



Nuneaton's Footballing Heritage

Nuneaton Town 1894-1919 Part 1

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Nuneaton Town 1894-1919 Part 1

Introduction

St Nicholas Annual Dinner: May 1894

The annual dinner of the St Nicholas FC was a great success in every shape, and the secretary may have good grounds for his contention that the Association game is in the ascendancy in Nuneaton at the present time.

It is not a question that could be easily settled nor would the supporters of the Rugger game feel inclined to let the statement pass unchallenged.

It appears to me that honours are about even and, considering the size of the town I think Nuneaton is to be congratulated on the good gates attracted to both kinds of matches.

The toast of the "Press," down on the St. Nicholas list, is a slight acknowledgement of the fact that the newspaper scribe has a little to do with stimulating public interest in the matches.

One of the main topics that was discussed after dinner was the proposed amalgamation of the Cricket and Football Clubs of the town on an independent basis with a view to acquiring a suitable ground for next season.

Messrs. Vaughan, Yoxall and Arnold spoke strongly in favour of the idea, and I hear that a general meeting of the "Nicks" is to be held next Tuesday night for the purpose of fully discussing the question.

St Nicholas FC Committee Meeting

At a committee meeting held at the Granby Head on Tuesday last, it was decided to alter the name of the club, which will be known in the future as the Nuneaton Town Association Football Club.

Several other rules were revised, and Messrs. Arnold, Scanlan, Baxter and Cooper with the Secretary were deputed to attend the next League meeting at Coventry, which will take place shortly on a Saturday evening.

Mr C. Williams was presented with two guineas for his able services as honourable secretary during the past year, and it was also decided that he be paid not less than two guineas per year for his services in the future. Messrs. French, Morse, G. Deacon and J. M. Chitham were added to the list of vice-presidents.

Annual General Meeting

A general meeting of the Nuneaton Town Association Football Club was held last Wednesday evening, at the Club House.

Mr E. Scanlon presided and amongst others present were Messrs. W. J. Yoxall, J. Arnold, W. Windass, J. Baxter, G. Walters, C. H. Williams (secretary), etc.

The minutes of the last general meeting having been read, Mr. Arnold explained that the present meeting had been called in order to let the members know everything which had transpired in committee since the last general meeting.

The secretary then reported that it had been decided to change the name of the club from the Saint Nicholas to the Nuneaton Town A.F.C.

The first team colours would henceforth be white with blue knicks and the reserve team would continue to wear the old colours, black and amber. It had also been decided to find boots for members of the first team on application. The number of members who had already signed was 36. The names of Messrs. French, Morse, Deacon, Chitham, Till, Green and Suffolk had been added to the list of vice-presidents.

Two teams had been entered for the North Warwickshire League and Mr J. Arnold had been appointed a member of the League Management Committee and Mr J. Baxter one of the auditors. The other competitions entered were the Midland Daily Telegraph Cup, the Nuneaton Charity Cup, and the Atherstone Charity Cup.

It had been decided to have a reserved enclosure with a stand. The subscription was three shillings and five shillings to admit to all parts of the ground.

These alterations were confirmed by the meeting, and on the motion of Mr Arnold it was likewise decided to provide suitable accommodation for the Press, as in other towns.

FROM THE NEWSPAPERS

Vice-chairman's Speech

Vice-chairman John Shaw, said: The St. Nicholas club in particular has every reason to be proud of the successes they had achieved in the past and to be well satisfied with the promise of the future. He used the words in no formal sense when he said he hoped to live to see the day when the club was taking part in the English Cup competition.

As Nuneaton grew, he hoped that trade would grow, and that fresh industries and new blood would be encouraged to come to the town.

Mr Shaw's ambitions for the football club and the town were admirable.

Nuneaton Observer: May 1894

Nuneaton Town's First Home

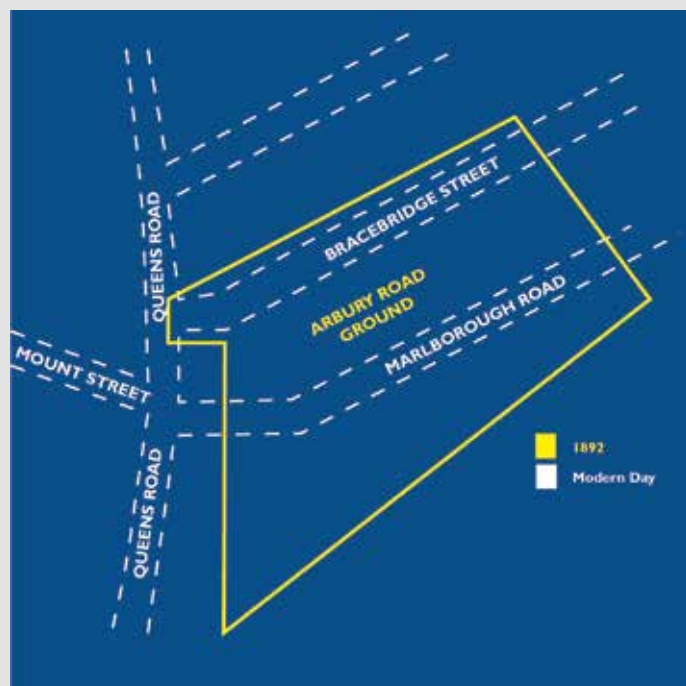
Nuneaton Town began their existence at the previous home of St. Nicholas FC at the Arbury Road/Dafferns Field ground. It was announced that there would be improvements made, with a 'grandstand' being erected.

The ground was situated in Arbury Road, which at that time ran from the Cock and Bear pub to the Market Place, which is now known as Queen's Road.

The ground entrance was situated in what is today known as Marlborough Road (opposite Mount Street). The actual playing area was located between Marlborough Road and Bracebridge Street.

More information regarding the Arbury Road ground can be found in the previous e-book which charts the history of St Nicholas FC 1889-1894.

This remained the club's home until 1896 when they moved back to the Rose Inn, citing that the pitch was better and level. They stayed at The Rose until 1899, when they returned to Arbury Road for one season.



ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

[By Linesman]

Nuneaton Town v Singer's Reserves

There would have been some big scoring on the Arbury Road ground on Saturday had not Singer's Reserves brought a good goalkeeper with them. As they only played nine men, Nuneaton had by far the best of the exchanges; but with A. Robinson between the Singer's posts, the home forwards found it very difficult to reach the net. It was, indeed, a treat to see the little fellow — for he is only a youngster — clear his charge. Shot after shot he repulsed, and it took all that the invaders knew to beat him.

The game took place under the auspices of the North Warwickshire League, and, contrary to expectation (the ground being in a bad condition for playing) it was a very fast one. From the start, Nuneaton showed their superiority, but it was some time before they could score. At last, however, Wilson put in one of his long shots, and thus drew first blood; and shortly after another long shot from a local forward just missed scoring. Then Nuneaton had very hard lines in not scoring, and next there was a scene of great excitement right in front of their opponents' stronghold. The ball bobbed about on the goal line — some thought it was through the posts — for some seconds, and the play was stopped. Speculation was rife as to what it was for, but it turned out to be a

penalty. Hales, one of the new men, took it, and landed the ball nicely between the uprights.

In the second half goals came a little faster — but not so quick as one would have thought from the tone of the game. Marston was the first to score, and, after the visiting skipper had again been very much in evidence, another point was obtained as the result of a "free." After this, the "Singer's" got nicely away on one or two occasions, but Masser was too good for them. Then Jones contributed a very fast run, and scored a pretty goal. Nuneaton won by 5 to nil.

The ground was not so bad as would have been expected, but in all conscience it was bad enough. No accidents, however, resulted. But stop! there was one. One of the visitors received a very nasty kick, and had to leave the field. But that might, of course, have happened on any ground.

The four new men who played in last week's match, all appeared in the town colours, as also did Yates, one of their companions. With the ground in such a state, however, it would be unfair to criticise them too much, suffice is to say that Yates and Fletcher played a good game, and that Hales, Bull and McMay were at times rather clever. Bull was, perhaps, the weakest, but after what I have said I had perhaps better go no further. The other players were Masser, Cooper, Fogarty, Wilson and Marston. All of whom played a good game. But Wilson, should, I think, have a little more said of him. He put in one or two long shots for which he is becoming noted, and, in a word, he was the best half on the field

Heritage: The Paul Family



Nick Paul has supported the club for more than 40 years and watched the team both home and away when he was resident in the town. Unfortunately, Nick is now exiled in Skelmersdale and only gets to see the games against northern based teams these days. His family however, have a long association with the club, his grandfather and Uncle George having represented Nuneaton Town.

Many thanks to Nick for providing the following information:



Joseph Ernest 'Ernie' Paul

Ernie played for Nuneaton Town prior to the First World War and made his debut for the club on October 4th 1913 when Nuneaton Town played Redditch on the Newdegate Arms ground. Ernie made a successful debut and bagged two goals in an 8-0 win.

His opening goal is described thus: "Paul darted past the back, seized

on to the ball, and scored with the coolness of a veteran" and the second goal — "Paul received and dribbled finely past several opponents, finally beating Ward with a good shot."

In the match summary it was said: "Paul, the Coton youth, can pride himself on his display. To step straight out of an unaffiliated team and play such a splendid game in the Combination is a worthy achievement."

Ernie, who is Nick's grandfather, was only a youngster at the time of his debut, and came into the side when another of the players suffered a bereavement in his family.

His career went on for several years after the end of the First World War, when he is recorded as having represented Nuneaton United, who shared Manor Park with Nuneaton Town, and may have been a reserve team in all but name. Nick also has two medals, one of which which was awarded for the runners-up in the 1927 Railway Orphans Charity Cup, which was a 6-0 defeat at the hands of Haunchwood Institute and the second for finishing

runners-up when playing for Nuneaton Town Reserves in the Nuneaton Combination. The Reserve side also competed in the Chapel End Nursing Cup Final, but it is not known whether Ernie played in that game.



George Paul

George was the brother of Ernie and was Nick's great-uncle. He played for Nuneaton Town between 1919 and 1933, making 62 appearance and scoring twice. Following his playing days, George took on the role of trainer and was with the club up until the Second World War. Our research into this period of the club's history is incomplete and this profile will be updated

as the From Town to Town project progresses and more information about George comes to light.



Ray Paul

Ray is the son of George Paul and a great-cousin of Nick. Ray made his debut for Nuneaton Borough in 1941 and played for the club during the Second World War, making 83 appearances and scoring 119 goals.

Ray went on to a League career, playing centre-forward for both Coventry City and Nottingham

Forest before ending his playing days with Atherstone. When Ray retired he ran a paint and wallpaper shop in Atherstone before moving to the Isle of Wight. Ray was a keen squash player and was still giving the youngsters a good run for their money long after his retirement from football.

The Paul's footballing genes were also evident from Ernie and George's sister, Mary, who was the mother of the great Ken Plant, one of Nuneaton's greatest-ever footballers.

The aforementioned represent a 102 year involvement in Nuneaton's senior club, but there is a strong possibility that John Paul, who represented Nuneaton St. Nicholas, is also a family member, which would give a 124 year involvement.

Footnote:

A notable game featuring Nuneaton United took place in September, 1920 when they thrashed Bedworth Town 7-0 in a cup competition. Both George and Ernie Paul turned out for, and scored for Nuneaton United that day.

Nuneaton Town 1894-1919 Part 1



1894-95

The results of Nuneaton Town's first venture into League Football suffer greatly from the fact that there is little by way of newspaper reports from that time, as many copies of the Nuneaton Observer are missing from library records.

Nuneaton Town were founder members of the North Warwickshire League and also had a reserve side in Division Two of that league.

Despite the incomplete records, it is known that Nuneaton Town won six of their home fixtures and three away. As was often the case during that time Foleshill Great Heath proved too powerful an outfit for their neighbours, completing the double over them.

Crowds varied wildly with as few as 100 attending the snow affected fixtures and up to 1500 for others.

A full match report of the first league game, from The Observer, follows in later pages, but as is mentioned in that report, the club's first ever league season got off to an inauspicious start with Foleshill St. Lawrence turning up half an hour late, and for that reason the game eventually kicked off at 4pm.

For the second match, against West Orchard, Nuneaton were forced to field a weaker side. Again the opposition turned up late, but despite going 1-0 down early in the game, Town came back to secure a 4-1 victory, maintaining their good start to the season.

It was reported that there was a good turnout for the game against West Orchard, despite the attraction of a Warwickshire v Kent rugby fixture at The Newdegate Arms.

	Home	Away
Foleshill St. Lawrence	W 9-0	W 3-1
West Orchard (Coventry)	W 4-1	D 0-0
Stoke (Coventry)	W 5-2	L 2-6
Foleshill Great Heath	L 2-5	L 0-6
Atherstone	W 7-1	L 2-3
Kenilworth	W 10-3	W 2-1
Rudge Reserves (Coventry)	?	W 6-0
Singers Reserves (Coventry)	W 5-0	L 0-3
Warwick United	L 2-3	L 0-4

Friendly Matches

With the Warwickshire Junior League containing only ten teams, Nuneaton Town supplemented their fixtures with friendly matches. Two of these opened the season, Rugby Alexandra being defeated 6-1 and Earl Shilton 2-1.

November 3rd saw the next of the series when Mount Zion from Birmingham came to Arbury Road, and the two teams played out a 4-4 draw, with Shipman (2), Morley and Jones being the scorers.

Birmingham again provided the visitors in the form of Small Heath Langley who the Town beat 4-1 on December 8th.

Boxing Day, 1894 brought Moseley United from the second city and again the Town won, but only just, 4-3. Shipman was on the scoresheet again, with a brace. December 27th saw Nuneaton lose their first friendly match 5-3 to a North Warwickshire League XI in front of a 1,500 crowd and on New Year's Eve they could only draw 2-2 with Sutton Town, Savage and Morse scoring the goals.

January 1895 brought deep snow and with it, chaos to the fixture lists and it was not until April 12th that Nuneaton fitted in any more friendlies. The game against Calthorpe Reserves was won 6-2 with Shipman notching four goals and Higham two.

Earl Shilton and Hugglescote Robin Hood rounded off the season, but there are no records of the results. The Nuneaton committee included some very well-known names such as F. A. Newdigate, J. Tomkinson, R. Stanley and E. F. Melly.

The first season of league football was a success, and their overall record was:

P35 W16 D6 L13 F106 A77

The league table at the end of the campaign, in which not all the matches were completed, saw Nuneaton Town finish 4th out of ten teams.

In March of 1895 the club were suspended for two weeks, but the reason for this is not known.

North Warwickshire League First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Warwick United	17	17	0	0	94	10	34
Foleshill Great Heath.....	15	10	2	3	72	14	22
Singers Reserves	17	10	1	6	40	49	21
Nuneaton Town	16	7	2	7	49	35	16
Foleshill St. Lawrence	17	7	2	8	40	48	16
Atherstone Town	15	7	2	6	36	58	16
Stoke (Coventry).....	17	6	1	10	39	47	13
Rudge Reserves	10	4	1	5	28	36	6*
West Orchard (Coventry) ..	14	2	1	11	16	48	5
Kenilworth Town	18	2	0	16	22	99	4

* Three points deducted for playing ineligible players.

At the club's annual meeting at the Granby Head on June 19th, 1895, a financial surplus of five pounds and twelve shillings was reported.

Despite a fairly successful first season of league football, there was some opposition to the club rejoining the North Warwickshire League for the following season. It was reported that some members thought 'there was too much Coventry in it'.



Nuneaton Town 1894-95

Charlie Williams (secretary), -----, Woolly Cooper, -----, Fred Carris, H. Thomas,
M. Fogarty, Dick Townsend (committee),
Front Row: Teddy Jones, J. Stockley, Shipman, William Higham, W. Marsden

As can be seen from the above team photo, many of the players are sporting the moustaches which were fashionable during that era. They are wearing white jerseys and knee-length shorts. FA regulations at that time insisted that the players' knees should be covered.



In his report to the AGM, Secretary Charlie Williams announced that the first team colours for the coming season would be white with blue knicks and the reserve team would continue to wear the old colours of black and amber.

The attached is an artist's impression based on the above photo and the description in the press.

Also featured in the photograph is club secretary, Charles Williams, looking suitably burdened with sloping shoulders.

In a history of the club printed in The Observer in 1906, secretary Charles Williams was praised as being 'a prominent figure in the development of St. Nicholas FC', and would no doubt have been busy during the summer of 1894, putting plans in place for the next step in the club's progression, as they prepared to play league football for the first time.

Some of those named in the above photo, may not necessarily be in the correct order and some names are a result of informed guesswork based on other research..



First-ever League Match: September 22, 1894

Nuneaton Town Association v Foleshill St. Lawrences

The first League match of the Town eleven came off on the Arbury Road Ground last Saturday, before a good muster of spectators. A rather late start was made — owing to the late arrival of the visitors — and at 4 o'clock the players entered the enclosure and lined up in the following order:-

Nuneaton: Goal, J. Masser; backs, W. Cooper and J. Wilson; half backs, F. Cooper, E. Sidwell and H. Thomas; forwards, A. Jephcote, T. Wright, C. Richardson, W. Hart and W. Marston.

Foleshill: Goal, Bonsor; backs, Hill and Beecham; half backs, Lole, Rile and Hancox; forwards, Elkington, Barnacle, Williamson, Shortland and Parsons.

The visitors' captain correctly named the coin and Richardson set the ball in motion towards the road goal, Jephcote at once sending in a beauty, which the visiting custodian neatly dealt with. A break-away by the Saints forwards was stopped by Sidwell, the player transferring to Marston, who registered the first point with a splendid shot along the ground.

An attempt from Jephcote resulted in a fruitless corner and the game veered to the other end, where one of the forwards was penalised for offside.

The free kick was not of much advantage, as in mid-field a similar kick was gained by the visitors.

Their shooting, however, was not very strong and the home right wing put in a run. The Foleshill backs responded and the forwards went off with a nice bit of passing, but Masser was found "all there" when called upon.

A throw in by Thomas was well sent in towards goal, and Marston further transferred to Richardson, who banged into the net for the second goal.

Re-starting, Sidwell placed the leather in the goal-mouth, but Hart headed over the bar, and at the other end the ball was sent over the goal-line. Jephcote and Wright next got possession and after a fast run, the former dropped nicely in goal, but the visitors' backs relieved.

Still pressing, the homesters gained a free, and eventually Wright shot past Bonsor with a rattling shot. After a few minutes cessation of play through one of the visitors being injured, the leather was soon again in the Foleshill quarters, where Marston centred well, and Richardson, who was well up, charged the goal-keeper, thus enabling Wright to beat him for another goal.

Restarting, the visitors took the ball into the Nuneaton territory and Masser was applauded for saving twice in quick succession.

The Town forwards, however, were soon on the attack and the Foleshill defence was very good, the backs especially

playing a determined game. But the home forwards would not be denied, and a shot from Marston was put in; the goalkeeper in his attempt to punch away was beaten by Richardson, who headed into the desired haven. Richardson just after missed, banging another through, and then Bonsor saved in good style. Wright added another goal and at half-time the score read:- **Nuneaton 6, Foleshill 0**

After the interval, the game ruled in midfield for a short time, both teams defence being at this stage very good. The visitors had the best of matters, but failed to open their account, and Richardson at the other end missed a splendid chance.

Shortland and Parsons got possession and having put in a fast run, a mis-kick by W. Cooper gave them good advantage but the shot went wide. Soon after, Masser threw away well, and the home halves — who had been playing splendidly throughout — gave their forwards possession, Wright calling upon the visiting custodian to deal with a clinking shot.

Both end in turn was visited, and each goalkeeper had a little to perform, Wilson and W. Cooper also returning when the Foleshill players looked dangerous. A corner was gained by the Town forwards, but was not improved upon.

Bonsor was now seen to advantage in goal, and saved twice in good style, but a "daisy-cutter" from Jephcote went into the net. Resuming the Foleshill men played up, and a rather hot time was witnessed in the mouth of the home goal, but the backs averted the danger, and Marston and Hart took the sphere to the Foleshill territory, where the former sent in a beautiful shot, which was repulsed by the custodian.

Another attempt by this sterling young player soon after had the desired effect, and the eighth goal was registered.

On the re-start, Wilson headed away in the nick of time and F. Cooper directly after was applauded for a capital header; the ball travelling at a fast rate and appeared to be a sure goal.

W. Cooper likewise saved and the visitors pressed for a short period. Masser was also conspicuous in goal, and Jephcote and Wright transferred the game, the latter placing over to Marston, who registered the last goal. Time was called, the score reading:- **Nuneaton 9, Foleshill 0**

SPORTING NOTES FROM THE NEWSPAPERS

The Town Association players are going on exceedingly well in their League engagements, Foleshill St. Lawrences and Coventry West Orchard being fairly set on by the local men. The game on Saturday was rather more evenly contested than on the previous Saturday, and judging from the opening exchanges, I thought the Town Sockers would have a somewhat difficult task to secure a victory.

The smart goal-keeping of Allsopp was one of the principal features of the game, and but for his grand display there is little doubt that a much heavier defeat would have been recorded. Still, on the other hand, the shooting of the home forwards was at times very erratic, and I hope to see a much better improvement in tomorrow's League match with Stoke on the Town ground.

Nuneaton Observer

Nuneaton Town 1894-1919 Part 1



1894					
09.08	Rugby Alexandra	H	Fr	7-1	Richardson (3), Tomlinson, Jephcote, Browne, unknown scorer
09.15	Earl Shilton	H	Fr	2-1	Hart, Marston
09.22	Foleshill St. Lawrences	H	NWJ1	9-0	Wright (3), Richardson (2), Marston (2), Hart, Jephcote
09.29	West Orchard (Coventry)	H	NWJ1	4-1	Richardson, Wright, Tomlinson, Marston
10.06	Stoke (Coventry)	H	NWJ1	5-2	Shipman (3), Sidwell, Marston
10.13	Foleshill Great Heath	A	NWJ1	0-6	
10.20	Atherstone Town	H	NWJ1	7-1	Shipman (3), Morley (3), Morse
10.27	Stockingford	A	MDTC 1	4-1	Wilson (2), Shipman (2)
11.03	Atherstone Town Reserves	A	ANC 1	2-3	Thomas (p), Tomlinson
11.03	Mount Zion (Birmingham)	H	Fr	4-4	Shipman (2), Morley, Jones (*Also played Ath. Cup)
11.10	Foleshill Great Heath	H	NCHC 1	0-1	
11.17	Kenilworth Town	A	NWJ1	2-1	Sidwell, Marston
11.24	Tamworth Guild	H	MDTC 2	4-2	Shipman (2), Marston, Jones
12.01	Foleshill St. Lawrences	A	NWJ1	3-1†	Shipman (2), Morley
12.08	Small Heath Langley	H	Fr	4-1	Shipman (3), Morley
12.15	Stoke (Coventry)	A	NWJ1	2-6	Shipman, Marston
12.22	Foleshill Great Heath	H	NWJ1	2-5‡	Shipman, Jones
12.26	Moseley United	H	Fr	4-3	Shipman (2), Sidwell, B. Carris
12.27	North Warwickshire League XI	H	Fr	3-5	Shipman, Sidwell, Marston
12.29	Sutton Town (Birmingham)	H	Fr	2-2	Savage, Morse
1895					
01.05	Atherstone Town	A	NWJ1	2-3	Morse, Marston
01.19	Rudge Reserves	A	NWJ1	6-0*	Sidwell (3), Wilson (2), Savage
01.26	Coventry Lord Street	A	MDTC 3	1-1	Marston (Nuneaton Scratched)
02.02	West Orchard (Coventry)	A	NWJ1	0-0	(Played 30 mins each way)
02.09	Singers Reserves	H	NWJ1	5-0	Wilson, Hales (p), Marston, Fletcher, Jones
02.23	Sutton Town (Birmingham)	H	Fr	2-2	Marston, B. Fletcher
03.02	Kenilworth Town	H	NWJ1	10-3	Jones (4), Hart (3), Marston (2), Poyson
03.09	Foleshill St. Lawrences	A	NWJ1	1-1	Marston (Played 30 mins each way)
04.06	Foleshill Great Heath	H	NWJ1	0-1	
04.12	Calthorpe Rovers (Birmingham)	H	Fr	6-2	Shipman (4), Higham (2)
04.13	Singers Reserves	A	NWJ1	0-3	
04.15	Wolverhampton Rovers	H	Fr	0-2	
04.16	Warwick United	H	NWJ1	2-3	Scorers not known
04.20	Hinckley Town	A	Fr	0-5	
04.27	Warwick United	A	NWJ1	0-4	

† = Replayed March 9, ‡ = Replayed April 6, * = Result declared void, not replayed

Fr = Friendly, NWJ1 = North Warwickshire Junior League First Division, MDTC = Midland Daily Telegraph Cup, ANC – Atherstone Nursing Cup, NCHC = Nuneaton Cottage Hospital Cup

Nuneaton scores first.

Nuneaton Town 1894-1919 Part 1



1895-1896

At the Annual General Meeting of Nuneaton Town Football Club held at the Granby Head on Wednesday, June 19th, 1895, it was reported that the club's first season in league football had been quite successful and Chairman Mr. Baxter announced a balance of £5 12s. The first team's record was:

P35 W16 D6 L13 F106 A77 (all matches).

A number of members spoke out against the Warwickshire Junior League as it contained 'too much of Coventry' and it was decided not to join the following season 1895-1896.



It was also decided that the colour of the jerseys be changed from white to black.

Although it is known that the shirt colours were changed at this time, the exact style of the shirt is not known. This is an artist's impression based on shirts that were widely available at the time.

The opening fixture at the Arbury Road Ground took place on September 7th, when the following team took the field against Ye Olde Gayte (Sutton): Masser; Wilson and Cooper; Miller, Perry and Wright; Marston, Watts, Shipman, Elsworth and Mason.

A crowd of 500 saw the Town gain a convincing 4-0 victory. September 21st saw a visit from Coleshill who won 2-1 and afterwards sent the following rhyme which was based on the popular song, 'After the ball was over':

"After the match was over,
After the game was done,
The Nuneatonites are weeping
Knowing the chance had gone.
Many a sigh they're heaving,
But as this is their first fall
They'll have better luck as they follow after the ball"

Town had to wait for this 'better luck', as in their next two away games they lost 10-0 and 3-2 at Leamington and Hinckley respectively. October brought better results and when Coleshill again visited Nuneaton they were defeated 4-2. Fazeley Swifts were the next attraction and they were sent back up the Watling Street on the end of a fine 3-2 victory by the Town.

The First Round of the Midland Daily Telegraph Cup took place on October 26th, but this brought no joy to the Nuneaton camp as Tamworth Athletic held them to a 1-1 draw and won the replay 2-0 a fortnight later.

On November 9th the Town played Hinckley in the Hinckley Charity Cup, but an excellent crowd of 1,600 on the Arbury

Road ground saw the visitors win easily 5-1. The next game was also lost, 0-2 to Tamworth Athletic in the Midland Daily Telegraph Cup. It appears that the local papers lost interest until Boxing Day when they reported a 4-1 victory over Sutton Athletic, a result which heralded much better days for the club in the New Year.

The first game of 1896 took place at the Arbury Road Ground on January 4th when Nuneaton Town beat Warwick United 3-2 with goals from Mason, Marston and Jones.

The Town team was: Shipman; Cooper and Wilson; F. Perry, C. Perry and Miller; Mason, Bordler, Jones, Watts and Marston.

After the match a Warwick newspaper reported, "Nuneaton showed that a goal can be packed until it is well nigh impregnable, while at intervals sudden dashing rushes will be attended with some tangible result." Perhaps defensive football is not as modern as we are led to believe!

On January 11th the Town's match with Leamington was called off and a hastily arranged fixture against Balsall Heath ended with Nuneaton winning easily by 11-1.

On January 18th the Town replayed a Nuneaton Cottage Hospital Cup-tie at Attleborough and scraped home 2-1 with goals from Marston and Sidwell. The game drew a crowd of only 100, but at Arbury Road 1,000 saw the Town Reserves play Stockingford, the holders, in the same competition. The two teams are worth recording as there are some well known local personalities in them.

Town Reserves: F. Carris; Cope and Wilkinson; Brown, Newcome and Hackett; Hammond, Savage, Watkins, Draycott and B. Carris.

Stockingford : Powell; Curl and Boswell; H. Thomas, W. Thomas and I. Moore; Moorhouse, Edwards, A. Moore, Brown and Axon.

The whole of Stockingford was plunged into mourning as the Town Reserves thrashed the holders of the cup by 5-0, with Watkins, Savage, Hammond and B. Carris (2) scoring the goals. In the Nuneaton Chronicle, Phil Space penned the following verse in celebration of the result...

Where is now the pluck and prowess
That I saw not long ago,
When the 'ford boys played up bravely,
Making quite a show?
They, last season, as the victors
Of the cup, meant it should stay
In their village, but it's going
Far away, far away.
It may go to Nuneaton
With the 'Knicks' to make its home;
Or, perhaps, Great Heath may win it,
If they're lucky as they roam.
P'raps it's left the 'ford for ever;
Longer there it cannot stay;
They must sadly see it taken
Far away, far away.

Continued

Nuneaton Town 1894-1919 Part 1



They will have their medals with them
To remind them of the past;
But the glory has departed;
Nothing in this world can last.
Cups may pass away for ever;
Who will hold them none can say;
But we know that this one's going
Far away, far away.

January 25th, 1896 saw the Town win 2-1 away to Singers Reserves (now Coventry City) with Jones and Marston getting the goals. This was followed by a 0-0 home draw with Leicester Y.M.C.A. and two 3-0 away defeats at Foleshill Great Heath and Atherstone Town.

The next three games also ended in defeats, away to Warwick United and home to Hinckley and Atherstone. March 14th saw the Town Reserves lose 3-0 to Foleshill Great Heath in the semi-final of the Cottage Hospital Cup which brought in a crowd of some 2,000 people to Arbury Road.

South Yardley were the visitors on the following Saturday and there was some confusion as the Town played in black jerseys and white knicks and Yardley in white jerseys and black knicks. One of the visitors was attired the same as the home team and had to change after a few minutes, after protests had been registered! Town won 3-0 with goals from W. Mason and Jones (2).

March 28th, 1896 saw the second semi-final of the Nuneaton

Cottage Hospital Cup, which was played at Stockingford. Nuneaton Town beat Foleshill Great Heath Reserves 6-0 with goals from Evetts (3), Griffiths (2) and Mason, and so qualified to meet the Great Heath first team in the final.

On Good Friday, April 3rd the Town beat Sparkhill 3-1 and then met Sutton Town on Easter Monday at the Arbury Road ground. During the game 21 year-old Walter Pugh of Birmingham, who played for Nuneaton, sustained an injury to the abdomen and was taken first to the club's Granby Head headquarters and then to the Cottage Hospital, where he died a few days later. This was the second such death in the area, as a player had died during a game at Atherstone two years earlier. The funeral of Walter Pugh was very well attended, with the Nuneaton Town Club sending a wreath in the shape of a harp with a broken string.

Nuneaton Town's next game ended in a 2-2 draw when South Yardley visited Arbury Road, Watts and Jones netting for the 'Nicks'.

The final of the Nuneaton Cottage Hospital Cup held at the Newdegate Arms Sports Ground on April 18th attracted a crowd of between two and three thousand, who paid receipts of £37 plus. After a hard fought game neither Nuneaton Town nor Foleshill Great Heath could find the back of the net, so a replay was necessary, which Nuneaton won 2-1, with Walters getting both goals. So ended the most eventful season in the club's short history since it was founded in 1889.



Sir Francis Newdigate-Newdegate
13th December 1862 – 2nd January 1936

Sir Francis Newdigate-Newdegate was Nuneaton's Conservative MP from 1892 to 1906. He was born Francis Newdigate and added Newdegate to his name under the terms of his uncles will. A Military man, educated at Eton, Sandhurst and in Leipzig and Hanover in Germany, he joined the Grenadier Guards as an officer in 1883 around the time the regiment was deployed

to Sudan to fight the Mahdi. Unlike his predecessor or successor to the seat, he made no speeches in his fourteen years in parliament according to Hansard's records. He lost to the Liberal and future Labour party candidate William Johnson in 1906 but later represented Tamworth from 1909 to 1917, again making no speeches in the house according to Hansard.

His main achievements in politics were colonial, serving as the governor to Tasmania from 1917 to 1920 and to Western Australia from 1920 to 1924. His spell in Australia was uneventful but productive with Newdigate-Newdegate introducing air mail services to rural areas and welcoming the Prince of Wales (the future Edward VIII) on his visit to Australia in 1920. The one incident of controversy in his Australian tenure of office was his disquiet in 1921 over the sermons of the Catholic Archbishop of Perth, Patrick Clune over the brutality of the Black and

Tans in Ireland which he believed would lead to unrest among Catholics in Western Australia. When Clune visited his native Ireland, Newdigate-Newdegate requested that the British Government either refuse him a return voyage to Australia or influence the Catholic Church to give him a new role in another country. On this matter he was rebuked by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Winston Churchill for exceeding his authority and his request was turned down. Newdigate-Newdegate returned home to Arbury Hall in 1924, having had a town in Western Australia named in his honour in 1925, and afterwards spent his time paying for the upkeep of memorials and cemeteries of Australian soldiers of the First World War near his estates in Southern England.

Sir Francis was once President of Nuneaton Town and also a season ticket holder with St. Nicholas FC.

He died in Nuneaton, aged 74, in 1936.

Nuneaton Town 1894-1919 Part 1



1895					
09.07	Ye Olde Gayte (Sutton)	H	Fr	4-0	Shipman (2), Watts, Marston
09.14	Birmingham East End	H	Fr	7-1	Watts (4), Marston, Shipman, unknown scorer
09.21	Coleshill	H	Fr	1-2	Scorer unknown
09.28	Leamington Town	A	Fr	0-10	
10.05	Hinckley Town	A	Fr	2-3	Hammonds, unknown scorer
10.12	Coleshill	H	Fr	4-2	Mason (4)
10.19	Fazeley Swifts	H	Fr	3-2	Shipman (2), Mason
10.26	Tamworth Athletic	H	MDTC 1	1-1	Mason
11.02	Foleshill Great Heath	H	Fr	2-0	Watts (2)
11.09	Hinckley Town	H	HCC 1	1-5	Shipman
11.16	Tamworth Athletic	A	MDTC 1 Rep	0-2	
11.23	Barwell Swifts		Fr	P-P	
11.30	Bulkington	A	NCHC 1†	4-0	Watts (3), F. Perry
11.30	Lichfield Amateurs		Fr	P-P	
12.07	Royal Artillery (77th Batt)	H	Fr	5-0	Marston (2), F. Perry (2), Watts
12.14	Attleborough	H	NCHC 2	5-1	Marston (2), Watts, Mason, unknown scorer
12.21	Singer Reserves	H	Fr	0-0*	*Abandoned 80 mins – bad light
12.26	Sutton Athletic	H	Fr	4-1	Scorers unknown
1896					
01.04	Warwick United	H	Fr	3-2	Mason, Marston, Jones
01.11	Balsall Heath	H	Fr	11-1	Jones (3), Watts (5), Mason (2), Marston
01.18	Attleborough	A	NCHC 2 Rep	2-1	Marston, Sidwell
01.25	Singer Reserves	A	Fr	2-1	Mason, Jones
02.01	Leicester Y.M.C.A.	H	Fr	0-0	
02.08	Foleshill Great Heath	A	Fr	0-3	
02.15	Atherstone Town	H	Fr	0-3	
02.22	Warwick United	A	Fr	1-2	Mason
02.29	Hinckley Town	H	Fr	0-1	
03.07	Atherstone Town	A	Fr	0-1	
03.14	Stockingford Albion	A	Fr	5-0	Scorers unknown
03.21	South Yardley	H	Fr	3-0	Mason, Jones (2)
03.28	Foleshill Great Heath Res.	A	NCHC SF*	6-0	Evetts (3), Griffiths (2), Mason *At Stockingford
04.03	Sparkhill	H	Fr	3-1	Evetts, Griffith, Jones
04.06	Sutton Town	H	Fr	1-1	Scorer unknown
04.07	Leamington Town	H	Fr	0-0	
04.11	South Yardley (Birmingham)	H	Fr	2-2	Watts, Jones
04.18	Foleshill Great Heath	A	NCHC F*	1-1	Griffiths *At Newdegate Arms
04.25	Foleshill Great Heath	A	NCHC F Rep*	2-1	Walters (2) *At Newdegate Arms

† = Originally played November 9, replayed following Bulkington protest at Town fielding a scratch team. Town fined £2
 Fr = Friendly, MDTC = Midland Daily Telegraph Cup, HCC – Hinckley Charity Cup, NCHC = Nuneaton Cottage Hospital Cup

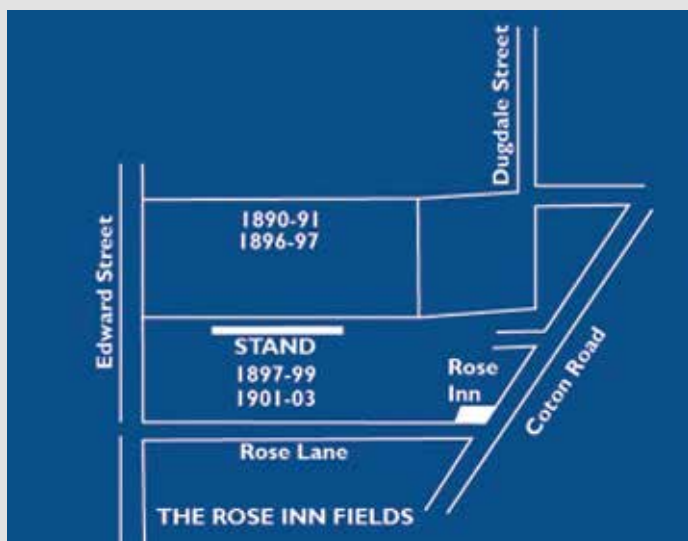
Nuneaton scores first.

1896-97

After the triumphant end to the previous season Nuneaton Town found themselves, in the summer of 1896, without a ground as the one in Arbury Road, was no longer available. By the beginning of the next season, however, the Committee had obtained the use of a field with entrances in Coton Road and Dugdale Street, which was probably the former Nuneaton Wanderers ground.

Two more important changes were made by the Committee, the most important being the decision to join the new Coventry and District League. The other change was the colour of the jerseys from black to light and dark blue squares, which earned the club the nickname of "The Blue Patches."

The 1896-97 season opened on September 5th, and Town entertained Sparkhill at their new ground. It was reported that the pitch was better than the one in Arbury Road, as it was level (although the grass had not yet been mown) and the grandstand was in a good position.



Town returned to Rose Lane in 1896. The above diagram charts the club's involvement with the location. More information about the Rose Inn Ground can be found in the St Nicholas e-book.

Shipman (to Hinckley) and Evetts (to Warwick United) had left the club, but it was a familiar line-up from the previous season: Carris; Cooper and Garratt; F. Perry, C. Perry, C. H. Miller; Mason, Smith, Walters, Gretton and Griffiths.

Nuneaton beat Sparkhill 3-2 with goals from Smith and Griffiths after trailing 2-1 at half-time. The next Saturday saw Town win the first of their league games, 6-0 against Coventry Lord Street, with Griffiths scoring twice and missing a penalty. Gretton (2), Walters and Jones netted the others.

The Town's first away fixture brought another victory, 1-0 at Warwick with Griffiths again netting. After seeing Nuneaton Town described as "The Colliery Men" in a Warwick evening newspaper, Phil Space reported in the Nuneaton Chronicle that there was not one collier among the eleven players.

The following Saturday saw a 6-3 victory over Aston Old Edwardians followed by a 12-0 victory over Earl Shilton Excelsior in the Hinckley Charity Cup with Griffiths (6), Walters (4), Jones and Gretton netting the goals.

Next up were Foleshill Great Heath, who ran out 3-1 winners, inflicting Town's first defeat of the season, 'Birmingham' Griffiths getting the consolation.

October 17th saw Nuneaton travel to Leamington Town, where they secured a 0-0 draw. The following week was an away fixture against Atherstone Town, who were enjoying a successful season and the "Adders" saw off their local rivals 3-1, after a hard-fought match.

The game against Rudge-Whitworth resulted in a 2-0 win for Town, but was a total farce, with the visitors turning up late, without proper kit and the referee deciding that the match would comprise of only one half of half-an-hour's duration. Mason and Elsworth scored for Town.

A 0-0 draw with old rivals Foleshill Great Heath was followed by the visit of Stockingford to Coton Road on November 21st. The teams lined up:

Nuneaton: Carris, Cooper and Morrell; Richards, Higham and Smith; Elsworth, Watkins, Trueman, Gretton and Griffiths.

Stockingford: Powell; I. Moore and Boswell; Nicholas, Butler and Smith; Moorhouse, Ellen, Cain, Llewelyn and Jackson.

Nuneaton were leading 3-1 twenty minutes into the second half, but the light had deteriorated to such an extent that no further play was possible.

Town went out of the Hinckley Charity Cup with a 4-2 defeat at Tamworth Athletic, followed by a 0-0 draw away at Hinckley on December 5th.

A Christmas holiday success on Boxing Day, over Birmingham City (3-0) saw Town end the year on a high. The Birmingham side was not the Birmingham City that we know today, as today's side were then known as Small Heath F.C.

The New Year saw Hinckley send a weakened side, comprising mainly of reserve team players, to Coton Road and they left with a 4-1 defeat for their efforts. Nuneaton scored from a 'rush' to open the scoring and added to the score via Gretton, Elsworth and Axon. The only other game played that January was a heavy defeat at the hands of Rudge-Whitworth.

Town then lost on February 13th to Saltley United, but pulled off a surprise with a 1-0 victory away at Leamington Town. 'Phil Space' of The Chronicle was put out by the behaviour of one supporter who devoured a muffin and what looked like a German sausage while he waited for the train to arrive at Trent Valley station.

On February 27th Atherstone Town visited Coton Road with a large number of travelling fans, swelling the gate to 'record proportions'. The teams were:

Nuneaton Town: Carris; Mason and Higham; Richards, Dent and Smith; Elsworth, Wright, Jones, Gretton and Griffiths.

Nuneaton Town 1894-1919 Part 1



Atherstone: Windridge; Griffiths & Gilbert; Hollick, Thompson and Busby; Roberts, Harris, Trolove, Martin and Nicholls.

Despite an impressive display by the home side, Atherstone went home with the points following a 3-2 victory.

Another large crowd witnessed the next match, which saw Town defeat Foleshill Great Heath 3-1.

April 3rd saw the final of the Nuneaton Cottage Hospital Minor Cup take place with Town Reserves playing out a 1-1 draw with Wolvey United in front of 500 fans. The replay attracted over 1,000 supporters and they saw Town Reserves run out 6-1 winners with Axon (3), Carris (2) and Savage netting for Nuneaton.

Town finished off their fixtures with a 3-1 victory over Branston Unity on Good Friday, a 2-0 win over Singer's Reserves the following day, a 2-2 draw on Easter Monday with West Bromwich YMCA and a 2-0 win over Hockley Clarendon on Easter Tuesday.

At the end of the Coventry and District League season, Nuneaton had competed against Foleshill Great Heath, Lord Street, Warwick United, Leamington Town, Atherstone Town and Rudge Whitworth, who finished as Champions. Nuneaton's record from the results given in the local newspaper was: P10 W5 D1 L4

and their overall record was P31 W16 D5 L10 F65 A37.

Coventry & District League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rudge-Whitworth.....	11	9	0	2	39	7	18
Atherstone Town	9	5	2	2	24	17	12
Warwick United	10	4	3	3	29	18	11
Nuneaton Town	10	5	1	4	16	14	11
Leamington Town.....	9	3	3	3	22	14	11
Lord Street.....	12	4	1	7	18	30	9
Foleshill Great Heath.....	11	2	0	9	13	32	4

'Birmingham' Griffiths was leading goalscorer Including six in the 12-0 thrashing of Earl Shilton Excelsior.

