearson had some difficulty in clearing. Walker, the visitors centre-forward, was spoken to by the referee. Following that the home team attacked, leading to some exciting scenes outside the Leamington goal. Leamington missed an opportunity of adding to their score, Walker having a perfect scoring chance from a centre by Hunt, but shot over.

Barratt ought to have scored for Nuneaton following a home attack, but Leamington soon became aggressive again, with their weight beginning to tell. Pearson made a brilliant save from Compton before the visitors failed to score with the home goalkeeper out of his goal. Up to the final whistle, Leamington monopolised the play, and won 1-0.

## Nuneaton Town v Atherstone Town 09-02-1929

**Nuneaton:** Pearson; Lee and Page; Johnson, Chance and Brookes; Barratt, Getgood, Naylor, Whitfield and Bright.

**Atherstone:** Lilley; Finch and Wall; Higham, Homer and Terry; Hawson, Jones, Hatton, Albrighton and Hollis.

Nuneaton welcomed Atherstone Town to Manor Park for the final of the Tamworth Charity Cup. Chance made his debut for Nuneaton at centre-half and there was a good attendance.

The home side attacked from the start and from a pass by Whitfield, Naylor tested Lilley with a header, the Atherstone goalkeeper making a fine save. A neat home move led to Whitfield passing to Naylor, who hit the side netting. "Adders" were very nippy in their tactics, and set up a strong raid, Page kicking off the line from Hatton with Pearson out of position.

The home side retaliated, and Lilley saved well on several

occasions, before Lee had to stop another strong Atherstone raid. The visitors took the lead about 17 minutes from the start, through Hollis, but the home team equalised immediately through Whitfield, the ball striking the post before going into the net. Shortly after Naylor gave Town the lead with a fine long drive. The game continued pretty even for a while, but eventually Homer had to relieve from a clever effort by the home right wing.

After about 30 minutes "Adders" set up a great attack, the quickness of which had the home backs beaten, and Hatton finished the move with an accurate shot for the equaliser. Naylor made a heroic effort to convert a centre by Barratt, and then Lilley had to tip over from Barratt. From the resultant corner-kick, the "Adders" goal had a narrow escape. Following a centre by Barratt, Whitfield volleyed the ball into the net after 37 minutes.

The visitors soon equalised, following a free-kick taken by Homer, which Day cleverly converted. Almost immediately, Naylor dashed through and scored with a low shot just inside the post, out of Lilley's reach. Atherstone had another narrow escape, but at the interval, Nuneaton led 4-3.

Soon after the break, Lilley had to go full length to save from Whitfield. Pearson was called on once or twice, before the Atherstone goal was visited again, but play was soon transferred, and Hatton missed a glorious chance from a centre from the left. Nuneaton increased their lead ten minutes after the interval. Bright centred and Naylor touched the ball back to Whitfield, who banged it into the net.

Atherstone were now mostly on the defensive, but Nuneaton now seemed to take matters easy, and the visitors took advantage, Albrighton scoring about 17 minutes after the break. Lilley was tested by Whitfield, but the visitors played well and Pearson made some spectacular saves. Naylor put the ball out to Bright, who nipped in and tested Lilley with a hot drive. About 30 minutes into the second half, Page dribbled up and passed to Bright who centred to Naylor, who nipped in and scored with a fast, rising shot, which gave Lilley no chance. Bright made another great effort towards the close and at the final whistle Nuneaton were 6-4 winners.

## Nuneaton Town v Gresley Rovers 16-02-1929

**Nuneaton:** Pearson; Lee and Page; Johnson, Chance and Brookes; Getgood, Brindley, Naylor, Whitfield and Bright.

**Gresley:** Eaton; Nason and Clements; Chambers, Harrison and Brewin; Potter, Wood, Haines, Mee and Topliss.

Gresley Rovers were visitors to Manor Park for a Birmingham Combination fixture. Barratt was suffering with influenza and Pearce was on the injured list.

Nuneaton got off to a good start, scoring after just four minutes through Naylor, who burst through and beat Eaton with a superb shot. Gresley hit back, but without making much impression, although Page and Lee had some difficulty in stemming one raid. A good pass by Chance led to Naylor





being tackled by Clements, before both goalkeepers had to handle. The visitors began to be rather pressing and Haines gave a good deal of trouble. Two corners to Gresley came to nothing before the visitors escaped from a Bright free-kick. Lee thwarted another Gresley effort, but Harrison tried a long shot. Good work was done by Getgood, Brindley and Whitfield in another home attack, and Lee again showed up well in the Nuneaton defence. Nason intercepted two movements as Gresley continued to have a fair share of the play.

Gresley had a narrow escape from one of their own defenders, who, in trying to clear, turned the ball sharply towards his own goal, causing Eaton to handle. The keeper was tested by Bright before Potter was in evidence once or twice, but play for a time was mostly in midfield, until some great work by Whitfield brought danger to the Gresley goal. From a header by the home captain, Rovers had some difficulty in clearing following a blocked shot by Naylor. Pressure was maintained up to the interval when the score was 1-0 to Town.

Town continued on the offensive in the second half and Whitfield put over the top from Getgood's pass. The home goal had a narrow escape when Pearson failed to hold the ball from a shot by Haines, but the backs cleared. There was a brief stoppage following an injury to Brookes, before Wood tried a lame long shot. Town increased their lead 15 minutes after the interval, through Naylor, to whom Whitfield neatly touched the ball. The centre-forward was unmarked and volleyed into the net.

Rovers became very aggressive and Pearson had to punch away a fast drive by Potter. Page kicked away from the feet of Haines. Pearson tipped over from a good shot by Mee, while Bright's centres brought danger to the Gresley goal. Nason had to clear Brindley's centre, while at the other end Haines failed to convert a centre from Topliss. At the final whistle Nuneaton had won 2-0.

## **Birmingham Trams v Nuneaton Town 23-02-1929**

**Trams: Canning; Jones and Milligan; Hadley, Wright and Biddle; Cousins, Hughes, Rowbotham, Short and Gray.**

**Nuneaton: Pearson; Lee and Page; Johnson, Chance and Brookes; Barratt, Getgood, Naylor, Whitfield and Bright.**

Nuneaton travelled to King's Heath to take on Birmingham Trams in a Birmingham Combination fixture. This was Town's first away league match since Christmas. Getgood deputised for Pearce at inside-right.

The home side were first to attack and Lee headed away on two occasions from Cousins' crosses. Nuneaton won a fruitless corner and immediately afterwards a poor clearance by the home backs enabled Bright to secure the ball and he transferred it to Whitfield, but his shot went over the bar. Town attacked forcefully on two or three occasions, Canning stopped a great drive by Naylor. Chance and Brookes were showing up well in the visitors' half-back line and Town continued to look the better side. A good shot by Getgood was blocked and then Page stemmed a home raid in great style.

Naylor should have scored, but failed to gather the ball, before Rowbotham hit the bar for Trams and from the rebound Pearson made two brilliant saves in succession. Nuneaton took the lead on 20 minutes when Barratt first passed to Naylor who cleverly tricked an opponent and touched the ball to Whitfield, who took the ball well upfield and screwed a shot into the corner of the net, giving Canning no chance. Naylor was all but through just after and the same player tested Canning with a dangerous drive, and a shot by Cousins stopped almost on the line.

Nuneaton increased their lead on 26 minutes when Barratt centred to Whitfield, who passed to Naylor and the centre-forward netted with a terrific shot. Rowbotham hit the crossbar and then Hughes finished poorly from a centre by Cousins. The Trams had more of the game towards the interval, but the Nuneaton defence was too good and their efforts were thwarted. Naylor hooked the ball just over the bar and Whitfield almost scored just before the interval, when the score was 2-0 to Town.

Trams were very aggressive after the break and Pearson made a superb save from Short, who looked certain to score. Nuneaton retaliated and Naylor headed just over. Town had another spell of pressure with Barratt and Whitfield getting in shots. Naylor looked dangerous, but Jones kicked out, before Getgood played his part in a move that saw Whitfield shoot over with a fierce first-time drive. Trams had a good spell of attacking, but failed to threaten, shooting mainly from distance.

Canning dropped the ball during another Nuneaton attack, but Trams escaped, and at the other end the home side missed a great chance. Whitfield performed a great dribble that failed to mature into anything before Barratt and Getgood did some neat work together and Chance tried a long shot which went wide. Nuneaton began to have nearly all the play, but could not get into position for scoring, until Bright headed just wide. At the final whistle Town had won 2-0.