1896

09.05	Sparkhill (Birmingham)	H	Fr	3-2	Smith, Griffiths (2)	
09.12	Coventry Lord Street	H	CDL	6-0	Gretton (2), Griffiths (2), Jones, Walters	
09.19	Warwick United	A	CDL	1-0	Griffiths	
09.26	Aston Old Edwardians	H	Fr	6-3	Griffiths (2), Smith, Gretton, Mason, Higham	
10.03	Earl Shilton Excelsior	A	HCC 1	12-0	Griffiths (6), Walters (3), Gretton, Jones, F. Perry	
10.10	Foleshill Great Heath	A	CDL	0-3		
10.17	Leamington Town	H	CDL	0-0		
10.24	Atherstone Town	A	CDL	1-3*	Mason	*Played 80 mins – bad light
10.31	Rudge Whitworth	H	CDL	2-0	Gretton, Elsworth	Only 30 minutes played
11.07	Tamworth Athletic	A	Fr*	0-2		*Originally HCC
11.14	Foleshill Great Heath	H	Fr	0-0		
11.21	Stockingford	H	NMC	3-1*	Trueman, Gretton, Griffiths	*Played 70 mins
11.28	Tamworth Athletic	A	HCC 2	2-4	Gretton (2)	
12.05	Hinckley Town	A	NMC	0-0		
12.12	Rudge Whitworth	H	Fr*	0-2		*Originally Nun. Hosp. Cup
12.19	Nuneaton Albions	H	Fr	4-0	Scorers unknown	
12.26	Birmingham City	H	Fr	3-0	Scorers unknown	

1897

01.02	Hinckley Town Reserves	H	NMC	4-1	Elsworth, Gretton, Axon, scorer unknown	
01.16	Rudge Whitworth	A	CDL	0-4		
02.13	Wilkinson's United (Saltley)	H	Fr	1-3	Gretton	
02.20	Leamington Town	A	CDL	2-1	Gretton, Taylor	
02.27	Atherstone Town	H	CDL	2-3	Griffiths (2)	
03.06	Foleshill Great Heath	A	Fr	0-2*		*Abandoned 70 minutes – rain
03.13	Coventry Lord Street	A	CDL	1-2	Gretton	
03.20	Foleshill Great Heath	H	CDL	3-1	Gretton, Knight, Elsworth	
03.27	Saltley College	H	Fr	0-0		
04.03	Saltley College	A	Fr	2-1	Gretton, Jones	
04.10	Warwick United	H	CDL		Not played	
04.16	Branston Unity	H	Fr	3-1	Scorers unknown	
04.17	Singers Reserves	H	Fr	1-0*	Scorer unknown	*Played short time – weather
04.19	West Bromwich Y.M.C.A.	A	Fr	2-2	Scorers unknown	
04.20	Hockley Clarendon	H	Fr	2-0	Scorers unknown	

Fr = Friendly, CDL = Coventry and District League, HCC = Hinckley Charity Cup NMC=Nuneaton Minor Cup

Nuneaton scores first.



1897-98

In the summer of 1897 the AGM of Nuneaton Town FC, took place in the presence of the club's president, Mr. F. A. Newdigate, M.P. It was agreed that the club colours would stay the same (light and dark blue quarters) and that the first team would remain in the same league, which had changed its name to the Coventry and North Warwickshire.

Members were told that the club's ground would be a field next to the previous season's in Coton Road with the entrance gate being in the road at the side of the Rose Inn. This meant that spectators would not have to cross a sometimes muddy field to reach the ground. Several new players had signed for the club, the most notable being E. Tomlinson from Nottingham.

As the new season approached it was reported that Hinckley were having a grandstand erected on the Holywell ground costing £50 and that a new club had been formed in Nuneaton by the Reliable Clothing Company with headquarters at the Cock and Bear Inn and a ground in Black-a-Tree Lane.

Several new laws had been adopted, the most important being that a goalkeeper could now only be charged when in actual possession of the 'leather' or while he was in the act of impeding an opponent! At Stockingford's ground a notice was erected which asked spectators not to use bad language at matches, proof that this is not just a recent problem.

The first game of the new season was a friendly on September 4th against Rugby Engineers which the 'blue patches' won 5-1, with goals from Tomlinson (2), Holmes (2) and Edkins. Their opponents belonged to an engineering firm which had recently moved to Rugby from Thames Ditton and who had reached the semi-final of the Surrey Senior Cup the previous season.

The Town's first league match took place the following Saturday when an Edkins goal was enough to beat Rudge Whitworth. Nuneaton travelled to the Bull's Head ground at Stoke in brakes (early car) by way of Bulkington, Wyken and Sowe. It was said that the crowd was small because the pitch was a great distance from Coventry.

On September 18th, Nuneaton lost their first game, 2-1 at home to Foleshill Athletic with Edkins again finding the net. The Chronicle reported that the press stand consisted of the branches of an apple tree!

There were also complaints in the local newspapers that someone had been sticking posters advertising Nuneaton's matches on a shed in Stockingford Churchyard, though whether these moans came from the village football club or from the church authorities is not clear!

September 25th saw Nuneaton beat Foleshill Great Heath 1-0 with a goal from Tomlinson and then, on October 2nd, came the first of many matches during that season against Stockingford. This was the occasion of the first round of the Hinckley Hospital Charity Cup, which resulted in a 1-1 draw at Coton Road. After the game there was much criticism of people who clambered over walls to get into the field without paying and who then craned their necks to look over the canvas.

The Town strengthened their team by signing Holt from Harbourne, Clitheroe from Nelson, Steel from Sparkhill and Marsh from Redditch Excelsiors and this was reflected in the performance of the team when they defeated Singers Reserves in a Coventry and North Warwickshire league match; Clitheroe, Holmes and Elsworth (2) being the scorers plus an own goal.

It was Nuneaton's turn to welcome the mighty 'Adders' on the following Saturday and again a great crowd was in evidence. A train brought 375 spectators from Atherstone, but their support was not enough to prevent the Town winning 3-1. October 23rd saw the Hinckley Hospital Charity Cup replay at Stockingford before a crowd of over 1,000 and after Carris, the Nuneaton goalkeeper, had been kicked on the head the 'Ford won 2-1 with Clitheroe scoring for the visitors.

Afterwards Nuneaton protested to the cup committee that Stockingford had an ineligible player, Martin, in their team. Stockingford reported that Nuneaton had two ineligible players, Marsh and Hawthorne in their side. The committee decided that the match should be replayed and Nuneaton won the toss for the choice of ground.

After defeating Wilnecote 2-1 in the first round of the Midland Daily Telegraph Cup, Nuneaton again faced Stockingford at Coton Road in the second replay of the Hinckley Hospital Charity Cup. This took place on Thursday, November 4th and this time Town won comfortably 3-1, with goals from Edkins, Tomlinson and Holmes. This then appeared to be the end of the matter, but it was not to be.

Following the second replay of the Hinckley Hospital Charity Cup 1st round tie at Coton Road which was won 3-1 by Nuneaton, Stockingford again protested that their opponents had fielded two ineligible players. This time the protest went, not to the cup committee, but to the Leicestershire Association, who ordered the match to be replayed again on The Holywell.

Meanwhile, Nuneaton Town played a friendly on November 6th at Coton Road when goals from Tomlinson (2) and Holmes produced a 3-0 victory over Tamworth Athletic.

On the following Saturday, Town travelled along the Watling Street to Radcliffe Road for a Coventry and North Warwickshire League match against Atherstone, and a goal from Hawthorne was their only reply to four from the Adders. On November 27th, Stockingford again visited Coton Road, this time for a Midland Daily Telegraph Cup second round tie which ended 2-2 with Edkins and Tomlinson netting for Town.

Fazeley Swifts were beaten 3-0 at Coton Road and Town travelled to Unity Villa on December 18th and brought back league points with goals from Edkins and Gretton.

Boxing Day saw the third replay of the Hinckley Hospital Charity Cup when a crowd of over 3,000 packed Hinckley's Holywell ground to see the season's fifth meeting of Nuneaton and Stockingford. Gretton and Tomlinson scored as Nuneaton strolled to a comfortable win, but afterwards the



'Colliers' again protested. A meeting of the Hinckley Hospital Charity Cup Association took place on January 1st, 1898 at the Union Hotel to consider a claim from Stockingford that they should be awarded the game on the grounds that Walker of Nuneaton Town had been ineligible to play, but after lengthy consideration the result was allowed to stand and Nuneaton at last passed into the second round.

On the same day, the two sides met again, this time at Stockingford for an Atherstone Charity Cup third round tie and after a 2-2 draw the Chronicle had this to say: "Stockingford and Nuneaton met on Saturday. There is nothing remarkable in this. As a matter of fact it would rather have been a matter for comment had they not met and wicked wags have gone so far as to suggest that bills shall be printed saying — in order to save trouble — that Nuneaton and Stockingford will meet until further notice."

The two rivals were to meet another four times during the season making a grand total of ten, almost a third of Nuneaton's fixtures. On January 1st, 1898 there was yet another match between Stockingford and Nuneaton Town which ended in a 2-2 draw. The teams were:

Stockingford: Smith; Moore and Boswell; Curl, Edwards and Boswell; Moorhouse, Harris, McNicholas, Axon and Martin.
Nuneaton: Carris; Cooper and Holt; Richards, Dent and Smith; Tomlinson, Edkins, Gretton, Holmes and B. Carris. Referee: Mr. Taylor of Atherstone.

Stockingford kicked down the slope in the first half on a foggy day and took the lead through McNicholas. Gretton equalised five minutes into the second half and goals from Moorhouse for 'Ford and Tomlinson for Nuneaton produced a draw.

The following Saturday saw the two sides meet again at Stockingford; this time for a replayed second round tie of the Midland Daily Telegraph Cup which Nuneaton won 2-1. A smoking concert was held that evening at the Granby Head to raise funds for the Town Football Club.

On January 15th, Nuneaton travelled to Atherstone Town for a Coventry and North Warwickshire league fixture, which finished 3-3. So confident were the home supporters of winning that one of them had printed mourning cards as follows:

In Memory of Nuneaton Town F.C.
who died Saturday, January 15th. 1898
Interred in the "Adders" Burial Ground (same day)
They came — they saw — but conquered not;
The "Adders" were not sleeping;
Again they got the second place.
And down the league they're creeping.
Their hopes have given way to weeping.
"Oh! what has changed you? H.G.

By the end of January Town had completed their eighth game against local rivals Stockingford, this time in a league match which, unsurprisingly, ended in a 2-2 draw with Carris and an own goal securing Nuneaton a point. Colliers' fans had

much to say about the competence of the referee — Mr Taylor.

February saw Town breeze past a very poor Allesley side 11-1, in the 4th round of the Midland Daily Telegraph Cup and the following week, the 11th, they edged out Tamworth Athletic, 1-0 in the Hinckley Hospital Charity Cup.

The following week saw yet another game against Stockingford, this time in the Atherstone Nursing Cup. The 2nd Round replay was won convincingly this time round with Town cruising to a 5-0 victory.

Busy Day at the Railway Station

To describe the scene of animation at the L&NW Station, Nuneaton, last Saturday afternoon, would I think, be most appropriate. The experience was a unique one. The special arranged for the accommodation of the members of the Nuneaton AFC and their many supporters, who were to take the field at Hinckley, arrived at Nuneaton densely packed with followers of the Atherstone FC, who had to meet Foleshill Heathens on the Coton Road ground in a Leamington Cup tie. At the same time the train from Coventry steamed in with another living freight, including the Great Heath players and their admirers. Many Rugger enthusiasts were also waiting to take the train for Rugby. It is almost needless to state that rival greetings were exchanged.

Town cruised past Barwell Swifts in the semi-final of the Hinckley Hospital Charity Cup at The Holywell, winning 4-1 in front of 1,500 fans, many having travelled from Nuneaton.

March saw a return to league business with a 3-1 defeat at the hands of great rivals, Foleshill Great Heath. Just to rub more salt into the wound The Heathens edged them out of the Midland Daily Telegraph Cup 4-3 at the Stoke Road ground in Coventry. The match was attended by 'not less than 3,000 supporters', with gate receipts of £40.

On their return to league action the following week, Town were subjected to what was referred to as a 'sensational' defeat, going down 9-2 to Coventry Progress at the Red House Ground. Although missing key players through illness their display was described as 'aggravatingly complacent'.

Town put a run of three consecutive defeats behind them with an 8-1 win over Coventry Unity Villa, with Draycott, 'Bally' Carris and Edkins all netting a couple. The goalscoring form continued with a 4-0 win against Two Gates in the Atherstone Nursing Cup semi-final at Sheepy Road and a thumping 10-0 victory over Foleshill Athletic at Bell Green.

On Easter Saturday, April 9th, 1898, Nuneaton were at the Holywell home of Hinckley Town, to meet Coalville Albion in the Hinckley Hospital Charity Cup final. Albion, members of the Leicestershire Senior League and cup holders, were looked upon as favourites, and the previous week they had won the Leicestershire Senior Cup.

Nuneaton Town 1894-1919 Part 1



The Town path to the final included four memorable encounters with Stockingford, who they eventually defeated 2-0, after the previous three matches were subject to protest.

Despite heavy morning rain Town supporters helped push up the crowd to 'huge dimensions', the grandstand being packed to overflowing. Nuneaton kicked off against a strong wind and dazzling sun. During the first half Town's defence was outstanding. Albion, by far the heavier team, did most of the attacking, but the interval arrived with no score.

Within five minutes of the re-start Nuneaton were leading 2-0. "Bally" Carris headed the ball into the Coalville net from a well taken Tomlinson corner. Then Dent got the second goal with a lovely curling shot.

Town supporters were showing unbounded enthusiasm while Albion looked bewildered with surprise. Things livened up considerably as Coalville went for ball and opponent with determination. In the 65th minute the cup holders' challenge was over, Tomlinson scoring with a terrific shot to give Nuneaton Town a 3-0 victory and the Cup.

On the Monday, Atherstone Town collected the Atherstone Nursing Cup with a surprise 5-2 victory over Town.

Nuneaton had lost in the semi-final of the Midland Daily Telegraph Cup and the final was contested between the winners of that match, Foleshill Great Heath and Lord Street. The match was played at the Cricket Ground and saw the largest crowd ever assembled for an association football match in Coventry when an estimated 9-10,000 attended.

On the Tuesday, it was back to league action and Town defeated eventual champions Stockingford 2-1 at Coton Road, who pipped Town to the league title by two points.

Town then gained some revenge for their earlier 9-2 humbling at the hands of Coventry Progress by gaining a 4-1 win. This time Nuneaton were at full strength and their opponents were much changed from the first meeting. The final game of the season saw Rudge-Whitworth heavily beaten, 8-1 at Coton Road.

Nuneaton Town players had to pay 2d in subscription each week and 3d if they did not turn up for a game. E. Tomlinson, a signing from Nottingham, was leading goalscorer for Nuneaton who had their best season so far, winning the Hinckley Hospital Charity Cup and reaching the final of the Atherstone Nursing Cup.

Coventry & North Warwickshire League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Stockingford	14	10	3	1	44	17	23
Nuneaton Town	15	10	2	3	53	24	22
Coventry Progress.....	11	6	3	2	22	20	15
Foleshill Great Heath.....	11	7	1	5	43	24	15
Foleshill Athletic.....	13	5	1	7	23	33	11
Unity Villa.....	12	3	2	7	21	42	8
Atherstone Town	5	3	1	2	17	7	7
Rudge-Whitworth.....	12	2	0	10	18	39	4
Singers Reserves	8	0	0	8	5	40	0

Stockingford

It is perhaps difficult to imagine Stockingford being a power in local football, alongside Nuneaton Town, but the "Colliers" formed in 1891 won the Coventry and North Warwickshire League Championship in season 1897-98, pushing their neighbours into second place.

They were based at The Lamb & Flag public house and originally played in Church Road before moving to a pitch behind St Pauls Church in 1898. Playing in red and white stripes, they were known to be tough opposition with a robust style of play.

Their demise was brought about following an away game at Foleshill St George in 1906. Having had a player sent off, the rest of the team left the field of play, resulting in Stockingford being expelled from the league and their players being suspended for the rest of the season.

This allowed Town to secure the services of brothers Alban "Muzzer" and George "Kid" Moore, who played a major role in Nuneaton's success at that time, both being part of the team that won the Birmingham Junior League at the first time of asking in 1906-07.

George Moore was transferred to Birmingham City for £50 in 1908, but his league career was short lived, and following a knee injury he rejoined Nuneaton Town in 1909-10.



Eiffel Tower Lemonade
Two Gallons for 2½d



Nuneaton Town 1897-98

Hinckley Cottage Hospital Cup Winners

Back row (left to right): R Lingard (linesman - ex-St. Nicholas), H. Thomas (trainer), Wally Cooper, Fred Carris (capt), F. Holt, Mr R. Townsend, C. H. Williams (secretary).
Middle row: E. Tomlinson, Sammy Richards, F. Dent, A. Smith, Bert 'Bally' Carris.
Front row: Johnny Edkins, William Gretton, William 'Billy' Holmes

A Lift For The Minor Clubs

While cricket and kindred summer pastimes are as yet only just begun, it may appear very unseasonable at the present time to discuss next season's football prospects in Nuneaton and District. It is, however, during the close season that the audit, so to speak, of the cricket or football seasons, is taken, and the work accomplished reviewed; but, more important still, the arrangement of fixtures for the coming season, and various other matters, of great importance only to the clubs concerned.

Some time ago, it was suggested in these columns, that an effort be made to establish, for the benefit of local minor football clubs, a Nuneaton Minor League, whereby a deeper interest might be kindled amongst the junior clubs of the district, and the standard of football accordingly raised. The matter was taken up by an enthusiastic committee,

chief among whom was Mr. C. H. Williams; and, at a meeting held at the Granby Head Inn, on Wednesday, the 25th ult. (ult=in that month), the Nuneaton and District Minor Football League was formally inaugurated.

The clubs represented were — Bulkington, Nuneaton Reliable, Longford Forest, Nuneaton Albion, Exhall, Nuneaton Reserves, Chapel End and Nuneaton Rovers.

The rules which were drawn up and submitted at a previous meeting, were read and adopted, only one alteration being made, which was, that players resided within four miles of the clubhouse, instead of three, as at first suggested.

Mr F. A. Newdigate, M.P., has consented to be president with several influential and well-known supporters of the game as vice-presidents. Mr. C. W. Ash was appointed president, and Mr. Harrison, treasurer. Mr C. H. Williams is chairman of committee.

Nuneaton Town 1894-1919 Part 1



1897

09.04	Rugby Eng. Works	H	Fr	5-1	Tomlinson (2), Holmes (2), Edkins
09.11	Rudge Whitworth	A	CNW	1-0	Edkins
09.18	Foleshill Athletic	H	CNW	1-2	Edkins
09.25	Foleshill Great Heath	H	CNW	1-0	Tomlinson
10.02	Stockingford	H	HHCC 1	1-1	Scorer unknown (scored from scrummage directly under bar)
10.09	Singer Reserves	H	CNW	5-0	Elsworth (2), Clitheroe, Holmes, Own Goal
10.16	Atherstone Town	H	CNW	3-1	Dent, Tomlinson, Edkins
10.23	Stockingford	A	HHCC 1 Rep	1-2	Clitheroe
10.30	Wilnecote Wanderers	H	MDTC 1	2-1	Hawthorn, Draycott
11.04	Stockingford	H	HHCC 1 Rep*	3-1	Edkins, Tomlinson, Holmes *Replay after protest
11.06	Tamworth Athletic	H	Fr	3-0	Tomlinson (2), Holmes
11.13	Atherstone Town	A	NHJC 1	1-4	Hawthorn
11.27	Stockingford	H	MDTC 2	2-2	Tomlinson, Edkins
12.11	Fazeley Swifts	H	ANC 2	3-0	Dent, Edkins, Gretton
12.18	Unity Villa	A	CNW	2-0	Edkins, Gretton
12.28	Stockingford	A	HHCC 1 Rep*	2-0	Gretton, Tomlinson

*Replay after 2nd protest. Played at Hollywell (Hinckley)

1898

01.01	Stockingford	A	ANC 3	2-2	Tomlinson, Edkins
01.08	Stockingford	A	MDTC 2 Rep	2-1	Holmes, scorer unknown
01.15	Atherstone Town	A	CNW	3-3	Gretton, Edkins, Holt
01.22	Stockingford	A	CNW	2-2	Holmes (2)
01.29	Allesley (Coventry)	H	MDTC 4	11-0	Gretton (2), Carris (2), Knight, Holmes, Smith, Tomlinson, Richards, Cooper, Dent
02.05	Tamworth Athletic	H	HHCC 2	1-0	Edkins
02.12	Stockingford	H	ANC 3 Rep	5-0	Tomlinson (2), Gretton, Edkins, Carris
02.19	Barwell Swifts	A	HHCC SF*	4-1	B. Carris (3), Gretton *At Hollywell
02.26	Foleshill Great Heath	A	CNW	1-3	Gretton
03.05	Foleshill Great Heath	A	MDTC SF*	3-4	Holmes, Carris, Edkins *At Singers (Coventry)
03.12	Coventry Progress	A	CNW	2-9	F. Carris, Smith
03.19	Unity Villa	H	CNW	8-1	Draycott (2), B. Carris (2), Edkins (2), Dent, Tomlinson
03.26	Twogates Wanderers	A	ANC SF*	4-0	Gretton, Holmes, B. Carris, Edkins *At Ratcliffe Road (Atherstone)
04.02	Foleshill Athletic	A	CNW	10-0	Carris (2), Dent (2, 1p), Holmes (2), Smith, Gretton, Tomlinson, Elliot (OG)
04.09	Coalville Albion	A	HHCC F*	3-0	Carris, Dent, Tomlinson *Played at Hollywell (Hinckley)
04.11	Atherstone Town	A	ANC F*	2-5	Holmes, Winsper (OG) *At Ratcliffe Road (Atherstone)
04.12	Stockingford	H	CNW	2-1	Scorers unknown
04.16	Coventry Progress	H	CNW	4-1	Holmes, Carris, Edkins, Gretton
04.23	Rudge Whitworth	H	CNW	8-1	Gretton (3), Tomlinson, Edkins (2), Carris, Dent
04.30	Hinckley	A	Fr	3-2	Gretton, Tomlinson, Holmes

Fr = Friendly, CNW = Coventry & North Warwickshire League, HHCC = Hinckley Hospital Charity Cup, NHJC = Nuneaton Hospital Junior Cup, MDTC = Midland Daily Telegraph Cup, ANC = Atherstone Nursing Cup

Nuneaton scores first.



Thursday, 28th July 1898 Nuneaton Town AFC AGM

The annual meeting of the Nuneaton Association Football Club was held yesterday week at the Granby Head, Church Street, under the chairmanship of Dr. Alan Joseph, who was supported by the secretary Mr. C. H. Williams, and a fair attendance of supporters.

Assessing The 1897-98 Season

The report presented by the secretary, Mr. C. H. Williams, stated that the committee had to record a most successful season. The first team had played 36 matches, of which 24 had been won, 5 drawn, 7 lost, 116 goals for and 51 against.

In addition to winning the Hinckley Hospital Charity Cup the club were finalists for the Atherstone Nursing Cup, and reached the semi-final of the Midland Daily Telegraph Challenge Cup, which the committee alleged was lost by the referee being decidedly unfair.

The league had an unsatisfactory ending owing to clubs withdrawing, but several alterations have been made to the rules to avoid the same thing occurring again.

All last season's players had signed except Dent, who went to Hinckley, and Edkins, who went to Stockingford, and Cooper, who was retiring from playing regularly, but would assist when required. Several players had signed on to fill the vacant places, and it was hoped to have as strong a team as in the previous season.

The Reserve team had played 28 matches; won 17, drawn 5, lost 6; 79 goals for and 39 against. Whilst they did not retain the Minor Cup, they got to the final. With the aid of several promising "youngsters" who had signed on, the committee hope to do better next season. Reference was made at the close of the report to the newly-formed Nuneaton and District League, from which great things were expected.

The Financial Position

The balance sheet contained the following items: Receipts: Members subscriptions £24 17s. 6d., money at gate £111 6s. 7d., proceeds from soiree, etc., £10 4s. 2d., fines from club and sub-letting ground £9 10s. 0d., total £155 18s. 3d. Expenditure including travelling expenses £28 3s. 9d., paid to visiting teams, rent of field £24 6s. 9d., balance in hand 5s. 3d. The auditors were Messrs. T. Hubbard and H. Green.

After reading the report and balance sheet, the secretary made a few general remarks as to the position of the Club and paid a high compliment to the Press, the assistance of which had been largely instrumental in bringing about so successful a season (applause).

The Chairman said it was his pleasant duty to move the adoption of the balance sheet and report. In his opinion, everything considered, both were very satisfactory indeed.

The season had been a good one, and followers of the association rules had had an enjoyable time indeed — (applause). Personally, he was very pleased with the progress made by the Club. The only jar and disappointment was the loss of one cup which he would have wished the club to have become possessed of — the Atherstone Nursing Cup — which as they knew was snatched away from them.

He hoped next season the players would put their shoulders to the wheel and bring it to Nuneaton, and show Atherstone people that the Nuneaton Association Club could play football quite as well as them — (applause). He must not omit to offer his thanks to the players for the manner in which they had upheld the club. He was very sorry indeed that they were losing two of last season's player — one in particular, an old favourite, Dent, the centre-half-back. Those who followed the game last year would agree with him that Dent was one of the main stays of the club — (applause).

He would very much like to have had him among them once more, but as they could not they must only hope that they might find as good, if not better fish in the sea, as that which had been taken out — (applause).

In asking them to adopt the report and balance sheet, he expressed the hope that the coming period would prove a successful football season — (applause).

Mr. Kelsey seconded and the report and balance were passed without discussion.

Election of Officers

The following Officers were elected: President: Mr. F. A. Newdigate — Vice-Presidents re-elected en bloc (Rev. F. McCarrick excepted); Captain 1st team, F. Carris; Vice-Captain, E. Tomlinson; Captain Reserve Team E. Newcombe; Vice-Captain, H. Draycott; Secretary, C. H. Williams; Treasurer R. Townsend. The committee were elected as follows — T. Hubbard, J. Stockley, T. Hardy, T. Day, A. Bates, D Watkins, H. Green, R. Evans, J Green, W. Mears, J. Vincent, T. Ward, H. Hubbard, T. Woodward, G. H. Wykes.

Prior to the season proper, Nuneaton Town arranged a trial match. There was some concern about the make up of the team for the first match against Warwick and as 'Corinthian' remarked in The Observer:

"...it behoves every player to be on his mettle, otherwise the committee will experience no little difficulty in maintaining the "gates" during the first few fixtures. For where, other than on a football field, do you find a crowd of spectators more dissatisfied or hard to please?"

"The least mistake nettles some 'on 'em," one player has remarked."

The game took place in sodden conditions at Coton Road with Ball from Woodville in Leicestershire prominent.



1898-99

The season opened with a trial match and a single friendly against Warwick United. It was reported that 'a crowd of quite encouraging dimensions lined the Coton Road enclosure' for the Warwick match. Town opened their account after 15 minutes with Gretton scoring from B. Carris' centre. Gretton scored again 20 minutes into the second half with a lovely shot, which gave the visitors' custodian no chance. Holmes scored a third, again from a B. Carris centre.

The first league game of the season was at home to Coventry Progress, Town turning round a half-time deficit to draw 3-3. The following week saw a visit to Lord Street, in which Town edged out their hosts with a 4-3 victory. The most scathing part of the match report concerns Lord Street's ground at Spon End, which is described as 'frightfully bad'. Billy Ball was mentioned favourably — it was said that he was in tiptop form at centre-half.

Next up was an away trip to Willans Athletic (aka Rugby Engineers), in which the 7-0 scoreline was said not to reflect the superiority of the Nuneaton team. Carris continued his early season scoring form with another brace.

The following week saw a Hinckley Charity Cup game against holders Progress, which had caused a lot of excitement in the run up with 200 Town fans aboard the LNWR special to Foleshill. It was an exciting game that 'worked the spectators into a high pitch of excitement'. At the final whistle Town were 3-0 to the good.

Following a postponement of the League game against Stockingford, Town entertained Coalville Town of the Leicestershire Senior League at Coton Road in a friendly, which saw the home side slip to their first defeat of the season, going down 2-3.

The game at Ratcliffe Road, Atherstone, on October 15th was eagerly anticipated and well supported with 1000-plus supporters in attendance. The kick-off was delayed as Nuneaton turned up late and with only eight men. In spite of their disadvantage Town defended stoutly and took the lead ten minutes before half-time when Tomlinson converted a Holmes' cross.

The second half, however, was a constant bombardment of the Nuneaton goal, which eventually led to Atherstone equalising following a 'rush' and Lewis getting the winner for the home side.

It was said that Wally Cooper's inclusion in the Town side had the same effect on Atherstone supporters as a red rag to a bull and that at the end of the game he had to be escorted from the field by a 'host of guardians'.

A friendly game against old rivals Foleshill Great Heath the following Saturday was played in a mean spirit with much foul play. The game ended 1-1. The press reported on the loss of Tomlinson and Smith to Willans Athletic, which was said to be of great regret to the club's supporters.

Following a successful protest by Progress, the Hinckley Charity Cup game was ordered to be replayed, taking place at Hinckley Town in front of a fair amount of spectators. Progress surprised Town with a goal within two minutes of the start, Newey scoring with a lightning shot. Town soon equalised, and despite Holmes missing an easy chance, Gretton levelled the scores.

Cup tie fever was now 'manifest' and the ensuing exchanges were contested with unnecessary vigour. Midway through the first half Nuneaton were swarming around the Progress goal and it came as no surprise when they took a 2-1 lead. Ball then received a caution for a challenge on Gandy which caused him to leave the field. Ball's actions were said to be 'totally inexcusable'.

After the break Town added another four goals to finally see them through to the second round of the competition.

On their return to league action Town faced Unity Villa, who received a severe 8-2 beating, with hat-tricks from Bally Carris and Rice, and a couple of goals from Griffiths.

Old rivalries were renewed the following week when a Nuneaton Cottage Hospital Cup tie at Coton Road saw Town take on Stockingford in front of a large crowd. Goals from Carris and Rice saw Town take a 2-0 lead into half time, but a brace from Storer after the break looked to have rescued the game for Stockingford.

The tense and exciting encounter roused the crowd, but the game looked to be petering out into a draw when five minutes from time Bally Carris 'executed a brilliant run — the finest of the afternoon — more than half the length of the field' before shooting high into the net.

Next up for Town was a visit to Fazeley Swifts in the Leamington Cup. Although it was thought by many that the 'tricky blues' would be a match for Fazeley, it was reported that the 3-1 scoreline scarcely reflected the hosts' superiority.

Shepshed's visit to Coton Road the following Saturday for a Hinckley Charity Cup second round tie turned out to be an easy victory for the hosts. There was another hat-trick for Bally Carris in an 8-0 victory.

This was in stark contrast to Town's entry into the Midland Daily Telegraph Cup at the second round stage, when they went out 5-0 to Amington Rovers.

In the second round of the Nuneaton Cottage Hospital Cup Town faced Foleshill Great Heath, who traditionally gave them a tough time. Gretton gave the home team the lead going into half time after which the game got decidedly rough.

Foleshill got the equaliser immediately after the break and took the lead almost straight after and then netted a third within 10 minutes of the restart. Although an own goal put Town back in contention and Nuneaton pressed for an equaliser, Great Heath defended to see out the match.



Nuneaton players were roundly criticised in The Observer the following Friday as ‘players were more inclined to settle petty grievances than to pay their marked attention to the game.’ Both teams it was reported were guilty of ungentlemanly tactics arising out of bitter rivalry.

Football Association Meeting

A meeting of the Football Association was held on Monday under the presidency of Lord Kinnaird.

It was decided that a goalkeeper is entitled to use his hands within his own half of the field of play, and that in so doing he is deemed to be in defence of his goal. Also that the International Board be asked to take the words “in defence of his own goal” out of Law 8.

It was decided to increase the fee of professional players in international matches to three guineas in addition to travelling expenses.

It was decided that “violent and bad language” to a referee is deemed to be “violent conduct” under Law 12.

The Christmas/New Year programme got off to a rather disappointing start with a 3-3 draw against Daimler in front of an estimated crowd of 1,500. There was another 3-3 draw in the friendly match against Hinckley Town that took place at Coton Road on Christmas Eve. The match was described as ‘one of the best friendly encounters yet seen on the Coton Road enclosure’.

Supporters of both clubs turned out in force and again the game had some rough play and very little of the goodwill towards men expected at that time of year.

Boxing Day saw another friendly match, this time against locals Barwell Swifts who were beaten 6-4, with questions posed about the possibility of the home side having over indulged themselves over the Christmas period.

On New Year’s Eve, Town made the short journey to Stockingford for a league match and turned in yet another inept performance resulting in a 2-0 win for the “Colliers”. The weather had made conditions very heavy, which it was said favoured the home side’s style of play.

During the previous five matches Town had conceded 15 goals, and some of the problems may have been caused by the loss of better players to other clubs, with Town having lost Dent, Smith, Tomlinson and possibly Bally Carris.

The Observer remarked the problem of replacing players taken by other clubs and weighed up the advantages and disadvantages of amateur over professional. It was, said the report, regrettable that amateur organisations have not the means of retaining their players, or at least getting some recompense on the transfer of a player.

Nuneaton’s choice of league was also questioned, with the

opinion that a big mistake had been made in not joining the Leicestershire Senior League, with supporters tiring of the continual engagement with Coventry and District clubs.

The 3rd round of the Atherstone Nursing Cup was between the two premier Association clubs in Nuneaton and saw the visit of Nuneaton Reliable to Coton Road, who were by no means disgraced, going down 5-3. A great deal of praise for the closeness of the result was given to Reliable goalkeeper Jarvis, without whom the defeat would have been “three times heavier”.

Things went from bad to worse in the League with Town losing 1-0 to Unity Villa at Stoke. The opposition were worthy winners. The quality of the team was again called into question and it was hoped that a better team could be put on the pitch in upcoming games.

Having defeated Town recently, Stockingford visited Coton Road for the second of their league matches. There was a good attendance and no counter attractions in town, resulting in many Rugger fans taking the opportunity to watch the “tricky blues”.

Elsworth opened the scoring for Town after ten minutes and they were having the better of the game, but were only one goal to the good come half-time. Gretton, however, increased the lead a couple of minutes after the break. Carris and Griffiths then further extended the lead before Stockingford got a consolation. The state of the ground was said to be ‘far behind general expectations’.

A friendly match against Small Heath Excelsior saw the visitors to Coton Road routed 6-0. Bally Carris missed the game as he was representing Loughborough in their match against Blackpool.

Town, who were holders of the Hinckley Charity Cup, got through to the final again with a 4-0 win over Earl Shilton Victoria at Coton Road. This was an easy win and there was not a large attendance for the match.

In the return league fixture between Town and Atherstone on February 18th, Nuneaton had two new men — Walton and Holtham at inside-right and centre-half respectively. Bally Carris was again unavailable. Debutant Holtham continually let in opponents and this led to the first goal when Roberts was allowed to feed Thomason, who netted Atherstone’s opener.

After some good pressing from Nuneaton, just before half-time Roberts broke away and scored Atherstone’s second goal. Just after half time Wally Cooper caused some consternation by punching away a shot from Lewis, but as luck had it the free-kick came to nothing.

Although Griffiths opened Nuneaton’s account 12 minutes into the second half, Nicholls scored again for Atherstone straight after. Gretton again cut the deficit, but it wasn’t enough and Atherstone ran out worthy winners. The Observer declared that Nuneaton were well off the pace in the race for the title, but Atherstone, sitting at the top of the table were well in the running for the championship.



The following match, an away league encounter with Foleshill Great Heath, was a low key affair which ended in a 1-1 draw.

March 3rd brought around the semi-final of the Atherstone Nursing Cup and a tie against Tamworth Athletic. Bally Carris was back in the side after settling some personal issues.

Walton (2) and Carris gave Nuneaton a 3-0 lead with a cluster of goals either side of the break. Nuneaton were clearly the better side and Walton scored a fourth, with Griffiths adding a fifth from the penalty spot.

After going five up Nuneaton 'slacked off' and Tamworth ran in three goals in the last ten minutes. Referee Mr. Garratt came in for some stick with a good many of his decisions being widely questioned.

In the other semi-final Atherstone went through 3-1 against Two Gates, in a game so roughly contested that many players received varying degrees of injury and at least two players were hospitalised.

An Invitation to Nuneaton Town

Once more the executive of the Leicestershire Senior League have extended an invitation to Nuneaton Town to join their ranks next season. We understand efforts are being put forth to make this combination one of the most popular in the Midlands, and we sincerely hope that the Town club will not again allow this opportunity of raising the "tricky blues" high up in the world of football.

If the committee are in doubt as to the advisability of such a move — involving, as it does great financial considerations — then we would advise them to call a meeting of their members at an early date and thereby ascertain the feeling of the public on the matter. This means would give them some idea of the support they might expect were such a change adopted, and thus enable them to decide with due caution and general satisfaction to all.

Between the Atherstone Nursing Cup semi-final and the final, two league matches were played, but were not recorded in the Observer. The first was a 0-4 defeat against Willans Athletic at Coton Road and the other a 0-0 draw against Coventry Lord Street, also at home.

The final of the Atherstone Nursing Cup was held at Sheepy Road, and the game was described as not being of a very high order with players on both sides showing a tendency for roughness, with frequent fouls.

Atherstone had built up a three goal lead by just after half time and although Nuneaton bombarded the Adders goal at one stage, the home side defended well and at the end of the game Nuneaton only had a Griffiths penalty by way of consolation.

For the final of the Hinckley Charity Cup against Hinckley

Town, the sleet and snow that fell on the morning of the game kept the gate down, but receipts of £26 were taken with a good percentage of the crowd coming from Warwickshire.

Due to Nuneaton's late arrival the kick-off was put back to 4pm when Colonel Worsley Warwick JP of Normanston Hall kicked the ball off.

Following some good early passing moves from Hinckley, Nuneaton pressed for a time with play confined to the home half. Following a period of end to end play Nuneaton took the lead just before half time with a goal from Gretton.

Early in the second half Elsworth won the applause of the crowd by taking the ball up the wing and putting in a tremendous shot, which Adcock in the Hinckley goal punched away. Hinckley were then awarded a penalty from which Beadsworth equalised.

This seemed to demoralise Nuneaton and five minutes later Baxter got a second for Hinckley. Swift then headed home from a corner to make it 3-1 and although Elsworth hit the bar towards the end, the final whistle saw Hinckley take the trophy with a 3-1 win.

Town Reserves caused an upset in the Minor Cup, when they avenged their defeat of the previous year with a thrilling 5-4 win against Foleshill St. Paul's to carry off the trophy and make up for losing to the same opponents in the previous final.

That same afternoon Town first team faced Foleshill Great Heath in a league game. Despite losing Fred Carris and Gratton, both being injured against Atherstone, Town put in a good performance to win 3-1.

After a run of fairly ordinary results Town finally hit top gear, scoring five goals in each of the following two matches. Billy Ball got two in a 5-0 win over Daimler at Coton Road, followed by a 5-3 win over Progress at the Red House Ground. The Town team was made up mainly of local youngsters and it was a credit to them that they were able to emerge as comfortable winners.

Although 2-1 down at half time against Progress, the youngsters did themselves proud, scoring four goals in the second half despite going further behind straight after the break.

Coventry & North Warwickshire League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Atherstone Town	15	13	0	2	54	20	26
Foleshill Great Heath.....	14	8	3	3	33	21	19
Nuneaton Town	16	7	4	5	46	29	18
Stockingford	15	6	3	6	42	33	15
*Progress	15	8	3	4	43	29	14
Lord Street	15	4	5	6	23	31	13
Daimler	14	3	4	7	26	42	10
Unity Villa.....	11	3	2	10	29	56	8
Willans Athletic.....	16	3	2	11	27	70	8

*Progress deducted five points

Nuneaton Town 1894-1919 Part 1



1898					
09.03	Warwick United	H	Fr	3-0	Gretton (2), Holmes
09.10	Coventry Progress	H	CNW	3-3	Holmes, Gretton, B. Carris
09.17	Coventry Lord Street	A	CNW	4-3	Gretton, Holmes, B. Carris, Tomlinson
09.24	Willian's United (Rugby)	A	CNW	7-0	B. Carris (2), Tomlinson, Gretton, Smith, Griffiths, Holmes
10.01	Coventry Progress	A	HCHCC 1	3-0	Griffiths (p), Holmes, Gretton
10.08	Coalville Town	H	Fr	2-3	Tomlinson, Gretton
10.15	Atherstone Town	A	CNW	1-2	Tomlinson (Nuneaton only had 8 men)
10.22	Foleshill Great Heath	H	Fr*	1-1	Holmes (*Inter-league friendly)
10.29	Coventry Progress	N	HCHCC 1*	6-1	Gretton (2), Holmes, Tomlinson, Griffiths, Carris
	*Replay after Progress queried Dent's amateur status.				Played at Holywell (Hinckley).
11.05	Unity Villa (Coventry)	H	CNW	8-2	Carris (3), Griffiths (2, 1p), Rice (3)
11.12	Stockingford	H	NHJC 1	3-2	B. Carris (2), Ball (Est Att 1500)
11.19	Fazeley Swifts	A	LCC 1	1-3	Gretton
12.03	Shepshed Town	H	HCHCC 2	8-0	Carris (3), Griffiths (2, 1p), Gretton (2), Ball
12.10	Foleshill Great Heath	A	NHJC 2	2-3	Gretton, Own Goal
12.17	Coventry Daimler	A	Est 1500	3-3	Scorers unknown
12.24	Hinckley Town	H	Fr	3-3	T. Knight, Carris
12.26	Barwell Swifts	H	Fr	6-4	Scorers unknown
12.31	Stockingford	A	CNW	0-2	
1899					
01.07	Nuneaton Reliables	H	ANC 2	5-3	Gretton (3), T. Knight, Holmes
01.14	Unity Villa (Coventry)	A	CNW	0-1	
01.21	Hinckley Town	A	Fr	0-2	*Abandoned 65 mins — rain
01.28	Stockingford	H	CNW	4-1	Elsworth, Gretton, Carris, Griffiths
02.04	Small Heath Excelsior	H	Fr	6-0	Gretton (2), T. Knight (2), Holmes, Own Goal
02.11	Earl Shilton Victoria	H	HCHCC SF	4-0	T. Knight (2), Gretton, Holmes
02.18	Atherstone Town	H	CNW	2-3	Griffiths, Gretton
02.25	Foleshill Great Heath	A	CNW	1-1	Griffiths
03.04	Tamworth Athletic	N	ANC SF*	5-3	Walton (2), Carris, Gretton, Griffiths (p)
	*At neutral ground				
03.18	Willans Athletic	H	CNW	0-4	
04.01	Coventry Lord Street	H	CNW	0-0	
04.03	Atherstone Town	A	ANC F	1-3	Griffiths (p)
04.04	Foleshill Great Heath	H	CNW	3-1	Scorers unknown
04.08	Hinckley Town	A	HCHCC F	1-3	Gretton (Est Att 2000)
04.15	Coventry Daimler	H	CNW	5-0	Ball (2), Taylor, T. Knight, Edkins
04.29	Coventry Progress	A	CNW	5-3	Taylor (2), Edkins, Ball, Holmes

Fr = Friendly, , CNW = Coventry & North Warwickshire League, HCHCC = Hinckley Cottage Hospital Charity Cup, NHJC = Nuneaton Hospital Junior Cup, LCC = Leamington Charity Cup, ANC = Atherstone Nursing Cup

Nuneaton scores first.

William 'Billy' Ball



William Ball was one of the earliest heroes of the local game

What little is known about "Billy" Ball has come from old newspaper cuttings and programme articles. Billy first played for Nuneaton Town in the closing years of the reign of Queen Victoria, but mostly he played in the Edwardian era.

It is easy to romanticise the distant past and Edwardian times are often viewed through rose-tinted glasses. It is easy to make heroes of footballers like William Ball who played all that time ago. They can never let you down.

Football's popularity grew rapidly in Edwardian England, and Nuneaton was no exception.