## **Nuneaton Town F.C. AGM**

Mr G. H. Wheway (vice-chairman), presided over the annual general meeting of the Nuneaton Town Association Football Club Company, Ltd., held at the Newdegate Arms Hotel, Nuneaton, last Thursday evening. Among those present were Messrs F. Payne, P. E. Coleman, J. Baxter, G. H. Taylor and the secretary, Mr F. J. Perry.

## **Old Boys' League**

At the outset, Mr F. Harbourne gave a report with regard to the proposed Old Boys' League, and said that something had been done in the matter, but up to the present it had been a failure. Difficulty had been met with in financial matters and also suitable grounds. They had some of the teachers in the Borough who were interested but the trouble, it appeared to him, was that they could not get enough teachers and other gentlemen to take the necessary interest to materialise this thing.



The Chairman: This proves that something has been done with regard to this Old Boys' League. There was an impression in the town that nothing had been done at all.

Mr G. Lewis moved the adoption of the report and that the expenditure incurred be met by the Club. This motion was carried.

## The Club's Satisfactory Position

The report and balance sheet, which has already appeared recently, were then presented.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and balance sheet, referred to the smallness of the meeting, and said that when the Club was in financial difficulties, large numbers attended, but now they were doing well there were only a few present. He would like to see more present now they were in such a position as they were now.

Mr G. Lewis: They are satisfied.

With regard to the report the chairman said that it spoke for itself. The club was out of debt and had a balance in the bank. What had brought this position about? In the first place their thanks were due to Messrs. Payne Bros. for their generosity in letting them have the use of the ground rent free for three seasons. Their thanks were also due to the Secretary, Mr F. J. Perry for the hard work he had put in and for his service to the club. Thanks were also due to Mr F. Payne, the manager of the club. He had the club at heart, there was no doubt about that. Their best thanks were also due to the Supporters' Club for their help in financial matters. Referring to the team, the chairman said they had an energetic team and a loyal band of players who gave of their best. It was proved by the support they had that the team was now as good as any in the Combination and as loyal a team as Nuneaton had ever had. They were also indebted to the local Press for their valuable help to the club in financial matters.

## Re-Purchasing The Ground

The next item was the re-purchasing of the ground, in which Messrs. Payne Bros. had again given valuable help. Since the last meeting Messrs. Payne Bros had sold a small piece of land adjoining the playing field to Messrs. Eadies, 75 per cent of the money received from the purchase of the land being allotted to the re-purchase price. Whereas it was £3,000, it was now £2,500. When the land was re-purchased he would like to see it made a permanent playing field so that it would be impossible for any future Board of Directors to mortgage it. He would like to see a sufficient sum of money set aside to bring in sufficient interest to pay the rates of the ground, and to have the land free from any incumbrance. In time, they hoped to be able to lay the foundation in Nuneaton for English League football.

Councillor G. Taylor, seconding the adoption, said he would have liked to have seen present the gentlemen who were so pessimistic and so much against Messrs. Payne Bros. to

help them. The present state of affairs was, without the least of doubt, due to Messrs. Payne Bros. There were not many gentlemen who would have loaned the club £200 free of interest as they had done.

Mr G. Lewis, supporting the motion, congratulated the club on the splendid balance sheet. He would advise them to go slowly in the future. A good many only supported the club when it was going well.

The report and balance sheet were unanimously adopted.

## Election of Officials

Messrs. G. H. Taylor and F. Payne were re-elected Directors, Ald. W. French did not seek re-election, but was re-elected President of the Club. Mr F. Deane was elected to fill the vacancy.

Mr F. Payne thanked the shareholders for their continued faith in him, in the carrying out of his duties during the last three years. With the continued success of the club, he claimed that within the next three years they would be able to repurchase the ground. They all knew what had happened during the last three years, but now they were well in hand after a stiff fight. He begged to resign the management of the Club under his scheme.

Mr G. Lewis said he did not think it time for Mr Payne to resign. He would be only too pleased to see him carry on.

Messrs. Clay, Russell and Co. were re-elected auditors.

## Re-Purchase Scheme

Mr J. Payne stated that Messrs. Payne Bros. had submitted a scheme for the Board for the re-purchase of the ground, but since that time a scheme had been formulated by the governing body of the FA on the insurance system, and under the latter scheme he had put in a claim on behalf of Nuneaton Town for £1,750 on mortgage and Mr Eden held out great hopes of Nuneaton being successful. Mr Payne also outlined their own scheme, and said he was confident that within the next 3½ years Manor Park would be in the hands of the shareholders if the present Board of Directors existed. They would not find another seven men in Nuneaton and a secretary who could have done more for the club than the present Board and Mr Perry.

The Chairman said the directors intended to go on with the purchase scheme, and if they got the money from the Football Association they would do so. Failing that they had the second scheme to fall back on.

## The Supporters' Club

An outline of the activities of the Supporters' Club was given by Mr J. T. Hoof, who thanked the Directors for backing them up in all their projects. As would be seen from the balance sheet they had handed over to the Town Club £60 altogether with other things amounting in all to £69 for the past year. Their position at the present time was that they had a

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



balance on their general account of £11 7s. 9d. and on their deposit account £104 10s. In addition they had handed over to the hospital £37 10s. and to junior clubs, an equal amount. Altogether, during the past 2½ years, a profit of £306 had been made.

Mr Keeley referred to the donation given to the Nuneaton Hospital as a result of the carnival, and thought the Working Men's Committee of the Hospital ought to take more interest in it.

Some further remarks were made with regard to the proposed Boys' League and Councillor Taylor said he did not think there was a need for such a league. He thought if the Nuneaton Town Club gave support, it should be to the Sunday Schools' League.

The Chairman said they had come to an amicable agreement with the Teachers' Committee.

## Nuneaton Town v Darlaston 02-03-1929

**Nuneaton: Pearson; Lee and Page; Johnson, Chance and Brookes; Barratt, Brindley, Naylor, Whitfield and Bright.**

**Darlaston: Dodd; Hill and Osborne; Morgan, Bayliss and Cooper; Ash, Harris, Chambers, Arblaster and Deeley.**

Nuneaton welcomed Darlaston to Manor Park for a Birmingham Combination fixture. Pearce was still injured and Brindley took his place. There was a gate of about 3,000.

Darlaston were first to attack and Ash shot wide from a free-kick before Harris headed just wide from Deeley's centre. Dodd then fumbled and Whitfield almost forced the ball in, but it was cleared. Bright and Whitfield combined to provide Naylor with a chance, which was put wide. Nuneaton took the lead seven minutes after the start when Barratt placed a good free-kick that was headed into the net by Whitfield.

Town were dangerous again just after, but after 13 minutes the visitors equalised when Arblaster converted Deeley's centre with a header that curved awkwardly out of Pearson's reach. Bright won a corner, and Town pressed, but Naylor was given offside. Osborne tackled Whitfield near goal, at the expense of a corner. Bright took the flag-kick and from the resultant struggle, Brindley shot into the net, giving his side the lead about 18 minutes after the kick-off. Immediately afterwards, Naylor burst through, but shot wide. Naylor continued to be troublesome, and on one occasion was just tackled in time when very near to goal. Brookes thwarted a Darlaston effort, and Town were soon back, but Osborne cleared.

After Town had been on top for a period, Arblaster tested Pearson. At the other end Brindley shot wide before Whitfield sent Naylor away. The centre-forward took the ball towards the corner and shot from an oblique angle, with the ball hitting the post. Naylor broke away again and Dodd stopped his shot with his feet at the expense of a fruitless corner. At the break Nuneaton led 2-1.

Town almost scored straight after the break when Naylor

got through and drew out Dodd, who luckily deflected the ball wide. The Darlaston keeper saved a header from Naylor before being tested again by a first-timer from Whitfield, following Barratt's centre. The visitors attacked down the right and with the home defence well beaten, Harris netted the equaliser with a great shot. Nuneaton were awarded a penalty for handball against Morgan and Page's spot-kick was saved by Dodd, but Whitfield netted the rebound.