In 1906, William Bassett, of West Bromwich Albion and England, wrote: "There used to be a lot of wild doings in the old days and they make very interesting reminiscences... but there is every encouragement given today to the formation of character. There is a daily increasing tendency for clubs to look askance at men who have not a clean record".

And there were those who thought the game had gone soft. On 9th October 1907 the Birmingham Mail published a letter signed 'Old Player': "Observing the continual absence of players from the football field through injuries and sickness, I cannot help thinking that our present day professional player is not so hardy as the players of a decade or more ago, who worked hard through the week and played hard on Saturday. Our professional of today, although surrounded by FA rules that do not permit of rough play, is continuously out of harness through injuries, sickness and colds..."

The correspondent could not have known William Ball, who was as robust and resilient a character as ever stepped onto a football field. Ball worked all week as a coal miner, and also turned out for Nuneaton Town. He played at centre-half, at a time when such players were expected to defend and attack — in the days before the 1925 Offside Law led to the creation of the 'stopper' centre-half.

Billy Ball was born at Newhall, near Burton on Trent, and played his early football for Newhall Red Rose. He also played for Woodville, Gresley Rovers and Nottingham Forest Reserves, before moving to Nuneaton in the late 1890s to work in the coal mines. Billy played centre-half for Nuneaton Town from 1898 to 1900, and also occasionally at right back.

Nuneaton Town were in the Leicestershire Senior League during the 1899-1900 season, but in the following summer

they lost the use of their Arbury Road ground and could not find a replacement. As a consequence, the Town ceased to function for the whole of the 1900-01 season and lost their best players, including Ball who moved to Hinckley United.

Fortunately for the followers of Nuneaton football, Billy returned to the Town for the 1903-04 season, by which time the club were playing in the Trent Valley Combination. Significant changes had taken place in the game of football while Billy was away at Hinckley. Pitches were now marked out with halfway line, penalty area and penalty spot.

Ball became club captain, centre-half, and some time taker of penalty kicks. Town finished fifth in the table that season. The following season, 1904-05, Town sought a better class of football in the Coventry & North Warwickshire League. They proved their worthiness by taking the title, winning 15, and losing just 3 of their 22 games.

Here was a man who was able to pass the autumn, winter and spring Saturday afternoons of his youth in the fresh air. But you can't help but wonder about his weekdays, spent underground in another, altogether harsher world. Billy Ball worked as a miner for 45 years, mostly at the Arley and Keresley collieries. Down the pit was a world apart from the long, sunlit, Edwardian afternoon, and maybe it took its toll.

In a photograph taken in the 1906-07 season, William looks leaner and has sunken cheeks which exaggerate the high cheek bones. He no longer looks as robust as his reputation would have us believe. William Ball now has the features of a man who spends his days underground.

The team colours have also changed. They are wearing jerseys, not shirts. By this time, too, Billy has been reduced to vice-captain — the captain's role having passed to Tommy Hilditch, an eccentric, spectacular goalkeeper, who actually went on to play for Villa, in their reserves. Hilditch also played cricket, for Attleborough, Nuneaton and Warwickshire.

Since being re-formed, Town had operated as an amateur club, but in 1906 they resumed semi-professional status and joined the Birmingham Junior League. As had happened two years earlier, Nuneaton won the league at the first attempt.

During his years with Nuneaton Town, Billy Ball was a great favourite with the home crowds. He finally left the club in 1908, when he took up the captaincy of Hinckley United, where he led them to four trophies in the 1908-09 season.

Ball lived in Nuneaton for the last 58 years of his life, dying in the Manor Hospital following a seizure on 11th May 1955, at the age of 78. A few days earlier Nuneaton Borough had clinched the Birmingham League title. Back in May 1920, the Observer had published an article by 'Old Blue', in which the writer had chosen his 'ideal team'. Of William Ball he wrote: "Ball was a wonderful player, indefatigable and strong, and possessing a faculty for headwork which has never been surpassed in the local history of the game".



Progression of Town Football Club

Nuneaton Observer : May 26th 1899

Enough has been said by way of introduction, and the reader may perhaps have exhausted his stock of patience by this, and may have turned aside the paper with a sort of “another quack doctor’s miracle” expression on his face.

The subject of this article is the new departure on the part of the Nuneaton Town Association Football Club, namely that of becoming a fully fledged professional organisation.

’Tis an age of progress, surely, and this latest innovation by the Town Club may be regarded as a sign of renewed and vigorous animation on the part of those responsible for the conduct of the Club’s affairs. This is as it should be, and it is to be hoped that the public will accord them all the support they deserve for their enterprising venture, for even sport — we regret to have to admit it — is regarded in these days of money-making as a business enterprise.

With a view to raising the necessary funds, subscription lists have already been issued, and so far have met with hearty response. Without speaking disparagingly of those who have served the Club’s interest in the past, it is to be hoped that when the time arrives an endeavour will be made to secure a much larger representation of businessmen on the committee, and thereby raise the tone of the club’s affairs and further stimulate the interest of the public in its welfare.

To ascertain the origin of this bold venture, which has created quite a sensation in local football circles, one must go back to 1897-98, when thanks to sterling all-round play on the part of the first team, the Hinckley Cup was arrested from, the then champions of the Leicestershire FA. The authorities of that association were not slow to recognise the merits of such a club as Nuneaton, and a cordial invitation to join the Leicestershire League — not necessarily as a professional club — was extended to them.

Best the “spirit of cautiousness” preponderated, and the invitation was reluctantly declined. As luck had it, last season was an unfortunate one for the club; misfortune dogged them at every step, and mutiny between players and committee threatened very fiercely, with the dread that “shocking revelations” would follow.

Thanks, however, to their perseverance and commendable pluck in the Hinckley Cup ties, the Leicestershire FA again evinced their kindly interest, and at a general meeting held at the beginning of this month it was unanimously decided to accept their formal invitation to join the ranks.

Since then the committee have been actively engaged in plans and suggestions for the entire reconstruction of the Town Club, with the result that what one of our leading townsmen remarked at last season’s annual dinner, perhaps in a joking humour, is now far nearer realisation, although yet a great way off, than one could really have expected for

years to come. We take it, it is a survival of the fittest, and whatever local critics may have to say adversely of professional football; it will at least place them on a firmer footing than has been the case for some considerable time past, and like one of our local governing bodies, certain persons will be given to understand their positions and have to keep to them.

In conclusion we wish the Nuneaton Town Association Football Club every success, together with many prosperous seasons in their new undertaking, and trust that the public will gallantly respond to their pecuniary needs, as a great deal of expenditure is entailed at the outset.

Several players of good repute have already been secured, and it is anticipated that before the new season is many weeks old an efficient professional eleven will be able to take the field. Naturally this new arrangement will preclude the Club from taking part in the local competitions as at present regulated, but they will still be eligible for the Hinckley, Leicestershire Senior, and qualifying stages of the English Cup competitions.

It is gratifying to learn the the secretaries of both the Association and Rugby Clubs are endeavouring to arrange, as far as possible, next season’s fixture list to avoid clashing.

1899-1900

At the end of the 19th Century, Nuneaton Town, still striving for recognition and in an effort to increase interest in the club, had just turned professional.

For season 1899-1900 they had left local football to become the only Warwickshire side competing in the Leicestershire Senior League. The first conflict of the century, the Boer War in South Africa, was already taking the headlines and in December a collection was made at the club’s Arbury Road (now Queen’s Road) ground to raise money for the war effort.

For the season’s league opener Coalville Albion visited Arbury Road. The game was due to start at 2.45 but the visitors were delayed due to road conditions, and it was 4.30 before the kick-off. Town were forced into late changes to their team as Asbury, Ball and Adams were unavailable. Veteran Wally Cooper stepped in along with Davis and W. Price.

Nuneaton: goal Jarvis; backs, Cooper and Holmes; half-backs Davis, Dent and Drury; forwards, Elsworth, Edkins, Strong, Price and Bray.

Referee: Mr T. Gardiner, Leicester.

Nuneaton looked the stronger outfit from the off and Strong put an early attempt wide of the goal. However, Town didn’t have to wait long before their first goal. Following some tricky play between Elsworth and Edkins on the ten minute mark, the latter found the net for the first goal of the game and the season.

Nuneaton Town 1894-1919 Part 1



Following some good long passing from wing to wing by the home forwards, Edkins again went close. The same player also clipped the bar. Then, following a melee in front of goal Strong increased Nuneaton's lead and they went in at half time with a 2-0 lead.

After the break the home team attacked the visitors' goal time and again with Dent being conspicuous. Following some give-and-take exchanges the ball was fed into the Coalville half and Bray further increased the lead when he put in a splendid long shot which beat the Albion keeper. The match ended 3-0.

The following week saw Town travel to Hinckley's Holywell ground to take on their local rivals. There was a 'capital' gate which included a fair sprinkling of Nuneatonians.

Hinckley pressed from the start and Nuneaton conceded several corners, and after just 12 minutes Beadsworth beat the Nuneaton half-backs before crossing for Hitchcock to head past Jarvis.

Nuneaton conceded several fouls and were showing very disappointing form. Their defence was frequently tested and eventually Dewey raced through and scored with a beautiful shot just under the bar.

Elsworth and Edkins impressed with some tricky runs but the good work was spoilt by bad shooting in front of goal, and the half time whistle saw Hinckley go in 2-0 up.

Nuneaton showed improved form in the second half and severely tested the Hinckley defence. An Elsworth corner rolled along the bar forcing keeper Underwood to put the ball out for another corner.

Elsworth again took the corner and the ball glanced off a Hinckley defender and into the net for Nuneaton's first goal. Nuneaton continued to dominate and Dent tested the Hinckley keeper with some fine shots.

The game then swung in Hinckley's favour and some good play by the Nuneaton defenders was required. Hinckley were still pressing at the final whistle and ended the game with a 2-1 victory.

The following Saturday saw Nuneaton entertain Brierley Hill Alliance and a special report on the club's first ever FA (English) Cup game follows.

Burton Swifts Reserves visited Arbury Road and having won the toss, the home side elected to defend the road end goal. Dearne scored for the home side early in the match. The rest of the half saw both teams pressing at different times, but to no avail. The match was then interrupted by a heavy shower. Come half-time Nuneaton still had their one goal advantage.

The second half was described as a ding-dong battle in which the visitors scored a 'lucky' goal following a scrimmage. Although the home side lost Dearne, who was 'severely kicked', they kept up the pressure on the visitors, but were unable to make the pressure tell and the game petered out.

Town next entertained Stockingford in a Hinckley Cottage Hospital Cup tie, which saw honours even in a well-attended match at Stockingford's ground.

The Leicestershire Senior Cup first round saw Nuneaton drawn away at Earl Shilton Town. More than half the crowd was said to be made up of Nuneaton fans, many of them travelling by either bicycle or traps.

Elsworth raced away early on and was unlucky not to score, but Nuneaton kept pressing and had several pops at goal. Shilton had a good chance which was comfortably saved by Jarvis. Elsworth then opened the scoring for the visitors, which livened the match up.

The away side forced the ball home from a corner, but it was disallowed by the referee. Jarvis won the applause of the crowd with a fine save from a magnificent shot, which ensured that Nuneaton went in 1-0 at half time.

Pickering in the home goal saved from Taylor and Edkins and then came to the rescue again when a cross came in from a corner, before the home side put some pressure on the visitors. Nuneaton conceded a penalty after Holmes handled just within the twelve yards line. R. Pickering gave Jarvis no chance from the penalty.

Dearne then restored the visitors lead following a melee in front of goal, This was followed by a period of give and take with Earl Shilton having some poor attempts at goal.

The referee surprised the crowd by awarding a free kick close in on goal. The resultant kick glanced off a player and into the net securing a draw for Earl Shilton.

The replayed tie was staged at Arbury Road the following week and Shilton took an early lead after a shot by Whiteman. Nuneaton hit back but Dearne failed to take advantage of a good opening. Edkins put in a good shot and Nuneaton scored, but it was called offside.

Strong wanted too much time when the next chance arrived. Jarvis was then forced to tip over the bar for a corner. Nuneaton went close but were soon rewarded when Dearne placed the ball into the net from a corner.

Five minutes after the equaliser Dearne scored again from an Elsworth cross. Edkins hit the upright, but Elsworth couldn't force the ball home when it came back off the post.

Jarvis was penalised for running with the ball and the visitors equalised from the resultant free kick. It was then decided to play half an hour of extra time. No further goals were scored in the extra period and it was getting dark when the referee blew for time.

Nuneaton travelled to Barwell Swifts for a league match the following week and despite the ground being fogbound the game went ahead.

Strong sent in a good shot early on, and it landed on top of the net, but in the main the play was fairly uninteresting. However, Nuneaton were having the bulk of the play, and hit



the bar, but Cooper was on hand to score from the rebound. Bray, Elsworth and Edkins all had shots at goal before the visitors were awarded a penalty, which they failed to score, Jarvis saving magnificently.

Barwell did not let up, however, and Nutting put his side on equal terms before the break.

The fog in the second half was so thick that it was virtually impossible to see the goal posts from the half way line, making commentary on the game impossible. The final score was 3-1 to Barwell.

The Senior Cup replay with Earl Shilton was a 5-0 win, but Earl Shilton protested about Dearne's eligibility and the tie was ceded by Nuneaton.

Town's cup woes continued the following week when Stockingford sent them packing 4-2. It was a well attended game with many supporters from Stockingford, the bitter rivalry between the two sets of supporters being apparent throughout the game.

Moorehouse's opener for Stockingford was cancelled out by Elsworth's penalty, which saw the game degenerate into a period of rough play before a melee in front of the Nuneaton goal saw Moorehouse give Stockingford the lead back. Ferris then added to the lead following a free kick and it was 3-1 at the break.

Shortly after the break Ferris further extended the lead for Stockingford with Adams banging a consolation in for Nuneaton just before the end.

Obituary

TOWNSEND. — On the 21st inst., at Church Street, Richard Townsend, aged 50 years.

Following their expulsion from the Leicestershire Senior Cup Town had a free date on the 25th November and a friendly was arranged with Small Heath Excelsior at Arbury Road, the home team edging the game 2-1 with Strong scoring twice.

December began with the visit of Barwell Swifts for a league game. The game was abandoned after 80 minutes due to bad light with the score 1-0 to the home side.

Three friendlies were played over the Christmas period with a 4-1 victory over Foleshill Great Heath, a 2-3 reverse at the hands of a Nuneaton & District League XI and a 'traditional' 2-2 draw with Stockingford.

The final game of 1899 saw the visit of Swadlincote, who were the previous season's champions and currently occupying the top spot. The weather conditions were fine, but with a very strong wind blowing straight across the ground.

Elsworth headed over the bar following three consecutive

corners. Another corner followed and Strong's cross was converted by Walker to give the home side a 1-0 lead.

Nuneaton then went close on three or four occasions before Jarvis let a weak shot somehow find its way into the net for the equaliser.

Town were not fazed by this setback and Dent and Elsworth both went close, with the visiting keeper enduring a prolonged period of pressure from the home forwards. The home team made several attempts on the visitors' goal, with their efforts being rewarded when Walker notched his and Nuneaton's second.

Town looked to have conceded from a corner, but Jarvis knocked the ball out. Strong put in a terrific shot for the home side. There followed a period of considerable pressure from Nuneaton.

Jarvis saved well and Smith was applauded for some good defensive work. The home forwards then broke away and Strong's fine run culminated in him scoring amid much excitement.

Nuneaton travelled to Coalville in wet and miserable conditions for the first match of 1900. Nuneaton put out the same team that defeated Swadlincote.

The first half was evenly contested despite the fact that Coalville had taken an early lead, scoring after just 15 minutes. Nuneaton had the advantage of the wind at their backs in the second half, but were being held in check by the home defence.

The equaliser came following good work from Elsworth, who worked an opening for Tomlinson, who raced round the back and equalised with a beauty. Encouraged by their breakthrough Nuneaton attacked in determined manner and Smith headed in from a corner to put the visitors into the lead.

Nuneaton then had things all their own way and Strong notched a third before the match eventually ended in darkness. Coalville had not lost at home in two seasons.

Town fans turned out with increased confidence for the following week's game against Earl Shilton Town, buoyed up by the previous week's win at Coalville.

After the early exchanges Strong raced through and set up Walker with an open goal, but Pickering knocked the ball away. Tomlinson then grazed the bar before Pickering conceded a corner from which Holmes scored following a melee.

Holmes put a shot wide of an open goal before Jarvis was forced to tip the ball over just before half-time and Town went in 1-0 up.

A period of end-to-end was followed by a magnificent effort from Elsworth. He received the ball and without steadying himself sent in a shot that Pickering had no earthly chance with, giving the home side a 2-0 advantage. It then looked as if Nuneaton would score again, but Pickering somehow cleared the danger.



Towards the end of the game, with Nuneaton pressing hard, Holmes notched another to secure the points.

Nuneaton entertained Gresley at Arbury Road on the back of a good run of league form. But, despite recent form the home side were lucky to escape early on as Gresley had the goal at their mercy, but put the chance wide. An effort from Smith was then punched away by the Gresley keeper.

Nuneaton were pressing hard and play was confined to the visitors half for a long period, but Gresley broke away and put a shot over the bar. Elsworth headed just over following a good move, as Nuneaton pressed again.

A melee in front of the home goal was cleared by Holmes. Nuneaton severely tested their opponents defence, but it came to nothing. Shortly before half-time Tomlinson grazed the bar, but it remained 0-0.

Nuneaton were all over Gresley and the spectators were worked up into a state of excitement before Elsworth caused bitter disappointment by putting an easy chance over the bar. Shots hit the bar, just went over or were a little too wide as the home side had the visitors at full stretch.

The excitement became intense and the Gresley goalkeeper was forced to tip over the bar. Then, at last, the suspense was relieved, Walker getting through and scoring amid wild enthusiasm. Nuneaton continued to put Gresley under intense pressure, but no more goals were scored and the final whistle blew with the score being 1-0.

The Walsall Senior Cup tie against Newport (Salop) was characterised by much rough play and many fouls from the opposition. Newport set Nuneaton back with a goal after just five minutes. The second half opened with a snowstorm, and Nuneaton pressed hard and when Holmes was badly tripped just outside the 12 yard line the free-kick hit the crossbar and rebounded to Walker who put the ball in for a 1-1 draw.

Town then won a friendly match against Burton Swifts Reserves which was played in dreadful conditions in front of a very small crowd. Nuneaton won 1-0 with Holmes netting the winning goal.

Nuneaton were brought back down to earth with a 4-1 defeat at Swadlincote. The ground was heavy, even though there had been a recent improvement in the weather.

The game opened evenly but Swadlincote took an early lead through Draycott. Nuneaton were then awarded a penalty, but the home keeper made a good save. The home side were well on top in the second period, notching a further three goals, with Nuneaton getting a solitary consolation.

A friendly match took place with Leicester Fosse Reserves the following week. The pitch was in a dire condition, being covered in water in places. Despite the home team pressing Fosse scored following a long passing movement.

Taylor sent in a fierce shot for the home team which was followed by a tremendous melee from a corner, during which

Tomlinson struck an upright, but the interval arrived with the visitors 1-0 up.

The game proceeded in a ding-dong fashion, play being continually transferred from one end to the other, but the game ended with a 1-0 win for the visitors.

The return league match with Earl Shilton Town took place on March 10 and the visitors came away with a 1-1 draw with a goal from Walker securing a point.

What was practically the match of the season took place at Arbury Road in front of a record attendance for that ground of 2,000, with a large following from Hinckley.

Sanders raced away for Hinckley early on, but Glover cleared for a corner which came to nothing. Jarvis saved well when a free kick came in following a foul by Walker. Underwood was forced to handle for Hinckley before Jarvis had to stop a fine shot from Mee.

Sanders had a good run but the good work ended with a poor shot. Nuneaton attacked strongly and forced a corner, before Mee broke away for the visitors, but his fine run up the wing was brought to a halt by Ball.

Hinckley took the lead when Jarvis, in saving, kicked the ball out to the left wing, from where it was smartly returned into the centre and Worthington sent in a high shot which dropped in just under the bar. Nuneaton were then awarded a penalty when Harding handled, but Tomlinson's kick was straight into Underwood's hands.

Nuneaton pressed again and Beadsworth headed over his own bar from a corner. Just after, Hinckley attacked and Jarvis had to save brilliantly. Half-time arrived with Hinckley having a one goal lead.

After the break play swung from end to end with both goalkeepers being called upon. Nuneaton kept the ball for some time in their opponents territory, but could not get through. Hinckley then pressed strongly, but a free kick relieved the pressure.

At last, Holmes took advantage of an opening, and put through, and Underwood picked up the ball and attempted to throw it out, however Walker bundled it through to equalise. Neither side could force the issue after that and honours were even at the final whistle.

The very cold weather kept the gate down for the match against Coalville, in which Nuneaton fielded the same side as against Hinckley the previous week, with the exception that Edkins played centre-forward instead of Walker.

Coalville elected to kick with a strong wind at their back. Edkins set the ball in motion and the start was sensational, as the aforementioned took the ball right through the visitors' defence, and tested Webster with a stiff shot.

Webster conceded a corner, but the visitors regained possession and took the ball all the way upfield and scored. Each side pressed and Nuneaton performed well into the

Nuneaton Town 1894-1919 Part 1



strong wind, albeit missing two good chances as Coalville went in 1-0 up at half time.

Many spectators thought Nuneaton would give a good account of themselves considering the strong wind at their backs, but Coalville were playing in determined fashion and the home team fell off considerably, putting in a disappointing display and failing to take advantage of several openings.

Coalville took the ball, via some fine passing, up to the home goal and although Jarvis saved well from the ensuing shot, he could not recover in time and was on the ground as Walker scored for Coalville. Just before the end the visitors scored again and the game ended in a 0-3 defeat for Nuneaton.

Barwell Swifts returned to Arbury Road to replay the game that was abandoned due to bad light back in December. In the match Nuneaton had things pretty much all their own way with Holmes (2), Walker and Tomlinson being amongst the scorers.

As the season fizzled out and interest dwindled Town entertained Wolverhampton Wanderers Reserves in a Walsall Senior Cup Semi-Final at Arbury Road on Monday, April 9th.

Nuneaton pressed from the start and Strong sent in a stinging shot which missed by inches. Jarvis saved from Tuft, but conceded a fruitless corner in the process.

Holmes put Strong in, but the Wolves' defenders were able to deal with the threat. Wolves then sent in shot after shot with Jarvis again saving in fine style.

Although Tomlinson made a fine run and cross, there was no-one on the end of it and half-time arrived with no goals scored by either side.

The Wolves' Bryan sent in a shot that grazed the bar before Nuneaton took up the running and forced two corners, both being cleared. Wolverhampton then pressed and forced a corner which was cleared before Bryan scored a beautiful goal for the visitors, gliding the ball into the corner of the net.

Strong hit the upright following a good run and cross from Tomlinson. Wolves' man Mathias left the field injured, before Jarvis was forced into a save by Bryan. The game ended in a 1-0 victory to the Wolves Reserves.

Two of Nuneaton's fixtures were never played, at Gresley and Burton. In Burton's case their ground was being used by the first team for a re-arranged Football League Second Division fixture. The cost of professionalism to the Town club had been £101 4s 6d for players wages, travelling and refreshments.

Nuneaton planned a second season, 1900-1901, of Leicestershire Senior League football and would be meeting Hinckley in the English FA Cup. On August 15 from the club's Granby Head HQ they delivered a 'bombshell'. The Town had lost the use of their Arbury Road pitch and, unable to procure a field, they would be defunct for the coming season.

Nuneaton lost some fine players and it was twelve months before they resumed activities, back to square one in the Nuneaton and District League, renting a ground in Edward Street.

LEICESTERSHIRE SENIOR LEAGUE

FINAL TABLE 1899-1900

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
HinckleyTown	16	10	4	2	43	17	24
Coalville Town	16	10	2	4	30	17	22
Swadlincote Town	16	9	2	6	52	19	20
Nuneaton Town	14	7	3	4	27	18	17
Barwell Swifts	16	8	1	7	26	32	17
Gresley Rovers	15	6	2	7	31	28	14
Burton Swifts Res	15	4	3	8	28	37	11
Coalville Albion	16	2	3	10	25	46	8
Earl Shllton Town	16	2	3	11	12	60	7

Warwick: Withdrew from league



FROM THE NEWSPAPERS

Homeopathic Pick-me-up

Epps's Cocoa — Cocoa-Nib Extract (Tea like). — The choicest roasted nibs (broken up beans) of the natural Cocoa, on being subjected to powerful hydraulic pressure, give forth their excess of oil, leaving for use a finely flavoured powder "Cocoaine" a product which, when prepared with boiling water, has the consistence of tea, of which it is now, with many, beneficially taking the place. Its active principle being a gentle nerve stimulant, supplies the needed energy without unduly exciting the system.

Sold only in labelled tins. If unable to obtain it off your tradesman, a tin will be sent post free for 9 stamps. — James Epps and Co., Ltd., Homeopathic Chemists, London.

Nuneaton Observer 1899

September 16th 1899

Nuneaton Town v Brierley Hill Alliance

For the first time in the history of Nuneaton the Town club had entered the English (F. A.) Cup. Their opponents on that memorable afternoon were Brierley Hill Alliance, a team of no small repute, who that season were to finish ninth from eighteen clubs in an exceptionally strong Birmingham League. The competition was in its 29th year and Sheffield United were the cup holders.

As anticipated there was a large gate, estimated at nearly 2,000, on the Arbury Road Ground when the teams lined up for the 3.30pm kick-off.

Town: Jarvis, Adams, Glover, Holmes, Dent, Clifford, Elsworth, Edkins, Deane, Price, Strong.

Brierley Hill Alliance: Hill, Mumford, Walsall, Price, Province, Foley, Stokes, Pickering, Bache, Partridge, Slater.

The heavier-built Alliance team had the strong wind in their favour during the first half and Nuneaton were outclassed by their opponents who appeared to be a vastly superior team. Province scored within three minutes of the start. Seven minutes later Billy Holmes headed into his own goal and before the interval Partridge had given Brierley Hill a 3-0 lead. At that point it looked as if the home team were in for a severe thrashing although their goalkeeper Dick Jarvis was playing well, having no chance with the goals scored.

A change of events occurred in the second half as Nuneaton's improved form could only be described as wonderful. They attacked the Alliance goal time after time and intense excitement and enthusiasm was evoked amongst the spectators as Strong scored twice for the home club.

As Nuneaton kept up the pressure it looked as if they would draw level, with the Brierley Hill full backs causing much disapproval among the Town fans by continually kicking the ball out of play.

Nuneaton were still attacking strongly at the call of time and deserved every praise for the way they had acquitted themselves. Brierley Hill, however, proved to be a shade too good for them and their 3-2 victory prevented Nuneaton Town advancing further than the Preliminary Round stage on their introduction to the English Cup.

On that Saturday, Nuneaton had tried to put off their Leicestershire League engagement with Swadlincote Town, but with no success. They were obliged to send a scratch team with the result of a humiliating 0-14 defeat. The game was later declared void and replayed in February.

Action Against the Nuneaton Town Association Football Club

Before His Honour Judge Wightman Wood at the Nuneaton County Court, on Saturday, Ebenezer Brown and Thomas William Oakey (Solicitors of Richard Townsend, of the Granby Head Inn, pursue John Henry Stockley, Thomas Hubbard, Herbert Green, Henry Hubbard, William Mears, Thomas Day, Ernest J. Towe, Charles Vincent, Thomas Bland Jnr., John James Green, George Walters, Charles Henry Williams, Thomas Woodward, and Arthur Bates. This was a claim for £28, money lent to the Nuneaton Town Association Football Club, and £18 18s, money paid by the deceased for the use of the club, at defendants' request.

Mr. T. W. Oakey was for the plaintiffs, and Mr. H. Maddocks for the defendants.

Mr. Maddocks, at the outset, said that, with regard to Towe, the plea of infancy had been admitted. In regard to Bland, so far as the first item was concerned, the plea of infancy would be admitted. In regard to Williams, that defendant was the paid secretary to the club, at the time in question, and was not in any way responsible.

Mr. Oakey then entered into his case, and said it was a claim brought by the executors of Richard Townsend, deceased, late innkeeper at Nuneaton, against the defendants named, who were the committee of the Nuneaton Town Association Football Club, the headquarters of which were the Granby Head Inn, lately kept by the testator, who died on November 21st, 1899. On the 23rd of the following month, he (Mr. Oakey) wrote to Williams a letter in reference to the amount that, as it was desirable to wind up the estate, arrangements should be made for payment within 14 days. To that letter he received no reply.

On February 9th, he wrote another formal letter, saying that, unless the amounts were paid, proceedings would be taken against them, and then a letter was written, by Stockley, to Miss Lizzie Townsend, dated 26th February, the object of which was to try and arrange an interview. This, he contended, constituted an admission that something was owing.

His Honour asked if this was not a matter that could be settled without it coming into Court. A sporting club should be able to deal with matters in a sporting way.

Mr. Maddocks said that, with regard to the £28, it was an arrangement of this kind. There were odds and ends of money over and above the cost of suppers, etc., that Mr. Townsend considered due to him, and a little balance kept being carried forward; and, with regard to this, he could make no suggestion. With reference to the £18 18s., he would, without prejudice say he would meet Mr. Oakey.

He thought the Club ought to pay for their field, although in the £18 18s. there was one item he should have to ask about,

viz., £5 18s. paid for fencing. Mr Townsend took the field from someone else, and let it to the club; and the fencing was to be done by the owner of the field. Mr. Townsend let the field at £2 per month, with a certain additional amount for extra matches, and the amount owing was from December 22nd, 1898, to April 30th, 1899.

Mr. Oakey observed that the owner of the field objected to letting it to the Club, unless Mr. Townsend would guarantee the rest. Mr. Townsend himself paid the £18 18s., and the club themselves paid part.

Mr. Maddocks said that if Mr. Oakey would confine himself to the £18 18s., he would advise his clients to pay, although he disputed their liability to do so.

His Honour said that as this was a matter brought against a football club, he was only asking if it could not be settled out of Court. If he settled it, he should, of course, deal with any points of law.

Mr. Maddocks repeated that, if Mr. Oakey would confine himself to the one item, he could meet him.

Mr. Oakey replied that he could not do that.

Mr. Maddocks said he did not know how the £28 was made up. It was not a lump sum, but was comprised of little driplets.

His Honour: What was the money lent for?

Mr. Maddocks said he did not know. He was aware of one occasion where the deceased had a dinner at the house, at so much a ticket, and made a loss on it, which he thought he was entitled to charge to the Club. He wanted to know how the £28 was made up.

His Honour: You say, with regard to the £28, there is no legal or moral obligation?

Mr. Maddocks: Yes, Sir. With regard to the other, I will admit a moral obligation.

Mr. Oakey observed that all the family knew was, that there was £28 owing by the Club, although they did not know how it was made up. There were no books kept, but it was well-known and understood that the amount was owing.



Charles Williams, Secretary at the time the debt was incurred by the Club

He called Charles Williams, Secretary to the Nuneaton Town Association Football Club during the season 1898-99, who said the headquarters of the club were at the Granby Head Inn, kept by the late Mr. Townsend, who advanced money to the committee for travelling expenses of the players, refreshments for the players, etc. They were not then professionals. He also advanced money for payment of bills, and rent of the ground. The players were not subscribing members of the club. When any money was required, the committee would appoint a deputation to see Mr. Townsend about it. The committee met every Tuesday. The witness had destroyed the old minute book when it was full.

His Honour remarked that this was a most improper thing to do; and asked when it was destroyed?

Witness said he believed he destroyed the book about the end of the season, last summer, Mr. Townsend then being alive.

At this stage, His Honour allowed the solicitors to consult, and, they having done so, Mr Oakey said he was pleased to say they had come to terms of settlement. His clients had, all along, been willing to come to an agreeable arrangement; and defendants had now agreed to accept judgment for £30, repayable at the rate of £3 a month.

His Honour remarked that he was glad the matter was settled. It always happened that it was the most active members of a club that got brought into an action of that sort, whilst the less active ones went free, and it was very hard that those who had given the best of their services to the club should have to pay for others who did not. In fairness, all the members should stand in together, and those that had not taken the most active part ought not to escape liability.

Mr. Maddocks said his clients had agreed to accept, as Mr. Oakey had stated.

FROM THE NEWSPAPERS

Footballers' Wages

The professional footballer's income is likely to be considerably curtailed in the future, and if all the proposed reforms come about, he will not only have to play for £4 per week, but do without a summer stipend.

The Football League clubs have convened a secretaries' meeting, to be held next season, for the purpose of considering the advisability of taking joint action for the abolition of summer pay for professional players. They will endeavour to induce the southern clubs to come into line with them on the matter. At the close of last season they were so afraid of the southern clubs "capturing" some of their best players that increased salaries were given in many instances, which the clubs who had a notoriously bad year were unable to pay without crippling their finances.

On the £4 a week business a "Daily Mail" representative has had a chat with Mr. Cameron, the Secretary of the Players' Union, who was disinclined to be communicative, but said he thought the Football Association were going too far in fixing a hard and fast limit. The Players' Union have no meeting until August, and the matter will be discussed then.

Nuneaton Observer

Nuneaton Town 1894-1919 Part 1



1899

09.02	Coalville Albion	H	LSL	3-0	Edkins, Strong, Bray
09.09	Hinckley Town	A	LSL	1-2	Elsworth
09.16	Brierley Hill Alliance	H	FAC Prelim.	2-3	Strong (2)
09.23	Burton Swifts Reserves	H	LSL	1-1	Dearne
09.30	Stockingford	A	HCHC 1	0-0	
10.07	Earl Shilton Town	A	LSC 1	2-2	Elsworth, Dearne
10.14	Earl Shilton Town	H	LSC 1r	2-2*	Dearne (2) *AET
10.21	Barwell Swifts	A	LSL	1-3	Cooper
10.28	Earl Shilton Town	H	LSC 1r2	5-0*	Elsworth (2), Edkins (2), Beale *Earl Shilton protest over Dearne. Town ceded.
11.11	Stockingford	H	HCHC 1r	2-4	Adams, Elsworth (p)
11.25	Small Heath Excelsior	H	Fr	2-1	Strong (2)
12.09	Barwell Swifts	H	LSL	1-0*	Griffiths *Abandoned 80 – bad light.
12.23	Foleshill Great Heath	H	Fr	4-1	Elsworth, Holmes, Tomlinson, unknown scorer (p)
12.25	Nuneaton & District League XI	H	Fr	2-3	Scorers unknown
12.26	Stockingford	H	Fr	2-2	Griffiths, unknown scorer
12.30	Swadlincote Town	H	LSL	3-1	Walker (2), Strong

1900

01.06	Coalville Town	A	LSL	3-1	Smith, Tomlinson, Strong
01.13	Earl Shilton Town	H	LSL	3-0	Holmes (2), Elsworth
01.20	Gresley Rovers	H	LSL	1-0	Walker
01.27	Newport (Salop)	A	WSC 2	1-1	Walker
02.10	Burton Swifts Reserves	H	Fr	1-0	Holmes
02.17	Swadlincote Town	A	LSL	1-4	Scorer unknown
02.24	Leicester Fosse Reserves	H	Fr	0-1	
03.10	Earl Shilton Town	A	LSL	1-1	Walker
03.17	Hinckley Town	H	LSL	1-1	Walker Record crowd 2,000 Arbury Road
03.24	Coalville Town	H	LSL	0-3	
03.31	Barwell Swifts	H	LSL	5-0	Holmes (2), Walker, Tomlinson, Scorer unknown
04.09	Wolves Reserves	H	WSC SF	0-1	
04.14	Coalville Albion	A	LSL	3-1	Scorers unknown
04.16	Atherstone Town	A	Fr	1-1	Scorer unknown
04.18	Hinckley Town	A	Fr	1-2	Scorer unknown

LSL = Leicestershire Senior League, FAC = English (F.A.) Cup, HCHC = Hinckley Cottage Hospital Cup, LSC = Leicestershire Senior Cup, Fr = Friendly, WSC = Walsall Senior Cup

Nuneaton scores first.

The Boer War (1899-1902)

The war took place between The British Empire and Transvaal and the Orange Free State. Both of these states were set up by Dutch and German Protestant settlers known as 'Boers' who, disapproving of how the British were running the Cape Colony in the West of modern South Africa, migrated to the Eastern part of that country in the early 19th century. They displaced the original African inhabitants, while at the same time reducing their status to below that in all of the contemporary Western African colonies of the time, apart from the Belgian Congo. There had long been tension between the Boer Republics and the British over border incursions by British backed mercenaries and attempts to destabilize them via internal political wrangling.

The reason why the war started was ostensibly over the discrimination against, and in the specific incident which triggered the war, a case of extrajudicial murder of ethnic British settlers in the Boer Republics, who despite being the largest ethnic group in the Boer Republics, were accorded less rights than the Boers themselves. Many, however, were sceptical of this rationale due to the fact that both of the Boer Republics were rich in diamonds, gold and other rare minerals. In Nuneaton these tensions were played out in the letter pages of the local papers where anonymous correspondents with nom de guerre's such as 'Adam Bede' and 'Felix Holt' debated the meaning of concepts such as patriotism and honour.

For those who felt particularly strongly they could join the Nuneaton branch of the South African Conciliation Committee, an organisation set up nationwide to oppose the war by a mixture of pacifists, anti-imperialists and ethnic Boers. The Nuneaton chapter was set up by John Hosking and had its headquarters at 48 Edward Street in the town. Hosking states the committee's aim in Nuneaton is to "spread accurate information by means of lectures, meetings, [and] the circulation of literature".

Hosking goes on to state "we wish 'the man in the street' to know who has cleverly engineered this war upon us". Hosking then goes on to state that the ones who brought the war about were "millionaire Jews" bent on "annihilating the Boers" in order to grab their land. The paranoia and anti-Semitism of Hosking cannot be excused in any way or form, but it must be noted that alongside such poisonous views that influenced the South African Conciliation Committee, there were many moderate and progressive persons including many members of the Liberal Party.

In the main part, the British public supported the Boer War, as shown by the abject failure of anti-war candidates standing in the 1900 election. Every town had its own

citizens fighting in the war, and Nuneaton was no exception. In 1900, Private W. Cooke of the No.2 Co. 2nd Coldstream Guards, a native of Attleborough, wrote a letter that was published in the Nuneaton Observer about his experiences of the war. Private Cooke spoke about the suffering of his fellow men saying "in the last battle we fought, there was a shell dropped close against one of our fellows and he has not spoken since, as it struck him deaf and dumb. Private Cooke also speaks of the battle of Belmont, an engagement in November 1899, as part of General Methuen's attempt to relieve Kimberley stating "There was one on a cycle, and we could see the bullets falling all around him. I don't know whether he was hit or not, but he got away, and since we left there, I don't think I have seen a dozen Boers altogether, but we could hear the bullets and shells flying fast enough. I should just like us to have their position once, and them come out and attack us, the same as we do them. It would not be so bad if we could see something to fire at."

Like in all conflicts Britain has been involved in before and since, the British people rallied around their troops and hoped to win so that their sacrifices wouldn't be in vain. An example of the people of Nuneaton's deep commitment to the troops can be seen in celebrations that followed the lifting of the siege of Ladysmith, meaning that many British troops who were cut off and surrounded in Boer held territory for four months, were safe from annihilation. The first person in Nuneaton to hear the news was a Mr. T. J. Lilley at the Holly Bush, who then went to the law courts, to tell the magistrates clerk Mr. W. Armishaw who proclaimed the news in the open court. As the news spread, the people of Nuneaton "speedily hoisted the emblem of freedom, the Union Jack" in almost every street. Fifty children from the town's Catholic schools spontaneously arranged a street parade in the streets around Coton Road, marching and singing the national anthem. By evening the town's churches had rung their bells and the town band had led a crowd through the town centre.

The original Buller Memorial statue was unveiled in 1905 and was paid for by public subscription through the Midland Counties Tribune. The original statue was stolen in 2006, but a replacement was commissioned and unveiled in 2008.

Article researched and compiled by Dr. Michael Day



Didn't It Rain



On the morning of December 30th 1900, there was heavy rainfall throughout much of central and south west England. Flooding was a problem as a result of the autumn and winter being excessively wet and windy and Nuneaton and nearby cities such as Birmingham and Coventry were affected.

In Nuneaton, in the middle of a howling gale, the flooding started between midnight and 1am with the Anker river, already several times fuller than normal due to previous rain, quickly overflowing.

Alert shopkeepers acted quickly, moving their stock to the first floor, some remembering the flood of July of 1875 and its affect on the town. The flood of 1900 was to be of a more severe magnitude with the highest watermark being 22 and a half inches of water higher than the previous deluge.

Those shop owners and factory owners that didn't take necessary precautions before the flood, would wish afterwards that they had, as the flood caused thousands of pounds worth of damage, with some businesses incurring hundreds of pounds worth of ruined stock and machinery alone, with firefighters spending several days pumping water out of buildings in the town.

Symptomatic of the damage was the towns' post office, which lost £500 worth of stamps to flood damage, and were unable to use the telegraph equipment until the forms used to fill out the messages had dried out. Full postal services were interrupted until the following day. The Electric Light Works in Coton Road were also flooded, meaning that electricity was not available until the following day. The Anker Mills were the most severely damaged of the town's factories with the machinery inside being waterlogged.

The towns' Conservative Club in Bond Street was flooded and a ball that had been arranged for New Year's Eve, had to be postponed. In the middle of the club near its submerged skittle aisles, someone had put a sign saying "Conservative Club swimming baths now open; season tickets to be had on application to the manager. Water polo extra".

The Jewellery shop of Mr Black, in Market Place, was badly affected and his day was made worse when whilst surveying the damage to his residential property in Attleborough Road, he slipped and dislocated his shoulder.

The concern of many of the people of Nuneaton was to rescue the working animals of the town from the rising

waters. Many of the animals rescued were horses, with several horses at Randle's Corn and Hay Dealership rescued from drowning by the vet, Mr Simpson, and similar rescues undertaken at the town's flour and wool mills. Horses were the priority for rescue with other animals only being rescued if there were enough time and resources to do so. In the wool mill, two of three pigs residing there drowned as there was not enough resources to mount a successful rescue attempt and in Attleborough residents' pigs and chickens drowned in relatively high numbers. On the field of the town grammar school, two cows were rescued by boat by a team of helpers including a man described as "The Nuneaton Footballer Davidson". The cows were later taken to the stables of a Mrs Lea.



The flood's geographical range was extensive with Chilvers Coton, Attleborough, Arbury Road (where the water is described as cascading over the allotments there like "a miniature Niagara") as well as the town centre. The water was at its deepest and most dangerous in Bond Street near the Conservative Club and Granby Head Inn, with strong currents in the waters reported in the vicinity. Not all the people of Nuneaton saw the deluge as a tragedy.

For many, particularly the manual workers, it was seen as an extra day of holiday and was utilised accordingly. A crowd of onlookers gathered on higher ground on the embankments near the sheds of the London and Western Railway where there were excellent views to be had.

Owners of horse drawn carriages could make a generous fare by operating as taxis to ferry people through the floods either for business or as a sightseeing trip. The Chronicle regarded this activity as a disaster waiting to happen, that luckily never occurred. Collisions were narrowly averted, people fell in occasionally, and the horses unnerved by unaccustomed sights, such as swimming dogs and floating barrels, often panicked and swam instead of walking. The barrels were from pubs such as the Queen's Head and the Holly Bush which were flooded, and whose alcohol supplies were almost wiped out. Many other pubs such as the Clock Inn, The Peacock Inn, the Board Inn and Newdegate Arms were unable to open for the entire day.

Researched and compiled by Dr. Michael Day.
Photos courtesy of Nuneaton Memories.

Season 1900-01



Richard Townsend, landlord of the Granby Head

In 1900, after a successful season in the Leicestershire Senior League, Nuneaton Town lost their Arbury Road ground as a result of a court case in which the executors of the late Richard Townsend, landlord of the Granby Head, Church Street, sued the club for the sum of £46 18s.

Richard Townsend had been the club's guarantor for the ground, but his death meant that they were unable to find a new ground in time for the 1900-01 season. Nuneaton Town therefore closed down for the time being.