The visitors attacked again, looking for another equaliser and Chambers shot over. Dodd did well to get the ball away from Brindley and Naylor, before Harris screwed a shot across the mouth of the net, but 30 minutes after the restart, Naylor broke clear with a lightning run, and planted the ball high into the net. Bayliss hit the post with a free-kick, after which Town returned with Naylor, who beat a Darlaston back and ran towards the goal, steadied himself and beat Dodd with a low shot.

With seven minutes to go, Naylor burst away from midfield, and although he looked offside, he was allowed to go on, and took the ball close in. Dodd came out, but failed to stop the shot as Naylor scored Nuneaton's sixth and his hat-trick goal. Close on time Bayliss scored from the penalty spot following a handball offence, making the final score 6-3 to Town.

## Bournville Athletic v Nuneaton Town 09-02-1929

**Bournville: Bennett; Perry and Elsdon; Freer, Cornell and Shepherd; Plant, Mason, Owen, Astle and Price.**

**Nuneaton: Pearson; Lee and Page; Johnson, Chance and Brookes; Barratt, Getgood, Naylor, Whitfield and Bright.**

Nuneaton made the journey to face Bournville Athletic in a Birmingham Combination match. There was a good crowd.

The home team were first to attack and Mason missed a good chance. Town retaliated and Bright missed the ball from Barratt's centre when well placed. Immediately after Whitfield shot just wide, before Nuneaton had two penalty appeals turned down. Pearson pulled off a brilliant save from Mason's shot, while Page thwarted several home attacks. The home side kept up the pressure, but Lee, Page and Brookes defended well. Whitfield was injured stopping a free-kick, but was able to resume.

Brookes tackled Moore in the danger zone, while Getgood returned to the pitch following an injury and went to outside-right. The visitors took the lead after 32 minutes when Naylor got through and beat Bennett by screwing the ball well towards the corner of the net. The Cocoa-men retaliated, and Pearson brought off a good save. The visitors had been the best side and well-deserved their lead. The home defence was wavering under the pressure and were unsure in their kicking.

Price had a good chance for Bournville, but shot wide, while Mason was stopped by Brookes. Whitbreak shot over following Getgood's pass before the home side made efforts to equalise, but the Town defence was sound. The home defence had two narrow escapes from Naylor's efforts two minutes before the interval, but the score remained 1-0 to Town.

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



Nuneaton increased their lead straight after the break in a movement started by Page, who dribbled the ball into the home half, before passing to Naylor, who touched the ball right for Getgood to score with a high shot, which had Bennett completely beaten. Within the next two minutes, Bournville reduced the lead through Mason, who profited when Johnson failed to clear.

The game was now open and play swung from end to end. The home goal had a narrow escape from Naylor, and the Nuneaton goal was hard pressed for a while, before Bennett had to tip over a great shot by Getgood. Naylor was injured, but soon resumed, while Getgood should have put Nuneaton further ahead, but wanted too much time. Pearson had to deal with a harmless long shot from Owen, and the keeper had to run out to a dangerous rush. At the final whistle Nuneaton were 2-1 winners.

## Rugby Town v Nuneaton Town 16-02-1929

**Rugby:** T. Tucker; Snook and Harrison; J. Buckley, Whitacre and A. Buckley; Reeves, Dobson, Gregory, Kind and Grainger.

**Nuneaton:** Pearson; Lee and Page; Johnson, Chance and Brookes; Barratt, Pearce, Naylor, Whitfield and Bright.

Nuneaton travelled to face Rugby Town in a Birmingham Combination fixture. It was the home team's biggest attendance of the season and Mr Robert Bernays, prospective Liberal candidate for Rugby, kicked-off.

Kind went close on two occasions, but Lee and Page made a brilliant recovery. Pearson had to move smartly to deal with another raid by the nippy Rugby forwards, but was equal to the task. At the other end, Naylor was twice caught offside, but after eight minutes, he eluded his pursuers and after a characteristic run down the centre of the field gave Nuneaton the lead with a shot that Tucker should have saved.

At the other end, Gregory had hard lines in failing to score after bursting between the backs, and Rugby continued to have more than their fair share of the exchanges. Pearson made a spectacular save from J. Buckley, but under pressure, Nuneaton gave nothing away. Two minutes later Rugby drew level amidst tremendous excitement.

Grainger placed a corner kick accurately for Kind, but Lee headed into his own net, under pressure from the Rugby player. The home side maintained their superiority, but they had an escape when Naylor made another break, drew Tucker out of his goal, and missed by inches. Pearson, too had some good fortune, when he dropped Kind's header, but recovered well and held on to the ball, when he was surrounded by opposing players.

Gregory was pulled up for offside and Nuneaton were pegged back in defence, and they had to thank Chance for some very effective tackling which kept the visitors at bay. Ten minutes from the break, Whitfield gave the visitors the lead after Johnson had struck the foot of the post with a free-kick. Amidst great excitement, Dobson equalised in the next minute

with a fine goal. A misunderstanding in the Rugby defence gave the visitors back the lead and at the break Nuneaton led 3-2.

Rugby made straight for goal after the break and Lee kicked off the goal-line to clear Reeves' shot. Pearson made a good save from J. Buckley's fierce drive, but ten minutes after the break Naylor seized on an opportunity and headed into the Rugby net. Nuneaton were for the first time playing superior football and their attack demonstrated its brilliance when the ball was slipped to Pearce, who put in a shot that left Tucker helpless. Rugby fought all the way, but there was no withstanding Nuneaton's forwards, who passed and inter-passed to their heart's content.

Harrison pulled Naylor up whilst in full stride before the final minutes of the half saw Rugby improve a lot, but their forwards made little headway against the brilliant defence of Lee and Page, whose anticipation at all times was fine. Their clearances were at all times well directed and time after time they recovered the position and sent Naylor and the front line away again. Chance was another outstanding figure. By the end Rugby were a well-beaten side, Nuneaton winning 5-2.

## Nuneaton Town v Atherstone Town 23-03-1929

**Nuneaton:** Pearson; Lee and Page; Johnson, Chance and Brookes; Barratt, Pearce, Naylor, Getgood and Bright.

**Atherstone Town:** Lilley; Braid and Finch; Higham, Homer and Terry; Townsend, Wall, Simpson, Albrighton and Hollis

Nuneaton welcomed Atherstone Town to Manor Park for a Birmingham Combination fixture. Whitfield had suffered a bereavement and Getgood took his place in the side.

Page headed away from an Atherstone attack, while Townsend tried to break through for the visitors. Nuneaton retaliated and some neat passing movements enabled Pearce to gain possession. He gave Nuneaton the lead after a minute by shooting into the net from close range. The home forwards and halves were much in evidence for the next few minutes, and Pearce tried several times to bang the ball in. The visitors got away once or twice, and on one occasion Lee had to kick back to the keeper.

Bright was hurt and had to leave the field briefly. Homer sent Townsend away, but his swift centre was fielded by Pearson. About 16 minutes from the start, Johnson and Barratt initiated a raid, which led to Naylor dashing through the backs and, drawing out Lilley, he drove the ball into the net. Pearson punched away from an Adders attack and the home side were soon back with a great drive by Getgood producing a penalty awarded for handball. Bright scored from the penalty spot after 20 minutes.

Pearson had to save a good shot from Wall, but the home goal was under threat when the keeper fumbled. Naylor was prominent again before Page pulled up an attack by the visitors, while Getgood landed a shot on top of the net. Lilley made a lucky save when a shot from Bright struck his hand with force. Naylor made a great effort to screw the ball in from



# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



a very oblique angle and Pearson had to save a great drive by Albrighton, while Barratt tested Lilley. Adders pressed before the break when the score was 3-0 to Nuneaton.

Atherstone attacked after the break but were thwarted by Page. Two minutes after the interval, Simpson scored with a brilliant shot to reduce the lead. Pearce shot over from a free-kick for a foul on Barratt and Lilley had to run out and kick away from Naylor, following a raid started by Johnson. Adders attacked with skill and Simpson was looking dangerous when tackled by Page. Nuneaton broke away and Barratt, after beating his man, missed by inches with a great effort.

Getgood tested Lilley with a long drive before Pearson was called on again. The game was vigorously contested and roused much enthusiasm. Naylor raced Braid for goal, and was pushed from behind, and a penalty was awarded. Bright took the kick, but Lilley saved. The visitors were threatening again, but a bit wild in their kicking, although Nuneaton could not get the ball away. When they did, Barratt profited by a blunder by Finch and centred for Pearce, whose shot was blocked by Higham. Adders pressed strongly for a time, but play deteriorated in the latter stages, although Naylor, still persevered, provided one or two more thrills.