The timeline of events is as follows:

May 5th 1900

At the Nuneaton County Court on Saturday, May 5, an action was brought by the executors of the late Richard Townsend of the Granby Head, Church Street, against the committee of the Nuneaton A.F.C. The plaint was as follows: December 20th 1898 money lent by Mr Townsend to the club £28; August 17th 1899 money lent £18 18s.

May 28th 1900

Money lent totalled £46 18s. The judge thought it would have been better settled out of court. The club offered to pay £16 18s but not the rest. Plaintiffs agreed out of court to accept judgement for £30 in instalments of £3 a month.

August 1st 1900

AGM at Granby Head. Attendance not large. Chairman A. C. Slade; Secretary Mr Stockley. Subs: £18 7s 6d; Gate money £118 10s. 6d.; from Walsall Cup £5; from soiree £2 plus other items. Total £167 10s. 6d. Wages and travelling £89; refreshments, £11 13s. 6d; referees £5 9s. 2d.; visiting teams £16 4s.; printing £9 0s. 4d.; stamps, etc., £1 8s. 10d. There was £25 owing accounts and £10 players wages; also £11 borrowed of which about £5 had been repaid. A draw had been held and it was hoped to pay back the rest.

The Chairman said the weather had been bad but thought that next season would be better. The Leicestershire Senior League had decided to run with six clubs and Town were to enter, although they had no field at that time and couldn't afford last season's prices.

August 15th 1900

Club announced defunct.

September

Many offers of help had been received but there was a problem in finding a ground. Players had moved to other clubs, especially Hinckley, who were making their debut in the Midland League. Their first match was at home against Wellingborough when 1,800 attended the Holywell Ground.

At a meeting of Nuneaton Urban District Council, it was proposed that Arbury Road's name was changed to Queen Victoria Road. Some spoke against the proposal as it was thought that it might cause confusion with Victoria Street.

Eventually, it was decided that the road would now be known as Queen's Road.

Association Football in Nuneaton

A rumour has been current about the town that a limited liability football club for Nuneaton is about to be formed for next season and that they are going to lease the old football ground at the back of the Rose Inn in Coton Road, which they will fence all round with 10 foot zinc.

There is no reason why the town should not be able to support both a first class Rugby and an Association Club, and there has been a scarcity of home fixtures this season, which had there been two town clubs, would not have occurred.

Anyhow, if the town is going to have a good Association Club next season, now is the time to think about it.

The Rose Inn Ground

Quite a transformation has taken place at the old football ground at the back of the Rose Inn on Coton Road. The ground has been fenced in with corrugated iron, and a fine large stand erected. There is an entrance to the ground in Edward Street.

Season 1901-02

At the start of the 1901-02 season a new club, Nuneaton Juniors, was started by members of the Nuneaton Town committee, including chairman Mr A. C. Slade, who rented for a guinea a match, a ground behind the Rose Inn, belonging to Mr. A. Jeffcoate.

The Juniors gathered a useful squad of local players and enjoyed a good season in the Nuneaton and District League.

To celebrate the opening of their league engagements the club president Mr. R. Stanley, J.P., was invited to kick off the game against Hawkesbury. Nuneaton Juniors started off their campaign with a 3-1 win, during which they also had a penalty saved by the keeper. The next match was another win, this time 4-2 against Ansley Hall at Edward Street.

Nuneaton Town 1894-1919 Part 1



With the team playing at such a lowly level at this stage, the Observer's coverage of the games is sketchy to say the least and only towards the end of the season, when it looked as though the Juniors may be in with a chance of the title did match reports resume, only to tail off again after a couple of defeats ruled them out of the running.

Juniors then went down in consecutive away matches, a 0-2 defeat in a league encounter against Chilvers Coton and a friendly match at Leamington Parish Church, in which they were soundly beaten by 5 goals to nil.

Juniors won a friendly against Nuneaton Albion 3-2, with Harris scoring two first half goals and rounding off his hat trick with a second half penalty. This was followed by another league defeat to Chilvers Coton, 3-4.

Juniors went out of the local cup competitions in the early rounds, exiting the Atherstone Nursing Cup in the first round, going down to Dordon Athletic after a replay.

They made some progress in the Nuneaton Hospital Minor Cup, beating Stockingford Reserves 4-2, which won them the right to face Hartshill away, who thrashed them 7-0.

In between the cup ties Juniors played Lockhurst Lane EMC twice, winning the away game 3-0 and the home game 3-1.

After Christmas, Juniors again faced Hartshill in a league fixture at Edward Street, with ex-Nuneaton Town player Bally Carris taking the field for the home side, who won 2-1 with two goals from V. Mallabone. This was Hartshill's first defeat of the season.

Juniors started the New Year with a 1-0 victory at home to Nuneaton Albion and a 1-1 draw at Hawkesbury Lane followed by a 5-2 home win against Stockingford Reserves.

There was a Mallabone hat-trick in a 5-2 away win at Nuneaton Albion before they avenged their two previous defeats against Chilvers Coton with a 2-1 win at Edward Street.

The game at home to Atherstone Wanderers was reported as having attracted a fair crowd and Juniors ran out 2-1 winners before playing out a 2-2 draw against Lockhurst Lane EMS.

After their eight match unbeaten spell, Stockingford Reserves brought Juniors back down to earth, inflicting a 3-1 defeat at the Stockingford ground. Juniors had Bally Carris of Foleshill Great Heath guesting again, and Stockingford had packed their Reserve side with first team players.

There was a fair gathering and during the first half Juniors matched the home side, but T. Moore just missed with a header and the visitors then forced three successive corners. Taylor scored for the home side who went in 1-0 at the break.

Stockingford almost scored straight after the break, again through Taylor, but Hales and B. Moore were playing well for the visitors and it wasn't long before T. Moore equalised.

Juniors had the best of it for a period before Jeffcoat scored for the "Ford" following an overhead shot by Clarke. The

home side put the ball out of play at every opportunity to protect their lead. The Juniors kept the home side penned in their own half, but could not score and the match ended 3-1 to Stockingford Reserves.

The away fixture against Griff Colliery Rovers at the Griff ground was a narrow 1-0 victory with T. Moore scoring for the Juniors after just three minutes. After half time Mallabone almost added another with an overhead kick, but despite having most of the game, Juniors did not add to their total.

At the away fixture at Hartshill, the home team played with ten men for the opening ten minutes. When up to full complement, they went ahead through Gadsby, with 15 minutes gone. Storer extended the lead before half-time shooting through Hingley's legs, and Hartshill were well on top at the break.

The home side were again on top at the start of the second half and Everitt added a third for Hartshill with a good shot. Storer head in from a corner to make it four. Hales and Hingley got themselves in a tangle following a shot from Betteridge and the ball rolled into the net to make it 5-0 to Hartshill.

At the end of March, with the season quickly petering out, Juniors travelled to Atherstone Wanderers. This was a game spoilt by the wind and although fairly even throughout the first half, Joyce gave the home side the lead following a corner. T. Moore then hit the crossbar, but the ball was cleared upfield. The game was evenly contested at this point, but Juniors were unfortunate not to score following a scrimmage in front of the Wanderers' goal.

After the break there was a dangerous scrimmage in front of the Juniors' goal, but Arnold cleared into midfield. Willis then missed a chance to score for Atherstone, before making amends with a free kick just before time, giving the home side a 2-0 victory.

Foleshill St Paul's who had won their way through to two local cup finals sent a side to Edward Street on Easter Monday for a friendly match. Although Beesley scored a hat trick for the home side, Foleshill edged home with a 4-3 victory.

There was a good attendance at Edward Street for the final match of the season against Griff Colliery Rovers. The home side pressed early on and Beesley scored from distance after 15 minutes. Smith then sent in a swift shot, and when Cooper missed from the resulting chance, Smith followed in to score.

The Juniors kept up the pressure and Beesley scored again, but was pulled back for off-side. Tallis scored for the visitors before T. Moore scored right on the stroke of half-time to give the home side a 3-1 interval lead. The visitors pressed at the start of the second half, but Nuneaton defended well through Ford and Hales. Moore stopped a rush by the visitors before Beesley shot a splendid goal for Juniors.

Mallabone missed with a good shot, but scored with a fine shot, the goalkeeper having tumbled. Smith put a shot over the bar, and at full time the home side had won 5-2.



1901					
09.14	Hawkesbury Lane	H	NDL	3-1	Edwards 2, Smith
09.21	Ansley Hall	H	NDL	4-2	Harris, Taylor, Sharpe 2
09.28	Chilvers Coton	A	NDL	0-2	
10.05	Leamington Parish Church	A	Fr	0-5	
10.19	Nuneaton Albion	A	Fr	3-2	Harris 3 (1 pen)
10.??	Chilvers Coton	H	NDL	3-4	Scorers unknown
10.26	Dordon Athletic	H	ANC1	1-1	Scorer unknown
11.02	Ansley Hall	A	NDL	1-0	T.Moore
11.09	Dordon Athletic	A	ANC1 Rep.	0-0*	*Abandoned 78mins – Bad Light
11.16	Stockingford Reserves	A	NHMC1	4-2*	Taylor 2, Harris, Smith *Abandoned 89mins. Result stood
11.23	Lockhurst Lane EMC	A	NDL	3-0	Mallabone 3?
11.30	Dordon Athletic	A	ANC1 Rep.	0-2	
12.07	Lockhurst Lane EMC	H	NDL	3-1	T. Moore, Taylor, Harris
12.21	Hartshill	A	NHMC2	0-7	
12.28	Hartshill	H	NDL	2-1	Mallabone 2
1902					
01.04	Nuneaton Albion	H	NDL	1-0	Jones
01.11	Hawkesbury Lane	A	NDL	1-1	Harris
01.18	Stockingford Reserves	H	NDL	5-2	Harris 2, Taylor, Smith, Mallabone
01.25	Nuneaton Albion	A	NDL	5-0	Mallabone 3, Beasley, T. Moore
02.08	Chilvers Coton	H	Fr	2-1	Davis, Stringer
02.22	Atherstone Wanderers	H	NDL	2-0	T. Moore, Smith
03.01	Lockhurst Lane EMS	N	Fr 1	2-2	Smith, Mallabone
03.08	Stockingford Reserves	A	NDL	1-3	T. Moore
03.15	Griff Colliery Rovers	A	NDL	1-0	T. Moore
03.22	Hartshill	A	NDL	0-5	
03.29	Atherstone Wanderers	A	NDL	0-2	
04.01	Foleshill St Pauls	H	Fr	3-4	Beesley 3
04.05	Griff Colliery Rovers	H	NDL	5-2	Beesley 2, Mallabone, Smith, T. Moore

NDL = Nuneaton & District League, ANC = Atherstone Nursing Cup, NHMC = Nuneaton Hospital Minor Cup, Fr = Friendly

Nuneaton scores first.

AGM July 1902

At the A.G.M. of Nuneaton Juniors held in July at the Granby Head, it was decided to rename the club Nuneaton Town. Membership of the Nuneaton and District League was secured and new players signed including six from Hartshill.

The Nuneaton Town club were considering entry into the Nuneaton, Atherstone and Polesworth cups and maybe the Birmingham Cup.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT

**CURES BRONCHITIS, ASTHMA, INFLUENZA,
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Season 1902-03

The Club opened the season with a friendly against Chilvers Coton, at Edward Street, before a fair attendance. The Town were poorly represented, starting with only eight men. Coton had a full complement, but were described as a poor side. Town won 1-0 with a goal from T. Moore.

They followed this up with another narrow friendly win against Glascote St. George's of the Trent Valley League. Glascote kicked towards the Edward Street end in front of a fair crowd and took an early lead through Everett. Ball then equalised for Town from the penalty spot after Arnold had fouled T. Moore.

The second half saw Nuneaton on top and when Betteridge broke away, he was pushed over, giving Ball the chance to net his second penalty of the afternoon and at the final whistle the score was 2-1 to the home side.

The first league match produced a 7-1 victory over Atherstone Wanderers, and then on the 27th of September, 1902 came a 19-0 thrashing of Mancetter Wanderers, the highest-ever score by any of the Nuneaton Town clubs. Nuneaton's scorers that day were Siviter 6, T. Moore 5, Jones 4, Betteridge 2, Mallabone 1 and Taylor 1. Goals came thick and fast for the 'Town' that season such was their ascendancy over other teams!

Town played a couple of friendly matches in which they lost 1-0 to Atherstone Town and beat Nuneaton Albion 3-1. In the next league match Siviter netted a hat trick in a 9-2 thrashing of Griff Colliery Rovers.

A 2-0 friendly win against Chilvers Coton was secured, which was followed by an Atherstone Nursing Cup 1st Round tie against top of the table Stockingford away.

Nuneaton opened strongly and Storer made a fine run early on and won a corner, from which Siviter opened the scoring to much applause. When the game restarted it was end-to-end stuff with Nuneaton showing good defence, but when Alban Moore tested Stirley, although he saved, the goalkeeper threw the ball straight out to Grice who equalised.

Stirley was then called on to save on more than one occasion. T. Moore had a good chance to put Nuneaton ahead, but overran the ball with only the goalkeeper to beat. At this stage play was very exciting and fast. Half-time came with the score at 1-1, but Nuneaton having had slightly the better of it.

Town hit the bar and post at the start of the second half and Powell was forced to punch away from Everett at the expense of a corner. Play then transferred to the other end where following a scrimmage in front of the away team's goal, Carter gave Stockingford the lead amidst loud cheers.

Town attacked vigorously and Storer had a goal disallowed. At this stage Town had the home team pinned in their own half and were playing in 'splendid fashion'. The quality of their passing eventually did for the Stockingford defence and Betteridge equalised with a lightning shot.

Nuneaton took the lead through T. Moore, amid much

excitement. The home supporters replied with their war cry of "Go on Colliers", before Siviter dribbled past the 'Ford defence and had just the keeper to beat, but the ball was taken off his toe by Storer, who put the ball in the net, but was given offside.

Siviter got his second goal of the afternoon to give Town a two goal lead. Storer got another offside goal and Jones just missed with a fine shot. At the final whistle Town had won 4-2.

The away match at Kingfields, Coventry, was a 5-0 rout with Storer scoring four of the goals, and Siviter adding another to his impressive tally.

The Town side faced Stockingford again in a Minor Cup first round tie, again at Stockingford, in front of a large crowd.

Storer missed a great opportunity for the visitors early on, but he then received a pass from Siviter, putting the ball into the net to give the visitors the lead. Cooper scored a goal for Stockingford which was ruled offside.

Curl then got the equaliser, banging the ball into the net with Stirley on the ground. G. Moore added to Ford's tally putting the ball through Stirley's legs for a 2-1 half-time lead.

Stockingford started the second half, but Storer was involved in the first action when he crossed for Siviter who put the ball into the net, but the goal was disallowed. Ford got away and forced a corner from which Curl extended their advantage.

Cooper scored following a centre, taking the ball past the Town defence before putting the ball into the net. The same player then scored again, putting in a lightning shot which Stirley failed to reach. Storer ran through the Stockingford defence, but Powell took the ball off his toe and the game ended 5-1 to the home side.

Town faced Atherstone Wanderers in consecutive away matches, beating them 1-0 in the Polesworth Cup and securing a league point with a 1-1 draw.

Nuneaton entertained Grendon the following week in an Atherstone Nursing Cup 2nd Round game. A poor attendance watched the home side overrun their visitors, building up a 4-0 half-time lead. The second half was a closer affair, but come the final whistle Town had secured an 8-3 win, with Everett and Storer both getting hat-tricks.

An easy win at Aldermans Green in the league followed. Everett again notching a hat-trick in a 6-1 stroll. Storer scored two and Betteridge completed the scoring. The Christmas period consisted of two friendlies, both of them won, 3-1 against Tamworth Athletic and 4-0 against Stockingford. Everett again scoring in both matches.

The New Year saw an absolute goal fest, with three consecutive league wins: 9-1 against Nuneaton Albion, at home; an 8-0 home win against Alderman's Green; and a 6-0 away thrashing for Griff Colliery Rovers to accompany their 9-2 early season defeat.

A home friendly with Foleshill St Paul's saw a good crowd and a good game. The visitors' forwards were far superior on the day, as Storer missed three or four chances and Town missing

Nuneaton Town 1894-1919 Part 1



the services of Siviter. Although Storer notched two goals, including a penalty, Foleshill ran out 3-2 winners.

The match against Chilvers Coton at Edward Street, in front of a good gate, saw Town kick-off into a strong wind. It was a sensational start when Siviter scored within three minutes. Throne then sent in a long shot, from which Stirley was forced to concede a corner, before Jones scored with a simple goal, but Coton cut the deficit when Farmer beat Stirley with a 'capital shot'. Storer restored the two goal lead, with Town going in with a 3-1 lead at the interval.

With the wind at their backs for the second period, Jones increased Town's lead to 4-1, after a good bout of passing and Storer and Jones added to the tally before the final whistle.

Old foes Stockingford visited Edward Street for the first league encounter of the season, and a good 'gate' in attendance. In the first five minutes Hands banged the ball up field and Storer took possession, let fly at goal and beat Powell for the first goal. Tom Moore later made a good run, from which Siviter scored with a cross shot.

Although "Ford" were playing for all they were worth, Town worked the ball upfield where Storer scored again. Both Smith and Jones went close after good runs and Tom Moore had a similar experience, but half-time saw the visitors trailing 3-0.

The second half opened at pace with both teams having shots. Kendall was penalised for handball, but Stirley made a great save, which was rewarded with loud applause. Moore scored for the "Ford", but Town scored twice more, putting them at the top of the league.

Town went to Sheepy Road to face Fazeley Swifts in the Atherstone Nursing Cup semi-final. In front of a good crowd, Siviter kicked off, but it was Stirley who was first in action. Harper hit the bar for Fazeley and Whitehouse put in a terrific shot from the rebound, but Stirley pulled off a good save. Fazeley forced several corners, but it was 0-0 at the break. Griffiths cleared twice for Fazeley, but 25 minutes after the break, Siviter breasted the ball into the net. Fazeley had several corners before the final whistle, but Town defended stubbornly.

Aston Villa Reserves then visited Edward Street, in a match that attracted a crowd of 2,000. The Villa team included James Cowen (Scotland) and Albert Evans (England) in their line-up. Mr. Thos. Horton, J.P., CC., kicked off.

Although Stirley saved well from Humphries, Costello took possession and passed neatly to Felton who scored a splendid goal. Before half-time Marshall in clearing kicked the ball against B. Moore with such force that it cannoned into the net to give Villa a 2-0 half-time lead.

England international Albert Evans was injured in the first half, which was unfortunate as he was being given a run-out with a view to facing Tottenham the following Saturday.

Shorter skimmed the bar for Villa before Everett got away, but his run was brought to a halt, which led to the ball being fed

to Felton, who raced away like a "park hare". Before the end Shorter headed a third from a corner.

Town, unbeaten in the league, faced Coton in an away fixture. The pitch was sodden and the players found it difficult to keep their feet, but Storer opened the scoring in Town's favour after 10 minutes. Coton then shot, forcing Stirley to concede a corner. Siviter scored again for Nuneaton and the game finished 2-0 to the visitors.

Nuneaton Albion were beaten on their own patch by 4-2, Storer notching two and Siviter on the scoresheet again. This was followed by an 8-1 home win against Coventry Kingfield. The visitors had reached the semi-final of the Nuneaton Cup, and had brought a strong team, but it was a one-sided affair, the home team going in 5-0 up at half time. The second half was more even, but although the visitors scored a good goal, Town added three more before the final whistle.

Leicester Fosse Reserves visited Edward Street for a friendly match and went home with a 3-1 victory, Ball scoring for the home side to give them a half-time lead. Town were without the services of Stirley, Everett and Moore.

Inevitably, it was Stockingford who first lowered the Town's colours in a league match when they won the return game 3-2, but this was on April 11th, near the end of the season.

The Town played Atherstone in the final of the Atherstone Nursing Cup on the morning of Easter Monday at Sheepy Road, in which Nuneaton found themselves a man short for the first few minutes due to Atkins late arrival.

Cotterill made the first contribution of any note when he got in a beautiful centre, which Kendall cleared. Barker opened the scoring just before the arrival of Atkins. No longer being at a disadvantage numbers wise, Nuneaton came more into the game and Tom Moore was especially brilliant.

The scores were brought equal when Starkey headed out and Kendall hit a fine shot past Adders keeper Clarke. Atherstone though maintained the upper hand with two goals before half time making it 3-1 at the break.

Stirley made a good save before Town broke away, forcing Clarke to clear before being tested by a shot from Everitt. Storer put in a fine centre which was just out of the reach of Tom Moore. Although Moore cut the deficit, the Adders held on to take the trophy by 3-2.

There was a benefit match played the same day in aid of P. Eaton who broke his leg playing for Nuneaton Albion against Town in March. The next day Town lost 5-0 to Hinckley in a friendly match. The final two matches of the season were both league matches against Chapel End United, who it is said played a particularly rough game.

Despite losing one league match all season, Nuneaton only just pipped Stockingford by one point to become champions of the Nuneaton and District League. Nuneaton once more had a team to be proud of.

Nuneaton Town 1894-1919 Part 1



1902

09.06	Chivers Coton	H	Fr	1-0	T. Moore	Started with 8 men
09.13	Glascote St George's	H	Fr	2-1	Ball (2 pens)	
09.20	Atherstone Wanderers	H	NDL	7-1	Marshall, Jones, Everitt 2, Siviter, Betteridge, T. Moore	
09.27	Mancetter Wanderers	H	NDL	19-0	Mallabone, Taylor, Jones 4, Siviter 6, T. Moore 5, Betteridge 2	
10.04	Atherstone Town	A	Fr	0-1		
10.11	Nuneaton Albion	A	Fr 1	3-1	T. Moore 2, Siviter	
10.18	Griff Colliery Rovers	H	NDL	9-2	Siviter 3, Jones 2, Marshall, Hands, Betteridge, own goal	
10.25	Chivers Coton	A	Fr	2-0	T. Moore, Marshall	
11.01	Stockingford FC	A	ANC1	4-2	Siviter 2, Betteridge, T. Moore	
11.02	Coventry Kingfield	A	NDL	5-0	Storer 5, Siviter	
11.15	Stockingford FC	A	NHMC1	1-5	Storer	
11.22	Athersone Wanderers	A	PC1	1-0	Siviter	
11.29	Atherstone Wanderers	A	NDL	1-1	Siviter	
12.06	Grendon	H	ANC2	8-3	Everitt 3, Storer 3, T. Moore, own goal	
12.13	Alderman's Green	A	NDL	6-1	Everitt 3, Storer 2, Betteridge	
12.20	Tamworth Athletic	A	Fr	3-1	Everitt, Storer, own goal	
12.27	Stockingford FC	H	Fr	4-0	Everitt 2, Betteridge, T. Moore	

1903

01.10	Nuneaton Albion	H	NDL	9-1	Storer 4, Siviter 2, T. Moore, Everitt, Hands	
01.17	Alderman's Green	H	NDL	8-0	Everitt 3, Siviter 2, Storer 2, Marshall (pen)	
01.24	Griff Colliery Rovers	A	NDL	6-0	Betteridge 2, Siviter, Everitt, T. Moore, goalscorer missing	
01.31	Foleshill St Paul's	H	Fr	2-3	Storer 2 (1 pen)	
02.07	Chivers Coton	H	NDL	6-1	Jones 3, Storer 2, Siviter	
02.14	Stockingford FC	H	NDL	5-1	Storer 2, Siviter, 2 goalscorers missing	
02.21	Fazeley Swifts	N	ANC sf	1-0	Siviter	At Sheepy Road
02.28	Aston Villa Reserves	H	Fr	0-3		
03.07	Chivers Coton	A	NDL	2-0	Storer, Siviter	
03.21	Nuneaton Albion	A	NDL	4-2	Storer 2, T. Moore, Siviter	
03.28	Coventry Kingfield	H	NDL	8-1	Siviter 2, Storer, Marshall, Betteridge, Everitt, 2 own goals	Town started with 9 men
04.04	Leicester Fosse Reserves	H	Fr	1-3	Ball	
04.11	Stockingford FC	A	NDL	2-3	Storer 2	
04.13	Atherstone Town	A	ANC f	2-3	T. Moore, Kendall	At Sheepy Road
04.13	Nuneaton Albion	H	BM	2-1	Savage 2	
					Benefit for P Eaton who broke his leg v Town on Mar 21. Team consisted of 3 regular Town players, 2 Stockinford & remainder mainly for Nuneaton St Marys	
04.14	Hinckley	H	Fr	0-5		
04.15	Chapel End United	H	NDL	6-1	Scorers unknown	
04.18	Chapel End United	A	NDL	2-2	Storer, Everitt	

NDL = Nuneaton & District League, ANC = Atherstone Nursing Cup, NHMC = Nuneaton Hospital Minor Cup, PC = Polesworth Cup, Fr = Friendly 1 = League Funds match, BM = Benefit Match for P Eaton

Nuneaton scores first.



The Ground

Nuneaton Town have experienced some difficulty as regards a ground. They could not come to terms again with Mr. Arthur Jeffcoat for the Edward Street ground. Now they have secured the ground in Queen's Road, held by the old Town Club when Association football in Nuneaton was more vigorous. Had the ground been ready, a practice match would have been held on Saturday afternoon.

1903-1904

Nuneaton's first Championship win encouraged the committee to enter the club in the Trent Valley Combination and to return to their old ground in Queen's Road.

Fellow members of the league were Atherstone Town, Glascote St. Georges, Polesworth Athletic, Tamworth Athletic, Wilnecote Wanderers and Kettlebrook Oakfield, better known as 'The Potstreamers!' Nuneaton's new ground, Daffern's Field, was situated in Queen's Road opposite Mount Street. The team looked very smart in their new-style blue and white kit.

Town kicked off with a friendly match against Fazeley Swifts, who had been champions the previous season, losing 2-3, with Tom Moore scoring a brace.

Nuneaton were starting the season at a distinct disadvantage through the fact that they had lost several of their squad to the new Hartshill club.

The opening league match was a total disaster, with many of their key players missing they travelled to Polesworth, where they were on the wrong end of a 7-1 result.

Glascote St George's visited Queen's Road the following Saturday and the previous week's result at Polesworth was put behind them as Town ran out 3-1 winners. Tom Moore opened the scoring for the home side after 20 minutes, only for Glascote to pull level after half an hour's play. Both teams came close after the break, but Siviter gave Town the lead, which was then added to by Moore, who bagged his second of the game.

There was a protest submitted by Glascote that the crowd had encroached onto the pitch during the match.

Town then travelled to Kettlebrook Oakfield. After a goalless first half, play became very exciting after the break, when Nuneaton just missed the target from a free kick. With 15 minutes left, Siviter scored the only goal of the game.

The visit of Tamworth Athletic saw the visitors roll up late, and the kick-off was delayed by 30 minutes. When the match eventually got going, Nuneaton kicked off towards the Queen's Road end. Ball put in two shots in quick succession and Siviter netted, but was given offside.

North put in a shot from the half-way line which went just over the bar. Then Kendall sent in a shot from the right which beat the keeper and sailed into the top corner. Before the break Siviter beat the visitors' back line and took the ball right up to the goal, only to be robbed by Jeffcoate.

The visitors equalised just after half-time when Town's Jeffcoat handled and a penalty was awarded. Wright easily beat Goodman. At the other end, Town forced two corners in quick succession, Savage going close from one of them. Unfortunately, Tamworth notched another goal towards the end when Faulkener beat Goodman from close range and the home team went down 2-1.

The following two league games yielded a single point from a 2-2 draw with Wilnecote Wanderers followed by another defeat by Tamworth Athletic, this time a more comprehensive 3-0 win for the home side.

The home league game against Wilnecote saw Town at their best, cruising to a 5-0 win with Savage notching two of them.

A Tom Moore hat-trick was a feature of the 6-2 win over Foleshill St George's in the first round of the Nuneaton Hospitals Minor Cup. Although drawing 2-2 at the break, Nuneaton totally outplayed their visitors, who then protested about Ball and Wilson being ineligible.

Town entertained an Aston Villa XI in a friendly at Queen's Road which the visitors won 4-2 in atrocious conditions and in front of a small crowd of about 900.

A fair amount of Atherstone Town supporters swelled the crowd for the league match at Queen's Road. The match was a feisty affair both on and off the pitch. The visitors scored in the latter stages of the first half, which led to the Atherstone fans throwing their hats in the air, cheering and getting really lively. However, when Town equalised a few minutes later Atherstone fans and players got a little downhearted, and some vindictive. "Wait until you come to Atherstone!" was heard. "Then we'll give you some stick!" The Atherstone captain was heard to appeal to his players to "play football".

To add to the atmosphere Nuneaton then scored what many thought was a perfectly good goal, but it was ruled offside. To make matters worse Billy Ball then accidentally kicked one of the Atherstone players, which led to more harsh words.

Town next played away at Amington in an Atherstone Cup second round tie, which they were expected to win. Nuneaton, however, were missing several players due to illness and the approaching Christmas holidays. Hales and Ryan were left standing on the platform as the train pulled out. Some reserves travelled, so a full team was put out.

Amington surprised Nuneaton by scoring straight from the kick-off, but Kendall equalised at the very end, as Nuneaton maintained their interest in the competition by the skin of their teeth. The replay on Christmas Day was a much more one-sided game with Nuneaton clocking up an 8-3 win at Queen's Road. Savage got four goals and Jones a hat-trick with Tom Moore notching the other.

Town travelled to Sheepy Road for a league fixture on Boxing Day and came away with a point from a 1-1 draw with Moore scoring for the visitors. The following day the replayed

Nuneaton Town 1894-1919 Part 1



Nuneaton Hospitals Minor Cup game against Foleshill St George's took place at Queen's Road. The visitors turned the tables, running out comprehensive 5-3 winners despite a hat-trick from Savage.

The first two weeks of the New Year saw two home friendlies played, Willans Athletic being beaten 5-2 and old rivals Stockingford, in a game which Nuneaton, despite being the better side could only make a draw, 2-2.

Town played Chapel End United away in the Polesworth Cup 2nd Round, beating them 3-0 to progress in the competition. A home friendly against the same opposition was played the following week with the home side running out 6-2 winners, with Jones getting a hat-trick.

It was decided that the game against Stockingford Hearts of Oak, which was supposed to be a Polesworth Cup tie would be converted to a friendly when the referee failed to turn up. Nuneaton won 6-2.

Nuneaton travelled to Hawkesbury for a Nuneaton Minor Cup 2nd round tie. Snow, rain and sleet fell heavily throughout the match and Nuneaton edged through to the next round by 4-3, despite Hawkesbury being the better side. Goodman in the Nuneaton goal was the saviour, and despite the conditions and the state of the ball, he made several fine saves as the home side rained shots in on him.

Town slipped out of two cup competitions on consecutive Saturdays, first going out of the Atherstone Cup 1-4 to Polesworth at the third round stage and then losing 0-2 at Sheepy Road to Atherstone in the Fazeley Cup third round. Nuneaton keeper Goodman was at fault for one of the Atherstone goals, as he stood and watched the ball roll into the net, expecting that there would be an offside whistle from the referee.

Town lined up another tie with Atherstone in the semi-final of the Polesworth Cup, by drubbing Stockingford Hearts of Oak 10-1, with Jones getting four goals.

On their return to league action, Town faced Kettlebrook Oakfield at Queen's Road. Kettlebrook took an early lead with a soft goal. After 10 minutes Smith centred to Pullen who put in the equalizer. Nuneaton then had two successive free kicks, and from the second one Beasley shot against the post. Jones picked up the loose ball and shot through the goalkeepers legs from the rebound.

The second half was more evenly contested and Savage scored for the home side to give them a 3-2 victory.

Town travelled to Polesworth to face Atherstone in the semi-final of the Polesworth Cup, where after going 2-0 down in the first half, Nuneaton quickly drew level in the second half, with goals from Siviter and Jones, and looked favourites to win. However, Atherstone stepped up a gear and scored four further goals to win the game 6-2.

Town then played an away friendly match against Chilvers

Coton, which was very one-sided and resulted in a 5-0 win. Each of the forwards scored.

In the semi-final of the Nuneaton Hospital Junior Cup, Town travelled to Stockingford. The game was one of intense rivalry and some of the Stockingford players engaged in some 'unsportsmanlike tactics'. In the second half Town were awarded a penalty, which they scored. Stockingford objected strongly to the penalty and Smith punched Savage in the face, which led to a pitch invasion.

The referee sent Smith off, but the pitch could not be cleared of spectators and the game had to be abandoned with twenty minutes still to play.

A friendly against Hartshill resulted in a 2-0 win, as the season tailed away in disappointment, with Town losing consecutive league games, 1-3 away to Glascote St George's and 1-5 at home to Polesworth Athletic, as Nuneaton slipped further and further down the league table.

The semi-final of the Hospitals Junior Cup was replayed at Queen's Road and Town's poor form continued, as their last chance of any silverware disappeared, losing 1-2 to Stockingford, who had been reinstated into the competition after the Good Friday game was abandoned. Smith was missing from the visitors' line-up.

The season ended on April 30th when Glascote St George's were decisively beaten 5-0 at Queens Road. This was also a replayed match, as Glascote had protested after the first match that spectators had encroached into the players space.

Nuneaton finished their one and only season in the Trent Valley Combination with the following record:

P12 W4 D3 L5 F22 A26 Pts11

The reserve team had a poor season in the Nuneaton and District League and did not, in fact, finish their fixtures. One home match with Hartshill United had to be postponed as the reserves could not produce a ball!

The Trent Valley experience had not been a success and there was much disquiet in town that Hinckley could field a team in the Midland League, while their bigger neighbours could not support a team of equal standing.

Trent Valley Combination 1903-04

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Polesworth Athletic	13	10	0	3	52	12	20
Atherstone Town	14	8	3	3	37	14	19
Tamworth Athletic	14	7	2	5	32	34	16
Fazeley Swifts	11	6	2	3	21	15	14
Nuneaton Town	12	4	3	5	22	26	11
Kettlebrook Oakfield	13	5	1	7	21	27	11
Glascote St Georges	13	4	2	7	20	31	10
Wilnecote Wanderers	14	1	1	12	12	68	1*

*Wilnecote two points deducted for playing ineligible player

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1903

09.12	Fazeley Swifts	H	Fr	2-3	T. Moore 2
09.19	Polesworth Athletic	A	TVC	1-7	Savage
09.26	Glascote St George's	H	TVC	3-1	Moore 2, Siviter
					Protest by Glascote – crowd encroach pitch
10.03	Kettlebrook Oakfield	A	TVC	1-0	Siviter
10.10	Tamworth Athletic	H	TVC	1-2	Kendell
10.17	Wilnecote Wanderers	A	TVC	2-2	Kendell, Moore
10.24	Tamworth Athletic	A	TVC	0-3	
10.31	Wilnecote Wanderers	H	TVC	5-0	Savage 2, Trustwell, Moore, Ball
11.14	Foleshill St George	H	NCHMC 1	6-3	Moore 3, Beasley, Wilson, OG
					Foleshill protest over Ball & Wilson
12.05	Aston Villa XI	H	Fr	2-4	Savage, Wright
12.12	Atherstone Town	H	TVC	1-1	Savage
12.19	Amington Rovers	A	AC 2	1-1	Kendell
12.25	Amington Rovers	H	AC 2r	8-3	Savage 4, Jones 3, Moore
12.26	Atherstone Town	A	TVC	1-1	Moore
12.27	Foleshill St George	H	NCHMC 1r	3-5	Savage 3

1904

01.02	Willan's United	H	Fr	5-2	Smith 2 (1 pen), Jones, Wilson, Beasley
01.09	Stockingford	H	Fr	2-2	Jones, Wilson
01.16	Chapel End United	A	PC 2	3-0	Jones 2, Savage
01.23	Chapel End United	H	Fr	6-2	Jones 3, Savage 2, Wilson
01.30	Stockingford Hearts of Oak	H	Fr	6-2	Smith 2, Jones, Siviter, Savage, Jephcote
02.06	Hawkesbury	A	NCHMC 2	4-3	Beasley 2, Kendell, Savage
02.13	Polesworth Athletic	A	AC 3	1-4	Siviter
02.20	Atherstone Town	A	FC 3	0-2	
02.27	Stockingford Hearts of Oak	H	PC 3	10-1	Jones 4, Siviter 2, Savage 2, Wilson, Ball
03.05	Kettlebrook Oakfield	H	TVC	3-2	Savage, Jones, Pullen
03.12	Atherstone Town	N	PC sf	2-6	Siviter, Jones
					At Polesworth
03.19	Chivers Coton	A	Fr	5-0	Wilson 2, Jephcote, Moore, Jones
04.02	Stockingford	A	NCHMC sf	1-0	Smith (pen)
04.05	Hartshill	H	Fr	2-0	Jones, Scorer missing
04.09	Glascote St George's	A	TVC	1-3	Jephcote
04.16	Polesworth Athletic	H	TVC	1-5	Moore
04.21	Stockingford	H	NCHMC sfr	1-2	Moore
					Stockingford had been reinstated after being banned following Apr 2 match
04.30	Glascote St George's	H	TVC	5-0	Jones 3 (1pen), Ball 2 (1pen)
					Replayed from September 26

TVC = Trent Valley Combination, NCHMC = Nuneaton Cottage Hospital Minor Cup, AC = Atherstone Cup, PC = Polesworth Cup, FC = Fazeley Cup, Fr = Friendly

Nuneaton scores first.



1904-05

The end of season summary of Nuneaton's previous season was fairly scathing in its assessment of the state of the game within the town. How, it asked, could a considerably smaller town such as Hinckley support a team playing in the Midland League. If this were possible then surely Nuneaton could support the same.

It also bemoaned the fact that support had dwindled and those once interested in Association Football in the town had allowed their interest to wane and in place of the good crowds of bygone days, only very small numbers now attend the matches.

Nuneaton Town returned to the Coventry and North Warwickshire League after a gap of six seasons sporting a new kit of blue shirts and white shorts.

Their fellow-members were Coventry St. Michael's, Herberts Athletic, Hawkesbury, Foleshill St. George's, Foleshill St. Paul's, Clifton Vics., B.T.H. Rugby, Coventry Lord Street, Coventry Kingfields, Willan's United and Warwick St. Nicholas.

Two important signings were made, namely 'Billy' Holmes who returned from Hinckley United and 'Mal' Harper from Nuneaton St. Mary's who formed a strong half-back line with 'Billy' Ball and 'Taddy' Stringer.

The season kicked off with two home friendly matches, a 2-0 win against Nuneaton St Mary and a 3-5 defeat to Stockingford.

Nuneaton's first league match was away to Coventry St. Michael's and after turning up one hour late at the London Road ground, and, after conceding in the first minute they lost 4-3 although they impressed everyone with a fine display of football.

Funds being very low at this point, hopes were high that the visit of Aston Villa would see a good crowd and much-needed revenue. However, a walking contest and a rival match at Hinckley, along with other attractions, kept the gate down.

Town took an unexpected first minute lead via a Ball penalty. Following this Villa took up the running and keeper Coton was kept very busy indeed, which led to such equalising. Then, having made two consecutive saves, Coton let the ball through his legs, giving the lead to the visitors. Such then scored again for Villa to give them a 3-1 half-time lead.

The second half started with another penalty to Nuneaton, following a trip on Deakin, but this time Ball failed to score. Bentley scored twice for Villa, with Hampton adding another following some good play by the visitors. Nuneaton were then awarded a third penalty, which was saved by Torrey. Savage, however, put the rebound in the net.

For the league encounter against Coventry Kingfields at Queen's Road, Nuneaton had two new players on show, Betteridge and Cox. Savage opened the scoring for the home

team only for the visitors to equalise. Nuneaton regained the lead through Betteridge.

Smith extended the lead following some tricky play on his part. Deakin added a fourth for the home team following a melee around the Kingfields' net.

The following week saw Town slip out of their first cup competition of the season, losing 2-3 to Kettlebrook Oakfield in the Hinckley Charity Cup. Goalkeeper Coton contributed towards the defeat when he blasted a clearance against his own player, which rebounded into the net.

Hawkesbury visited Queen's Road the following Saturday, and playing with a strong wind at their backs, scored straight after the kick-off, which they soon added to with a penalty, quickly followed by yet another, Taylor completing a hat-trick in the opening fifteen minutes.

Following a period of Nuneaton pressure, Cox cut the deficit with a fine shot, and at the break the visitors were 3-1 to the good. Yates cut the lead further and a draw was secured when Ball scored from a penalty.

It was reported at a league committee meeting that Town had played an ineligible player against Hawkesbury, but the secretary's explanation was accepted and no action was taken.

The home game against Foleshill St. Paul's was very even in the first half and the teams went in 0-0 at the break. Nuneaton scored twice immediately after the break. St Paul's cut the deficit twenty minutes from the end, but Town secured the points with a third goal in the dying seconds.

Town next took on a powerful Clifton Victoria side in an away league match. The home side having much the better of the first half and going in 1-0 at the interval. Nuneaton pulled level after the break when Savage shot home, giving Mitchell in the Clifton goal no chance.

Nuneaton defended well with good work from the backs and goalkeeper Coton, who played a 'remarkable game'. Smith then gave the visitors the lead, beating the Clifton keeper Mitchell with a 'beauty'. It was said that Clifton were worthy of a draw, but the match finished with a 2-1 win for the visitors.

Nuneaton progressed to the second round of the Midland Daily Telegraph Challenge Cup with a 5-2 win over Nuneaton St. Mary's at Queen's Road. The visitors surprised the home side by taking a two goal lead in the first quarter of an hour.

This setback spurred the home side into action and Smith fired over the bar before Ball, Savage and Jones exchanged passes, the latter scoring for the home team. Town then took over what was a poor game, with Jones completing a hat-trick and Savage netting twice.

The 1-0 friendly win against Birmingham Gas was described as one of the best games of the season at the home ground, despite the fact that Nuneaton were not at full strength.

Cox gave the home side the lead in the first half with a cross shot, which the visitors' keeper was unable to save.

Nuneaton Town 1894-1919 Part 1



Town then won an away point at Willans United of Rugby, with a Deakin goal securing the point.

In the first round of the Nuneaton Hospital Cup, Town faced Sketchley at home. The game was described as being not very interesting and lacking in the excitement usually associated with cup football.

Jones got the opening goal, when he breasted the ball into the net after two unsuccessful attempts from Savage. The game improved after the break, with some fine passing. Following some neat exchanges between Savage and Ball, Jones put in a feeble shot, but the Sketchley keeper made a hash of it and the ball rolled into the net.

Sketchley cut the deficit through Beasley, but Ball scored a magnificent goal with a splendid shot. Deakin extended the lead further thanks to feeble play by the Sketchley keeper. The visitors made it 4-2 with a penalty.

Town progressed to the third round of the Midland Daily Telegraph Cup with a 5-1 win at home to Warwick St Nicholas, despite the pitch being covered in snow. The visitors opened the scoring following a mistake by Harper, but the Town drew level through Savage, who added another before the interval.

Ball added a further two goals after the interval, one from a penalty. Savage completed his hat-trick when he later added the fifth goal for the home side.

The match at Queen's Road against Hartshill United was hard fought, but the home team scored twice in the first half. Deakin ran past all opponents and netted with a fine shot. Smith then added a second, after skilfully dribbling past Kendal and Knight. Barker took advantage of a misunderstanding between Ball and Smith to score for the visitors after half time.

The visitors then bombarded Town's goal, but good keeping from Carris and good defensive work from Smith and Jephcote kept the visitors at bay.

Stockingford beat Nuneaton Town 2-0 in a friendly match at the "Colliers" ground. Stockingford, having played 15 matches this season had a 100 per cent record, having won all fifteen. First off Smith conceded a penalty, which Curl converted, followed by a goal from Tom Moore, who scored from a good pass from Grice.

The Boxing Day morning game against Hartshill United at Queen's Road was a very closely fought game which ended in a 1-1 draw. Burns scored for Nuneaton before the break. Kendall then put in a long shot which Coton just stopped, but Barker, who was following up, shot into the net to secure a draw for Hartshill.