## Championship Chances

Nuneaton's prospects of carrying off the Birmingham Combination title were greatly improved owing to three of the teams who occupied the first five places in the table prior to the weekend, being defeated on Saturday.

## Bromsgrove Rovers v Nuneaton Town 30-03-1929

**Bromsgrove:** Smith; Giles and Cochrane; Starling, Coyle and Walton; Morgan, Bird, G. Bushnell, Hitchman and J. Bushnell.

**Nuneaton:** Pearson; Lee and Brookes; Johnson, Chance and Dulson; Barratt, Pearce, Naylor, Whitfield and Bright.

Nuneaton travelled to Bromsgrove Rovers for a Birmingham Combination match. Page was not able to play through injury and his place was taken by Brookes, while Dulson played at left-half. A good following of Nuneaton spectators travelled on the special train.

Bright was prominent in the opening exchanges and initiated several moves. Bromsgrove attacked and Town had some difficulty in clearing and the home side came again straight after, when Lee was unable to get the ball away and J. Bushnell scored three minutes after kick-off.

Two minutes later, Nuneaton were awarded a penalty for handball against Giles, and Bright netted from the spot. Two or three minutes later, Johnson handled in Town's penalty area and Starling took the penalty, but Pearson saved, and although Starling got the ball again, he shot over. There were some warm tussles outside the visitors' goal, but Pearson was equal to each occasion. The Rovers continued to be very aggressive,

and Pearson had to come out two or three times to stop them, but at length Bird scored with a hot shot at fairly close range, although Pearson touched the ball as it flew in.

Johnson missed with a long range shot and Barratt got through and centred, but Pearce could not gather the ball, and the home defenders cleared. Naylor was wrongly given offside when looking dangerous, and then Pearson was again visited and Pearce was injured and had to be carried off ten minutes before the interval.

Bromsgrove now had most of the play and Brookes performed some robust and useful work. Johnson transferred play and Naylor was in action again, but the ball beat him. The Rovers pressed and obtained a fruitless corner. Pearce returned to play just before the half-time whistle, when the score was 2-1 to the home side.

Straight after the break Town attacked through Barratt and Pearce, who had changed places, Pearce being lame. Dulson had gone centre-half. Following a corner, Bird tested Pearson with a nice shot. Whitfield slung the ball out to Bright, who put in a good cross, but Cochrane headed clear. Bromsgrove missed a good chance of increasing their lead, and were still having the major share of play, when Bird headed wide from a corner.

Johnson conceded another corner and a centre by G. Bushnell saw the ball land on top of the net. Lee intercepted a centre by G. Bushnell and Pearson made a brilliant full-length save from Morgan, turning the ball round the post, while a tremendous drive by Johnson skimmed the bar. About 28 minutes after the break Nuneaton broke away and Barratt centred. The ball was quickly returned from the other wing by Bright, and Naylor took it on the run and banged it in. In less than a minute Naylor sprinted away again, went past the backs and beat the keeper, giving Nuneaton the lead.

Nuneaton's forwards were now showing their true form, although Chance headed away from a threatening home attack. Some good work by Whitfield was spoilt by Naylor being offside, but the Nuneaton centre-forward scored again five minutes from the close, heading past the goalkeeper from a Bright centre. A minute or two later, Whitfield caught the ball on the volley and netted the fifth goal, giving Town a 5-2 win.

## Evesham Town v Nuneaton Town 01-04-1929

**Evesham:** Barnett; Stokes and Spragg; Davis, Johnson and Mason; Bacon, Days, Bancroft, Black and Millerchip.

**Nuneaton:** Pearson; Lee and Brookes; Johnson, Dulson and Chance; Barratt, Brindley, Naylor, Whitfield and Bright.

Nuneaton travelled to Evesham for a Monday afternoon game against Evesham Town in the Birmingham Combination. There was a large following of Nuneaton spectators. Pearce was unable to turn out and Brindley took his place.

Town were first to attack, but play was quickly transferred

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



and Brookes stopped a home raid. A centre by Bright brought danger to Evesham, and then Barratt struck the post. Pearson also had to deal with a warm attack.

Nuneaton were having most of the game and Naylor pressed from a Barratt cross, but Barnett came out and stopped him. Evesham put on severe pressure and scored through Bancroft 13 minutes from the start, with Pearson being deceived by the wind. Even play followed for a spell, but the Nuneaton goal had narrow escapes from two successive corners. About 30 minutes after the start a shot was stopped with difficulty by Barnett, and the ball came out to Chance, who netted a long, oblique drive, with the ball turning in under the bar.

A Nuneaton movement ended in Barratt shooting wide, while Bright was badly charged a few minutes before the interval and had to be carried off. Bacon put a shot over the bar with a fine drive and the same player missed a great chance just after that. At half-time the scores were level at 1-1.

Nuneaton resumed without Bright, who had been rendered unconscious. Play was very tame for a spell, the ball being often carried into touch by the wind. Pearson was twice called upon, and Evesham got into the danger zone, but the keeper proved safe. Neither side looked much like scoring.

Evesham had a narrow escape when Naylor hit the post, after which Barnett had to save from Naylor and Whitfield. The ball was almost out of play more than in, and was blown into the river on several occasions. With about 12 minutes to go, Naylor was fouled in the penalty area by Stokes, when going through, and scored from the penalty kick to give Town both points.

## Nuneaton Town v Atherstone Town 02-04-1929

**Nuneaton:** Pearson; Lee and Wilmott; Johnson, Chinner and Brookes; Barratt, Chance, Naylor, Whitfield and Ison.

**Atherstone:** Lilley; Roberts and Wall; Deeming, Finch and Terry; Fawson, Davis, Simpson, Albrighton and Hollis.

Nuneaton welcomed Atherstone Town to Manor Park for the final of the Lady Agnes Durham Cup. Nuneaton were beaten by the visitors for the first time in six meetings this season.

Atherstone monopolised play from start to finish and secured their first goal after 15 minutes, through Albrighton, who met a quick centre by Hollis and headed the ball into the net. Atherstone kept up the aggression after the break and Albrighton completed his hat-trick. The Nuneaton defence at times was palpably weak.

## Nuneaton Town v Cannock Town 06-04-1929

**Nuneaton:** Pearson; Lee and Brookes; Johnson, Chance and Getgood; Barratt, Brindley, Naylor, Whitfield and Bright.

**Cannock:** Rostance; Wigley and L. Smallman; Bakewell, Searle and Goodhall; Jeavons, W. M. Smallman, Brough, Chilton and Bailey.

Nuneaton welcomed Cannock Town to Manor Park for a Birmingham Combination fixture. The home side had three changes with Brookes replacing Page at left-back, Getgood

coming in at left-half and Brindley taking the place of Pearce at inside-right. There was a good "gate".

Nuneaton attacked first and Naylor sent in a long-range shot that went wide before Brookes frustrated a Cannock raid. Lee was prominent in stemming a raid from the visitors while Naylor struck the crossbar at the other end. Rostance was called upon to save a Naylor header from Getgood's cross before Barratt's centre was hit wide by Naylor.

Pearson had his first touch after 15 minutes, but Cannock were soon back on the defensive again and Nuneaton took the lead when Naylor headed home Bright's centre, the ball striking the crossbar before going in. Rostance had to come out to stop Naylor before Whitfield put in a good header. Rostance was playing well and made several fine saves.

Naylor missed with a fast drive when well-placed before the visitors mounted an attack, but found the home defence safe. Whitfield shot over from Naylor's pass and Wigley cleared under pressure. Brindley shot over shortly before half-time when the score was 1-0 to Nuneaton.

After the break Rostance was called on to save Naylor's header, before Nuneaton extended their lead through Brindley, just two minutes after the interval. The inside-right shooting home following a pass from Naylor.

Rostance had to save a long range shot from Getgood, before Naylor headed over Johnson's free-kick. Pearson was called on to deal with a shot from W. M. Smallman, while just after, Jeavons missed with a fast shot across the goalmouth. Cannock attacked and Pearson was forced to throw away, before Chilton shot wide from a Cannock attack. At the other end Naylor broke through, but Rostance came out and made an effective clearance. Barratt forced L. Smallman to concede a corner, which Rostance punched away.