The following morning Town faced Foleshill Great Heath, again at Queen's Road, and went down 2-0, although Carris and Smith both played well. Elsewhere, Stockingford extended their unbeaten run with a win against Foleshill St George's.

Town won their way through to the semi-final stage of the Midland Daily Telegraph Challenge Cup with a 3-1 win, away against Leamington Parish Church, with Cox scoring two and Savage, the other.

At a committee meeting of the Coventry and North Warwickshire League, Nuneaton were censured for starting matches late. The Nuneaton Town representative could throw no light on the situation and so the committee agreed to write to the Secretary of the club and tell him that the club's representative on the league committee should be made aware of all administrative matters brought before the league committee.

The Atherstone Cup tie with Hartshill went to three matches, with Town finally losing out on a day in which they played two matches, winning 3-1 at Warwick St Michaels, but finally going out of the Atherstone Cup 4-3, despite a hat-trick scored by Albert Savage.

Wedged in between those two weekends was a Nuneaton Hospital Junior Cup win over Wilnecote. Town winning 2-0 at Queen's Road.

At the end of January Town travelled to Coventry Kingfield for a league fixture and ran out winners by 9-0. It was reported that Nuneaton scored at will in the first half and got their goals quite easily. Taylor, Savage and Allcott all put in good performances, with Savage scoring a hat-trick. Even one of the backs, Smith, managed to score.

Nuneaton also won the next league encounter, against Coventry Lord Street. The first half was particularly fast and ended 1-1. Nuneaton got on top after the break, and scored a second as Lord Street appeared to tire, although Coton was called on to save on more than one occasion.

Town travelled to face Herberts Athletic the following week at the Earlsdon Lane Ground and won a point in a match that ended 0-0. Town scored before half-time, but the goal was disallowed for an infringement.

Willans United travelled to Queen's Road for a league match and were soundly beaten by 11-1. The notable scoring performances coming from Savage who bagged four and Ball, whose hat-trick included a penalty.

Against league leaders Clifton Vics, Town recovered from 3-1 down and scored twice in the final 30 minutes through Elsworth and Ball. Nuneaton were still pressing hard at the final whistle, but could not get a winner.

In March the club appealed to the League committee for permission to play two teams on the same day, as they were getting so far behind with their fixtures, there was the possibility of them not completing. The chairman of the league pointed out that any clubs not completing their fixtures would be heavily fined.

The League Committee ruled that in the event of two matches being played on the same day, the strongest team



must be sent to the away game, given that the home fixture had already taken place.

Town travelled to Coventry to face Foleshill St George's in the semi-final of the Midland Daily Telegraph Challenge Cup. There was a good crowd in attendance for the match in which the opponents were known to be closely matched. Jones gave the visitors the lead, converting a cross from Deakin.

Martin extended the lead, and Foleshill were then awarded two penalties, which Barnes converted to loud cheers.

Sims then netted again for The Dragons, with some doubt being cast as to whether he was in an offside position, but the referee's decision went in Foleshill's favour and they led 3-2 at the break.

Jones pulled Nuneaton level in the second half, but Flavell put The Dragons back in front. Town were never again in contention, with Carris' goal under constant bombardment. Eventually two further goals from Foleshill sealed their fate, with the visitors losing 6-3.

Town protested following the defeat and at a meeting of the cup committee at the Kings Head, Coventry, it was alleged that Lee and Barnacle of Foleshill St George, were not eligible to play in the tie, as they had played in the Nuneaton Minor Cup for St George's Juniors. The League Committee ruled that Nuneaton Town had failed to prove that any club rule had been broken. Town, however, had their protest fee returned.

Nuneaton completed narrow wins, 1-0 at home and 2-1 away over Warwick St Nicholas and Hawkesbury respectively. The victory over Hawkesbury being secured in spite of the fact that Carris missed the train.

On April 8th, Nuneaton played two league fixtures on the same day, beating Coventry St. Michael's 4-0, but slipping to a 0-1 defeat away at BTH Rugby.

The following week, Town played another double header facing Herbert's Athletic in the afternoon, and although it was apparent that they were saving themselves for the cup tie, they still proved too good for Herbert's, running out 2-0 winners, with goals from Dyke and a 'fine screw shot' from Hayes.

The semi-final of the Nuneaton Hospital Junior Cup at the Newdegate Arms Ground, remarkably kicked off only an hour after the Herbert's game, with Town making just two changes from their earlier line-up with Stringer and Deakin being replaced by Martin and Elsworth.

A. Smith scored for Town early on and Dyke had an goal disallowed. Elsworth then put Nuneaton two up with a goal following a free kick, which was crossed by Martin.

Earl Shilton responded to going two goals down by playing the 'one back game' to take advantage of the offside law. The Leicestershire side pulled a goal back when the Earl Shilton right back waltzed past four players, which led to one of the forwards scoring, making the half-time score 2-1.

Town swarmed around their opponents goal at the start of

the second half and it wasn't long before Hayes increased their lead to 3-1. Nuneaton were still well on top and Elsworth put in a free kick which was converted by Savage. Earl Shilton then responded when their inside-left went on a fine run and scored, making it 4-2. Close to the end Smith made it 5-2, following a sprint along the line, which secured a passage into the final.

BTH Rugby were the visitors on Tuesday evening, with the home side winning 2-0, goals coming from Deakin and Taylor.

Town confirmed their position as league champions by routing the Midland Daily Telegraph Cup finalists Foleshill St George's in their final home game of the season 7-0.

Although fairly even in the first half, Town took a narrow 1-0 lead into the break. It was, however, a different story after half-time with Nuneaton scoring a further six goals. Savage securing a hat-trick and Dyke getting a couple.

Three further games were played at the end of the 1904-05 season, but newspaper reports are often missing at Christmas and Easter holiday times.

Nuneaton Hospital Junior Cup Final

Saturday, April 29th, 1905

The final of the Nuneaton Hospital Junior Cup competition took place at the Newdegate Arms ground before a large attendance. Town forced matters at the start with Dyke and A. Smith prominent. A midfield battle then developed with Town's halves being all over Stockingford. When half-time arrived the score was 0-0.

A. Smith put in some fine runs for Nuneaton at the start of the second half, and following one of these, rounded off with a shot against the underside of the bar. Hutt in the Stockingford goal was hopelessly beaten by this effort.

A. Smith crossed again, but there was no Nuneaton forward on the end of it and the chance was lost. Billy Ball shot from distance, which forced Hutt into conceding a corner which came to nothing.

As the match came towards the closing stages, Ford raided the Nuneaton half and aided by a weak clearance from S. Smith, Grice sent in a grand shot from close quarters, which Coton saved in fine style, but conceded a corner, which came to nothing.

Following a Stockingford corner, the ball was cleared to A. Smith who countered, sending in a shot that hit the top of bar, before bouncing back down in front of goal. Not long after the referee blew the whistle for the end of normal time.

Both captains agreed to play an extra half hour and shortly after the kick-off for the first period of extra time, Billy Ball was very badly hurt, which required an ambulance to be called. The ambulance had to be sent for again shortly afterwards when S. Smith twisted his knee and had to be helped from the field, although the player was able to resume after treatment.



Shortly after the injury incidents 'Ford broke away and Moore tricked Smith before sending in a cross which Grice, running in, shot into the net. Although Cotton made a good attempt at saving the ball, it was greasy and slipped through his grasp and into the net.

Stockingford maintained their superiority in the second period of extra time and had no trouble in hanging on to their lead, thus winning the competition for the second consecutive season.

The Coventry and North Warwickshire League trophy was presented to the captain, Billy Ball at the Plough Hotel, Coventry on June 5th, 1905. Leading goalscorer was Albert Savage who twice netted four times in a game, but a lot of credit went to Billy Ball who reached double figures even though he played centre-half.

Stockingford proved to be the most successful of the local clubs, for apart from the Nuneaton Junior Cup they also won the Foleshill Nursing Cup, and were joint winners with Tamworth Athletic of the Atherstone Nursing Cup. They also finished as champions of the Nuneaton and District League.

Influential Help Desired

(To the Editor of the "Observer")

Dear Sir, — In your issue of April 28th, I happened to notice a few observations, re: Nuneaton Town FC. You put your remarks in a very straightforward manner, and no one more than myself would like to see your ideas carried out to the fullest extent.

Of course, there are yet difficulties in the way, but seeing that we have now a firm footing, I see no reason why the club should not make still greater headway than in the past season. We have plenty of talent at our disposal, and, I may say that most of the players have already attached their signatures to the necessary league forms for another season.

The Committee have worked hard during the year, but what is wanted are a few local gentlemen of influence to give us a helping hand. Given this, I am sure that in a few years time we should be able to float, as you suggest, a limited liability company. Nuneaton has an excellent railway service, and being in the midst of a thriving district, good class football would certainly pay its way.

I shall be glad to give any information to any gentleman interested in the club's welfare, and hope also to see further suggestions through the columns of your valuable paper. — Yours truly

J. BURNS, Sec.

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BELL & CO., 126, Abbey Street, Nuneaton.

Will Exhibit at



STOKE-ON-TRENT, Monday, April 25th.
WALSALL, Wednesday, April 27th.
CREWE, Saturday, April 30th.



On April 26th 1904, Nuneaton paid host to an international celebrity and sensation in the shape of 'Buffalo Bill' Cody and his Wild West show. Cody was famous throughout the world for his touring spectacular and Nuneaton was the second stop on the British itinerary for 1904 after Stoke-on-Trent. The venue was the ground by the Cock and Bear in Queen's Road and there was much excitement reported in the town as the four trains needed to transport the show arrived. As might be expected, many of the performers in 'Buffalo Bills' show were variations on a Wild West theme with cowboys, Mexican bandits, Native Americans (from various tribes including Sioux, Cheyenne and Ogallala), but there were also performers billed as being 'Cossacks from the Caucasus', Bedouin Arabs and, perhaps due to publicity connected to the ongoing Russo-Japanese war, a troop of Japanese horsemen in contemporary European style uniform similar to the Japanese Army of the time.

The performances by the exotic performers included a variety of activities such as horsemanship, shooting displays, acrobatic displays and the re-enactment of famous events of the Wild West, such as the last stand of Custer at Little Bighorn and a Native American attack on emigrants to the West. There were also traditional side show attractions with performing animals such as hares and cockatoos, a military style band, curiosity attractions such as 'the miniature lady', 'the blue man' and stuntmen. It was during a performance by one such stuntman, 'Carter the Cowboy Cyclist' that an accident occurred. An attempt by the stuntman to ride a motorcycle off a ramp and to fly over a series of obstacles, went wrong when the back wheel of the motorcycle clipped the last obstacle and caused a crash. 'Carter the Cowboy Cyclist' was rushed to the local hospital unconscious on a stretcher but it was reported that his injuries were not as serious as first feared and luckily he only sustained concussion and considerable bruising.



Nothing like the Buffalo Bill Wild West exhibition, which will soon be given here, has ever been seen in this locality before. It is an aggregation of the peculiar and distinct representatives of the romantic and most picturesque classes of humanity. Real Indians, red skin warriors who have been the terror of the Western frontier States of America, will ride side by side with real scouts and trappers who have won high honours and undying fame in Indian warfare.

The series of spectacles presented in the Wild West exhibition form a living panorama, reproducing the romances of life in the pioneer past, recalling the most thrilling descriptive pages taken from the most exciting of Cooper's tales."

The auditor of an imaginative spirit can, temporarily at least, conceive himself an actual witness of the thrilling events which strongly marked the history of the march of civilization in the far West.

Indians, brilliantly coloured and richly feathered, dash across the arena on their swift and hardy ponies, repeating the war-whoops, cries, and yells, which have many a time and oft blanched the cheek and quickened the heart-beating of the hardy pioneer of the western plains.

Cowboys and Vaqueros sweep to and fro, lasso and shoot, and ride as they only can. The Wild West exhibition, in short, enables the spectator to clearly realize those scenes and characters only dimly depleted in literature as evidences of the eternal warfare between white and redskin in the earlier days of the United States.

Buffalo Bill, the most gallant cavalier of all of them, has a most striking personality. He is a splendid specimen of a handsome, vigorous, and skillful Anglo-Saxon who has emerged with honour and glory from the most trying tests possible for a man to endure. The representations and incidents of Indian and Cowboy life leap up to the equally stirring attractions of the Congress of Rough Riders of the World, and the great International Martial Alliance which forms an important adjunct to the great exhibition.

Colonel Cody's wonderful entertainment is one which all should see when it visits here on Tuesday, April 26, on the ground adjacent to the Cock and Bear, Queen's Road.





September 17th, 1904

Nuneaton Town v Aston Villa

At the beginning of the Edwardian period Aston Villa still reigned supreme over English football. Their first team rated alongside the leading clubs of the Football League, First Division, and their reserves the dominant force in the Birmingham League. Villa were not slow in capitalising on their popularity and for a guaranteed cash inducement, would send a team to play friendly matches against local intermediate sides, their visit generally ensuring a good gate and profit for the home club.

Nuneaton Town were among the clubs to take advantage of this opportunity, and on September 17, 1904, when their funds were reported to be very low, Aston Villa were engaged to send an eleven to play the Town on the Queen's Road ground. It was a fine day for the big match, but home officials had not done their homework. Nuneaton and the district had several counter-attractions on offer, and a large number of folk had made their way to Hinckley, where a walking contest and another interesting soccer game was on offer. These events considerably affected the Queen's Road "gate", with only a moderate crowd turning up. One feature that was particularly noticeable was the practical absence of female spectators.

Aston Villa, for their part, had sent a strong side for the game. Jones, their left-back, was a Welsh international signed from Ruabon Druids, Harry Hampton, a youngster from Wellington Town, was to become one of the biggest stars of his era. Roberts had previously been with Nuneaton St. Mary's while Such and Bentley figured in the visitors' first team selections. As the teams lined up, their colours afforded a pleasing contrast, Villa's claret and white and the Town's blue and white showing up against one another very effectively.

Town: Coton, S. Smith, Jephcote, Harper, Ball, Stringer, Wilson, Bosworth, Deakin, Savage, A. Smith.

Villa: Tovey, Drennan, Jones, Mitchell, Sallis, Bishop, Such, Roberts, Hampton, Bentley, Deakin.

Within one minute of the start skipper William Ball had given Nuneaton the lead from the penalty spot. It was short-lived Such getting the equalising goal almost immediately.



William Coton in the Town goal was making some fine saves until the 35th minute when Bentley put in a simple shot and he allowed the ball to slip through his legs into the net. Shortly afterwards he had no chance when Such scored with a superb shot. At the interval Villa had a 3-1 lead.

William Coton: 26-year-old goalkeeper signed from Wilnecote. His best game for Nuneaton.

The second half took on a similar fashion as the first with Villa, as expected, far the better side. Bentley contributed two goals and Hampton scored the sixth after some splendid football by the visitors. Nuneaton were awarded two more penalties. Ball failed with the first, then Smith's kick was pushed out by Tovey only for Albert Savage to meet the rebound and bang the ball into the net, making the final score 6-2 to Villa.

Although the game had not been as good as in Aston Villa's previous two visits it had been characterised by the brilliant goalkeeping of Coton. Such had been outstanding for Villa. Due to the limited attendance the Town lost money on the match, over 2,000 had seen Villa's first visit in 1903. Season



1904-05 was a good one for Nuneaton Town, who were the Coventry and North Warwickshire League champions. They were soon to leave local football for good, but Aston Villa remained welcome guests on their fixture list.

Albert Savage: Town's leading goalscorer 1904-05. Had a spell with Stoke City.

Kettlebrook Oakfield had rather a curious experience on Saturday. They were due to play Atherstone Town in the second round of the Fazeley Cup, but did not arrive until nearly an hour after the advertised time, and the match was not commenced until 3.30. Kettlebrook's late arrival was owing to the fact that they were unable to secure a brake, and they were compelled to make the journey in a greengrocer's cart. About fifteen minutes from time the referee stopped the game on account of darkness, the score being one goal apiece.

Coventry & North Warwickshire League 1904-05

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nuneaton Town	22	15	4	3	75	27	34
Coventry Lord Street	22	16	1	5	67	37	33
Coventry St. Michaels	22	13	1	8	61	40	27
Clifton Victorias	22	11	5	6	57	38	27
Foleshill St. Georges	22	13	1	8	61	47	27
Hawkesbury	22	11	3	8	49	27	25
Herberts Athletic	22	10	2	10	48	47	22
Warwick St. Nicholas	22	9	1	12	38	43	19
Foleshill St. Pauls	22	6	3	13	44	52	15
Willans United (Rugby)	22	6	2	14	27	75	14
B.T.H. (Rugby)	21	5	1	15	33	56	11
Kingfield	21	3	2	16	24	90	8

Nuneaton Town 1894-1919 Part 1



1904

09.01	Nuneaton St Mary	H	Fr	2-0	Ball, Wilson
09.03	Stockingford	H	Fr	3-5	Holmes, Ball, Woodcock
09.10	Coventry St Michaels	A	CNW	3-4	Jones 2, Ball
09.17	Aston Villa XI	H	Fr	2-6	Ball (pen), Savage
09.24	Coventry Kingfields	H	CNW	4-1	A Smith, Deacon, Betteridge, Savage
10.01	Kettlebrook Oakfield	H	HCC 1	2-3	Ball, Cox
10.08	Hawkesbury	H	CNW	3-3	Yates, Cox, Ball (pen)
10.15	Foleshill St Paul's	H	CNW	3-1	Deacon, Cox, Ball
10.22	Clifton Victoria	A	CNW	2-1	Smith, Savage
10.29	Nuneaton St Mary	H	MDTCC 1	5-2	Jones 3, Savage 2
11.05	Birmingham Gas	H	Fr	1-0	Cox
11.12	Willans United Rugby	A	CNW	1-1	Deakin
11.19	Sketchley	H	NHJC 1	4-2	Jones 2, Deakin, Ball
11.26	Warwick St Nicholas	H	MDTCC 2	5-1	Savage 3, Ball 2 (1 pen)
12.03	Hartshill United	H	AC 1	2-1	Deakin, Smith
12.10	Stockingford	A	Fr	0-2	
12.26	Hartshill United	H	AC 1	1-1	Burns
12.27	Foleshill Gt Heath	H	Fr	0-2	
12.31	Leamington Parish Ch	A	MDTCC 3	3-1	Cox 2, Savage

1905

01.07	Hartshill United	A	AC 1r	0-0		
01.14	Wilnecote United	H	NHJC 2	2-0	Nicklin, OG	
01.21	Warwick St Nicholas	A	CNW	3-1	Woodcock, Marshall, OG	Two games same day
01.21	Hartshill United	n	AC 1 2ndr	3-4	Savage 3	Two games same day
01.28	Coventry Kingfields	A	CNW	9-0	Savage 3, Aucott 2, Jones 2, S Smith, Taylor	Two games same day
01.28	Hinckley	H	Fr	3-6	Goalscorers not known	Two games same day
02.11	Coventry Lord Street	H	CNW	2-1	Dyke, A Smith	
02.18	Herberts Athletic	A	CNW	0-0		
02.25	Willans United	H	CNW	11-1	S Smith, Jones, Savage 4, Ball 3 (1 pen), Elsworth 2	
03.04	Clifton Vics	H	CNW	3-3	Savage, Elsworth, Ball	
03.18	Foleshill St George	A	MDTCC sf	3-6	Jones 2, Martin	
03.25	Warwick St Nicholas	H	CNW	1-0	Deakin	
04.01	Hawkesbury	A	CNW	2-1	Dyke 2	'Carris missed train'
04.08	Coventry St Michaels	H	CNW	4-0	Ball, Savage, Dyke (1 goalscorer missing Hayes, Savage or Dyke)	2 games same day
04.08	B.T.H. Rugby	A	CNW	0-1		2 games same day
04.15	Herberts Athletic	H	CNW	2-0	Dyke, Hayes	
04.15	Earl Shilton Vics	n	NHJC sf	5-2	Smith 2, Hayes, Savage, Esworth	
04.15	Played twice same day – early afternoon ko					
04.18	B.T.H. Rugby	H	CNW	2-0	Deakin, Taylor	
04.22	Foleshill St George	H	CNW	7-0	Savage 3, Dyke 2, Hayes, OG or Savage	
04.25	Coventry Lord Street	A				
04.29	Stockingford	n	NHJC f	0-1*		*aet
	Foleshill St George					
	Foleshill St Pauls					

CNW = Coventry & North Warwickshire League, HCC = Hinckley Charity Cup, AC = Atherstone Cup, MDTCC = Midland Daily Telegraph Challenge Cup, NHJC = Nuneaton Hospital Junior Cup, Fr=Friendly

Nuneaton scores first.



Nuneaton Town 1904-05

Taken on the Queens Road (formerly Arbury Road) Ground

Houses in the background on the right of the photo still exist.

For the Ladies

FINISH OFF THE IRONING

After ironing shirts, etc., place them by the fire till perfectly dry, for this quick dry ensures their being as stiff as possible.

TO SWEETEN THE MATTRESS

Take your mattress out of doors not less than once a month, beat and whisk them vigorously, and leave them to the air and sunshine for sweetening.

NO SECRETS FROM MOTHER

Innocent faults are always pardoned by a kind parent. You may not know, girls, just what is right, just what is wrong, yet you cannot be blamed for making little mistakes, but you will never do anything very wrong if from the first you have no secrets from you mother.

Here and There

THE LATEST INVENTION

The electric hair cutter is one of the latest inventions, and according to a New York specialist it is comparatively easy to operate. The possibility of every man having his own haircutter is being dreaded by the barber.

WHEN A WOMAN FAINTS

The first aid to a woman who begins to feel faint is rendered by her leaning forward as far as possible, bending her head down on a level with her knees. This draws the blood away from the heart, and will often stop the fainting spell from coming on. When a woman faints in a theatre or other public building, her head can be bent forward without attracting any particular notice.



Nuneaton Town AFC AGM 1905

The annual meeting of the Nuneaton Town Association Football Club was held at the Granby Head Inn on Monday evening, when a large number of players and supporters were present. Mr. C. Birch (chairman of the committee) presided.

Mr. J. Burns, secretary, reported that last season had been a very successful one. Altogether 41 matches had been played, of which 25 had been won, 11 lost and 9 drawn. The club secured the championship of the Coventry and North Warwickshire League, were finalists in the Nuneaton Hospital Cup competition, semi-finalists in the "Telegraph" competition, and reached the third round in the Atherstone Cup ties. A profit of £2 3s. was made on the year's working.

Mr. F. A. Newdegate, M.P. was re-elected president; all the vice-presidents were re-elected; Mr. J. Burns was elected secretary; Mr. G. Wykes, treasurer; Mr. W. Ball, captain; and Mr. L. Dyke, vice-captain.

It was decided to again compete in the Coventry and North Warwickshire League, enter for the local cup competitions, and also enter a second team in the Nuneaton and District League.

The following players have already been registered for the forthcoming season: W. Ball, W. Coton, S. Smith, L. Dyke, A. Stirley, F. Marlow, A. Savage, A. Harper, A. Smith (all old players); E. Hutt and J. Bolesworth (from Stockingford); J. Bass (Sketchley); W. Taylor, and a large number of promising young players.

Nuneaton made a profit of £2 3s over the season but still owed £16 7s as a result of their troubles in 1900.

The Nuneaton Observer promoted the town's football club through its columns in the pre-season of 1905-06, giving a voice to "Supporter" who was urging the town to support the club. There was praise for the club's efforts in the previous season, when they were champions of the Coventry & North Warwickshire League and progressed in all cup competitions.

It was also stated that the quality of football on show the previous season was of such a quality, that it was doubtful if any better were seen in "the more pretentious competitions seen outside our own neighbourhood."

Memories were invoked of the great team of many years ago, and the unfortunate circumstances under which they got into financial difficulties, which had affected the club ever since.

The Observer, having contacted the club, agreed to promote the initiative of a public subscription to clear the existing debt of £16 7s, commenting that if the footballing public of Nuneaton enter into the appeal with as much enthusiasm as "Supporter", the debt will soon be cleared.

The appeal raised a total of £7 5s, a considerable sum in those days when admission to a match cost 3d. Hopes were high of a repeat championship.

1905-06

The season commenced with two home friendly matches against Nuneaton St. Mary and Branston Unity from the Birmingham area, who the previous season had been semi-finalists in the West Birmingham Charity Cup. Both were beaten with Branston taking a good hiding, going down 7-1.

The game against Branston took place in front of about 600 paying customers, and the team was as follows:

Goal, Hilditch; backs, Benn and Stirley; halves, Harper, Ball and Wilson; forwards, Moore, Savage, Hayes, Dyke and Smith.

The visitors scored in the opening minutes, which stung the home side into action and before long they were making life very difficult for Branston, going in 3-1 at the break, with each goal the result of a combination by half-backs and forwards.

Town were reported as improving in the second half as the opposition got weaker. The match report said that the quality of football was high and that it was to be hoped that the football loving public would support them throughout the season.

Nuneaton then faced their old rivals Hinckley Town, again at Queen's Road. The weather was 'very unpleasant' with rain falling throughout the afternoon, which reduced the crowd and made the playing surface difficult.

Nuneaton played towards the road end in the first half with the wind in their favour and had the best of the play early on. Hinckley hit back, however, and the ball was soon up the other end, where good passing by the Hinckley forwards resulted in a goal.

Nuneaton upped their game and Sheldon sent in a shot that was too hot for the visiting keeper, who had no chance of saving. Despite having more chances the home side did not take advantage and the half-time score was 1-1.

Despite Hilditch being called into action on more than one occasion early in the second half, it was Nuneaton who took the lead, thanks to a good goal by Stirley. Hayes then added to the lead, having been played in by Savage.

The following Saturday saw the opening league fixture, in which Town travelled to play Coventry Lord Street at the Spon End ground. There was a large gate and much excitement from the outset as Lord Street found themselves in front of the visitors' goal, but an offside whistle came to the rescue. Boileau then brought a save from Hilditch, who was forced to concede a corner.

Hilditch was called into action on several occasions, once saving with assistance from Stirley. Moore then put in a poor effort before the Spon Enders put in another attack, Spicer forcing Hilditch into a save. Savage then had a shot, but to no



effect and the home keeper Dales punched away. At half-time the score was 0-0.

Lord Street started the second half on the offensive and some exciting play took place around Hilditch's goal. Nuneaton had an attack from which Smith put the ball wide and Ball put in a stinging shot to test the home keeper.

Hilditch was coming under increasing pressure, however, and Barrow opened the scoring for Lord Street, receiving loud cheers for his efforts. The visiting keeper came under more pressure and being closely pressed fell on the ball. In spite of Hilditch having got the ball in his arms, Goddard got his foot behind it and another goal resulted. The home side again went close through Lee, but when Nuneaton were awarded a free kick, Ball scored from the half way line.

Town travelled to Hawkesbury for the next league game, with the home team having selection problems due to the non-appearance of three of their selected starting eleven. With the home team starting with only nine men Nuneaton soon took advantage with Chaddaway scoring.

Savage then scored from a corner, but some neat passing from Hawkesbury saw Taylor score to cut Nuneaton's lead. Hayes shot over for the visitors from a good chance, but the same player scored following a rush, making it 3-1 to the visitors. Hilditch saved from a close range shot.

The home side's missing players then joined the fray and Hawkesbury pressed, giving the Nuneaton defence plenty to do before the half-time whistle.

After half time the home team broke away, following some Nuneaton pressure, and Pratt beat Hilditch with a magnificent long shot. Savage shot over for the visitors followed by a good run from Chaddaway, who passed to Savage for Town's fourth goal of the afternoon. Smith missed a chance later on, but the score remained 4-2 to Town.

When Leamington Town visited Queen's Road the following week, Nuneaton ran out comfortable 5-2 winners, with Billy Ball getting a couple of the goals. The team, it was said, were improving week on week and were too good for the visitors.

Club Almost Free of Debt

The Observer's appeal to the townsfolk of Nuneaton succeeded in making the club 'almost' debt free, with secretary Mr Burns telling the newspaper that with just one more good gate, the club's financial situation would be much improved and that the club would be able to meet all its obligations and look forward to doing things that were previously impossible due to the monetary difficulties.

The club and the Observer gave thanks to all those who had contributed.

Despite the confident talk of the previous encounter the away match at Leamington Town proved a more closely fought encounter, with a Savage goal securing a point for the visitors.

The match against St Michael's was a fast and exciting game witnessed by a large crowd, but again the honours were shared at 1-1, with Savage again the scorer. It was said that a draw was a fair result in one of the best struggles seen on the ground for some time. Carris performed well in deputising for Hilditch.

Town became the first club to defeat Coventry Lord Street so far, in the match at Queen's Road, with Dyke scoring for Nuneaton after 20 minutes. He also netted again before half-time but the effort was disallowed.

After some pressure on Hilditch's goal the ball was cleared upfield by Aucott, where Smith sprinted down the touchline and put in a good centre, but there was no-one on the end of it. Stirley flung himself in front of a shot to prevent a goal, conceding a corner in the process. The game then went end-to-end throughout in an exciting encounter, and Nuneaton were outstanding in defence, holding out to the final whistle

Kettlebrook Oakfield's visit to Queen's Road for a Hinckley Nursing Cup match proved to be another exciting encounter in front of about a thousand spectators. The match went from end to end from the kick-off, and Hilditch had to punch clear, only for the ball to come straight back at him. At the other end Smith centred well and a melee ensued which was eventually cleared by the visitors' defence.

Moore and Savage had good chances which came to nothing and for a short while Town were all over Kettlebrook. However, Nuneaton went behind with Oliver scoring for the visitors. From the restart Hayes hit the upright, followed by two consecutive corners, one of which caused much excitement around the goal.

Kettlebrook scored a second after some good play by their right wing, before Nuneaton pulled a goal back when a defender handled the ball, and Billy Ball scored from the penalty, which saw Town go in at half time 2-1 down.

The second half was just as exciting as the first, with play switching ends and the game being fast, exciting and full of incident. Following some good passing Hayes notched an equaliser for the home side to secure a replay at Kettlebrook.

The winner of the Midland Daily Telegraph Cup tie between Nuneaton and Polesworth would receive a bye in the following round and Town cruised through to round 3 with a 6-0 home victory. The rain earlier in the day had kept the crowd down, but Town started well and Dyke opened the scoring. This was quickly followed by a penalty which keeper Hilditch scored.

After the break Nuneaton did pretty much what they pleased and but for the visitors goalkeeper, Marklew, they would have piled up a heavy score. However, when the keeper fisted out, Moss pounced and scored easily.



Ball saw his shot roll along the crossbar. As the game wore on the light began to fail, but not before Davis, Dyke and Ball had added to the score.

Earl Shilton Victoria were the next visitors to Queen's Road in a Nuneaton Hospital Cup first round tie. Ball was missing for Nuneaton, and his place was taken by Chattaway. The game started briskly and Dyke scored for Town early on, with Bray equalising soon after. The game was end to end and after some exciting play Hayes restored Nuneaton's lead. A free kick from Dyke was then turned into the net by Moore, but the Victors cut the lead to a single goal through Green.

There were no goals scored in the second half and Nuneaton progressed through to the next round with a 3-2 win.

The Hinckley Nursing Cup first round replay against Kettlebrook saw Nuneaton go out of the competition. The match kicked off twenty minutes late due to 'the dilatoriness of the homesters'. The visitors were without one of their best defenders, Stirley, who missed the train. His place was taken by Wilson. A misunderstanding between Benn and Hilditch gifted the visitors their winning goal.

As with the first match Hawkesbury turned up short handed for the league game at Queen's Road and were only able to muster nine men. The away side seem disheartened by this and Nuneaton got an easy victory, with Savage netting a hat-trick with three goals in succession.

The following week Town were involved in a grim battle with old rivals Stockingford. 'Ford had the best of the play in the first half and went in 2-1 up at half-time, after Dyke had opened the scoring for Nuneaton.

Hayes equalised after the break before Savage gave the home side the lead. Stockingford levelled matters through Moore, with the game ending 3-3.

For the visit of Coventry Springfields, Nuneaton had the advantage of the wind and kicked towards the road end in the first half. Marlow put in a good shot for the home side which was quickly followed by two corners. Marlow was unlucky with his shot, which was put behind for a corner, but Stirley's corner kick landed just in front of goal and Hayes opened the scoring.

Some exciting play took place around the visitors' goal with Dyke, Hayes, Harper and Marlow being prominent. Ball then extended the home side's lead with a shot from a narrow angle. Marlow shot over the bar and the half-time whistle blew with the score at 2-1 to the home team.

In the second half Marlow scored from Smith's centre and Ball extended the lead with a shot from distance just a minute later. Ball rounded off the scoring following a good corner from Marlow to see the home side win 5-0.

A Christmas Day friendly against Hartshill resulted in a 1-1 draw with Hayes netting for Town. Boxing Day saw action of a more important nature, when Nuneaton slipped out of the

Nuneaton Hospitals' Cup, against Atherstone, at the second round stage, with Dyke scoring Nuneaton's consolation goal. Town followed this up with a 4-1 win in the Midland Daily Telegraph Cup third round against Kenilworth.

It was almost two weeks into the New Year before Town played their first match of 1906. The game, against old rivals Stockingford, ended in a 3-1 win for Town with goals from Marlow, Smith and Hayes.

In the away fixture at Coventry St Michaels, Nuneaton slipped to a 0-2 defeat with both the home team's goals being scored by Hartopp.

The following week, despite putting out a weakened side, Town managed to secure a 2-2 home draw with Fazeley Swifts in the Midland Daily Telegraph Cup fourth round. Ball opened the scoring with Fazeley equalising through Davis.

After the break Nuneaton scored again through Hayes and passed up the chance to go 3-1 up when Ball missed a penalty. They were made to pay for the miss when the visitors scored from a breakaway.

In a C&NW League fixture at Queen's Road, Town faced Coventry Ordnance and despite going two goals down fought their way back to draw 2-2. With the wind behind them in the second half Nuneaton got on top and Dyke cut the deficit and then equalised with a 'splendid shot'.

Trouble up The 'Ford

Mr E. Kirk, a referee of some ten years' standing, officiated the game between Stockingford and Foleshill St. George's. The referee sent off a Stockingford player, who refused to leave the field, and the "Colliers" captain refused to continue the match. Mr Kirk was accused of being drunk and incapable of taking charge.

The League committee exonerated Mr Kirk and Stockingford were expelled from the league. All players were suspended for the remainder of the season, unless they could prove they played no part in formulating the charges against Mr Kirk.

Stockingford were ordered to pay the expenses of Mr Kirk and his witnesses.

Town ran riot in the two following fixtures with 13 goals flying into their opponents' net. Hayes was the main contributor, scoring eight in the two games, five against Daimler, who were beaten 7-0 in a league game and three in the Midland Daily Telegraph Cup replay against Fazeley, which Town won 6-0.

The following Saturday, Town travelled to Coventry to face Foleshill St George's and again ran riot, despite going a goal down early on they had recovered and were leading 3-1 at half-time. After the break the visitors added five further goals with just one in reply. Ball, Dyke and Marlow with two apiece doing the majority of the scoring.



Before the resumption of league activities Town played Atherstone Town in a friendly fixture, which was drawn 1-1. For the next league match Nuneaton travelled to Clifton Vics, where after a fairly even first half, Town had most of the play in the second, but could only manage a 2-2 draw with Cooke getting both of Nuneaton's goals.

In the semi-final of the Midland Daily Telegraph Cup, Town travelled to the Red House ground at Foleshill to meet Herbert's Athletic. After an even first half, in which the scores were one apiece, Nuneaton went out of the competition 2-3, despite a well-contested second half.

Town went into reverse with three defeats in four matches, the first being a 1-3 defeat by Bedworth Town. Moore scored first for Town, but a rush by Bedworth saw the ball end up in the Nuneaton net. Jones then won the match for the home team by scoring two second half goals.

Another defeat followed in the return league fixture against Coventry Ordnance, with the visitors going down 4-1. Meanwhile back at Queen's Road, Town played another league game against Bedworth, which Nuneaton won 1-0 with a goal from Elsworth, despite the team being made up of reserves.

The following week saw another double header with contrasting results. The 'reserves' travelled to Warwick St. Nicholas where they were beaten 3-1, while back at Queen's Road, Dailmer Athletic were beaten by 6-1, despite going in at half time 1-1. McGill of Daimler was sent off for repeatedly kicking the ball away as it was placed for a free kick. McGill refused to leave the field, and had to be escorted away to stop the crowd intervening.

Ungentlemanly Conduct

The referee in the Coventry and North Warwickshire League match, Nuneaton Town v Daimler Athletic, reported having to order a player of the Athletic off the field for ungentlemanly conduct, also that the referee was dared to send the player off. As all the parties concerned were unable to attend, the report was referred to the Emergency Committee.

Town then played three matches in quick succession over the Easter weekend, facing Bedworth Town in a friendly, which they won 2-0 with goals from Savage and a Stirley penalty.

On the same day and estimated 4,000 people turned out for the Fazeley Charity Cup final between Hartshill United and Atherstone Town, with "Adders" winning 1-0. On the Saturday Town face Clifton Vics in a league game at Queen's Road and ran out 3-1 winners.

The Easter games were rounded off on the Tuesday morning with a 2-1 away win against Foleshill St George's in Coventry. Foleshill took the lead when Walters scored in the opening

minutes of the game. Dyke then went past the backs and put in a 'warm' shot which the goalkeeper saved at the expense of a corner. The corner was well placed and Marlow seized on it and beat Daniels with a fast shot.

Foleshill were much improved after the break, but could not penetrate Nuneaton's defence and after a series of attacks by Nuneaton, George Moore netted the winner.

In the league encounter with Warwick St. Nicholas at Queen's Road, the visitors scored first through Griffiths, but Hayes equalised for the home side soon after.

In the second half Moore was brought down in the penalty area and was entrusted with the kick. He put it wide of the keeper to secure a narrow victory for the home side.

Benefit Match for Mr Charles Williams

On Monday evening a benefit match was played on the Queen's Road ground in aid of Mr. Charles Williams, founder of the Nuneaton League, who has been ill for some time past. The teams who played were Nuneaton Town and Nuneaton and District League.

Play was very even, and it was not until the second half that a goal was registered. This was scored by Taylor (Chapel End) for the League, and as no further scoring took place, the League Representative side ran out winners by a goal to nil.

The league season was completed with the visit of the league champions, Herberts Athletic, who were beaten 7-0. Town built up a 5-0 half time lead and added two more after the break. The match, played on a Saturday evening, ended in fading light.

One more game was played before the end of the season, a friendly match at Atherstone, which resulted in a 0-1 defeat.

Town were unable to retain the championship, but finished a creditable third, behind champions Herberts Athletic and Clifton Victoria, with the following record:

P22 W13 D4 L5 F63 A31

The star of the side was Tommy Hilditch, late of Crewe Alexandra, who also occasionally turned out for Aston Villa Reserves. Again Nuneaton fared badly in cup competitions apart from the Midland Daily Telegraph Cup, in which they reached the semi-final before losing 3-2 to Herberts Athletic at the Red House ground, Foleshill.

Nuneaton Town were among ten clubs who applied to become members of the Birmingham Football League, with there being three vacancies available. After some very keen rivalry two previous league members were re-elected, with the only change being that Halesowen replaced Wellington.

Nuneaton Town 1894-1919 Part 1



1905

09.01	Nuneaton St.Mary	H	Friendly	2-0	Ball, Wilson
09.02	Branston Unity	H	Friendly	7-1	Savage 3, Smith 2, Dyke , unknown scorer
09.09	Hinckley Town	H	Friendly	3-1	Stirley, Sheldon, Hayes
09.16	Coventry Lord Street	A	CNW	1-2	Ball
09.28	Hawkesbury	A	CNW	4-2	Savage 2, Chattaway, Hayes
09.30	Leamington Town	H	CNW	5-2	Ball 2, Cooper, Hayes, Savage
10.07	Leamington Town	A	CNW	1-1	Savage
10.14	Coventry St.Michaels	H	CNW	1-1	Savage
10.21	Coventry Lord Street	H	CNW	1-0	Dyke
10.28	Kettlebrook Oakfield	H	HNC1	2-2	Hayes, Ball (p)
11.04	Polesworth United	H	MDT1	6-0	Dyke 2, Ross, Davis, Ball, Hilditch (p)
11.11	Earl Shilton Victoria	H	NHC1	3-2	T.Moore, Dyke, Hayes
11.18	Kettlebrook Oakfield	A	HNC1r	1-2	unknown scorer
11.25	Hawkesbury	H	CNW	5-0	Savage 3, Dyke, Hilditch (p)
12.09	Stockingford F.C.	H	CNW	3-3	Hayes, Dyke, Savage
12.23	Springfields (Coventry)	H	CNW	5-0	Ball 3, Marlow, Hayes
12.25	Hartshill United	H	Friendly	1-1	Hayes
12.26	Atherstone Town	A	NHC2	1-2	Dyke
12.30	Kenilworth	A	MDT3	4-1	unknown scorers

1906

01.13	Stockingford F.C.	H	CNW	3-1	Marlow, Smith, Hayes
01.20	Coventry St.Michaels	A	CNW	0-2	
01.27	Fazeley Swifts	H	MDT4	2-2	Dyke, Hayes
02.03	Coventry Ordnance	H	CNW	2-2	Dyke 2
02.10	Daimler Athletic	A	CNW	7-0	Hayes 5, Stirley, Marlow
02.17	Fazeley Swifts	A	MDT4r	6-0	Hayes 3, Savage 2(1p), Ball
02.24	Foleshill St.Georges	A	CNW	8-2	Ball 2, Dyke 2, Marlow 2, Stirley, unknown
03.03	Atherstone Town	A	Friendly	1-1	G.Moore
03.10	Clifton Victoria	A	CNW	2-2	Cooke 2
03.17	Herberts Athletic	H	MDTSF	2-3	G.Moore, Marlow
03.24	Bedworth Town	A	CNW	1-3	G.Moore
03.31	Coventry Ordnance	A	CNW	2-4	Marlow, Ball
03.31	Bedworth Town	H	CNW	1-0	Elsworth
04.07	Warwick St.Nicholas	A	CNW	1-3	Stirley
04.07	Daimler Athletic	H	CNW	6-1	G.Moore 2, Ball 2, Dyke, Savage
04.13	Bedworth Town	H	Friendly	2-0	Savage, Stirley (p)
04.14	Clifton Victoria	H	CNW	3-1	Savage, Hayes, Dyke
04.17	Herberts Athletic	A	CNW	2-1	unknown scorers
04.19	Foleshill St.Georges	H	CNW	2-1	Marlow, G.Moore
04.21	Wawick St.Nicholas	H	CNW	2-1	Hayes, G.Moore (p)
04.23	Nuneaton & District League XI	H	Friendly	0-1	
04.28	Herberts Athletic	H	CNW	7-0	unknown scorers
04.30	Atherstone Town	H	Friendly	0-1	

Key: CNW=Cov & Nth Warks Lge, MDT=Midland Daily Telegraph Cup, NHC=Nuneaton Hospital Cup, Hinckley Nursing Cup

Nuneaton scores first.



Tribute to Nuneaton Town From The Midland Daily Telegraph 1906

Probably no club in North Warwickshire has made greater strides in recent years than Nuneaton Town FC, an organisation that is effecting wonders in the Birmingham Junior League, and which, if all goes well, may find itself before very long in the Birmingham and District League.

At all events, this is the aspiration of the Nuneaton Town officials and certainly no-one who has followed the doings of the club will begrudge them the honour when it comes. Up to yesterday the team had played twelve matches this season in the Birmingham Junior League, of which they had won ten and drawn two. The exact record of the club thus far is fifteen matches played, won eleven, drawn three and lost one.

It is of interest to note that the solitary defeat sustained was against their old rivals, Atherstone, in a friendly. A great improvement has been carried out in regard to the Queen's Road Ground, which the club now occupy. A grandstand is now available, and a portion of the playing pitch had been levelled. That followers of the game in Nuneaton fully appreciate the improved position is shown by the capital attendances at home matches, which average nearly two thousand.