Following an exciting tussle outside the home goal, Pearson had to come out, but the home team returned and Rostance made several fine saves in rapid succession and Nuneaton continued to press up to the final whistle.

## Sunbeam Motors v Nuneaton Town 13-04-1929

**Sunbeam:** J. H. Nicholls; Norgrove and J. Nicholls; Jebson, H. Jordan and Dean; Collins, Horton, Moseley, A. Jordan and Tuckley.

**Nuneaton:** Pearson; Lee and Brookes; Johnson, Chance and Getgood; Barratt, Brindley, Naylor, Whitfield and Bright.

Nuneaton travelled to Wolverhampton to face Sunbeam Motors in a Birmingham Combination game. Both Page and Pearce were unable to play, so Brindley took the inside-right position and Getgood played left-half.

The first action saw Naylor fail to gather Bright's centre, while Brookes cleared when Sunbeam threatened. J. H. Nicholls had difficulty in clearing following a scuffle in front of the home goal and just after Naylor shot wide from Chance's pass. A clever movement ended with Barratt testing Nicholls, while a good centre from Bright went begging.

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



Moseley missed a chance for Sunbeam before Town returned and Brindley failed to finish off a chance from a good position. A great pass from Getgood found Whitfield, who dodged round the backs and missed by inches. Pearson dealt with a shot by Horton, as Sunbeam monopolised play for a time and Pearson was called on several times. Horton shot wildly when well-placed to open the scoring, but at the break the score was 0-0.

Pearson stemmed a home attack just after the restart and Whitfield tested the home keeper. Town reshuffled with Getwood to outside-right, Barratt inside-right and Brindley left-half. Town attacked on several occasions, and Whitfield shot wide, while Sunbeam failed to profit from a free-kick. Nicholls collected a cross from Getgood and then saved a Barratt shot before Sunbeam set up a strong attack, during which Pearson and Brookes defended well.

An excellent cross by Bright was almost headed in by Getgood, before Sunbeam had a goal disallowed for handball. Nicholls saved at full-length from Naylor, while at the other end a Collins shot flew across the goal, while Barratt got in another shot as Town livened up and found Nicholls some work to do. The visitors won two corners and from the second one, Nicholls made a fine save from Chance's header. Town had a narrow escape following Tuckley's centre, while Lee headed away from another raid. At the final whistle the score was 0-0.

## Market Harborough v Nuneaton Town 17-04-1929

**Market Harborough:** Dicks; Thomas and Almey; Branston, Medhurst and Freakley; Sargeant, G. Varnham, Reading, Kilbaorn and Skelham.  
**Nuneaton:** Pearson; Lee and Brookes; Johnson, Chance and Brindley; Barratt, Whitfield, Naylor, Hurst and Bright.

Winning at Market Harborough on Wednesday, Nuneaton Town took over the leadership of the Birmingham Combination, at the expense of Leamington Town.

They beat Market Harborough by three goals to one and thus put the Leicestershire club completely out of the running.

Except for the opening 20 minutes, Town were the better side. Hurst scored in 25 minutes and five minutes later got a second, while Naylor scored a third after the interval. Medhurst got one for Harborough from a penalty. Harborough pressed towards the close, but were well held with the Nuneaton backs and goalkeeper being very smart and effective.

## Nuneaton Town v Bloxwich Strollers 20-04-1929

**Nuneaton:** Richardson; Lee and Brookes; Brindley, Chance and Wilmott; Barratt, Whitfield, Naylor, Hurst and Bright.  
**Bloxwich:** Painter; Martin and Hughes; Lyons, Kenn and Cotterill; Thompson, Lane, Phillips, Preece and Mansell.

Nuneaton welcomed Bloxwich Strollers to Manor Park in a Birmingham Combination fixture. Owing to the fact that Pearson and Johnson were engaged in the Junior International at Coventry, Nuneaton had to make team changes.

Bloxwich were first to attack, but Richardson was safe, while

Nuneaton went very close after 10 minutes, with Naylor testing Painter following Barratt's cross. Town took the lead after 13 minutes when Naylor converted a pass from Whitfield. The visitors made great efforts to equalise, but found the home defence too good, with Lee showing up well.

The visitors goal had a narrow escape following Bright's centre and a shot by Barratt, which went just wide. Town got another goal after 30 minutes when Whitfield successfully converted Bright's centre with the Bloxwich keeper out of position. Lane reduced the lead from a neat movement, to make the score 2-1. Nuneaton became very aggressive and shots were put in by Hurst and Naylor, while Whitfield shot wide just before the interval, when a goal looked certain.

Town attacked straight after the break, but Martin cleared before Bloxwich threatened with Phillips and Lane looking dangerous. About six minutes after the break Naylor converted Bright's centre to put the home side 3-1 up. Bloxwich hit back and Phillips shot over before Nuneaton mounted an onslaught with Hurst and Naylor going close. Richardson had to punch away following a Bloxwich raid and the visitors attacked strongly again, when Mansell missed a gilt-edged chance.

At the other end Painter did well to stop a shot by Hurst, while Kenn shot wide with a long drive before Bright made a spectacular effort to increase Nuneaton's lead. A corner led to an exciting scene outside the Bloxwich goal, with Brindley eventually sending wide with a well-meant effort. The home team kept up the pressure and Naylor drove the ball into the corner of the net to give Nuneaton a 4-1 lead.

Painter tipped a fast shot by Barratt over the bar before Barratt was injured and had to leave the field. During his absence Town set up a strong raid with Naylor shooting wide. Hurst was injured and had to be carried off just as Barratt resumed. A Bloxwich raid was stemmed by Lee and Richardson, while Hurst was able to resume and the home side became very aggressive with Naylor again going close. Just before the close, Barratt put in a fast drive from a free-kick near the visitors' penalty area, which Painter was lucky to stop. After 90 minutes the score was 4-1 to Nuneaton.

## Hinckley United v Nuneaton Town 22-04-1929

**Hinckley:** Kester; Ward and Conopo; Wesson, Bird and Belben; Clack, King, Tuckley, Stirland and Cross.  
**Nuneaton:** Pearson; Lee and Powell; Brindley, Spencer and Wilmott; Cooper, Gunn, Harris, Hurst and Robinson.

Nuneaton travelled to The Holywell to take on Hinckley United in the final of the Hinckley Hospital Cup.

For their match with Hinckley United on Monday night, Nuneaton Town only played three or four of the first team and in consequence were defeated 3-1.

Hinckley had most of the game and won rather easily, but still for all that Nuneaton shaped well, with some of the youngsters displaying useful form. Pearson made some fine

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



saves in the visitors' goal, and Lee and Powell defended stubbornly. Harris led the forwards well and Hirst and Robinson formed a clever left wing, the former getting Nuneaton's only goal.

Hinckley got two of their three goals in the opening half. Their scorers were Stirland (2) and King. At the conclusion of the game the cup and medals were presented by Mr T. W. Beesley.

## Gresley Rovers v Nuneaton Town 24-04-1929

**Gresley:** Brown; Nason and Clements; Scott, Harrison and Brewin; Potter, Claye, Haines, Jordan and Topliss.

**Nuneaton:** Pearson; Lee and Brookes; Johnson, Saunders and Brindley; Cooper, Whitfield, Naylor, Wilmott and Bright.

After a splendid struggle on Wednesday, Nuneaton Town gained a valuable point in the goalless game, and thus further increased their championship prospects.

It was a fine game throughout and play reached a very high standard at times. The result was in keeping with the actual run of things and had either team won they would have been fortunate, so evenly matched were they.

There were thrills galore and both goals had some narrow escapes, the result being in doubt right up to the end. Both sets of forwards carried out some very neat attacks and the goalkeepers and full-backs were in constant action. Lee, the Nuneaton right full-back, received a nasty kick on the ankle, but played on pluckily.

Both Naylor and Whitfield came perilously near to scoring for Nuneaton, the latter striking the underside of the bar with a rasping shot, whilst Jordan missed a relatively easy chance for the Rovers. Town's performance was a good one, as very few teams get away from Gresley with any of the spoils.