Prominent among the players now doing duty for the club are T. A. Hilditch, goalkeeper, who has previously played with Sandbach and Crewe Alexandra. Hilditch is a clever custodian, and one who is considered to have an excellent future. In the back division the club possess a capital player in L. Dale, who formerly belonged to Kettlebrook Oakfield. He is a very versatile player, and during his connection with Kettlebrook he played in practically every department.

His partner W. Worthington is an old Hinckley and Midland League player. Coming to the halves, mention may be made in the first instance of A. Harper, a local youth who, having once been given a trial, has never lost his place.

W. Ball is a player of large experience, hailing from Newhall, near Burton, and he has played for Nuneaton ever since its revival. The other half back is T. Boonham, another old member of the Hinckley club and Midland League. In the forward line there is W. Slater, now resident in Coventry, who has done duty around Birmingham and the Black Country.

A very promising player is G. Moore, late of Stockingford. Other players who may be mentioned include G. Warren, previously of Hinckley, Gravesend and Leicester Fosse; A. Moore of Stockingford and B. Carris, a veteran Nuneaton player, who has also seen service with Hinckley and Loughborough.

Special mention should be made of A. Moore, who has shown marked ability as a player, and among his performances may be noted his remarkable success against Aston Villa Reserves on September 1st, when he scored no less than four goals. A player who can accomplish a feat like that cannot fail to have a bright future in store.

To dip a little into the history of the Nuneaton club, it may be pointed out that originally it was known as Nuneaton St Nicholas, dating back some twenty years. The first ground utilised was the Higham Lane enclosure, and one of the most prominent figures in connection with the organisation at the time was the late Mr Charles Williams.

The Saints were practically the only Association club in the Nuneaton district in those days. It continued for some years, but eventually was superseded by the Nuneaton Town FC. The latter, be it remembered, was one of the clubs that helped to form the North Warwickshire League.

The club has had an eventful career, but it is gratifying to find that it occupies today a position and a name as one of the most prominent teams in the district.

In looking back at the membership list of Nuneaton players one comes across the names of J. Masser, goalkeeper; W. Cooper, right back; J. Wilson, left back; H. Griffiths and H. Elsworth, forwards. The team was a strong one even ten years ago, when its players included F. Carris goalkeeper; W. Cooper and W. Holt, backs; S. Richards, F. Dent and A. Smith, half backs; E. Tomlinson, J. Edkins, W. Gretton, W. Holmes and B. Carris, forwards.

It is curious to note that B. Carris is the only player in the above list who is now doing duty for the club, although W. Holmes, as trainer, sometimes turns out in case of emergency, as does also F. Carris.

Nuneaton has always taken an active part in cup competitions, though it cannot be said that they have been very successful in this respect. "Hard Lines" have been experienced repeatedly.

Several times they have appeared in semi-finals — on four occasions in the contest for "The Midland Daily Telegraph" Cup. They have held the Nuneaton Hospital Cup and also the Hinckley Charity Cup, but speaking generally, the club has been extremely unlucky in regard to cup competitions.

It has taken part in various leagues, notably the Nuneaton League, the Trent Valley League, the North Warwickshire League and the Birmingham Junior League. During their connection with the Nuneaton Combination the club became League champions, and they have also been victors of the North Warwickshire League.

Prominent among players at that time were W. Coton, R. Jephcote, A. Stirley, J. Aucott, A. Harper, W. Ball, L. Dyke, T. Moore, A. Savage, W. Hayes and A. Smith.

Last season they did very well indeed, occupying a very good place on the league ladder, besides getting into the semi-final of "the Midland Daily Telegraph" Cup and all together they experienced a highly successful season.

This year the team is captained by T. A. Hilditch, W. Ball being vice-captain, and Mr J. Burns secretary, of Park Avenue, Nuneaton, the last named having held the office for the last three years.



Association Club Getting Under Way

A large and influential meeting of gentlemen interested in Association football in Nuneaton was held in the Assembly Room of the Bulls Head Inn, Abbey Street, on Wednesday evening, under the auspices of the Nuneaton Town Club. In the absence of Mr. William Wright, Mr Duncan Grant was moved to the chair.

The annual report and balance-sheet of the club for the past year, which were submitted by the Secretary, Mr J. Burns, were considered satisfactory, and accordingly adopted.

The following officials were afterwards elected: Chairman, Mr G. M. Manchester, secretary, Mr J. Burns; treasurer, Mr Joe Smith; committee, Messrs C. Reader, W. J. Yoxall, William Wright, D. Grant, Thomson, Clarke, Wade, Griffiths, F. Carris, Chattaway, Lester, Daffern, Savage, John Smith. The election of president, vice-presidents, captain, vice-captain, etc., were left to the Committee.

Statements were made as to the arrangements for the forthcoming season, and from the general tone of the meeting it looked as if a new era is dawning for football in the town. The old ground in Queen's Road has been secured and arrangements are being made for having it fenced off and levelled, and a grandstand erected. The senior club are to compete in the Birmingham Junior League, while the reserves will participate in Coventry and North Warwickshire arrangements.

Subsequently a meeting of the new committee was held, when matters were advanced considerably. Judging by the manner in which the initiating business is being tackled it would seem as if the success of the club is almost assured.

1906-07

There was much excitement in the run-up to the pre-season friendly with Aston Villa, who had promised to send a strong team, which would have a couple of first team members. It was said they were sending a strong side as they expected Nuneaton to be a 'hard nut'.

The Nuneaton team was said to be the strongest set of individuals ever to have represented the club. At Queen's Road there was a surprise in store for returning spectators. The ground had been completely fenced off and the stand, which was situated on the Queen's Road end of the ground would accommodate 300 people, and was ready for the first game. An up-to-date galvanised iron barricade is now in place, replacing the old strip of canvas.

It was hoped that the committee's enterprise would be rewarded with large numbers turning out, and a record gate was hoped for. The kick-off was scheduled for 3-30pm.

Nuneaton Town v Aston Villa

01-09-1906

Nuneaton: Hilditch; Worthington and Stirley; Harper, Ball and Goode; Slater, George Moore, Warren, "Muzzer" Moore and Carris.

Aston Villa: Pickering; Lyons and Ainsworth; Evans or Higgins, Mitchell and Price; Cotterill, Webb, Abley, Homer and Henshall..

As was expected, the Villa sent along a strong team for the match, but Town's Slater, a recent acquisition from Coventry failed to appear, having missed his train.

The forward line were reported to be 'almost irresistible' and would have been even better had Slater been able to take his place in the side. As it was, it was 'a splendid game, a handsome win, and an encouraging start for the season'. The goals were scored by Alban Moore (3) and George Warren.

Erdington v Nuneaton Town

08-09-1906

Nuneaton: Hilditch; Stirley and Worthington; Harper, Ball and Goode; Slater, G. Moore, Warren, A. Moore and Carris..

Town travelled to Erdington for the first league fixture and returned with a 7-3 win. The home side were reputed to be one of the crack teams in the league. Slater, making his first start scored a brace and Alban Moore added to his three goals against the Villa.

Nuneaton Town v Redditch

15-09-1906

Nuneaton: Hilditch; Stirley and Worthington; Harper, Ball and Goode; Slater, G. Moore, Warren, A. Moore and Carris..

Town entertained Redditch at Queen's Road, in a game that had hardly a dull moment. Town's prolific goalscoring continued with a 4-0 win, in which George 'Kid' Moore got two. George Warren opened his account for the season and Billy Ball got the other. A visitor from Birmingham remarked that '...it was doubtful if there was a team in the League capable of taking points out of Nuneaton if they maintained this form...'

It was also reported that there was a significant increase in the amount of women in attendance, possibly due to the improved facilities.

The Birmingham Argus reflecting on the match, wrote: "The defeat of Redditch by such a margin as 4-0 has caused consternation among their friends." The same paper also reported that the Nuneaton forwards — Moore, Warren and Carris — would shine in higher company.

Rowley United v Nuneaton Town

22-09-1906

The following match was away at undefeated Rowley United, who were considered to have one of the soundest defences in the division, but Town continued their winning run with a 3-1 win. Carris got two and George 'Kid' Moore scored for the third consecutive game.



Nuneaton Town v Bromsgrove Rovers 29-09-1906

There was a feast of goals in the game against Bromsgrove Rovers at Queen's Road, when the teams shared 10 goals in a 5-5 draw. The game was fast and furious with play transferred at speed from one end to the other. The defence, though, had a collective off day, perhaps to do with the loss of Goode.

The forwards made up for the shortcomings of the defence, with George Warren bagging a hat-trick and Bally Carris getting the other two.

There were rumours that First Division Football League scouts were at the game.

Atherstone Town v Nuneaton Town 06-10-1906

Nuneaton: Hilditch; Stirley and Worthington; Harper, Ball and Boonham; Slater, G. Moore, Warren, A. Moore and Carris.

The friendly match against Atherstone at Sheepy Road was being ratcheted up by the papers and the Atherstone Observer commented that the Adders 'will do no such thing as succumb' and the Nuneaton Chronicle replying that 'Atherstone will find Nuneaton's Birmingham Junior League side of a calibre slightly different to the other five clubs comprising the Trent Valley League'.

There was a large crowd at Sheepy Road for the game and Atherstone's approach to the game was described as vigorous. The Atherstone paper remarked that Nuneaton had left Atherstone 'sadder but wiser'. Alban Moore's goal gave the visitors a 1-1 draw and another match was agreed to be played in November. Town's break from league action saw them slip down the league from second to fifth, four points behind the leaders with two games in hand.

Nuneaton Town v Rowley United 13-10-1906

Rowley United travelled to Nuneaton for the return league fixture and met with the same fate as before. Town again demonstrated their superiority over the visitors with a 4-2 win. The goals came from Slater (2), George Moore and George Warren.

Complaints were submitted to the Coventry and North Warwickshire League regarding Town's team in that league. Some had complained that because the Nuneaton side was viewed by supporters as being a reserve side, it was affecting match attendances.

The club responded by saying that the press were to blame, as the club itself had never referred to its C&NW side as Nuneaton Town Reserves, but the papers insisted on calling them this.

There was also more fun to be had at Atherstone's expense when they entertained Aston Villa Reserves. The crowd was much lower than had been expected, and was in

fact considerably lower than for the Nuneaton friendly. Nuneatonians were at pains to point out that Town were a greater attraction than the world famous Aston Villa.

Nuneaton Town v Kings Norton 20-10-1906

A gate of 'considerably over 2000' was at Queen's Road for the visit of undefeated league leaders Kings Norton. The enthusiasm for football in the town was now at fever pitch. However, the build up to the match wasn't ideal as Nuneaton lost Ball at the last minute and had to reorganise their side.

Town won the game 5-2 and held the upper hand throughout, apart from the final 20 minutes, when the half-back line fell away, possibly due to the fact that Holmes tired, not having played a match all season and only turning out because of Ball's absence.

The goalscorers were Carris (2), George Moore, George Warren and Alban Moore. The new back, Dale had a good game and looked as if he would strengthen the side.

Brades Park v Nuneaton Town 27-10-1906

When Town travelled to meet Brades Park, a George Warren hat-trick and only their second clean sheet so far were the main talking points.

Nuneaton Town v Coombs Wood 03-11-1906

Nuneaton: Hilditch; Dale and Worthington; Harper, Kendall and Boonham; Slater, G. Moore, Warren, A. Moore and Carris.

Coombs Wood had been champions for the previous two seasons and came close to inflicting the first defeat of the season on the home team. Town were top of the league and the attendance was the biggest ever seen on a football field in Nuneaton.

The football was of a good standard, but Nuneaton's finishing was not of the standard previously seen. Town had only George Warren's goal, with Coombs Wood having netted two of their own. The clock was ticking and the record crowd were steeling themselves for a first defeat of the season...

"It was no wonder then that when, in the last few minutes of the game, the dreaded catastrophe was averted by Slater scoring a delightful goal, that the scene became one of unparalleled enthusiasm. A mighty roar rent the air; those standing jumping into the air, those sitting on to their feet; the most dignified forgot their dignity; the reporters even lost their usual restraint — for the nonce the huge crowd, with all its diversified tastes and abilities, were on an equal footing, were practically as one man."

Oldbury Town v Nuneaton Town 10-11-1906

In the away match at Oldbury Town, Nuneaton returned to top form with the forwards described as 'irresistible'. Warren scored a goal and his play was of a high standard. Brothers



George and Alban Moore netted a couple each as the visitors ran out 5-1 winners.

Nuneaton Town v Atherstone Town 17-11-1906

The friendly game at Queen's Road against Atherstone was eagerly anticipated and a special train was being laid on to ferry hundreds of Adders fans to Nuneaton.

The faith of the travelling fans was rewarded with a win for their team and a first defeat of the season for Nuneaton. The rivalry between both town's newspapers was intense with the Atherstone Observer commenting that Nuneaton were totally outclassed by the better team.

In reply, the Nuneaton Observer pointed out that the best team had lost and the Atherstone Town goalkeeper Archer had proved himself to be the best player on the field, as he had so much work to do.

Archer's saves were of such a high quality that on at least two occasions he won the applause from both sets of fans. Some consolation was to be had from the fact that it was only a friendly.

Nuneaton Town v Bournville Athletic 24-11-1906

Town put the disappointment of losing to Atherstone behind them as they returned to winning ways when they entertained Bournville Athletic at Queen's Road.

Bournville's lowly league position was not reflected in their play and they gave a good account of themselves. The game was fast and well contested with clean play from both sides.

All of the Nuneaton players were on form, but the display from the forwards was particularly pleasing, especially by comparison with the previous two home matches.

Alban Moore, under fire in some quarters, netted two goals with George Warren getting the other in a 3-1 win for the home side. Warren's form had been consistently good and he had only failed to score in two matches.

Nuneaton Town v Erdington 01-12-1906

Erdington's visit to Queen's Road ended in the same way as the away match on the opening day of the season. This time Nuneaton ran out 4-1 winners. As with the previous match against Erdington, Alban Moore and George Warren scored, with the other two goals coming from Slater and Hayes.

The game had many thrilling incidents and the goals scored by Slater and Moore were described as being two of the finest efforts imaginable.

The Birmingham Sporting Mail suggested that the current robust state of the club should see an application to the Birmingham and District League looked upon favourably by the league committee.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE NUNEATON TOWN ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL CLUB

THE BULL'S HEAD

ABBAY STREET, NUNEATON

EADIES' Celebrated Burton ALES and STOUTS,

WINES, SPIRITS and CIGARS of the best quality

PROPRIETOR — — — JOE SMITH.

Soho Villa v Nuneaton Town 08-12-1906

The second week of December saw a trip to Birmingham to take on Soho Villa in the league with Town winning 2-1. This was to become a wasted journey as in February of 1907, Soho resigned from the league.

Nuneaton Town v Coventry City Res 15-12-1906

The Reserve side that Coventry City sent to Queen's Road was packed with players with Football League experience. The result, though, was one that was becoming familiar to Nuneaton fans, a 5-3 win with even goalkeeper Tommy Hilditch getting his name on the scoresheet.

Nuneaton Town v Hinckley United 22-12-1906

Nuneaton: Hilditch; Dale and Worthington; Harper, Ball and Boonham; Slater, G. Moore, Warren, A. Moore and Carris.

The following week again found the club without a league fixture and a friendly was arranged against Hinckley United, the only unbeaten side in the Leicestershire Senior League.

Hinckley turned up late for the game and the match eventually got going a full 55 minutes after the scheduled kick-off time. This meant that the game was considerably shorter than the usual 90 minutes.

Within ten minutes of the start Town were already 2-0 up with goals from Warren and 'Kid' Moore. Slater was very prominent throughout and his superb cross resulted in Alban Moore adding number three.

Hinckley, though three down, were still having their moments and Belton reduced the arrears just before half-time. After the break play was confined to the Hinckley half and Carris found the net following more good work from Slater. Then, following a good exchange between Carris, Warren and 'Kid' Moore, the latter scored number five.

Billy Ball rounded off the scoring from a finely judged Carris

Nuneaton Town 1894-1919 Part 1



corner. Alban Moore missed a penalty for the home side and the game ended with a 6-1 win for Town.

Bournbrook v Nuneaton Town 26-12-1906

League football returned on Boxing Day when Town travelled to Selly Oak to face Bournbrook. Even a heavy fall of snow couldn't stop many supporters making the journey.

The snow covered ground made play difficult, but the outcome was a familiar one, Nuneaton winning 5-1 with all five forwards finding the net. All five of Nuneaton's goals were scored in the first half, after which they took things easy. Although Nuneaton continued to dominate, Bournbrook broke away and scored a consolation goal.

Nuneaton Town v Cradley Heath St Lukes 29-12-1906

Nuneaton rounded off 1906 with a great win against Cradley Heath St Lukes. Goals from Warren (2), "Kid" Moore, Dale and Ball saw the home side run out 5-2 winners. Town had won every single game in December, scoring 27 and conceding 9.

The away game against Coombs Wood the following day was called off, with the home team's pitch being declared unplayable. The match against Cradley Heath St Luke's was also in doubt, but eventually went ahead as planned. Cradley were recognised as being a strong team, who were going well and had finished third the previous season, level on points with the champions.

The crowd was described as 'remarkable' given the weather conditions. Town started off slowly, but got stronger as the game progressed with the outcome being a 5-2 win for the home side. Warren continued his impressive scoring, adding another two to his total for the season and 'Kid' Moore adding one to his total. Back and half back Dale and Ball also weighed in.

At the half-way stage there was time to reflect on what had been achieved. The team were unbeaten in the league and crowds were flocking to the ground, debts had been wiped out, a grandstand built and paid for, the pitch levelled and corrugated iron fencing around the ground, as well as an enclosed pay box at the gate.

Coombs Wood v Nuneaton Town 05-01-1907

For the first match of 1907, the team travelled to Blackheath in Birmingham to take on Coombs Wood. The train departed at 12.05pm.

The match was played under difficult conditions, in what was described as a 'hurricane'. When Coombs Wood opened the scoring, it was met with a great amount of noise from the 1000 or so home supporters. The noise was just as great from the away following when Slater got Nuneaton's equaliser.

Town then took full control of the match, being much the better side and scoring two further goals through George

Moore and Warren. The home side cut the deficit, scoring the final goal of the game.

The club's exploits were now being acknowledged further afield and The Liverpool Echo had advised any club wishing to recruit new players to look no further than Nuneaton.

Town were also looking to add to their team and it was rumoured that the captain of Nuneaton Rugby Club, George Randle had signed amateur forms to convert to the Association game. Two other rugby club players were also rumoured to be about to switch codes.

Nuneaton Town v Leamington Town 12-01-1907

A friendly match with Leamington Town at Queen's Road, although well supported was said to be of poor quality, with Nuneaton fielding five reserves. The professionals had very little interest in the game, which was still won by 3-0, which should have been more.

Nuneaton Town v Aston Villa 19-01-1907

The side sent to Queen's Road by Aston Villa for the second meeting of the two clubs in a friendly, contained several players who had represented the club at Birmingham League level and one who had played in the Football League. The result was even more emphatic than the first encounter with Warren and Carris both scoring twice and brothers Alban and George Moore getting the others in a 6-0 victory.

Hilditch for Villa

The many admirers of Mr. T. A. Hilditch will be delighted to learn that his brilliant goal-keeping for Nuneaton has secured him recognition in high circles, having signed amateur forms with Aston Villa.

It is understood that an agreement has been made that Hilditch will not leave Town to play for the Villa third team and will remain available for selection throughout the season.

Town were not allowed to play their professional players in the Birmingham Junior Cup tie with Old Hill Unity, but the rest of the first team squad were available. The Moore brothers scored five of the goals between them in a 7-2 win.

There was some bad news following a friendly match arranged against Foleshill Great Heath, when three of Nuneaton's first team were injured in a rough game. The worst of the injuries was sustained by George Warren who was reported as having fractured his knee.

Nuneaton Town v Oldbury Town 02-02-1907

The following league match was against bottom of the table Oldbury Town. Town won yet again, but the ease of their



victory was not as expected with Oldbury putting in a good show. George Moore moved into the centre forward position due to Warren's absence.

The game itself was not a great exhibition with the ground being hard, but Nuneaton had soon opened up a three goal lead through Slater, Alban Moore and Carris. Alban Moore later collided with the goal post and was carried from the pitch. Even though he returned after treatment the team didn't perform as well after his injury. The final score was 3-1.

Bournville Athletic v Nuneaton Town 09-02-1907

Residing in the lower reaches of the league, Bournville Athletic were expected to go the same way as most other teams who had faced Nuneaton. No-one though had told the hosts of the script, and they inflicted Nuneaton's first league defeat of the season by four goals to two.

Many of the 100 or so supporters who travelled were of the opinion that had Warren not been injured, the outcome would have been very different.

Alban Moore scored one and Hayes, drafted from the C&NW side, scored the other, but Town were beaten by the better team on the day. Both attack and defence were disjointed. The defeat was balanced against the news that came from second placed Redditch, who also lost.

Cradley Heath St Lukes v Nuneaton Town 16-02-1907

Unlike the previous week's opponents Cradley were going strong near the top of the table, but the visitors were encouraged by the news that George Warren had been declared fit and would take his position in the team.

The match was a slightly different story to the previous week, with Town being declared to have played the better football and were beaten due to the condition of the pitch. It was said by the locals that it was not possible for a visiting team to win on their pitch.

Town were holding their own at the interval, but Cradley scored two further goals in the second period, both from corners. It was said that Cradley used their weight 'indiscriminately' and swung the ball around in an almost bewildering fashion.

Nuneaton scored first through Alban Moore, who had the distinction of scoring Town's 100th goal of the season. With eight matches left to play the league leaders had a six point lead over Redditch, who had a game in hand. The two sides were due to meet on the Saturday before Easter and there was intense interest in the match, not only in the two towns, but in the entire Birmingham area.

The following week's game against Bournbrook was postponed as Town's proposed opponents in the Birmingham Junior Cup, had been given dispensation by the league to play a Leamington Cup match. For this reason, Town's committee decided to scratch from the competition.

Because of the postponement, Town decided to bolster the ranks of the C&NW team who were facing Great Heath at Queen's Road. The home team ran out 4-1 winners in front of a record crowd for a second string fixture.

Nuneaton Town v Langley St. Michaels 02-03-1907

Despite recent reversals there were 2,000 spectators at Queen's Road to welcome back their team after a month away. George Warren was back for the first time on home soil since his injury and Tommy Hilditch had forsaken the chance to turn out for Aston Villa, meaning that Nuneaton were able to field their first choice team.

Town returned their best result of the season, winning 7-1, calming the nerves of those who thought the rot had set in. Ball opened the scoring for Nuneaton and added another shortly afterwards before Warren signalled his return with two of his own. Langley cut the deficit with a penalty after Boonham had fouled in the area. Despite Hilditch's best efforts Vale equalised.

Within a minute Nuneaton scored again, Slater glided a shot along the cross bar and Carris picked it up, centred and Slater made it 5-1. Town then had a penalty which captain Hilditch took, scoring number six.

In the second half, only one goal was scored, but it should have been more. Although Langley had upped their game after half time, their goal had some wonderful escapes, with Slater landing the ball on top of the net and both Carris and Warren hitting the upright. Eventually though, Town did score again with "Kid" Moore scoring from a corner.

Soho Villa

With the end of the season in sight, it is a great pity that Soho Villa have found it necessary to withdraw from the League. It has been known for some time that the club were in a bad position, and they find it impossible to continue any longer. The withdrawal affects the League table to a great extent, as all the games played have to be eliminated. Of course, it serves the clubs all alike in one sense, but if it happens in such cases that any of the leaders have met and defeated a team that afterwards withdraws, the deduction of points might be a serious matter...

Langley St. Michaels v Nuneaton Town 09-03-1907

There was an immediate opportunity for revenge for Langley St. Michael's, who had reportedly taken their drubbing very badly. Boonham was missing, suffering from a severe cold, and his place was taken by the C&NW team's Sid Smith.

The crowd was greatly affected by the English Cup fourth round tie taking place at The Hawthorns where the Baggies were playing Notts County.

Nuneaton Town 1894-1919 Part 1



Nuneaton forced a corner in the first minute of the match, but the home side were soon ahead when Price scored. Five minutes later Langley scored again through Mann and the visiting supporters feared the worst.

Nuneaton, however, kept pegging away and came more into the game and Alban Moore broke clear. Just as he was about to shoot, he was 'very nastily' brought down and "Kid" Moore cut the deficit from the penalty kick. Slater then got an equaliser following good work by the inside men.

Before the half time whistle Town had a number of opportunities with Warren and Ball both going close. Carris looked certain to score, but the whistle sounded for half-time.

After the break Nuneaton took complete control of the match with Langley hardly entering their opponents' half throughout. On one of the rare occasions when they did Hilditch saved. The Langley goal was leading a charmed life and for once Town forwards were unable to take advantage.

When the winner came it was a lovely goal from Carris, who shot home from out near the corner flag. The verdict on the two matches seemed to be that Langley didn't deserve to lose 7-1, but could well have lost the return by a greater margin.

Nuneaton Town v Brades Park

16-03-1907

There was a large crowd assembled for the visit of Brades Park, but when the teams came out the wind was blowing a gale and Slater was missing from the line-up. Trainer Holmes was in his place, and turned out to be an efficient substitute.

The game was only three minutes old when Town scored the afternoon's first goal — Alban Moore netting from a Holmes cross. George Warren then missed an absolute sitter. He could have walked the ball into the net, but somehow lifted the ball over the top. Shortly afterwards Brades Park equalised, and although there was some talk of offside, the goal stood.

"Kid" Moore put Nuneaton ahead shortly afterwards and added another from a penalty. Boonham scored his first league goal to make the score 4-1. Carris also had the ball in the net, but was given offside.

After the break, Nuneaton still maintained their superiority and Carris missed an early chance, with the goalkeeper nowhere to be seen. The forward line then broke as one unit and Warren passed the ball forward to George Moore, who shot home to complete his hat-trick. Alban Moore made it six from Carris' centre. Brades Park had the chance to add a further goal, but after Worthington had handled, Hilditch pulled off a great save from the penalty.

Town might easily have scored double the amount of goals, but missed chances and were caught offside on several occasions, due to Brades Park playing the 'one back game'. Dale was outstanding for Town and on several occasions he took the ball from three or four of the visiting forwards, to the bewilderment of the players concerned and the delight of the crowd.

Even though the next match up was at home to Bournbrook, all the talk was about Redditch away on March 30. It was being billed as the match of the season and speculation about the size of the gate focussed on a record breaking crowd. There was even a rumour circulating that Aston Villa were looking to postpone their match with Liverpool because of the counter attraction at Redditch. There was to be a special train arranged at cheap rates for the benefit of Nuneaton supporters.

Nuneaton Town v Bournbrook

23-03-1907

Nuneaton's last home league fixture of the season was played at Queen's Road, with Town maintaining their record of not having lost at home in the league all season. There were more than 2,000 people in attendance and there was as much talk of Redditch and would they suffer the same fate as Nuneaton on their visit to Cradley Heath.

Slater received an ovation from the crowd on his return to the side and almost from the kick-off his centre should have been converted by Warren, who hit the post. The game was played at a fast pace and was end to end. The early action also saw Harper come to Nuneaton's rescue by robbing a Bournbrook forward just as he looked to score.

Nuneaton got well on top and time after time they hovered around the Bournbrook goal with shots raining in thick and fast. With just a short time to go before the break Slater scored to secure the home team a 1-0 lead at half-time.

The second half was a repetition of the first and started when Alban Moore lifted the ball over the bar from close range before having another effort disallowed for offside. Bournbrook's goal had many close shaves, but Warren scored with a shot that the visiting keeper could not reach.

The finest play of the afternoon took place when Harper passed to Slater, who exchanged passes all the way up the right wing with George Moore, the outside player's cross being put narrowly wide by Warren. The final goal of the match was scored by Warren, his strike putting the match beyond doubt.

Redditch's defeat at Cradley Heath the same day further raised hopes that the championship shield of the Birmingham Junior League would come to Nuneaton.

Full Report on Title Decider v Redditch Next Page

Following the Redditch match Town arranged a friendly match against Sandbach Ramblers. The fact that Tommy Hilditch was born in Sandbach may have had some bearing on this match being arranged. It was a regulation win for the home side who scored four to the visitors' one.

Bromsgrove Rovers v Nuneaton Town

02-04-1907

In their league encounter away at Bromsgrove Rovers, Nuneaton slipped to only their third league defeat of the



season, losing 2-1. The following game was a friendly against Birmingham League Stourbridge, which was eventually washed out after 60 minutes due to incessant rain. To complete the watery theme for the day there were ducks on the pitch at half-time and a visit to Sinbad the Sailor at the Prince of Wales Theatre following an invite from Mr. K. F. Cross, the noted poet, playwright, journalist and author.

Kings Norton v Nuneaton Town 13-04-1907

In Kings Norton the Nuneaton match was described as the 'game of the season', with the home team having an outside chance of finishing runners up, but there was a modest crowd of only 500 to witness the event. The match was so low key that the crowd hardly cheered the home team's opening goal. Nuneaton's equaliser when it came was from an own goal by Caldecote.

The home friendly match between the Champions and the Pick of Birmingham Junior League appears on following pages.

Nuneaton rounded off their season with two further friendlies against Stourbridge (5-0) and Earl Shilton United (9-0).

Birmingham Junior League 1906-07

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nuneaton Town	24	17	4	3	86	39	38
Redditch	24	17	1	6	76	37	35
Cradley Heath St Luke's	24	13	6	5	67	32	32
Kings Norton Metal	24	13	5	6	62	46	31
Coombs Wood Tube	24	10	8	6	50	42	28
Bromsgrove Rovers	24	12	2	10	68	60	26
Rowley United	24	9	4	11	56	70	22
Erdington	24	8	4	12	70	70	20
Langley St. Michael's	24	8	4	12	57	64	20
Brades Park	24	7	5	12	45	89	19
Bournbrook	24	6	5	13	53	61	17
Bournville Athletic	24	7	3	14	45	67	17
Oldbury Town	24	1	5	18	29	87	7

Wasps As Pets

"The title may appear strange to many people," writes Miss Black-Hawkins in the 'National Review,' "but although wasps seem to be almost unknown as pets, yet they make very interesting and intelligent ones. The common wasp (*vespar vulgaris*) is far from the bad-tempered and bold insect it is thought to be; in fact, my own experience leads me to believe wasps to be rather cowards than otherwise.

"A wasp will pretend to be in a great temper and buzz around agrily, but it is generally bluff, and if no notice be taken of the ruse, it is anything but courageous." ...

30th March 1907 Redditch Town v Nuneaton Town

For some weeks previously it had been thought that the Town's game at Redditch would determine the championship of the Birmingham Junior League.

Redditch Town, already well established in Birmingham football circles and second in the table, were the only club who could deny the upstarts the title.

The Nuneaton Midland station was a scene of great animation, as a large number of soccer enthusiasts prepared to journey with the team to 'Needle Town'. All were confident of victory, after all the 'Tricky Blues' had defeated 'The Needle-men' 4-0 at Queen's Road, and the team was just as good now as it had been then. On a glorious Easter afternoon, the teams lined up as follows:

Redditch: Harris, Wedd, May, Marston, Pembert, Slade, Davis, Spiens, Mason, Ason, Peplow.

Nuneaton: Hilditch, Dale, Worthington, Harper, Ball, Boonham, Slater, G. Moore, Warren, A. Moore, Carris.

Tommy Hilditch won the toss and Redditch set the ball rolling before nearly 5,000 spectators. Nuneaton took the lead during the opening exchanges when Alban Moore caused the home keeper to concede a corner from which George Warren scored, the ball going just inside the post.

The visitors continued to create the better chances and from one of Slater's centres Alban Moore headed the ball into the net, but was ruled off-side. Warren hit the crossbar and shots by the same player and George Moore narrowly missed the target.

In a home attack, a shot from Peplow dropped on top of the net, but Nuneaton continued to hold the advantage and Harris made fine saves from Alban Moore and Slater. The visitors had pressed for nearly all of the first half, but no further goals came before half-time.

Redditch took up the running upon the restart and it was Hilditch who was loudly applauded for some fine work in Nuneaton's goal, saving four shots in quick succession.

The crossbar saved the visitors as their defence came under severe pressure. Redditch were playing much better this half and having most of the game.

Their efforts were finally rewarded when Peplow got the equalising goal amid frantic cheering and hats flying. The game then proceeded at a terrific pace as both teams strove hard for the winning goal, but honours finished even at 1-1. It had been a grand game to witness and at the end there was nothing to choose between the teams.

Nuneaton left Redditch well satisfied with the point which virtually guaranteed them the title, an event which was celebrated all over the district the following month when they collected the Birmingham Junior League shield.



April 20th 1907

Nuneaton Town v Pick of the League

The last Saturday but one of the football season 1906-07 will be regarded as a red letter occasion in the local history of football.

It was the day on which Nuneaton Town received the reward for a victorious season, a fitting climax to a season of wonderful success — ‘unprecedented’ as the League president Mr Tillotson remarked.

The Nuneaton ground was staging a match which had been eagerly anticipated by their supporters. Nuneaton Town, as champions, were playing the Pick of the Birmingham Junior League. As a souvenir of the occasion a team card was issued, the front giving the team line-ups, the reverse Nuneaton’s results and goalscorers for the season. It was the first ever issue of a Town ‘programme’.

During their league campaign Nuneaton had been fortunate that there had been very few team changes through illness or injury, but for this match they had two absentees, Alban Moore, who had decided that it wasn’t worth the risk in taking part and was replaced by Rowley and skipper Tommy Hilditch, who was keeping goal for Aston Villa Reserves in their match against Coventry City at the Lower Grounds.

Team changes for the Pick of the League were E. Smith of Bournville and a Junior International for Rollison with Banks (Oldbury) replacing Poolton. The Pick of the League team was: Scott (Brades Park); Bussey (Cradley Heath) and Rollison (Rowley); Caddick and Handley (Kings Norton), Brooks (Bromsgrove); Poolton (Bournbrook), Spiers (Redditch), Parkes (Coombs Wood), Weston (Langley) and T. Jones (Bournville).

The weather was holding fine, the only complaint being a strong wind, as the Town Band entertained a crowd of over 2,000 before kick off. Nuneaton won the toss and elected to defend the top end of the field.

The Town showed some of their old form, and the League players gave plenty of examples of individual flair, but were obviously disadvantaged in their team play.

Although the encounter was lacking the vigour of a league game, the first half was fairly even with fast end to end action. Nuneaton did manage the ‘old five’ and at the same time kept their goal intact, but the game was not particularly one-sided.

Both custodians merited applause for some smart saves early in the game, but the champions just about deserved their interval lead. They scored minutes before the break when Slater put across a beautiful centre, which Carris met and banged into the net off the inside of the post.

Rain was falling at the start of the second half and the Pick of the League had a setback through injury to Bussey.

Nuneaton got their second goal when Warren sent George Moore clear. The Town were now besieging their visitors’ goal and excitement among their supporters became intense as they scored three times in two minutes.

First Smith, attempting to head clear, put through his own goal, and then George Warren scored twice in a minute and Clarke, who was proving a splendid deputy for Hilditch, saved a Spiers penalty.

Towards the finish, with Town winning 5-0, interest flagged, but the crowd came to life again at the final whistle.

Nuneaton Receive The Shield

There was a rush for the stand when the final whistle blew and the scene was a ‘striking one’. Councillor Tillotson, chairman of the Birmingham League, who had also acted as referee, presented Billy Ball, the deputy captain, with the magnificent championship shield.

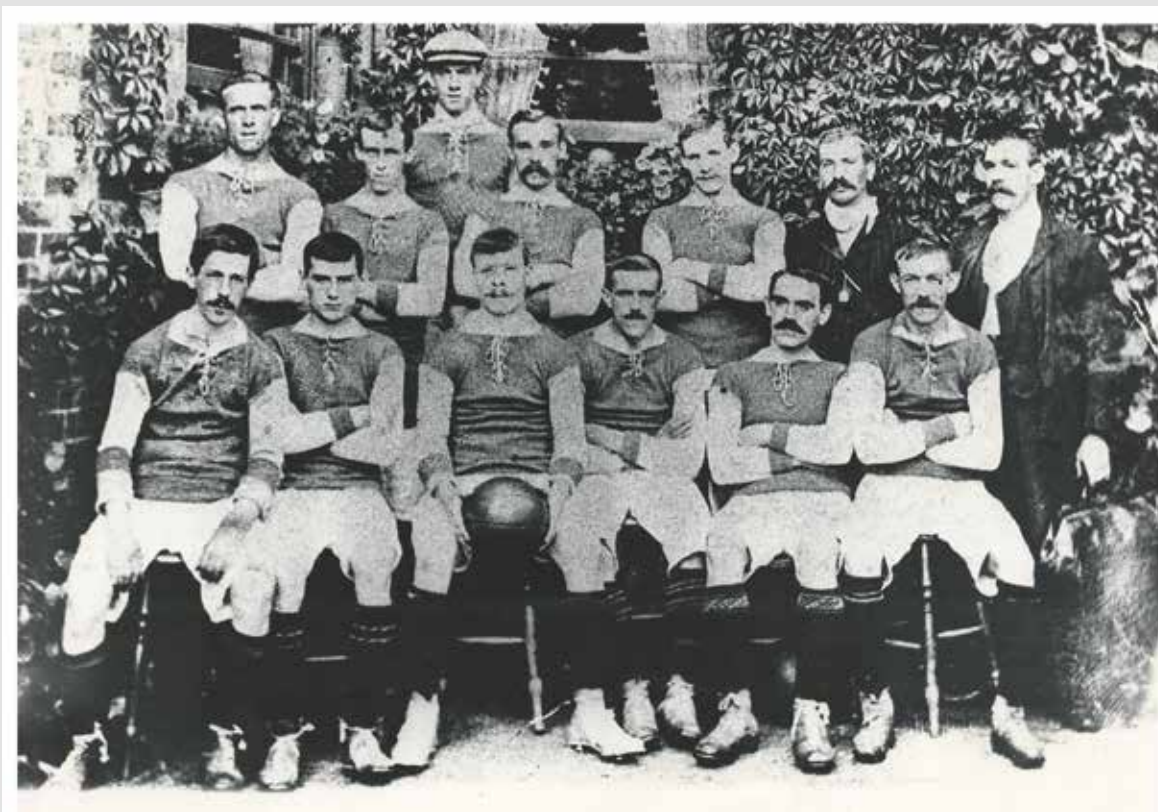
Mr Tillotson congratulated Nuneaton on their success, which he said was unprecedented. No other club in the Birmingham Junior League had ever won the competition in their first season as members of the league.

Having refereed Nuneaton’s match with Bournville, he said that he was greatly struck with their play. He understood that there was some probability of Nuneaton applying for admission to the Birmingham & District League, and he, as president of the Junior League wished them success. They were always glad to see a club aspiring to higher things.

The animated scenes at the ground — the large crowd and the band playing, the influential townspeople present — there was no doubt as to the popularity of football in Nuneaton. The progress of the charabanc containing the players and committee, with the Shield prominently displayed and the blue and white umbrella conspicuous, the Town Band leading the way — a veritable march of triumph through crowded streets to the clubhouse.

The Birmingham & District League

The Committee at their meeting this week decided not to apply for admission to the Birmingham & District League, but to remain in the Junior competition. The decision will come as a great disappointment to many of the club’s supporters, but there are a great many things to consider, and the Committee have done that they deem best for the ultimate success of the club. To run a team in a League of the standing of the Birmingham & District League entails enormous expense, and Nuneaton is so situated that they would have to pay what would amount to a very large sum during the season in excess fares to several of the clubs when visiting here..



September 1906

- Back
- Tommy Hilditch (capt)

- Middle
- Henry Stirley
- Arthur Harper
- William Ball
- Goode
- Trainer
- Fred Carris
- J Burns (secretary)

- Front
- George Moore
- George Warren
- Alban Moore
- Bally Carris
- W Worthington

- The team that beat
Aston Villa Reserves 4-1

1907

- Back
- Les Dale
- Tommy Hilditch
- T Clarke

- Front
- Billy Holmes (trainer)
- Arthur Harper
- Billy Ball
- Tommy Boonham
- Billy Worthington
- William Slater
- George 'Kid' Moore
- George 'Tubby' Warren
- Alban 'Muzzer' Moore
- Bert 'Bally' Carris
- Birmingham Junior
League winners



Nuneaton Town 1894-1919 Part 1



1906

09.01	Aston Villa Reserves	H	Friendly	4-1	A.Moore 3, Warren
09.08	Erdington	A	BJL	7-3	Slater 2, A.Moore 2, G.Moore, Ball, Carris
09.15	Redditch Town	H	BJL	4-0	G.Moore 2, Warren, Ball
09.22	Rowley United	A	BJL	3-1	Carris 2, G.Moore
09.29	Bromsgrove Rovers	H	BJL	5-5	Warren 3, Carris 2
10.06	Atherstone Town	A	Friendly	1-1	A.Moore
10.13	Rowley United	H	BJL	4-2	Slater 2, G.Moore, Warren
10.20	Kings Norton Metal Works	H	BJL	5-2	Carris 2, G.Moore, Warren, A.Moore
10.27	Brades Park	A	BJL	3-0	Warren 3
11.03	Coombs Wood	H	BJL	2-2	Warren, Slater
11.10	Oldbury Town	A	BJL	5-1	G.Moore 2, A.Moore 2, Warren
11.17	Atherstone Town	H	Friendly	1-1	A.Moore
11.24	Bournville Athletic	H	BJL	3-1	A.Moore 2, Warren
12.01	Erdington	H	BJL	4-1	A.Moore, Warren, Slater, Hayes
12.08	Soho Villa	A	BJL	2-1	A.Moore, Holmes
12.15	Coventry City Reserves	H	Friendly	5-3	Warren 2, G.Moore, Hilditch, Slater
12.22	Hinckley United	H	Friendly	6-1	G.Moore 2, Warren, A.Moore, Carris, Ball
12.26	Bournbrook	A	BJL	5-1	Slater, G.Moore, Warren, A.Moore, Carris
12.29	Cradley Heath St.Lukes	H	BJL	5-2	Warren 2, G.Moore, Dale, Ball
1907					
01.05	Coombs Wood	A	BJL	3-2	Slater, G.Moore, Warren
01.12	Leamington Town	H	Friendly	3-0	Warren, Boonham, S.Smith
01.19	Aston Villa Reserves	H	Friendly	6-0	Warren 2, Carris 2, G.Moore, A.Moore
02.02	Oldbury Town	H	BJL	3-1	Slater, A.Moore, Carris
02.09	Bournville Athletic	A	BJL	2-4	A.Moore, Hayes
02.16	Cradley Heath St.Lukes	A	BJL	1-3	A.Moore
03.02	Langley St.Michaels	H	BJL	7-1	Warren 2, Ball 2, Slater, G.Moore, Hilditch (p)
03.09	Langley St.Michaels	A	BJL	3-2	G.Moore (p), Carris, Slater
03.16	Brades Park	H	BJL	6-1	G.Moore 3 (1p), A.Moore 2, Boonham
03.23	Bournbrook	H	BJL	3-0	Warren 2, Slater
03.30	Redditch Town	A	BJL	1-1	Warren
04.1	Sandbach Ramblers	H	Friendly	4-1	Warren 2, Carris, Savage
04.2	Bromsgrove Rovers	A	BJL	1-2	G.Moore
04.6	Stourbridge	H	Friendly	2-0*	G.Moore 2
04.13	Kings Norton Metal Works	A	BJL	1-1	o.g.(Caldecote)
04.20	Pick Of Birmingham Junior League	H	Friendly	5-0	Warren 2, G.Moore, Carris, own goal (Smith)
04.27	Stourbridge (k.o.3.30pm)	H	Friendly	5-0	Warren 2, G.Moore, Boonham, Gascoigne
04.27	Earl Shilton United (k.o.6.30pm)	H	Friendly	9-0	Warren 3, Gascoigne 2, Boonham, Carris, G.Moore, own goal

* Stourbridge friendly on April 6th was abandoned on 60 mins due to incessant rain

Key: BJL=Birmingham Junior League

Nuneaton scores first.



Hilditch Plays For County

Interest in the County cricket championship match between Warwickshire and Northampton, at Birmingham, on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, was more than usually acute locally by reason of the fact that Mr T. A. Hilditch, of Nuneaton, was figuring in the ranks of the Warwickshire team. Although not among the runs, Mr Hilditch took two wickets for eight runs in four overs in Northampton's second innings. He has been asked to play again in the upcoming match against Lancashire.

We are able to announce today that the last formalities in connection with the granting of a Charter of Incorporation for Nuneaton have been complied with.

This week information was received by Mr F. S. Clay, Clerk to the Council, that the Charter had been signed by the King and completed, and on the necessary cheque being forwarded the Charter would be handed over to Nuneaton Council's Parliamentary Agents.

We understand that the necessary reply has been made to this intimation, and it is expected that intimation of the date on which the Charter Mayor (Alderman J. F. Johnson) and the Charter Clerk (Mr F. S. Clay) will proceed to London to bring the Charter to Nuneaton will be announced when receipt of the cheque is acknowledged.

This intimation may be expected by any post now, and all anxiety as to the Incorporation of the town is at an end.

1907-08

After winning the Birmingham Junior League the previous season Nuneaton had continued their membership of the same league, having voted against a move into the Birmingham League, which would have been too expensive. Hopes were high of repeating their championship win of the previous season. The club's other team, the C&NW side were re-admitted to the league, having been forced to re-apply as they finished in the bottom three.

The keen interest in the Nuneaton Town club last season is set to continue following the news that the League has been considerably strengthened by the admission of the top four clubs in the Walsall League: Wednesbury Old Athletic, Bilston United, Darlaston Town and Willenhall Pickwick, an increase from 14 to 16 clubs. Oldbury Town and Soho have ceased to be members of the League.

The AGM

The annual general meeting of the members of the Nuneaton Town Football Club was held at the Bull's Head Inn, Abbey

Street, on Tuesday evening. There was a large company present, and the proceedings were characterised by the same happy unanimity that prevailed during the whole of the past successful season. The chair was occupied by Mr. George Manchester, the chairman of committee.

After the reading of the minutes, the Secretary Mr J. Burns presented his annual report and in doing so remarked that the Club had been put on a sound business footing and he thought that the forthcoming season would be a greater success than the past one...

...The adoption of the report having been carried unanimously, the Chairman presented the balance sheet. At the outset he said they were all agreed that the club had had a most successful season, and the public had supported them splendidly...

...It was the duty of the Committee to make their arrangements to carry on the Club in a sound business way, and not to follow the example of some clubs, who ran up debts of £60 or £80 every season...

...On the proposition of Mr T. Savage, seconded by Mr Cooper, the balance-sheet was approved...

Mr Cooper raised the question of season tickets, and it was announced that in future the cards would be two distinct colours. Green tickets (7s 6d) would admit to the stand and red tickets (5s) to enclosure.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded the proceedings.

All Signed Up But Warren

The local football public will be pleased to know that Nuneaton Town Football Committee have been successful in retaining the services of George Moore, the popular inside right, for whose signature more than one club in higher circles made a big bid since the close of the season. "Kid" has remained true to his home team, and this fact will no doubt make him a firmer favourite with the local crowd than ever. Supporters will also be pleased to learn that last night Dale again signed on for Nuneaton. Among the other members of last year's team who have been signed on are: Hilditch, Worthington, Boonham, Ball, Harper, Carris, A. Moore, Slater. Several first-class players have approached by the Club, and interesting developments may be expected in the course of the next few days.

Pre-Season

Judging by the interest taken in the trial games being played by the Nuneaton Town Club, the coming season bids fair to eclipse the splendid record set up by the club last year. Two practice matches have already been played, with the last one being watched by about 1000 supporters.

Nuneaton Town 1894-1919 Part 1



The team to oppose West Bromwich Albion on Monday evening — the opening match on the Queen's Road ground — will consist of Hilditch; Dale and Worthington; Harper, Ball and Boonham; Slater, G. Moore, Cramp, A. Moore and Carris. Kick-off 6pm.

A fourth trial match will take place on Saturday afternoon (3.30pm) when two really good teams will take the field:

Stripes: Shilton; Stirley and Sid Smith; Frank Marlow, Cooper and Randle; Harry Marlow, Rowley, Sheldon, Bennett and Gascoigne.

Blues: Jarvis; Archer and Ryan; Hall, Gore and Marshall; Charnell, Savage, F. Moore, Roberts and Charles.

Nuneaton Town v West Bromwich Albion 02-09-1907

Nuneaton: Hilditch; Dale and Worthington; Harper, Ball and Boonham; Slater, George Moore, Cramp, Alban Moore, Carris.

West Brom: Pearson; Adams and Hemming; Young, T. Haywood, and J. T. Timmins; Massey, Bradley, Shinton, Wright and Smith.

On Monday, September 2nd 1907, Nuneaton Town and West Bromwich Albion had their first meeting. At the conclusion of the 1906-07 campaign Nuneaton Town had won the championship of the Birmingham Junior League, their success bringing them an increasing amount of support. Thus, the visit was anticipated with an eagerness never before experienced in Nuneaton at the opening of a season.

Despite rain one hour before the 6 pm kick-off the financial guarantee given to the visitors was secure when nearly 2,000 fans lined the ropes of the Queen's Road ground.

Albion sent their full Birmingham League side for the game, several of them being household names among football devotees. Fred Shinton, their centre forward, had the previous season scored 28 goals, more than any other player in the two divisions of the English League and a record that would stand as Baggies' record until 1920.

Nuneaton showed one change from their championship side. George Warren had departed for Coventry City, his place at centre forward going to Cramp.

Right from the very start of the game, it was full of interest and classy football. And, within ten minutes of the start Cramp had given Nuneaton the lead, but at the interval the visitors had a 2-1 lead, their first goal coming from the penalty spot.

The second half brought the crowd to a high pitch of excitement. George Moore equalised for the Town, Cramp became the hero of the fans when he gave them the lead and Alban Moore responded to their loud encouragement with a fourth goal. Albion strived to their utmost to reduce the lead and shortly before time were successful, the game ending in a 4-3 win for Nuneaton.

Bilston Town v Nuneaton Town

07-09-1907

Nuneaton: Hilditch; Dale and Worthington; Harper, Ball and Boonham; Slater, George Moore, Cramp, Alban Moore, Carris.

Town opened their league programme with a visit to newcomers Bilston United and got off to a bad start, arriving late at the ground and kicking off 10 minutes after the advertised start time. About 2,000 supporters were in attendance.

The game started at a fast pace and continued in the same way throughout. In the first half neither side pressed for any period of time and there were no prolonged attacks by either team's forwards. Only one goal was scored, George "Kid" Moore giving Town a half-time lead.

Starting the second half in front and with the slope in their favour, Town's chances appeared to be good, but it was not to be. Bilston equalised early in the second half through inside right Cooper. This appeared to inspire the home team and they started to pass the ball around like 'greased lightning' and completely outplayed the visitors' defence.

Cooper gave the home side the lead before a controversial penalty went against Nuneaton. Dale was adjudged to have handled the ball when breasting it down. Roberts scored number three for the home side. Bilston then added another before the final whistle.

Nuneaton had chances a plenty through the course of the 90 minutes, but some remarkable misses saw Nuneaton fall to a 4-1 defeat in their opening league match.

Nuneaton Town v Redditch

14-09-1907

Nuneaton: Hilditch; Dale and Worthington; Sid Smith, Ball and Boonham; Slater, George Moore, Cramp, Alban Moore, Carris.

Redditch: G. Harris; Pickering and May; Slade, H. Harris and H. Mason; T. Mason, Atkins, Wakelam, Aston and Bissell.

The attendance for the opening home league game exceeded all expectations with 2,500 assembled for the visit of Redditch. Harper's injury meant Nuneaton had to make one change — the replacement being Sid Smith.

Town started as though they meant business and had the ball in the net in the first minute, but it was ruled offside. This did not put the home side off their game, as they scored a legitimate goal shortly after, with "Muzzer" Moore scoring.

The opening flurry continued as Town went two up when goalkeeper Harris fumbled the ball and Carris was on hand to score. By this time the crowd had worked themselves up into a fever of excitement, but Redditch settled and the game developed into a stern struggle, with each goalkeeper being called into action.

Shortly before the break Redditch pulled a goal back. When Hilditch punched clear, T. Mason picked up the loose ball and banged it into the net.



For a period the excitement became intense with Town bombarding the Redditch goal. Hilditch was then called upon to make 'the save of his career'. Having won the ball, three or four of the Redditch forwards literally fell on the Nuneaton keeper. When he emerged from the melee with the ball the crowd 'cheered to the echo'. The second half was played out with no further score and Town reportedly not up to their reputation.

Nuneaton Town v Rowley United 21-09-1907

Nuneaton: Hilditch; Dale and Worthington; Harper, Ball and Boonham; Slater, George Moore, Beadsworth, Alban Moore, Carris.

There was another large crowd, in excess of 2,000 for the visit of Rowley United and again the kick-off was delayed, this time by twenty-five minutes due to Rowley's late arrival. There was an important change in the Nuneaton line-up with Beadsworth, late of Leicester Fosse, Coventry City, Preston North End, Manchester United, Swindon, New Brompton and Burton United in the line-up.

Harper returned to the team and Clarke was in for Hilditch who was representing Villa Reserves.

Beadsworth made his mark after ten minutes when his well-judged pass was headed into the net by Carris. Rowley came back at Nuneaton, causing some concern on several occasions, but it was Nuneaton who scored the next goal.

Beadsworth sent in a shot which completely beat the Rowley keeper, even though he got his hands to the shot. Rowley then came close on a couple of occasions, but to no avail. Nuneaton's third came just before the interval and was hit with such power by "Kid" Moore that it had to be dislodged from the netting.

Shortly after half-time Town extended their lead when Boonham unleashed a shot from distance that found its intended target. The visitors hit back within two minutes to make the score 4-1 which made it a sensational opening to the second period. Harper and Slater had good efforts for Town and just before the final whistle Slater scored, but it was given offside after the referee consulted with his linesman.

Beadsworth was acknowledged as being an impressive addition to the side and 'a replacement for Warren'.

Nuneaton Town v Bromsgrove Rovers 28-09-1907

Nuneaton: Hilditch; Dale and Worthington; Cooper, Ball and Boonham; Slater, George Moore, Beadsworth, Alban Moore, Carris.

The following Saturday's match was being looked on as one of the 'day of days' in the history of Nuneaton when the town celebrated the Charter of Incorporation. The day would be marked at Queen's Road by the visit of Bromsgrove Rovers, the only team to escape from Nuneaton with two points the previous season.

The club would also be showing off their new flag, which had

been donated by Mr Thompson of the Red Lion Inn. The flag would be flying from a huge flagpole erected on the ground and would be a landmark over the whole district.

The two teams and the championship shield were to be part of the Charter Day Procession and the League had given special permission for the kick off to be put back to 4.15pm. It was thought to be a foregone conclusion that the gate would exceed all previous records.

On the day, the flag hoisted by its donor Mr Thompson fluttered over the heads of in excess of 3,000 spectators. The only change for the home side was Cooper who replaced Harper.

After the first whistle all memories of last season's game were out of mind as Town proceeded to run riot. Although they only scored two in the first half, through "Kid" Moore and Beadsworth.

"Kid" Moore opened the second half scoring again followed by Beadsworth, whose shot from long range was a beauty. An almost identical goal followed, but this time by Ball. Carris then headed home from a long swinging pass from Cooper, before George "Kid" Moore completed his hat-trick to make the score 7-0.

Coombs Wood v Nuneaton Town 05-10-1907

Buoyed by their success against Bromsgrove the team next travelled to Blackheath to meet with Coombs Wood. Both teams having been champions in recent seasons. Town had to fight every inch of the way for the draw with "Kid" Moore, Beadsworth and "Muzzer" Moore winning an away point.

The C&NW team excelled themselves at Queen's Road in inflicting a first defeat on Foleshill Great Heath, 3-1.

Cycle Parking

I notice that a gent residing in Queen's Road, opposite the Nuneaton Town Football Field, has taken to storing cycles for those who visit the matches played there. This is a good idea and one which I think the football committee would do well to encourage. It will save trouble at the entrance gate on admission and avoid the trundling of bikes in the midst of the crowd when spectators are leaving.

Rowley United v Nuneaton Town 12-10-1907

Nuneaton's visit to bottom club Rowley United resulted in a 4-0 win for the visitors. The total could have been greater as Rowley lost their keeper through injury, although in some way this made it more difficult for Nuneaton as the home side played the one man game for all they were worth.

The game suffered as a spectacle as time after time Nuneaton were caught offside, due to Rowley employing this tactic. All

Nuneaton Town 1894-1919 Part 1



the goals were the result of individual efforts, as combined passing movements were out of the question.

Alban Moore scored the only goal of the first period with Slater and “Kid” Moore (2) scoring in the second. The C&NW side, representing the club in the Birmingham Junior Cup progressed to the next round at the expense of Chapel End. Sandy Sheldon was the pick of the Nuneaton forwards with two goals to his credit.

Nuneaton Town v Stirchley 19-10-1907

Stirchley, previously Kings Norton Metal Works, were the visitors to Queen’s Road and again the locals had turned out in force, despite the heavy downpour just before the start.

Nuneaton were without Boonham and his place was taken by Frank Marlow, who had previously represented Hartshill. The slippery conditions and the wind prevented the match from being a classic, but Town were on top throughout.

Beadsworth had more than one shot that narrowly missed the target, although one of them was almost certainly over the line when the visiting keeper punched the ball out.

Nuneaton went in 1-0 up at half time thanks to “Kid” Moore. The visitors then equalised before Alban Moore and Slater put Town 3-1 up.

Controversially, Stirchley’s second goal hit the post and ran out of play on the wrong side of the post. When Hilditch looked up as he was about to take the goal kick, no-one was more surprised to see the teams lining up to kick-off and that a goal had been awarded.

Nuneaton Town v Darlaston 26-10-1907

Darlaston’s visit to Queen’s Road saw them arrive with a full complement of points from the six games they had played, having only conceded three goals in the process.

The crowd was described as being two or three hundreds over 3,000. A good turn out considering that the weather was described as ‘dirty’.

Boonham and Alban Moore were unfit to play and their places were taken by Kendall and George Bennett respectively. Cramp, who started the season with Nuneaton led the line for Darlaston. The match was refereed by Mr J. C. Tillotson, president of the Birmingham Junior League, who had officiated at the highest level in the Football League.

From the first kick-off there was a constant buzz of excitement, which continued from start to finish, much of it engendered by the near misses on the Darlaston goal.

The visitors did, however, take a one goal lead into the interval. Town conceded due to a misjudgment by Hilditch who ran out, but in failing to halt the attack, left Darlaston’s outside right with an easy task of scoring.

Town were in control and had come close to equalising on several occasions. “Kid” Moore’s shot just lacked a bit of pace

and Latham in the Darlaston goal, sprang ‘like a cat’ across the goalmouth.

Several other close misses followed for the home side, with Carris putting the ball over the bar from a couple of feet out. Slater also went close with a fine individual attempt, but luck seemed to be against the home team.

However, seven minutes from the end, Carris headed into the net. Town’s equalising goal was greeted with a mighty roar which lasted almost five minutes. Though Town bore down on the Darlaston goal time and again, no more goals were scored and the match ended 1-1.

Town’s C&NW team again impressed with a 6-3 win over the previously unbeaten Foleshill St. George’s.

Atherstone Town v Nuneaton Town 02-11-1907

The Hinckley Nursing Cup tie at Sheepy Road between Atherstone and Nuneaton was more of a war than a football match. Characterised by extreme partizanship and bitter rivalry, the game featured seven men laid out, two penalty goals and another defeat for Nuneaton in their encounters with Atherstone, a record that stretched back 13 years.

It was reported that proper football was impossible to play when such reprehensible tactics were introduced. It could scarcely be called a sportsmanlike game. What the game required was a firm and thoroughly strong-minded referee.

Right from the first kick-off Atherstone look a winning team and went 1-0 up early on. The home side increased their lead before the break, going in 2-0 at half-time.

“Kid” Moore scored a penalty to cut the lead, but Atherstone were also awarded a penalty, from which they scored. “Muzzer” Moore cut the deficit again for Town, but at the final whistle “Adders” were 3-2 winners.

Beadsworth was a passenger, receiving a kick early in the game, and was limping throughout. Worthington was also taken out of the game. The Atherstone paper reported that Nicholls, despite his goal, again resorted to his ‘old tactics’ for the most part of the game. His goal was a good one, but he should keep his temper in check and his mouth shut.

The Ambulance men were called onto the pitch seven times, three for Nuneaton and four for Atherstone. It was said that the referee was not as strict as he should have been, but may have allowed for local rivalry.

Brades Park v Nuneaton Town 09-11-1907

The following League match was against Brades Park at Oldbury. The visitors were severely weakened by injuries and four players without experience of Birmingham Junior League football were making their debuts.

Nuneaton won a corner in the first few minutes and the Brades Park goal had three narrow escapes in quick



succession, but at the other end Town were also tested on more than one occasion.

The away side, however, did gain the upper hand and a fine centre from Slater was converted by Savage. "Muzzer" Moore then added to the score, shortly after hitting the post. The half-time score was 2-0 to the visitors.

Five minutes after the restart, George "Kid" Moore beat every player in front of him before passing to Savage, who beat the goalkeeper with a beautiful drive.

Hilditch made a good save, but the home centre forward picked up the loose ball and shot home. "Kid" Moore broke again, and although the keeper got hands onto his shot, it was of such power that he could not keep it out.

The visitors were playing some very good football and when they broke as a unit, Alban Moore ended up with the final shot into the net. The home side pressed for a while, but some exceptional work by Carris set up Alban Moore for his hat-trick and the sixth goal for the visitors.

Nuneaton Town v Cradley Heath St Lukes 16-11-1907

Nuneaton: Hilditch; Dale and Worthington; Harper, Cooper and Baker; Slater, George Moore, Savage, Alban Moore, Carris.

Town were again hampered by injuries for the visit of Cradley Heath St Lukes and from very early in the match it was apparent that they had a task in front of them, especially when eight minutes into the game, Cradley scored following a corner.

"Muzzer" Moore missed the chance to equalise when he skied his shot in front of an open goal. The Cradley goal then had several narrow escapes, which caused a great deal of excitement in the crowd, but they could not break down the visitors' defence and went in 0-1 down at half time.

Three minutes into the second half George "Kid" Moore worked an opening before passing to Savage, who equalised. Town stepped up their game and swarmed around the Cradley goal. The pressure eventually paid off with Nuneaton being awarded a penalty. "Kid" took the penalty, which the goalkeeper punched out, but straight to the penalty taker, who put the ball into the net.

Nuneaton suffered a set-back as Dale was in collision with another player and had to leave the pitch. During Dale's absence Cradley Heath grabbed an equaliser.

With the scores tied at 2-2, Nuneaton had a chance to regain the lead when they were awarded another penalty. "Kid" Moore again took the kick and this time the Cradley keeper got the ball clear and the chance was lost.

With only seconds left to play and the home crowd streaming out of the ground, Cradley grabbed the winner and with incredulous looks, the crowd realised that their favourites had lost the game.

Darlaston v Nuneaton Town

23-11-1907

Town next faced league leaders Darlaston away, and were under the hammer from the kick-off, hardly having an attack at all to speak of. The new signing, Cotterell, failed to show, having been a victim of a change in train schedules. The result of this was that the visitors had to recruit a supporter, Gore, to make up their team. Cotterell then turned up 15 minutes after the start.

During the match Nuneaton had only one effort that tested the home keeper when Carris sprinted up the wing and from almost on the touchline sent in a beauty which the keeper was forced to tip over the bar.

Darlaston, as well as scoring four goals, tested Hilditch throughout and but for him the score would have been much heavier. Hilditch's performance was wonderful, as he kept out shot after shot, and the ground in front of the goal was a regular morass, which meant it was difficult for the keeper to keep his feet.

At half time the keeper cut a sorry figure, covered in mud and blood pouring from one of his knees. During half time Darlaston covered the area in sawdust.

In the second half Town came more into the game and when they scored early on it looked as if they may be able to salvage something. The goal came after George "Kid" Moore put in a shot that the keeper stopped, but the referee adjudged it to have been over the line. Darlaston did not take the decision well and it was a while before the restart.

Nuneaton continued to do most of the pressing in the second half, but could not score, even when Darlaston lost their keeper and had to play the rest of the match with ten men.

Wednesbury Old Athletic v Nuneaton Town 16-11-1907

The journey to the match against Wednesbury Old Athletic took three hours in thick fog and when they arrived the pitch was as hard as iron and in a dangerous condition for a football match.

With Wednesbury sitting third bottom, Nuneaton had hopes of returning home with two points under their belt, but suffered a set back when Ball had to be replaced at the last minute. Town, however, got off to a flying start with Alban Moore scoring in the first five minutes, mainly due to the play of Carris.

Wednesbury equalised and shortly afterwards took the lead. After the break "Kid" Moore missed a chance from a couple of feet out, but in general Wednesbury's bustling tactics broke up the play.

The ball was travelling around at a tremendous rate, but mainly in the air, and nothing came of the play for either side. The second half looked as if it would remain goalless, but in the last five minutes Athletic broke and scored to run out 3-1 winners. Carris' play throughout, was of a high quality, but

Nuneaton Town 1894-1919 Part 1



his crosses went begging with Carnell being a poor substitute for Slater, which consequently affected George Moore's effectiveness.

Nuneaton Town v Leicester Nomads 07-12-1907

Town faced Leicester Nomads the following week in a friendly fixture, running out 9-3 winners. A new signing from Hinckley, Burgess was given a trial and scored a hat-trick.

The same day, the club's C&NW side travelled to Atherstone to fulfil a Birmingham Junior Cup tie and were given an 8-1 thrashing for their trouble.

Nuneaton Town v Willenhall Swifts 14-12-1907

The following week's match was also a friendly, against the champions of the Walsall League, Willenhall Swifts. The rain that fell flooded the pitch and it was touch and go as to whether the game would go ahead. As it turned out the match was a farce with pools of water all over the pitch and players floundering in the mud and pools of water. The game ended 4-4.

Nuneaton Town v Wednesbury Old Athletic 21-12-1907

There was an early opportunity for Town to gain revenge for a 3-1 defeat at Wednesbury Old Athletic, when the Black Country side travelled to Queen's Road. Town started as if they meant it and went three goals up in the first ten minutes with goals from Slater, "Muzzer" Moore and "Kid" Moore, who added another to his tally soon after. There were no further goals before the break, but the Willenhall goal had some miraculous escapes.

Willenhall attacked from the start of the second half and quickly scored two goals through Plant and Adams. It was looking as if Wednesbury would claw their way back into the game, but when Alban Moore scored the fifth goal, the visitors looked a beaten team. Burgess scored a sixth and Town were denied a penalty following a foul in the penalty area which was only punished by a free kick.

Nuneaton Town v Bilston United 26-12-1907

The Boxing day performance against Bilston United was described as the worst performance ever seen by the home team. The team opened brightly but went in a half time a goal down. Bilston totally dominated in the second half and ran in a further three goals with the final score being 0-4.

Willenhall Pickwick v Nuneaton Town 27-12-1907

Town slipped to another defeat the following day when they travelled to Willenhall Pickwick for a league fixture. Things started badly as they had to include two reserves in the line-up and then suffered a further blow when Dale failed to turn up. Trainer Holmes was not changed in time for the kick off and Nuneaton started with ten men, during which time

Willenhall opened the scoring. Nuneaton, however came back strongly and scored twice through brothers George and Alban Moore. Willenhall then hit back and scored two more goals of their own to run out 3-2 winners. Billy Ball received a nasty kick, which forced him to retire. The following day Willenhall beat league leaders Darlaston 5-0.

Nuneaton Town v Coombs Wood 21-12-1907

Town were again weakened the following day when they entertained Coombs Wood with Burgess, Ball, Harper and Slater all on the injured list and Dale suspended for failing to turn up at Willenhall.

When the match got underway, Town should have scored in the opening minutes, but they did take the lead shortly after through Beadsworth following good play from "Kid" Moore. Beadsworth then increased the lead and Town were playing some good football. The visitors got a controversial goal, but straight from the kick-off Sheldon headed the home team further into the lead.

Alban Moore had a goal disallowed for offside before Coombs Wood scored again to raise the home supporters' anxiety levels. Beadsworth, however, completed his hat-trick to settle things down. Immediately after, cries of the "old five" went up as Sheldon scored his second goal of the game.

Bromsgrove Rovers v Nuneaton Town 11-01-1908

The New Year didn't start for Town until January 11th when they faced Bromsgrove Rovers away. Nuneaton gave a debut to youngster Jeffcoat, who took Carris' position wide left. Beadsworth took Slater's position on the right, and turned in a good performance.

The ground was frostbound and covered in snow, which made the match very scrappy. Town were not in any way superior to the opposition, but went in 1-0 up at half time thanks to a goal from Burgess.

Jeffcoat performed well, despite his youth and possessed a good turn of speed and some tackling ability. Towards the end of the game Nuneaton showed some improvement and added two goals, both scored by "Kid" Moore, to win 3-1.

Stirchley United v Nuneaton Town 18-01-1908

The following week Nuneaton were away again, this time to Stirchley United. Both Dale and Carris returned to the side. The game opened in sensational fashion when Hilditch ran out to attempt a clearance, but was beaten to the ball by Hanson who easily scored.

"Kid" Moore scored the equaliser soon after with the help of his brother Alban, and it was not long before Nuneaton had edged in front. A beautifully placed corner from Jeffcoat enabling Benskin to put past the goalkeeper. Carris, who had swapped wings to accommodate Jeffcoat, shaped well in his new position and put Town further ahead.

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Burgess was robbed of a goal, when his shot, which was destined for the net, was scooped out by one of the backs. "Kid" Moore made no mistake from the spot. Dale was injured just before half time and had to retire.

The second half was tricky, Town being without Dale for the first ten minutes and the pitch becoming a quagmire. They also had the problem of kicking up the hill. Play then became scrappy and rough, several fouls spoiling the game. It was during this period that Stirchley pulled a goal back.

Following the goal Burgess broke through for Town, and looked set to score, but an offside decision was called by the referee, who then admitted a mistake and threw the ball up, but the chance was gone. Burgess then missed a good chance from an Alban Moore cross before Stirchley narrowed the score to 4-3 just before the end. Jeffcoat again put in a good performance at outside right.

Nuneaton Town v Worcester City 25-01-1908

The following match was a friendly against Worcester City at Queen's Road. The home side were comfortable 8-2 winners.

Bournbrook v Nuneaton Town 01-02-1908

Town played their third consecutive league match away from home when they visited Bournbrook. It was blowing a 'perfect hurricane', but Hilditch won the toss and chose to kick with the wind. With the elements in their favour the visitors quickly built up a 3-0 advantage with "Kid" Moore scoring all three.

The change of ends made all the difference with the home side now taking advantage of the wind. Bournbrook cut the advantage to 3-1 and then reduced the arrears further through what was called 'a rank offside goal', with Hilditch and his backs making no attempt to stop the ball going into the net.

George Moore was then fouled just a yard out with the goal at his mercy, but the referee ignored the penalty appeals. The referee capped off an inconsistent display by blowing his whistle a full minute and half before time with Burgess set to put the ball into the net.

Nuneaton Town v Brades Park 08-02-1908

On their return to Queen's Road, Town faced Brades Park, a team they had beaten 6-1 earlier in the season. Nuneaton again out-gunned the opposition, but the score did not really reflect the game, flattering the home side.

"Kid" Moore, combining well with Slater, repeated his feat of the previous week, netting a hat-trick. The game though, was not a great spectacle, although it was enlivened by bursts of individual brilliance.

Burgess, although below par, did manage to net one of the goals and was joined by "Mac" Harper, who scored his first goal for Town and received a rousing ovation. Alban Moore was also off colour and was joined by Jeffcoate, who had little chance to shine, as he was starved of the ball.

Cradley Heath St Lukes v Nuneaton Town 15-02-1908

Cradley Heath St Luke's had been the first team to win at Queen's Road in the Birmingham Junior League and were a free scoring 'tough' team in the top three of the league table. Harper and Slater were both missing.

It was a remarkable match, inasmuch as Nuneaton's players scored four goals, and lost 5-1. Another of the goals was reportedly punched home by a Cradley player after Hilditch had saved. The 'goal' that Cradley did score was of a high standard. Burgess was the scorer of Nuneaton's solitary goal.

The tactics employed by Cradley were of such a 'rough' nature that it was said that Nuneaton were lucky to come through the match without broken bones.

Nuneaton Town v Aston Villa Reserves 22-02-1908

The following week saw Aston Villa send the strongest side ever to have lined up for the club against Nuneaton. Unfortunately, a severe rainstorm affected the game and the high winds and sodden ground affected the football.

Tommy Boonham was the best half-back on the field and weighed in with two goals. George "Kid" Moore scored the other goal in a 3-2 win. Tommy Hilditch was the hero of the match, who was cheered time and again for his saves, as town ran out 3-2 winners.

Nuneaton Players Picked for Trial Game

Two Nuneaton players were chosen to play in the trial match to decide selection for the Birmingham team to meet the Scottish Juniors. Tommy Hilditch kept goal for the 'A' team, while George "Kid" Moore represented the 'B' team.

Nuneaton Town v Bournville Athletic 29-02-1908

The next match saw the 'Cocoa Boys' of Bournville visit Queen's Road for a league match and Town ran up a record score for a Birmingham Junior League game, winning 8-0. Burgess was on the sick list, so Carris was shifted from his familiar wide role to an inside position.

This tactic was a resounding success as "Bally" bagged four goals in the rout. "Kid" Moore, also playing out of position, added another hat-trick to his account. Slater got the other goal. One of George Moore's goals made it 100 for the season overall.

Nuneaton Town v Bournbrook 07-03-1908

Bournbrook's visit to Nuneaton generated a match of great excitement, mainly due to the fact that Nuneaton stormed their opponent's goal for long periods without success.

Nuneaton should have scored twice in the first five minutes,

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but from a rare breakaway Bournbrook scored and held on to the lead for almost the entire match. Time and again Town looked like they would score, with the crowd voicing their exclamations at each miss.

Bournbrook put every effort into keeping their goal intact and packed their area to keep the home forwards at bay. After eighty minutes Nuneaton finally broke Bournbrook's defence with George Moore getting the equaliser, which sent the crowd wild with delight. Having broken the visitors' resistance it wasn't long before another goal was scored, this time by Jeffcoate.

The player acknowledged as the outstanding player on the pitch was Tustin, the Bournbrook goalkeeper, whose display was said to be one of the finest ever seen at Queen's Road.

Nuneaton Town v Burton United 14-03-1908

Burton United of the Birmingham League arrived at Nuneaton the following week for a friendly match, which had been arranged at some expense to the committee and was anticipated to attract a large crowd.

Town were on top throughout and ran out easy winners with the final score being 4-0. George Moore and Burgess got a couple of goals apiece.

Erdington v Nuneaton Town 21-03-1908

There were many obstacles put in the way of Nuneaton Town for their visit to Erdington. Burgess was away with the Pick of the League side, Hilditch missed his train and Benskin, having recovered from a football related injury, injured himself gardening.

The upshot of all this was that Committee man Fred Carris took over in goal, Savage was called up as a last minute substitute and Nuneaton kicked off with ten men. The kick-off time came, and Dale started off in goal as Mr Carris was not yet changed

Town started with grim determination and against all the odds Jeffcoate gave them a 1-0 lead, scoring from a narrow angle following Slater's pass.

Dale came under pressure following two Erdington corners, but dealt ably with the threats, before giving way to Fred Carris. The period in which Nuneaton were up to full strength lasted all of a minute, when Worthington was forced to retire injured, and did not return for the rest of the half. During this period George Moore and Boonham fell back into defence.

"Bally" Carris then scored twice in three minutes to give the visitors a 3-0 lead with only half an hour gone and Savage added another just before half-time.

Erdington made a better fist of it in the second period, although Roberts in the home goal was kept busy enough. "Kid" Moore scored a second half penalty to complete Town's scoring with Erdington getting a solitary consolation. At the

final whistle Town were 5-1 winners.

Redditch v Nuneaton Town 28-03-1908

In contrast to the previous season when Redditch and Nuneaton had everything to play for, Town's visit to the 'Needlemen' was a low key affair with both sides out of the running in the league. The visitors made several changes including Clarke for Hilditch and Benskin coming back into the side at centre-half.

The ground was in an awful state — a sea of mud that made passing almost impossible. Redditch, however, opened the scoring after 30 minutes, but shortly after Jeffcoate converted from a "Kid" Moore pass. Redditch then scored again just before the interval.

Redditch pressed hard at the start of the second half and eventually increased their lead to 3-1. Carris made it 3-2 before the unusual event of George Moore missing a penalty took place. Redditch eventually scored a fourth and Boonham's effort in reply for Nuneaton saw the match end 4-3 to the home side.

With the season quickly coming to an end, the committee had moved quickly to re-sign "Kid" Moore. There was also the formation of a limited company taking place and the search for a new ground.

There was a blank day for Nuneaton the following week, but George "Kid" Moore had been called up to represent England Junior XI in a match against Scotland. Moore had a good game for his country, winning a penalty and scoring a goal.

George "Kid" Moore

The transfer has been agreed of George "Kid" Moore to Birmingham City for a transfer fee of £50. As part of the agreement Birmingham have agreed to send a strong side to Nuneaton for a pre-season friendly.

The Nuneaton committee had wisely taken the precaution of signing "Kid" on professional forms at the end of March.

Langley St Michaels v Nuneaton Town 11-04-1908

Nuneaton's visit to Langley St Michael's saw them slip to their second consecutive league defeat. Although they pressed early on and Boonham hit the upright, Langley broke and right winger Weston went past Worthington and scored with a hard shot. The home side doubled their lead shortly after when the other winger, Price scored after Shilton failed to clear.

Langley increased their lead and then scored a fourth from the penalty spot. Boonham scored a consolation goal from a well worked free kick. Benskin shaped up to take the kick, but jumped over the ball and Boonham, following up, hit a well struck shot into the net. This, though, was an off day for Town

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and the only surprise at the end was that they hadn't lost by a greater score than the eventual 4-1 reverse.

Nuneaton Town v 2nd Royal Warwicks Rgt 17-04-1908

A friendly was arranged with 2nd Royal Warwickshire Regiment for Good Friday, which ended 2-2.

Bournville Athletic v Nuneaton Town 18-04-1908

The following day's visit to Bournville was expected to yield two points, with the hosts being odds-on for the wooden spoon. Their visit to Queen's Road had seen them lose by eight goals to nil.

Bournville though took a 2-0 lead, which was quickly equalised through goals from Burgess and Carris, making it 2-2 at half-time. Slater gave Town the lead for the first time in the second half and Carris headed a fourth soon after.

Bournville, however, cut the lead to 4-3 before the match ended in controversy with just five minutes to go. A Bournville player carried the ball back onto the pitch after it had gone out of play, and then proceeded to kick the ball into the net. Despite strong appeals from the visitors, the referee would not change his mind and awarded a goal, the game ending 4-4.

Nuneaton Town v Willenhall Pickwick 20-04-1908

A good crowd of 1,500 were in attendance for the visit of Willenhall Pickwick, with a lot of excitement generated by the C&NW side winning the Atherstone Nursing Cup, which was on show in the stand.

Nuneaton made a couple of changes with Billy Ball coming in for Benskin at centre-half and Sheldon at inside right. Town started slowly, though, and within five minutes found themselves a goal down. The visitors added another in quick time, with Shilton a spectator in the home goal.

Town upped their game with Sheldon going close, but with the game being played at a fast pace, Pickwick were better on the ball and the home team could not break down Willenhall's defence. At half time it was 2-0 to the visitors.

Town upped their game after the break and some excitement was generated as the Willenhall goal had several narrow escapes. Finally, Nuneaton scored with a goal from Burgess after Sheldon had passed to Jephcote who set up the chance. Sheldon and Carris both went close to equalising and Slater could have made it 2-2 right at the death, but it ended 1-2.

Nuneaton Town v Langley St Michaels 21-04-1908

The following day Town entertained Langley St Michael's, who had recently beaten their hosts by 4-1 in the away fixture. Town gained revenge at Queen's Road though, inflicting a 2-0 defeat on their visitors with two goals from "Bally" Carris.

Playing in front of another large attendance, Nuneaton put out a mixed side with Stirley brought in at back and Dale pushed up front. F. Marlow lost his place in the side to Harper and Ball was replaced by Benskin. H. Marlow and Sheldon took their place on the right.

Nuneaton started at a fast pace and it wasn't long before Carris scored the first of his two goals. The same player added another in the second half and Town ran out 2-0 winners. Jephcote again impressed with his runs and centres being much admired by the crowd.

Nuneaton Town v Erdington 27-04-1908

Town brought the curtain down on their league programme when they faced Erdington in a game that took place on the Newdegate Arms pitch. The 'wretched' weather ensured that the crowd was low and the game poor. Carris and Dale were the goalscorers.

Town Reserves won the Atherstone Nursing Cup and the Nuneaton Minor Hospital Cup. In April it was announced that Mr. Lilley had let the Newdegate Arms ground to Nuneaton Town and the final match at Queen's Road was the 2-0 defeat of Langley St Michael's on April 27th.

Birmingham Junior League 1907-08

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Darlaston	30	21	6	3	83	32	48
Bilston United	30	22	3	5	89	35	47
Cradley Heath St Luke's	30	19	5	6	102	47	43
Nuneaton Town	30	16	4	10	93	65	36
Willenhall Pickwick	30	16	3	11	71	51	35
Wednesbury Old Ath	30	15	4	11	67	60	34
Coombs Wood Tube	30	12	5	13	70	64	29
Stirchley United	30	12	4	14	62	70	28
Redditch	30	11	6	13	63	73	28
Bournbrook	30	8	10	12	61	84	26
LangleyMichael's	30	9	6	15	54	76	24
Bromsgrove Rovers	30	10	4	16	46	71	24
Erdington	30	8	6	16	58	77	22
Rowley United	30	7	7	16	69	89	21
Brades Park	30	6	8	16	45	84	20
Bournville Athletic	30	4	7	19	44	99	15

Present Players v Past Players

A game between present and past players took place following the end of the league programme. The past players team was selected by Fred Carris and was said to have 'caused considerable fun' for the large crowd, with the game itself was described as being more of a water polo game than a football match. The 'current' team ran out 8-6 winners.

Nuneaton Town To Be Limited Liability Company

A very well attended meeting of the subscribers and season-ticket holders of Nuneaton Town Football Club was held at the Bull's Head Hotel on Thursday evening for the purpose of considering the advisability of forming the Club into a Limited Liability Company, and judging by the attendance a considerable amount of interest has been aroused by the proposal.

...The chairman briefly opened the meeting after which he gave a resume of the procedure which had led to the meeting. He said that during the past two years the Club had got too big to continue going on on the present lines, and the Committee thought the time had come for the responsibility to be shared by a larger number of people. For that reason they had come to the conclusion, that it was to the best interests of the club that it should at this stage be turned into a company. One of the chief reasons that had influenced the Committee was the knowledge that Junior League football would not always suit the public of Nuneaton, and though it had not been definitely settled, there was an understanding that application should be made for admittance to the Birmingham and District League...

Charter Day

The route to Nuneaton gaining its charter was at a meeting of urban district council when Alderman W. E. Bates proposed that the town apply for the status of a Municipal Borough in August 1901. Nuneaton had been an urban district since 1894, which was normal for a smaller town at that time. As Nuneaton grew however, there were seen to be many advantages in achieving municipal borough status, such as the ability to elect mayor, and to borrow money on more favourable terms than previously. It was decided in 1903 that Nuneaton would apply for municipal borough status and in 1906 the crown granted for this to be issued in the next day.

On the day of the accession to the charter, September 28th 1907, a procession through town was organised, starting in Pool Bank Street and marching through 17 streets before ending in Attleborough Road. There were many participants, including the town's football club, league champions the previous season. The town band headed the procession, which also included the St John Ambulance, cars decorated to celebrate the town's association with the weaving and soap making trades, and two branches of the Ancient Order of Druids. Next came a series of tableaux on floats by local schools with entrants including "a peep in fairyland" by Abbey Street School, "the British Isles" by Galley Common School and "A Japanese tea party" by Queens Road Council School.

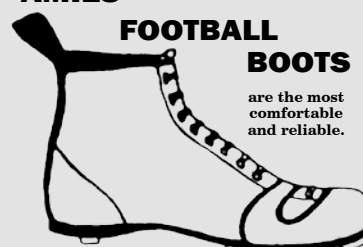
From there on followed more marchers including the Loyal Howard Lodge of Oddfellows, pit ponies from Griff Colliery,

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and a troop of huntsmen from the local hunt. After that was a parade of characters in fancy dress including Dick Whittington played by Frank Trinder, Little Boy Blue played by A. J. Arnold and 'a Spaniard' played by G. Smith. Bringing up the rear were the band of the 1st Battalion of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, members of the old urban district council, the town fire brigade, head teachers associations and members of the Liberal and Conservative clubs. Arriving at a field at the end of the march, the charter was read out. Other attractions in the town included dancing and readings by a certain Professor Sherbourne. Throughout the town 8,000 fairy lights has been arranged and later in the evening there was a fireworks display including "the latest products of pyrotechny and coloured fires" displayed from the old Parish Church Tower.



"A Peep in Fairyland" by Abbey Street School

Courtesy of nuneatonhistory.com

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1907

09.02	West Bromwich Albion	H	Friendly	4-3	Cramp 2, G.Moore, A.Moore	
09.07	Bilston United	A	BJL	1-4	G.Moore	
09.14	Redditch	H	BJL	2-1	A.Moore, Carris	
09.21	Rowley United	H	BJL	4-1	Boonham, G.Moore, Beadsworth, Carris	
09.28	Bromsgrove Rovers	H	BJL	7-0	G.Moore 3, Beadsworth 2, Carris, Ball	
10.05	Coombs Wood	A	BJL	3-3	G.Moore, Beadsworth, A.Moore	
10.12	Rowley United	A	BJL	4-0	G.Moore 2, Slater, A.Moore	
10.19	Stirchley United	H	BJL	3-2	G.Moore, Slater, A.Moore	
10.26	Darlaston	H	BJL	1-1	Carris	
11.02	Atherstone Town	A	HNC2	2-3	G.Moore (p), A.Moore	
11.09	Brades Park	A	BJL	6-1	A.Moore 3, Savage 2, G.Moore	
11.16	Cradley Heath St.Lukes	H	BJL	2-3	G.Moore, Savage	
11.23	Darlaston	A	BJL	1-4	G.Moore	
11.30	Wednesbury Old Athletic	A	BJL	1-3	A.Moore	
12.07	Leicester Nomads	H	Friendly	9-3	Burgess 3, G.Moore 2, A.Moore 2, Boonham, Beadsworth	
12.14	Willenhall Swifts	H	Friendly	4-4	Burgess 2, G.Moore, Boonham	
12.21	Wednesbury Old Athletic	H	BJL	6-2	G.Moore 2, A.Moore 2, Burgess, Slater	
12.26	Bilston United	H	BJL	0-4		
12.27	Willenhall Pickwick	A	BJL	2-3	G.Moore, A.Moore	
12.28	Coombs Wood	H	BJL	5-2	Beadsworth 3, Sheldon 2	
1908						
01.11	Bromsgrove Rovers	A	BJL	3-1	G.Moore 2, Burgess	
01.18	Stirchley United	A	BJL	4-3	G.Moore 2 (1p), Carris, Benskin	
01.25	Worcester City	H	Friendly	8-2	G.Moore 2 (1p), Burgess 2, Jephcote 2, Carris, A.Moore	
02.01	Bournbrook	A	BJL	3-3	G.Moore 3	
02.08	Brades Park	H	BJL	5-2	G.Moore 3, Burgess, Harper	
02.15	Cradley Heath St.Lukes	A	BJL	1-5	Burgess	
02.22	Aston Villa Reserves	H	Friendly	3-2	Boonham 2, G.Moore	
02.29	Bournville Athletic	H	BJL	8-0	Carris 4, G.Moore 3, Slater	
03.07	Bournbrook	H	BJL	2-1	G.Moore, Jephcote	
03.14	Burton United	H	Friendly	4-0	G.Moore 2, Burgess 2	
03.21	Erdington	A	BJL	5-1	Carris 2, G.Moore (p), Savage, Jephcote	
03.28	Redditch	A	BJL	3-4	Boonham, Carris, Jephcote	
04.11	Langley St.Michaels	A	BJL	1-4	Boonham	
04.17	2nd Royal Warwicks.Regiment	H	Friendly	2-2	Marlow, A.Moore	
04.18	Bournville Athletic	A	BJL	4-4	Carris 2, Burgess, Slater	
04.20	Willenhall Pickwick	H	BJL	1-2	Burgess	
04.21	Langley St.Michaels	H	BJL	2-0	Carris 2	
04.27	Erdington	H	BJL	2-0	Carris, Dale	At The Newdigate Arms
04.30	Fred Carris Past Town Team	H	Friendly	8-6	unknown scorers	

Key: BJL=Birmingham Junior League, HNC=Hinckley Nursing Cup

Nuneaton scores first.