## Nuneaton Town v Bromsgrove Rovers 27-04-1929

**Nuneaton:** Pearson; Paul and Brookes; Johnson, Spencer and Brindley; Barratt, Whitfield, Naylor, Ison and Bright.

**Bromsgrove:** Guest; Giles and Wolton; Starling, Coyle and Juggins; Dipple, Bushnell, Drinkwater, Hitchman and Bird.

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

The home team were not at full strength and missed both full-backs Page and Lee, as well as inside-left, Hurst. The opening exchanges were of an even nature with Coyle and Giles prominent in frustrating several home moves. Nuneaton, who were showing up none too well, did not have matters all their own way, although Ison failed to give the home side the lead when a goal looked certain. Nuneaton took the lead 20 minutes into the match when Whitfield netted easily from Bright's cross. Nuneaton added to their score after 30 minutes with a surprise goal following Bright's cross, from which Ison headed weakly and the ball bounced towards goal. The ball travelled slowly, but Guest hopelessly fumbled and the ball bounced into the net. At the interval

Nuneaton had a two goal lead.

After the break Brindley went outside-right, Ison outside-left and Bright left-half. For Bromsgrove Bird changed places with Hitchman. The home team increased their lead still further about ten minutes after the interval, when Guest punched away Brindley's corner kick, but only to Johnson, who hit the crossbar with his shot and Whitfield netted the rebound.

Coyle reduced the deficit immediately after, with a fast drive, which had Pearson completely beaten. Bromsgrove began to outplay the home team and further reduced the lead when Bird netted with a powerful shot from Dipple's cross. Bird hit the underside of the crossbar, but the referee did not allow what looked like a goal. Town were on the defensive and Bushnell equalised three minutes from the close, when the score was 3-3.

## Nuneaton Town v Rugby Town 29-04-1929

**Nuneaton:** Pearson; Lee and Brookes; Johnson, Phillips and Ashfield; Barratt, Gunn, Naylor, Whitfield and Bright.

**Rugby:** Tucker; A Buckley and Harrison; J. Buckley, Whittaker and Kind; Reeves, Dobson, Williams, Peters and Grainger.

In the final of the Nuneaton Hospital Cup at Manor Park on Monday, Rugby Town gave a vigorous and resourceful display against Nuneaton Town and shared two goals. J. Buckley scored in the first half for Rugby and Whitfield headed home for Nuneaton in the second period. The Rugby forwards were smarter on the ball than those of Nuneaton. Dobson, Reeves and Williams were always dangerous. The Nuneaton defence was hard-pressed, and Pearson saved cleverly in the home goal.

## Nuneaton Town v Birmingham City 30-04-1929

**Nuneaton:** Pearson; Harris and Brookes; Johnson, Phillips and Ashfield; Barratt, Whitfield, Naylor, Hurst and Bright.

**Birmingham:** Owen; Thornton and Stainton; Sabin, Corford and Thompson; Horsman, Powell, Cooper, Robinson and Pike.

At Manor Park on Tuesday evening, in the final of the Leamington Hospital Cup, Birmingham A completely overwhelmed Nuneaton Town, the present leaders of the Birmingham Combination. Birmingham led at the interval 2-0, both scored by Cooper. In the second half further goals were put on by Cooper and Robinson (2). There were numerous injuries to players, Nuneaton finishing with nine men and Birmingham with 10. The final score was Nuneaton 1, Birmingham City A 5.

## Walsall LMS v Nuneaton Town 02-05-1929

**Walsall:** Russell; Smith and Floran; John, Odoms and Horobin; Waltham, Burns, Butler, Walters and Kelly.

**Nuneaton:** Pearson; Harris and Brookes; Johnson, Whitfield and Trivett; Gunn, Aldridge, Naylor, Paul and West.

Despite their 1-0 defeat at Walsall last evening, Nuneaton Town still remain favourites for the League championship,





and seeing that they have another home match, with Sunbeam tomorrow, supporters need have no great fear of Leamington snatching it from their grasp.

Indeed, there is every prospect of them winning the League, even allowing for the fact that they do not get another point, as their goal average is superior to that of Leamington. But it would be far more satisfactory if they win on points.

Despite having to field a very weak team, Nuneaton put up a plucky display, and it was not until a quarter of an hour from time that Keeley got the goal which settled the visitors' fate.

## Nuneaton Town v Sunbeam Motors 04-05-1929

**Nuneaton:** Pearson; Harris and Brookes; Johnson, Smith and Darlison; Barratt, Humphreys, Naylor, Whitfield and West.

**Sunbeam:** Nicholls; Morgrove and H. Nicholls; Morris, H. Jordon and Onions; Collins, Horton, Moseley, Ferguson and Jones.

Nuneaton welcomed Sunbeam Motors to Manor Park for the final game of the Birmingham Combination season. The 1-0 victory saw Nuneaton take the championship, but although they had an overwhelming share of play, they struggled to beat their lowly placed visitors.

Nuneaton had the better of the opening exchanges with Humphreys, Barratt and Naylor showing up well. Smith shot wide for Nuneaton, while a shot from Whitfield passed over the angle of the upright. Nicholls saved well from a Whitfield centre and then the visitors goal had a very narrow escape following some neat work by Whitfield, who tried hard to get the ball to Naylor.

Naylor missed a good chance after he drew out the goalkeeper, only to shoot into the side netting. A solitary Sunbeam attack was frustrated by Johnson and the home side continued to monopolise play with Humphreys hitting the post and a Sunbeam defender heading away. Nicholls had to save again from West before the visitors broke and Ferguson shot over. Given Nuneaton's first half superiority, it was surprising that they had failed to score.

The first incident of note after the break was a terrific long drive from Smith. The ball was travelling well for the top part of the net, but Nicholls brought off a splendid save. From a corner on the home right, Humphreys centred. The visitors partially cleared, and the ball went to Naylor, who was not far from the net, and who turned sharply round and beat Nicholls with a good shot, four minutes after the restart. Humphreys came close to scoring again just after.

Sunbeam broke away and Pearson had to save from Jones, before Naylor burst through and worried the visitors backs so much that they had to give a corner from which West headed wide. Nicholls made two good saves, and then Brookes had to relieve from a warm Sunbeam attack. Naylor almost got through before a promising home attack was spoilt by West, who failed to pass to Naylor, who had a clear run. Pearson was hurt while stemming a Sunbeam onslaught, but was

able to continue. Sunbeam got down again, and won a fruitless corner, while Humphreys showed up well in the home forwards towards the close, and from one of his passes, Barratt, who had gone inside, shot wide of the post.

### Presentation of the Shield

The Birmingham Combination Shield was presented after the match, from the stand, by Mr. Tillotson, president of the Birmingham Combination, who congratulated the players and the management of the Nuneaton Town Club on their achievement this season.

The Nuneaton captain, Norman Whitfield, received the trophy on behalf of the team, and he and his fellow players were accorded an enthusiastic ovation and three hearty cheers by the assembled crowd.

### Birmingham Combination

#### Final Table 1928-1929

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nuneaton Town	34	24	4	6	100	46	52
Leamington Town	34	23	4	7	110	54	50
Market Harboro' Town	34	20	3	11	97	65	43
Evesham Town	34	17	7	10	79	53	41
Darlaston	34	17	7	10	107	77	41
Gresley Rovers	34	16	8	10	83	62	40
Birmingham "A"	34	14	9	11	93	76	37
Rugby Town	34	15	7	12	78	72	37
Hinckley United	34	17	3	14	96	91	37
Bromsgrove Rovers	34	16	4	14	95	90	36
Bloxwich Strollers	34	14	6	14	82	75	34
Bournville Athletic	34	13	4	17	63	84	30
Halesowen Town	34	11	5	18	69	102	27
Birmingham Trams	34	7	11	16	64	88	25
Sunbeam Motors	34	9	6	19	50	97	24
Cannock Town	34	8	6	20	57	92	22
Walsall LMS	34	8	5	21	43	89	21
Atherstone Town	34	6	3	25	64	122	15

### End of Season Celebration Dinner

#### Presentation of Cups and Medals

In order to celebrate Nuneaton Town's success in winning the Birmingham Combination championship, the Directors gave a dinner at the Newdegate Arms Hotel, Nuneaton on Saturday night.

The President (Alderman W. French, J.P.) occupied the chair, and was supported by Mr G. H. Wheway (chairman of Directors) and Messrs. J. Baxter, S. Butler, P. E. Coleman, W. Deans, J. Payne, G. H. Taylor, A. F. Thomas, F. Payne (managing director), and the Secretary (Mr F. J. Perry).

# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



The visitors included Councillor J. C. Tillotson (president of the Birmingham Combination), Messrs. S. O. Clarke and J. Haden (vice-president of the Combination). An apology was received from Mr E. H. Spiers (secretary of the Combination).

## Congratulatory Telegrams

Following the dinner, the Chairman said that telegrams, congratulating them on their victory, had been received from Leamington Town FC and Mr H. Willison (prospective Liberal candidate for the Nuneaton Division). Referring to the Leamington telegram, the Chairman said it showed the good feeling that existed between the clubs.

## A Harmonious Family

Following the Royal Toast, Councillor J. C. Tillotson, J.P. (president of the Birmingham Combination), in proposing the toast of "The Nuneaton Town Football Club," advised the players to play the ball and to those controlling the club and who were dealing with individuals, to play the men. If both sides did this, both players and Committee, there was no reason why they should not be a harmonious family. Only by doing this would they succeed...

...He was extremely surprised that only three years back they were £1,700 in debt and they now had some £300 to their credit. It reflected great credit on those who managed the club. Let them long continue to control it successfully. Nuneaton had held the shield on two previous occasions, the season 1914-15 being the last. This was a long way to look back. Nuneaton had held the shield longer than anybody, seeing that during the

War, they never returned it! Someone had suggested that they might as well keep it. He wished them good luck.

## Uncertainty of Football

Referring to the uncertainty of football, Councillor Tillotson said that Nuneaton in their last three matches only wanted one point to make sure of winning the championship. They had lost two out of the three matches and had left it till they had them on their own doorstep...

## The Future

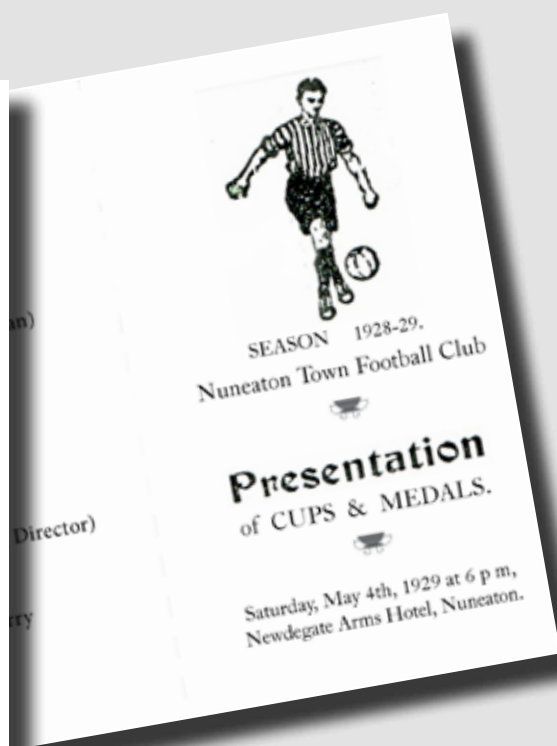
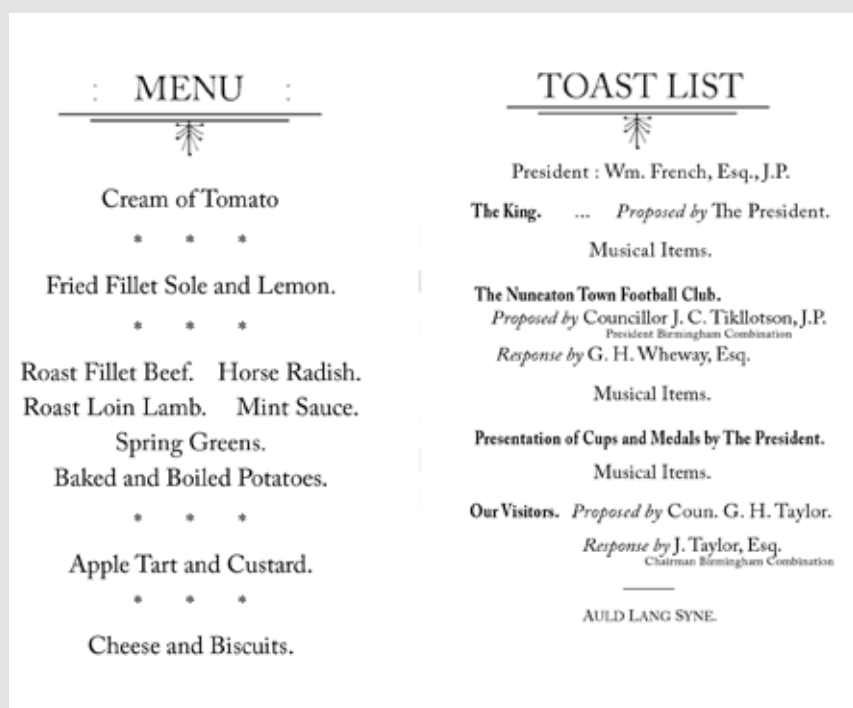
...What could they do in the next few years? With a bit of luck they would re-purchase the ground, and following that they would begin to lay a foundation to embark on better class of football. They had seen some good football at Nuneaton during the last season. They had offered terms to all their players, and, he was glad to say, the majority had accepted...

...The President then presented the cups and medals.

Mr N. Whitfield (captain) said he had great pleasure in thanking the Directors on behalf of the players. The team had shown good spirit and had played clean football. Every man had done his bit, even the trainer and Directors, who were behind the scenes, who were now very much to the fore.

## The Visitors

Proposing the toast of "Our Visitors" Councillor G. H. Taylor said he hoped that visitors had enjoyed the game. He confirmed what the Captain had said. The sort of game they had witnessed that afternoon made the game worth watching.





## Walsall LMS—Extra Preliminary Round

Nuneaton welcomed Walsall LMS to Manor Park for an Extra Preliminary Round FA Cup tie.

Nuneaton: Pearson; Lee and Page; Fletcher, Harris and Sear; Barratt, Pearce, Claffy, Whitfield and Bright.

Walsall: Russell; Westmancoat and Horan; Johns, Horobin and Odams; Kelly, Evans, Taylor, Walters and Faulkner.

Nuneaton kicked off in front of a large crowd and were soon dangerous. Pearce drove in a terrific shot, which Russell turned away for a corner. A period of even play was followed by a neat attack, which ended in Whitfield heading wide. Walsall were aggressive on one or two occasions, but finished tamely.

Both team improved as the game proceeded, the visitors showing up better in all departments. Nuneaton became more dangerous and Bright showed up well with some quick centres. Pearce caused some anxiety to the visitors with a dangerous shot.

Walsall attacked in style and the defence had its work cut out. During this spell of attacking, Walsall went ahead. A free-kick was awarded for a foul by Sear, and Horobin's centre cannoned off another player, deceived Pearson and went into the net.

Nuneaton equalised from the penalty spot after a Walsall defender handled Barratt's cross and Pearce scored from the spot kick. Town continued to be more dangerous in attack and spectacular shots from Whitfield and Claffy went just over the bar.

The visitors became dangerous after the break, but Nuneaton shook them off and had more of the game. Claffy was prominent on several occasions, while Whitfield made a good attempt to turn the ball in from a corner kick.

A breakaway by the visitors saw them miss a great chance of scoring, and Nuneaton took up the running again, but the Railwaymen were still stout and hard-working in defence.

Following a free-kick for Walsall in Nuneaton territory, the home side broke away, and for quite a while penned the visitors in their own half, coming close to scoring on several occasions. Claffy missed a good opening from a pass by Whitfield, while a Walsall raid saw Evans miss a good chance through hurrying his shot.

At the other end, Pearce and Barratt put in good work, but the Walsall backs were playing well. Russell saved a fierce drive by Barratt at the expense of a corner, but Page put the ball out from the flag-kick. Faulkner missed an open goal at the other end and the match ended in a 1-1 draw.

Poor shooting, a complaint from which the Nuneaton forwards have suffered too frequently in the past few seasons, was the chief cause of Nuneaton's disappointing display.

Nuneaton had the best part of the play, but failed to drive their superiority home. Everyone expected Nuneaton to win, especially in view of the brilliant form shown in the first two games of the season.

Claffy gave a poor display at centre-forward, being slow and wasting several good opportunities. Had he been more alert the score would have been different.

## Walsall LMS—Extra Preliminary Round Replay

Nuneaton made a Thursday evening visit to Walsall LMS for an FA Cup Extra Preliminary Round Replay. Nuneaton had George Sanders at centre-half instead of Pratt. There was a good crowd in attendance.

Walsall: Russell; Westmancoat and Horan; Johns, Odams and Horobin; Longmore, Evans, Taylor, Walters and Faulkner.

Nuneaton: Pearson; Lee and Page; Fletcher, Harris and Sear; Barratt, Pearce, Claffy, Whitfield and Bright.

Nuneaton attacked from the start and Russell punched away a shot from Barratt. Even play followed, but

Claffy made a splendid attempt for Nuneaton, being stopped in the nick of time. At the other end Pearson saved twice in quick succession before play became rather tame.

Pearson had to deal with a hot shot from Taylor, as Walsall shaped up better and the Nuneaton goal had a very lucky escape when Taylor stuck the crossbar with a rasping shot.

Whitfield sent Bright away with a nice pass, but Russell ran out to clear. Claffy missed an easy chance through wanting too much time. Pearson saved from Walker before Bright went on a good run, but was bundled off the ball close to goal. A clever run by Faulkner ended in Walker heading over before Walsall were awarded a free-kick just outside the penalty area, but Odams' shot was blocked and the danger averted. Both sides missed a number of scoring chances and half-time arrived with a blank scoresheet.

After the break Claffy made a good run, but ended up shooting into the side netting. Lee and Page showed up well for Nuneaton when Walsall attacked. Nuneaton's backs put in some sterling work and Page was in excellent form and gave nothing away all game.

Russell made a fine save from Bright while being hampered by Whitfield and Claffy. There was little to choose between the two sides at this stage, with both sets of forwards being poor in their finishing.

Walsall took the lead 19 minutes after half-time, when Taylor headed home from a corner. The home team took the game in hand and continued to have the best of the play.

Longmore increased Walsall's lead with a fast drive and Taylor put on the third shortly afterwards from close range. Nuneaton were very poor in the second half and retired a well-beaten team.



## April 1929

### Another Honour For Abel Page

Another honour has fallen to Abel Page, the Nuneaton Town FC full-back. A fortnight ago he captained the Birmingham Combination against the London League. He has been chosen as captain of the Birmingham FA team to meet Scotland in the Junior International match at Edinburgh on April 26th. The following is the team: Slater (Birmingham), Page (Nuneaton), Thorpe (Erdington House), Jeavons (Redditch), Pointon (Aston Villa), Taylor (Leamington Town), Yorke (Tarmac), Haines (Evesham), White (West Bromwich Albion), and Leadbetter (Redditch). Reserve: Sandford (Smethwick Highfield). Trainer: A. Waters (Coventry City).

## June 1929

### Ground Secured By Club

There is every prospect of the Nuneaton Town Football Club having another successful season from a playing point, and the supporters will still continue their support, and so make the financial side of the club a greater success than last season.

A deal of hard work has been put in during the close season, and it is pleasing to note that Manor Park is again in the hands of the Club; this was only possible by a bank overdraft which the Directors have been successful in obtaining after paying £500 deposit on the ground, which they had in the bank at the end of May.



## Nuneaton Town 1928-29

Back row: S. Butler, A. F. Thomas, Councillor George Taylor, Fred Payne, G. H. Wheway (chairman), W. Deans, J. Baxter, James Payne.

Middle row: Bogie Hall (trainer), George Brindley, Abel Page, ---- Chance, Anker Brookes, Harold Pearson, Ernest Dulson,  
Tom 'Pop' Harris, Arthur Lee, George Paul (trainer)

Front row: George Johnson, 'Siah Barratt, William 'Bill' Pearce, Norman Whitfield (player-manager), George Naylor,  
Harry Bright, Fred Perry (secretary).

Trophies: Nuneaton Cottage Hospital Cup, Birmingham Combination Shield, Tamworth Charity Nursing Cup



# Nuneaton Town 1919-1937 Part 1



## Birmingham Combination: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1928-29

Nuneaton Scores First

Date	Opposition	Competition	Venue	Score	Scorers
08.25	Bloxwich Strollers	A	BC	3-1	Claffy 2, Whitfield
08.27	Atherstone Town		NHC SF	4-1	Claffy 2, Whitfield, Pearce
09.01	Walsall L.M.S.	H	EC	1-1	Pearce
09.03	Hinckley United	H	NCC F	3-2	Whitfield 2, Pearce
09.06	Walsall L.M.S.	A	EC	0-3	
09.10	Cannock Town	A	BC	0-2	
09.12	Atherstone Town	H	BSC 1	5-2	Pearce 3, Robinson, Whitfield
09.15	Atherstone Town	H	HHC SF	9-0	Barratt 2, Whitfield 2, Bright 2, Robinson 2, Pearce
09.22	Evesham Town	H	BC	4-1	Naylor 4
09.29	Rugby Town	H	BC	5-1	Naylor 3, Pearce, Whitfield
10.06	Bournville Athletic	H	BC	3-0	Naylor, Whitfield, Pearce
10.13	Darlaston	A	BC	4-2	Naylor 2, Pearce 2
10.20	Birmingham Trams	H	BC	2-0	Pearce 2
10.27	Atherstone Town	A	BC	2-1	Naylor 2
11.03	Rugby Town	A	BSC 2	3-1	Whitfield, Bright, O.G.
11.10	Leamington Town	A	BC	3-4	Pearce 2, Whitfield
11.17	Birmingham City	H	BC	4-0	Whitfield, Phillips, Bright, Barratt
11.23	Brierley Hill Alliance	H	BSC	1-1	Whitfield
11.30	Aston Villa Colts		LC SF	2-2	Naylor, Bright
12.08	Halesowen	A	BC	2-5	Pearce, Whitfield
12.15	Walsall L.M.S.	H	BC	4-0	Naylor 3, Whitfield
12.22	Brierley Hill Alliance	A	BSC	2-1	Naylor, Whitfield
12.26	Hinckley United	A	BC	4-1	Naylor 2, Whitfield, Bright
12.27	Hinckley United	H	BC	3-3	Naylor, Barratt, Bright
12.29	Halesowen	H	BC	8-1	Naylor 4, Whitfield 3, Pearce
01.05	Aston Villa Colts	H	LC SF r	5-2	Whitfield 2, Naylor 2, Pearce
01.12	Burton Town	H	BSC SF	0-0	
01.19	Market Harborough	H	BC	3-1	Pearce, Barratt, Page
01.23	Burton Town	A	BSC SF r	1-5	Page
01.26	Birmingham City	H	BC	6-7	Naylor 4, Page, Barratt
02.02	Leamington Town	H	BC	0-1	
02.09	Atherstone Town	N	TCC F	6-4	Whitfield 3, Naylor 3
02.16	Gresley Rovers	H	BC	2-0	Naylor 2
02.23	Birmingham Trams	A	BC	2-0	Naylor, Whitfield
03.02	Darlaston	H	BC	6-3	Naylor 3, Whitfield 2, Brindley
03.09	Bournville Athletic	A	BC	2-1	Naylor, Getgood
03.16	Rugby Town	A	BC	5-2	Naylor 2, Whitfield, Pearce, o.g.
03.23	Atherstone Town	H	BC	3-1	Naylor, Pearce, Bright
03.30	Bromsgrove Rovers	A	BC	5-2	Naylor 3, Whitfield, Bright
04.01	Evesham Town	A	BC	2-1	Naylor, Chance
04.02	Atherstone Town	H	DC	0-3	
04.06	Cannock Town	H	BC	2-0	Naylor, Brindley
04.13	Sunbeam Motors	A	BC	0-0	
04.17	Market Harborough	A	BC	3-1	Hurst 2, Naylor
04.20	Bloxwich Strollers	H	BC	4-1	Naylor 2, Whitfield, Hurst
04.22	Hinckley United	A	HHC F	1-3	Hurst
04.24	Gresley Rovers	A	BC	0-0	
04.27	Bromsgrove Rovers	H	BC	3-3	Whitfield 2, Ison
04.29	Rugby Town	H	NHC F	1-1	Whitfield
04.30	Birmingham City	H	LC	1-5	unknown scorer
05.02	Walsall L.M.S.	A	BC	0-1	
05.04	Sunbeam Motors	H	BC	1-0	Naylor

Legend: NHC=Nuneaton Hospitals Cup; EC=English Cup; BSC=Birmingham Senior Cup; HHC=Hinckley Hospital Cup; LC=Leamington Cup; TCC=Tamworth Charity Cup.

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