Nuneaton Town Reserves 1907-08

Players (no order): Jack Smith (trainer), 'Bogie' Hall, Frank Marlow, Harold Archer, Baker, W. Shilton, Fred Stirley, Fred Carris, Billy Kendall, Harry Marlow

Front: Sid Smith, 'Sandy' Sheldon, Albert Savage, Tom 'Miner' Bennett, Finnigan (possibly).

The Queen's Road Ground

It is common knowledge that some doubt prevails as to whether the Queen's Road ground will be available for another season and that steps were being taken to secure another suitable field as near the centre of town as possible. There is no prospect of obtaining the field between Abbey Street and the Recreation Ground, and the latest news is that the Committee have in view a field leading off the Burgage, with an entrance where the old lodging-houses in Abbey Street at present stand.

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1908-1909

The Newdegate Arms Ground



The Newdegate Arms Ground circa 1914. The football pitch can be seen to the right, with the Rugby pitch, left centre background.

Following a period of sustained enthusiasm for the Association game, Nuneaton Town made a bid to transfer from their Queen's Road ground to the Town's premier sporting facility at the Newdegate Arms ground.

The town's rugby club had been tenants at the ground since 1879, and rented the facility from Mr J. Butlin, proprietor of the Newdegate Arms Inn, for £3 per annum. Mr T. J. Lilley took over as licensee in 1900 and the agreement with the rugby club continued until they moved on to the middle field at the venue in 1906, which was said to be a better pitch, with better drainage and encircled by a cycle/running track.

The rugby club improved the arena, enlarging the existing stand, and incorporating dressing and bathing facilities at the hotel changing rooms

Rumours then started to circulate in 1907 that Mr Lilley was looking to rent out the facility to the Association club and then in June 1908, the change of tenants was actually announced. This required the rugby club to move back to their previous home on the adjoining field.

The transfer of the main pitch to the football club, did not go down well. Mr Lilley offered to make a £50 donation to the rugby club to help clear their debts and soften the blow of losing their pitch.

From the Observer: August 22nd 1908

The supporters who have not yet paid a visit to The Newdegate will be charmed with the new ground, and the preparations being made for their comfort. The old rugby club stand will remain as at present, but on the opposite side a new stand is in the course of erection. The contemplated alterations to the track, however, cannot be carried out till after 5th September.

The first match to be played by Nuneaton Town at their new home was a pre-season trial match, Blues v Stripes, but the first 'competitive' match was against Birmingham City on September 3rd, 1908, who were visiting Nuneaton as part of

the transfer agreement which saw George "Kid" Moore move to St. Andrews in April 1908.

The game attracted over 2,000 people and they witnessed a 3-1 win for Birmingham City with "Kid" Moore scoring twice against his former club.

For the first season at their new home, Nuneaton supporters were asked to pay 3d. ground admission, 6d for the stand and season tickets cost 5s. for a ground tickets and 7s. 6d. for the stand.



A townscape of Nuneaton c.1900. The Newdegate Arms ground is shown top right.
Peter Lee (nuneatonhistory.com)



The two images above show the site of the Newdegate Arms ground, which sat where today's bus station, multi-storey car park and Newtown Road are today.
Photo: Paul Sawyer (2014)



An aerial view showing the approximate location of the Newdegate ground.

The pitch ran from the pedestrian crossing on Newtown Road (the railway end), through the multi-storey car park and down to where the telephone exchange is (the Burgage end).



1908-09

The pre-season consisted of trial matches and friendly matches against Birmingham City and Hinckley United. The teams competing in the first trial match were Blues and Stripes and were as follows:

Blues: Paxton (Nuneaton Congregationals); Dale and Clarke (Carlisle United); Holt (Birmingham), Shufflebotham (Chesterfield) and Boonham (captain); Nightingale (Birmingham), Ladkin (Earl Shilton), Ellis (Birmingham Works), Gilliver (Earl Shilton), and Lloyd (West Bromwich).

Stripes: Payne; Jagers (Birmingham) and Taylor (Hinckley); Marlow (captain), Cook (Birmingham) and Bowen (Bournbrook); Paddock (West Bromwich), Sheldon, Jones (Bloxwich Rovers), Saunders (Bournbrook) and Jephcote.

The first trial match attracted 2,000 spectators, with most of them pleased with the level of ability of the prospective newcomers. There was also much talk about the new ground among the spectators with the general opinion being that everything was beginning to look ship shape and that the ground would be the envy of all the clubs in the Combination.

Nuneaton Town v Birmingham City 03-09-1908

Nuneaton: Hilditch; Dale and Clarke; Shufflebottom, Hold and Boonham; Paddock, Ladkin, Jeacock, Gilliver and Jephcote.
Birmingham: Rook; Preston and Womack; Gardner, Handley and J. W. Robinson; Haines, Moore, Travers, King and J. Robinson.

The first friendly of the season saw Birmingham City visit the Newdegate Ground as part of the transfer agreement for "Kid" Moore. There was an attendance of 2,000 and after a brisk start Ladkin had an opportunity, which came to nothing. "Kid" Moore then announced his presence with the opening goal to put the visitors one up with only seven minutes gone. Paddock, however, raced away for the home team, putting in a lovely centre, from which Ladkin scored the equaliser.

Town went close with Rooke forced to save, but Haines broke clear for the visitors and his cross found King, who put the ball into the net. Rooke was called into action again, conceding a corner in dealing with a Paddock cross.

"Kid" went close, his shot hitting the bar, but it wasn't long before Moore scored his second of the game, hitting a shot into the net from distance, making it 3-1 at half time.

Hilditch earned the applause of the crowd when he made several good saves throughout the second half. Boonham had a shot from distance for the home team, but no further scoring took place and the game ended in semi-darkness.

Nuneaton Town v Hinckley United 05-09-1908

Town rounded off their pre-season with a game against Hinckley United at The Newdegate. Nuneaton played the game with ten men and were surprised by the strength of their local rivals.

Hinckley went in 1-0 up at half time and featured Billy Ball and Burgess, who both represented Town the previous season. Sheldon equalised 20 minutes into the second half, but Burgess scored Hinckley's second. Some concerns were voiced regarding the lightweight build of Nuneaton's players by comparison with Hinckley as well as comparisons between the Nuneaton team's physique and those likely to be encountered when meeting the Black Country teams.

Nuneaton Town's Captures

Nuneaton Town committee have been fortunate enough to secure the signings of two first-class amateur forwards in the person of Clews and Higgins, both of the Birmingham club. Higgins is a fine centre-forward, who takes any of the inside positions. He played regularly for Birmingham all last season, and turned out four times with the first team. Clews is also an inside man, and was picked to turn out for Birmingham tomorrow, but arrangements are being made to allow of his playing for Nuneaton against Bournville.

Bournville Athletic v Nuneaton Town 03-09-1908

Nuneaton: Hilditch; Dale and Clarke; F. Marlow, Cook and Boonham; Paddock, Sheldon, Higgins, Carris and Jephcote.
Bournville: Hemmings; Price and Smith; Goode, Page and Reed; C. Jones, Bryan, Sly, H. Jones and James.

Nuneaton's opening league encounter was an away match against Bournville Athletic at "Cocoa Town". Town made several changes from the Hinckley friendly with new centre-forward Higgins making his debut. There was a good following of away supporters to cheer the team on.

Town won a corner straight from the kick-off and three minutes later opened the scoring. Paddock's accurate centre being put in by Higgins. The same two players repeated the exercise, putting Nuneaton two up in quick time.

Sly then reduced the arrears before a Jephcote corner was handled by a defender, but Higgins still scored. The referee disallowed the goal and awarded a penalty and Higgins converted. Carris got a fourth from another Paddock cross. Higgins completed his hat-trick to make it 5-1. Sheldon scored the sixth almost immediately afterwards.

Bournville changed their formation for the second half in an attempt to stem the flow and Hilditch was tested several times. On one occasion, Hilditch had four or five opponents on top of him, but wriggled to the line and placed the ball over the line for a corner.

It was twenty minutes into the second half before Nuneaton added to their score, Carris scoring from a lovely pass from Paddock. Sheldon and Higgins added to their afternoon's tally before Bournville added another, scoring from a narrow angle to make the final score 9-2 to the visitors.

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A report of the Hednesford FA Cup ties appears on following pages, but in summarising the game it was said of Sheldon that he was no “Kid” Moore and hardly up to the standard required for Combination football.

Bilston United v Nuneaton Town 26-09-1908

Bilston: Lester; Shinton and Corbett; Dickens, Perrot and Butler; Cox, B. Shinton, Jones, Mobberley and Smith.

Nuneaton: Hilditch; Dale and Clarke; Boonham, Shufflebottom and A. Moore; Paddock, Clews, Higgins, Carris and Lloyd.

Town returned to league duty with a visit to Bilston Town, who had beaten Nuneaton in both games the previous season. Kicking into the sun and the wind in the first half, Nuneaton struggled to get into the game and Mobberley put the home team 1-0 up after 15 minutes. When Shinton added a second it looked like a heavy defeat was on the cards. However, Carris reduced Bilston’s lead, improving the outlook for the second half.

Town improved after the break and after only seven minutes of the second period they had taken the lead with goals from Paddock and Higgins. Nuneaton’s play then became a pleasure to watch and Lloyd increased their lead with a penalty. Bilston then netted their third goal of the game. Clews then put the game out of Bilston’s reach with a fifth goal to secure a 5-3 win for the visitors.

Nuneaton Town v Atherstone Town 03-10-1908

Nuneaton’s record against Atherstone over a 12 year period included 20 defeats, but that didn’t stop a crowd in excess of 3,000 assembling for the ‘friendly’ match.

Town played some attractive football in the early stages of the game and despite the heat, the game was played at a fast pace. Town’s superior football eventually paid dividends, when after 30 minutes a crossfield pass from Paddock found Lloyd, who was able to put Carris in to score. Nuneaton then added another before the break through Higgins and the home side went in at half time 2-0 up.

Atherstone completely reshuffled their team for the second half and reduced the arrears after just three minutes of the second half. Nuneaton missed several good chances, but from a break-away “Adders” equalised to make it anyone’s game. The visitors then scored an inevitable third goal, and Town’s poor record against their neighbours continued.

Nuneaton’s reluctance to sacrifice their ‘scientific’ game in favour of their visitors kick-and-rush tactics was put forward as one of the reasons for their defeat, along with the ‘nothing at stake’ attitude from the Nuneaton professionals.

Atherstone’s game was reported to be too rough and their players were incapable of keeping their tempers. Nuneaton had engaged a referee from outside the area and he admonished a couple of the Atherstone players as well as the away linesman.

Rowley United v Nuneaton Town 10-10-1908

Nuneaton: Hilditch; Dale and Clarke; Marlow, Shufflebottom and Moore; Paddock, Sheldon, Higgins, Carris and Lloyd.

Nuneaton travelled to Blackheath to face Rowley United, who had greatly improved on their squad compared to previous seasons. A tough game was possibly made even more difficult due to the extraordinary nature of Rowley’s ground, with the slope being such that the top of the posts at one end were almost level with the pitch at the other.

Another strange fact regarding the ground was that more goals were scored by teams kicking up the hill than were scored when kicking down the slope. When Rowley won the toss they kicked up the hill, into the wind and against the sun.

The game started at a terrific pace and Hilditch was called on to make a number of saves in the opening minutes. On one occasion Rowley’s centre forward found himself clear, but Hilditch took the ball off his toe as he was about to score. When the ball found its way upfield Sheldon tested the home keeper with a shot from distance

Nuneaton opened the scoring through Higgins, who crashed the ball home. Town’s game improved at this stage, but the nature of the ground worked against them on occasion. Rowley equalised before the break when Alban Moore was slow to clear and a scrappy goal ensued.

The second half was similar to the first with the exception that the home team played the ‘one man back’ game, which made the game less interesting. Carris put the visitors into the lead, but the home side equalised through a ‘rank offside’ goal to secure a 2-2 draw for the home side.

No Change

Nuneaton Town committee have announced that in future no change will be given at the gate, as more time is spent on sorting out change than admitting people to the ground. It will now be down to the spectator to bring the correct change to the games.

Nuneaton Town v Bournville 17-10-1908

Bournville travelled to The Newdegate to complete the reverse league fixture, having been on the wrong end of a 9-2 humiliation in the first game. It did not bode well for the visitors that up to this meeting they had played seven and lost every one of them.

The game opened with Town attacking strongly, Boonham going close with two good shots. However, following a steady start Bournville surprised the hosts when they scored a simple goal. Town then missed more than one chance and the visitors took their lead into the break.

Town changed to their thinner shirts at half time and started the second half as if they meant business. This counted for

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nothing, though, as Bournville were awarded a penalty, which Goode converted to put the 'Cocoa Boys' 2-0 up.

Town reduced the arrears with a great combination move. Dale passed to Boonham, who transferred it on to Paddock whose fine centre was converted by Higgins. The home side were quickly brought back to earth though, when Bournville scored again shortly after.

Paddock gave Nuneaton hope of salvaging the match when he cut the deficit, but with little time left the visitors held on for their first win of the season. Clews had a match to forget — not able to get anything right and getting in the way of two goalbound shots.

Nuneaton Town v Stirchley 24-10-1908

Nuneaton went into the game against Stirchley with the unenviable record of not having won at home all season. Some changes were made from the Bournville match with Jephcote winning his place back and Gilliver taking Clews' place at inside right.

The changes had a marked effect, Town running out 7-2 winners with Higgins getting a hat-trick in the process. "Muzzer" Moore got his first of the season with others from Carris, Paddock and Gilliver.

Bournbrook v Nuneaton Town 31-10-1908

The trip to Bournbrook resulted in a miserable display from Town, who went down 0-4 with very few players showing up well. The only people to emerge from the game with their reputation intact were Hilditch, Clarke and Moore.

Nuneaton Town v Darlaston 07-11-1908

There were drastic changes introduced for the visit of champions Darlaston, with two new signings introduced and an overall in the structure of the team. Although the scores were level at 1-1 at the interval, the changes were not seen to be working to good effect and after half time the team was shuffled again.

After another goal apiece the scores remained tied up until the final minute when Darlaston scored the winner. Though the match wasn't decided until the final minute, Darlaston were by far the slicker side. Nuneaton were criticised for trying to play too close a game on their big pitch. Visiting teams were more inclined to swing the ball about quickly, which was to Town's disadvantage.

Coombs Wood v Nuneaton Town 14-11-1908

The trip to Coombs Wood was thought a tough one for Nuneaton, as the home side had recently accounted for Darlaston, who had beaten Town the previous week. Better news was that the opposition had lost their star striker to Dudley. Town had Griffiths in their side, signed in the same week from Preston North End.

Nuneaton opened strongly and kept up the pressure on their opponents for the opening part of the match, but Coomb's

Wood raced away and scored. Town equalised in quick time when Higgins headed Paddock's cross into the net.

Higgins missed other chances to score, fouling when close in on goal and then failing to convert another of Paddock's crosses. Clarke almost gave "Woodites" the lead when he nearly put through his own goal. Carris then had to leave the field, but it remained 1-1 at half-time.

Carris re-appeared after the break, but played out wide. Hilditch was called into action early on, when he pulled off a 'miraculous' save. Higgins broke clear, but passed to Griffiths, who stood little chance of scoring as he was surrounded by three defenders.

Town's defence looked shaky and Hilditch came to the rescue time and again. The match then ended in farce as darkness fell and it was almost impossible for the supporters to follow the game. In spite of this the game carried on and Paddock gave Nuneaton the lead. Coomb's Wood were then awarded a penalty, of which the majority of the crowd were oblivious but the penalty taker put the ball the wrong side of the posts and Nuneaton finished up 2-1 winners.

Bromsgrove Rovers v Nuneaton Town 21-11-1908

Nuneaton: Hilditch; Dale and Clarke; Boonham, Finch and Moore; Paddock, Griffiths, Higgins, Spriggs and Lloyd.

Town made the trip to Bromsgrove the following week, where the home side were on a particularly bad run of form. The pitch was very challenging rising and falling in different places, and on which it was said good football was out of the question.

Nuneaton had another new player in Spriggs, who took his place up front in place of the injured Carris. Hilditch lost the toss and the visitors had to play up the slope in the first half. Bromsgrove started strongly and Nuneaton's goal came under threat on several occasions. The Town did press briefly, but Rovers started to dominate the play and Hilditch was repeatedly called into action.

However, Town took the lead following a free-kick. Alban Moore placed the ball across the field to Paddock, whose centre found Higgins who returned the ball to Paddock. The winger then picked out Griffiths who shot home.

Following the goal Bromsgrove's efforts became more intense and it was a wonder how Town's goal survived intact. Hilditch was playing out of his skin and his form began to agitate the home crowd, who both admired, and were exasperated by, the keeper's form.

After the break, with the slope in their favour, Nuneaton came much more into the game. Several chances were missed by the visitors and there was some pressure exerted by the home team at the other end. Eventually, though, Town broke in a line and the ball found Higgins, who put the ball into the net.

Rovers tried hard to get back into the game, but following a prolonged attack by Nuneaton, Boonham scored with a pot



shot which went in just under the bar. Bromsgrove were then awarded a penalty, but Hilditch made a fine save, pushing the ball around the post. Bromsgrove pressed again, but Nuneaton saw out the game to win 3--0. The win, which seems comfortable, was in fact brought about by Hilditch who saved time and again. But for him the scoreline could have been a lot different.

Nuneaton Town v Rowley United 28-11-1908

For the visit of Rowley United, Town made the decision to narrow the pitch by five yards, as it had been decided that the Town's style of play did not suit a wider pitch. There were also changes in the team with Griffiths losing his place to Spriggs and Carris coming back into the side on the left.

There was no score for the first 15 minutes, but after that the goals came thick and fast. Spriggs opened the scoring for Nuneaton and Sheldon quickly made it two with a shot from distance, after a pass from Spriggs. Lloyd notched a third and then Carris found the net, following good work from Sheldon.

With four out of five Nuneaton forwards having already found the net, Rowley reduced the arrears. The home side though, broke again and the crowd showed a great amount of appreciation when Sheldon again scored from distance to make the score 5-1 at the break.

On the restart, following some tricky play from Spriggs, Higgins tapped the ball home. Higgins then looked certain to score again but the ball was punched out by a Rowley defender. Higgins took the penalty himself, and scored.

The scoring for Nuneaton was completed after the keeper stumbled and Lloyd put the ball home for the ninth goal to the home team. Boonham then brought the keeper to his knees with a shot from distance.

Wednesbury Old Athletic v Nuneaton Town 05-12-1908

The game against Wednesbury Old Athletic saw more changes to the Town line-up. Spriggs, having made his debut two weeks previously, found himself in his third different position. Others were swapped around and Finch missed his train, which meant more reshuffling.

The Old Un's were going well in the league and ran out 4-0 winners. Nuneaton were completely outclassed in the first half, even though they only conceded a solitary goal. After the break Nuneaton played much better, but conceded three more goals. Wednesbury, it was said, were miles ahead of Nuneaton in the forward department, indulging in fine combination passing, sweeping the ball out wide and their all round ball control was far superior to that of Nuneaton.

Stirchley United v Nuneaton Town 12-12-1908

The following week, Nuneaton visited Stirchley, a team they had previously beaten 7-2. The sloping pitch was in a poor state, with up to one half of the field being a quagmire,

which resulted in the game to be played at a slow pace, although the visitors pinned Stirchley back for the majority of the first half.

The home team though, eventually broke away, and Harris beat Townsend in the Nuneaton goal with a shot that the keeper failed to see coming because of the crowded area. After Carris had missed a good chance and Boonham hit the crossbar, "Sandy" Sheldon banged the ball into the net to make the score 1-1 at half-time.

Sheldon hit the side netting after a good run, but the home side hit back and Dale, who was having an off day put the ball into his own net, 17 minutes into the second half. On the 30 minute mark Town made their best move of the afternoon with Higgins and Carris working the ball through to Jephcote, whose centre found Spriggs, who headed the ball into the net to equalise.

Two minutes before the final whistle Law scored the winning goal for the home side and the match ended 3-2 with Stirchley getting some revenge for their heavy defeat earlier in the season. Nuneaton had failed to take advantage of many scoring opportunities in the first period when they should have scored up to five goals.

Stirley Signs for Manchester United

It is understood that Henry Stirley created a favourable impression in his trial game for Manchester United Reserves against Southport Central on Saturday. Referring to Stirley's appearance, the Athletic News says "that on such a day criticism would be hardly fair, Stirley, the new back from Nuneaton, was on trial. He was often at sea on the muddy ground, but several times cleared well."

"Harricus" in the same paper says "Henry Stirley, the Nuneaton youth who signed an amateur form for Manchester United, and who made his debut with the reserve team at Clayton on Saturday, had the advantage of exceptional physique. Although he will not be 21 until March, he is near to weighing 13 stone, and stands 5ft 11in. in height. His form at right back with Nuneaton Town caused him to be recommended to the Manchester United officials, and hence his arrival in Cottonopolis on Friday last.

He was born in Nuneaton, and holds medals for the Atherstone Cup and the Nuneaton Cottage Hospital Cup, and that he is not short of pace is proved by the fact that on one afternoon he was once a prize-winner in the 120 yards, 220 yards, and the quarter-mile events. He has followed the Atherstone Hounds for mile after mile on foot, and I should imagine this healthy pastime is eminently useful to a youth with football ambitions."



Nuneaton Town v Leicester Nomads 19-12-1908

Being without a league fixture, a friendly was arranged against Leicester Nomads. The game gave a chance to trial a couple of local youngsters, who both performed well on their debuts. Wyatt, a 20-year-old Pick of the League player with Griff Colliery and Blyth, who had turned out for the club's C&NW team. Blyth was said to be on the small side and would probably find it difficult against the Black Country clubs. Town won 6-0 with Higgins getting four of them.

Nuneaton Town v Bilston United 26-12-1908

There was a huge crowd in attendance for the Boxing Day afternoon game against Bilston United. The game started at a fast pace and there was little to choose between the two teams early on. After 15 minutes, though, Finch missed the ball and Wyatt also failed to clear. Bilston's outside left Griffiths was following in and put the ball past Townsend to give the visitors the lead.

Jephcote and Spriggs both went close for Town and the game became a thrilling end to end encounter. Each goal came under a fierce bombardment, but neither side managed to score and at half time Bilston had a one goal advantage.

After the break Bilston scored again, with the goal being disputed by the home side on account of an offside infringement, but the referee allowed the goal to stand. Nuneaton rallied though and towards the end managed a goal, Higgins scoring following a melee in front of goal.

Willenhall Pickwick v Nuneaton Town 02-01-1909

Not many people expected Town to win on their visit to Willenhall Pickwick, as the home team were flying and scoring plenty of goals. Nuneaton did, however, put up a fight and missed some chances, before eventually being over-run. Willenhall scored within five minutes of the kick-off, when winger Potts drove the ball across the area, the ball cannoned into the net off another home player.

Nuneaton wasted some good work by the midfield, with Paddock and Jephcote wasting chances. Having wasted these chances, Town were punished again when Spencer put the ball into the net off the upright. Higgins cut the deficit, heading home from a Jephcote centre, and at the half-time whistle Willenhall were 2-1 ahead.

Town came under pressure from the kick-off, but from a break Higgins put in a shot from long range, which beat the keeper and levelled the scores. Willenhall then took the game by the scruff of the neck and forced a great number of corners, and when Holt scored from one of them, Nuneaton fell apart.

"Muzzer" Moore, in attempting to clear, handled in the penalty area and Edge scored from the penalty. His first effort went wide of the post, but the referee ruled that Townsend was not on his line and ordered the kick to be retaken. Holt completed the afternoon's scoring, making the score 6-2.

Nuneaton Town v West Brom Reserves 09-01-1909

Being without a league fixture the following week, Nuneaton arranged a friendly match against West Bromwich Albion's Birmingham League side, which contained many players with first team experience. The game was low key and without a score in the first period, but Nuneaton took the lead after the break with a goal from Spriggs. Dorsett equalised for the "Throstles" soon after and then took the lead through a Young penalty. Higgins missed from the spot for Nuneaton.

Redditch v Nuneaton Town 16-01-1909

Nuneaton travelled to Redditch not having won in the league since November and the home team were in the mix for the league title. Despite their shocking form, Town started well and kept Redditch in their own half for much of the half. Hilditch was almost a spectator at the other end.

Despite all Town's possession, by half time Redditch had scored twice. The first came from a corner kick, Evans towering above everyone to head into the roof of the net. The second was scored by Wakeham, who diverted a cross past Hilditch.

Nuneaton kept the Redditch keeper busy, however, with Paddock, Carris and Sheldon giving Haven a busy time. Town were also denied a goal, when Sheldon scored, only to have the goal disallowed for a dubious offside offence. Having held their own against the wind, slope and a wretched pitch, Nuneaton went in at half-time 2-0 down.

After the break Nuneaton forced corner after corner, but could not get the ball past Haven, who was having a great game, as well as enjoying some luck. The pressure, though, eventually told when Sheldon scored from a pass by Spriggs.

Nuneaton then pressed throughout the rest of the half, with even the backs taking the ball forward. Then, with four minutes remaining, a terrific shot from Jephcote went just over the crossbar. Haven jumped to make sure the ball was going over and grabbed the crossbar and snapped it. With the game in danger of being abandoned Redditch fans swarmed onto the pitch and tried to effect a repair. The bar was eventually cobbled back together and Nuneaton continued to press to the end, but could not score.

Nuneaton Town v Hednesford Town 23-01-1909

For the second consecutive game Nuneaton completely dominated their opponents without scoring. Hilditch was again a spectator and did not touch the ball at all until 30 minutes had gone. The second half followed the same pattern, but with 15 minutes remaining Hednesford broke and centre-forward Perks gave Hilditch no chance.

Only having won three games at home in five months, the supporters were becoming increasingly dissatisfied. The committee were under fire for lack of ambition and team members, particularly Carris, were being pilloried for their inept displays.



Nuneaton Town v Bournbrook

30-01-1909

Bournbrook were the visitors to The Newdegate Ground the following week, and there were hopes that Town would be able to bring their long losing streak to an end. One of the main concerns voiced was that there were no goals in the team, and that many games were lost by a single goal margin.

The visitors started a man down, and so employed the one man back method, which caused Nuneaton to be constantly caught offside. Even though Hilditch had a fair amount of work to do, Town missed chances again, and as with the previous match there was no score at half time.

The visitors attacked with more purpose in the second half and eventually they broke through. The left winger flashed the ball across the goal mouth and although it looked as if the ball would go out of play, Bradley, the visiting inside-right diverted the ball into the net, giving Hilditch no chance.

Moore had a couple of shots that went close, but once again the team were let down by their forwards. The line up was swapped around three times during the game, but to no avail. Hilditch came in for criticism from some quarters being accused of ordering the constant changes in the line up, but the Nuneaton captain denied being responsible.

Willenhall Swifts v Nuneaton Town

06-02-1909

Town then made the 'long and tiresome journey' to Willenhall to face the Swifts. The ground was said to be very good for a junior club and there was a good crowd there to witness the match. Both sides were evenly matched, but both suffered from being caught offside too often.

Swifts opened the scoring after ten minutes when Hadley forced Hilditch to save. When the ball came loose a melee ensued and the ball found its way past Hilditch to give the home team the lead. Nuneaton responded well and went close on a number of occasions, until just before the end of the first half Jephcote put in a good centre, which was attacked by both Sheldon and Spriggs, with the latter getting the final touch to put the visitors level. The home keeper was then forced to save again before the half-time whistle.

Boonham was badly injured at the start of the second half and had to retire for the rest of the game. Jephcote also took a bad kick, but continued as a passenger. Despite effectively being down to nine men, Nuneaton continued to hold their own, having more attacks than the home side.

New centre-forward Hood then broke clear for Town, but with a chance to score, he chose to pass to Wright, also making his debut, who was in an offside position. Sheldon and Spriggs both went close with breaks through the Willenhall ranks and Wright beat three or four opponents in succession, but was brought to a halt by the Willenhall keeper.

With only six minutes left to play Town had a draw in their sights, but once more they conceded at the end of a game, the

ball being shot at goal through a crowd of players, bounced up and just crept in under the bar. Hilditch was then laid out, but recovered enough to carry on. At the final whistle Nuneaton had lost their fifth consecutive game to an odd goal, albeit conceded on this occasion while playing short handed. New signing Hood came in for some criticism, being described as too bulky and unable to keep up with the pace.

Nuneaton Town v Willenhall Swifts

13-02-1909

The chance to exact a speedy revenge on Willenhall Swifts presented itself the following week. Having put up such a good performance in spite of injuries, gave the home supporters hopes of a rare home win.

Hood lost his place after his performance the previous week and Sheldon stepped into the centre-forward spot. Town got off on the wrong foot when a Boonham pass back to Clarke was intercepted by the Willenhall centre-forward, who raced clear to score with ease, with just five minutes gone.

Town then pulled themselves together and later in the half scored twice in quick succession. Alban Moore shot from distance and the goalkeeper misjudged the shot and pushed the ball out to Sheldon, who put the ball into the net. Two minutes later Town took the lead following some good play from Wright — Jephcote scoring with a good shot.

The second half was barely under way before Swifts had equalised, a shot from distance finding its way into the net off the post. Not long after equalising, the visitors took the lead, forcing the ball home from a corner.

Nuneaton then had many chances, with shots from Wright, Spriggs and Jephcote all going close. Although they attacked again and again, Nuneaton could not force an equaliser, and at the final whistle Willenhall had won the match 3-2.

Nuneaton's league position was now giving some cause for concern, as they occupied the fifth from bottom position with the teams below having games in hand. The bottom three clubs would have to apply for re-election.

Nuneaton Town v Cradley Heath St Lukes

20-02-1909

Cradley arrived at The Newdegate, top of the league, and the most fancied team to take the title. Town, by comparison had been on 13 points since the last week in November. The crowd was much bigger than of late and supporters were pleased to hear that popular reserve centre-forward, Ladkin, was to be given a chance. Sheldon moved back to the right wing.

The game started in sensational fashion, when with only two minutes gone, Sheldon centred across the goalmouth and Jephcote played the ball back to Spriggs, who headed home.

Nuneaton, buoyed by their early success, set about playing some attractive football, and after some time, Nuneaton were awarded a penalty when Sheldon was brought down. Ladkin was entrusted with the kick and beat the visitors' keeper,



Boxley. Seconds later an almighty tussle developed on the home goal-line, the ball being obscured in a forest of legs, and after a desperate struggle, Cradley forced the ball home.

The visitors then proceeded to take the advantage, playing some good football, but Town fought back and almost increased their lead when the ball hit the post following a corner. It wasn't long, though, before Nuneaton scored again, with one of the best goals of the season. Jephcote sprinted down the touchline and put in a perfect centre, which Ladkin met and flashed the ball into the net with Boxley left standing. It was a thrilling goal and the excitement was intense.

With a 3-1 lead at half-time, Town started the second half in confident mood, although spectators were fearful of Town eventually being worn down by Cradley. During one incident, Hilditch fell on the ball, with a host of players literally on top of him. The referee was left with no alternative but to throw the ball up, and Nuneaton managed to clear the danger.

Cradley were awarded a free kick against Hilditch for carrying the ball. The ball was placed only a foot or two from the goal line and when Nuneaton lined up in defence there was little distance for the ball to travel. Cradley manufactured four chances from this situation, but Town defenders cleared.

The game was played at an exceptional pace and never let up until the final whistle, which saw the home side win — at last.

Higgins On The Move?

The following paragraph appeared in Saturday's "Sporting Mail", and will prove interesting reading:-

"Higgins, who has been played in several places in the front line with moderate success, is, I hear, about to leave the club. Birmingham originally fixed his transfer at £100, but this has been reduced to £50. Higgins, however, considers that his transfer should be free, and when negotiations are complete he may go to Manchester."

Darlaston v Nuneaton Town

27-02-1909

Nuneaton travelled to Darlaston, one of the better teams in the league, with renewed confidence following their victory over Cradley Heath. Darlaston had been champions the previous season, and though unlikely to retain that honour, were tough opponents, especially in front of their own fans. Town kept the same team with the exception of Wright, who had not turned up. This meant a recall for Carris.

The first half was evenly contested with Darlaston taking the lead. Ladkin then missed a good chance before Spriggs scored a great goal to equalise. Darlaston scored again to make it 2-1, but Sheldon equalised just before half-time.

Although Town started the second half well, they fell away considerably and Darlaston had most of the play and scored two further goals.

A heavy fall of snow on the morning of the following week's game against Redditch meant the game had to be called off, even with 30 volunteers to clear the pitch. Snow continued to fall all the day, making it impossible for the game to go ahead.

Nuneaton Town v Willenhall Pickwick

13-03-1909

When Willenhall Pickwick arrived at The Newdegate they had only lost three games all season and were now favourites to take the title. Three out of their five forwards had been chosen to represent England at Junior International level. Nuneaton chose the same eleven that had faced Cradley Heath two weeks previous.

Town were the first to score when Sheldon broke from the half-way line, going past the backs and swinging the ball over for Jephcote to bang it into the net. The "Picks" then equalised with a simple goal from a cross from the left, with the ball being forced in from close range.

Pickwick took the lead with a shot from the centre forward, which hit the post and went into the net. Willenhall's goal then came under pressure on several occasions before half-time, but no further goals were scored and the visitors held a one goal advantage at the break.

Willenhall started the second half with ten men and lost another soon after, who fortunately was able to resume after treatment. Town were competing well and after some good attacking play, equalised from a corner. Sheldon's cross from the corner was so accurate that Ladkin had the simple task of heading the ball home.

Town had more chances to score, but Jephcote shot wildly over the bar when well placed and despite the occasional breakaway from the visitors, Nuneaton continued to have the majority of the play. There was no further score and the match ended 2-2. The Town half backs performed well in snuffing out the threat from "Picks" strong forward line.

Nuneaton Town v Langley St. Michael's

20-03-1909

Town made one change for the visit of Langley St. Michael's with Leicester Nomads' Simpson taking the place of Jephcote at outside left. Town were on the offensive right from the kick-off and had a chance in the opening minutes, when Ladkin went past the half-backs and the backs, but shot straight at the keeper. Sheldon had a good shot at the visiting keeper, Davis, who was kept busy with most of the home forwards having a go at the Langley goal.

New signing Simpson was having a good debut and put in a terrific shot from a tight angle, which Davis punched out. Ladkin, Wright, Sheldon and Simpson all put in shots in quick succession, but Davis was up to his task.

Langley broke on Nuneaton and following some good play between Burns and former Town man, Lloyd, Burns put in a shot from distance. Hilditch looked to have plenty of time to save, but the ball rolled over his hands and into the net.

Nuneaton Town 1894-1919 Part 1



Town pressed all the way up to half time, but misses from Ladkin, Wright and Spriggs ensured that Langley took a one goal lead into the second half.

After half-time Nuneaton again had all of the possession, but Ladkin and Wright again failed to hit the target. Sheldon raced down the right and passed to Spriggs, who severely tested Davis, who made a remarkable save.

Town forced several corners and Ladkin almost scored from one of them, heading over the bar when well placed. The man who had kept Nuneaton at bay for so long, Davis, then presented them with the equaliser. Wright's shot from distance was bungled by the keeper and when he tried to rescue the situation, he kicked the ball from behind the line, against the post and back into the net to make the final score 1-1.

Hilditch had hardly any saves to make all afternoon and Nuneaton should have won, but poor finishing let them down. Simpson was said not to be as quick as Jephcote, but was a better passer of the ball and put in shots from tight angles.

Cradley Heath St. Lukes v Nuneaton Town 13-02-1909

Changes were made for the visit to Cradley Heath, with Carris in for Wright, who missed his train for the second time in recent weeks. Jephcote came back in place of Simpson. Cradley's keeper, Boxley, who had recently signed for Wolverhampton Wanderers, had been selected to play in the Junior International match against Scotland.

Town made a bright start and opened the game on the offensive, but this was short lived and only some good defending by the visitors kept Cradley at bay. After a run of corners for Nuneaton, Cradley broke and opened the scoring. Ladkin had the ball in the net, but the goal was adjudged to have been offside.

The away side then levelled the scores from the penalty spot after Sheldon had been tripped, Ladkin scoring from the spot. Nuneaton's front line pressed for a short period, but Cradley took the lead following a fierce tussle in front of goal.

Cradley assumed complete control of the match for the rest of the half and when the whistle sounded for half-time Cradley were 2-1 to the good.

The second half opened with Cradley forcing a succession of corners, before eventually increasing their lead. Nuneaton hit back and went close after good work by Finch and Sheldon. Jephcote then shot wide. The home side hit back and increased their lead further by scoring a fourth goal, which was quickly followed by a fifth. Jephcote added a second for Nuneaton, but by that time the match was all over.

Nuneaton Town v Wednesbury Old Athletic 03-04-1909

Given their patchy form, there was little confidence in Town's ability to beat Wednesbury Old Athletic, who were one of the better teams in the Birmingham Combination.

However, Town again performed better against one of the top teams, and pressed from the start. They attacked for the bulk of the first half, but could not force a goal. When they did get the ball in the net, twice, the goals were disallowed for offside.

After the break Town went close on four occasions in the first five minutes, but could not get through. A goal for the home side looked inevitable and it came when Sheldon put in a lovely centre which Wright turned into the net. The same two players then performed the same trick and when Town scored a third, Sheldon was again the architect, but this time Spriggs was on the ball and placed it into the net.

Nuneaton totally dominated from start to finish and towards the end won a succession of corners, with the final one just about to be taken when the referee blew his whistle for time.

A surprise visitor to the match was a goat, decked out in blue ribbons. It was there as a mascot, but no one can be sure whether it was anything to do with the victory.

Nuneaton Town v Langley St. Michael's 10-04-1909

The end of the season was approaching fast and to help bring it to a conclusion, Nuneaton played four games in seven days, the first fixture being at home against Langley St Michaels.

Town won a free kick in the opening minutes of the game, quickly followed by a corner. Sheldon then put in a quality cross which Jephcote hit goalwards, but Davis in the Langley goal saved well. A Ladkin drive and then another of "Sandy's" centres looked certain to yield goals, but came to nothing.

Langley took a one goal lead when a shot from distance was turned into his own net by Town's keeper, Lines. The visitors were then presented with a second goal when Dale mis-kicked right in front of his own goal and Lloyd, formerly of Nuneaton, ran in to put the visitors two up. Just before the break Davis pulled off a miraculous save from a superb shot from Sheldon and when the half-time whistle was sounded it was 2-0 to the visitors.

The second half was played at a fast pace and both sides attacked in turn. Sheldon and Jephcote both put in good centres, but there was either no-one on the end of them or Davis demonstrated his exceptional skill as a goalkeeper. Lines also made good saves, on one occasion stopping a terrific shot. Langley had three open goals towards the end of the match, but did not convert.

Hednesford Town v Nuneaton Town 12-04-1909

With a 5-1 defeat in the English Cup earlier in the season and a 2-0 home defeat against the league's bottom team the previous week, hopes of a victory against Hednesford weren't running high. Town chose the same team as against Langley with the exception that Carris replaced Wright.

Boonham won the toss, which was probably in Town's favour as there was a strong wind blowing. Nuneaton pressed from the kick-off and Jephcote missed an early chance, but shortly



afterwards a centre from Sheldon was converted by Ladkin. Lines was called into action, and saved well, before Jephcote hared away on the left. He put in a part-centre, part-shot, and the ball was aided into the net by the wind.

Knowing that they would have to face the wind in the second half Nuneaton pushed forward looking for more goals and after a period of continual pressure, Finch scored with a magnificent shot. Sheldon was having the game of his life, and along with Spriggs, kept up the pressure on the home team. At the half-time whistle Nuneaton were leading 3-0.

In the second half, Hednesford had the lions share of the play, but Town defended well. Lines had to make several saves, but the home side missed several chances with wild shooting, and their ball control, in difficult conditions, was inferior to that of the visitors.

A period of persistent pressure from Hednesford resulted in a goal, with Boonham being beaten by the bounce, allowing Cumberlidge to drive the ball past Lines. The home side were awarded a penalty for hand ball against "Muzzer" Moore, but Junior International Reaney put the kick yards wide of the goal. Carris broke clear of the home defence and netted a fourth for the visitors for an unlikely victory given recent form.

Nuneaton Town v Coombs Wood

13-04-1909

The only home game of the holiday period was against Coombs Wood and the weather was 'wretched', which despite their win at Hednesford kept the crowd numbers down. Hilditch came back into the side for Lines and Carris was replaced by Wright. The visitors only turned up with ten men and lost another for a large proportion of the game.

Straight from the kick-off Sheldon flashed a centre across the goalmouth, which was followed by a long shot from Ladkin, which caused the goalkeeper to save at full stretch. Following a corner, Wright put a cross in to Sheldon, who made no mistake, giving the home side an early lead. Wright and Finch then went close as Town kept up constant pressure on keeper Nix, who was peppered with shots from Sheldon, Moore and Boonham, which were in turn followed by a couple of stingers from Wright and Spriggs.

Despite having rained shots in on Nix all game, when the half-time whistle went Town were just a single goal up.

Shortly after the interval, Town increased their lead when Sheldon's pass found Spriggs, who put the ball into the net. Ladkin and Jephcote both shot wide before Spriggs headed a lovely goal to make it 3-0. Town looked certain to score again, but Sheldon shot wide. The "Woodites" then won a corner, but from the flag kick, Sheldon raced away, beat three men and swung the ball across for Jephcote who slipped at the crucial moment.

The visitors had been hampered by having to play with men short, but Nuneaton had played some decent football and scored five goals without reply at the final whistle.

Nuneaton Town v Bromsgrove Rovers

17-04-1909

By the time Bromsgrove arrived the home side had no worries regarding re-election and had posted two recent league victories, scoring nine goals in the process and conceding just one. The team was the same as the previous league match against Coombs Wood, and a good crowd had assembled.

On the 15 minute mark Nuneaton took the lead when Wright put in a cross that found Ladkin, who shot home. "Muzzer" was battling in midfield and getting the ball moving forward, and found Spriggs who headed the second goal. Ladkin also challenged for the same ball and picked up a knock for his trouble. Sheldon then beat several Bromsgrove players, but was brought down, only for the referee to let play continue. Just a minute before the interval Clarke failed to clear and Rovers' outside left reduced the arrears.

Five minutes after half-time Ladkin scored a fine goal to restore the two goal lead, while shortly afterwards, a thrilling episode developed in front of the visitors goal, with a great amount of shots raining in, which raised the excitement levels to a high pitch. The onslaught was described by The Observer as 'the most prolonged and fierce attack seen on the ground all season'.

When Town were awarded a penalty, Ladkin drove the ball hard at Mason in the Bromsgrove goal, but the keeper dived and pushed the ball round the post. Nuneaton still kept up the pressure and Spriggs crossed to Wright, who netted the fourth goal. With 20 minutes of the second half gone, Hilditch hadn't touched the ball.

An attack by the entire Town forward line, assisted by the half backs was frustrated by some fine goalkeeping, which was rewarded with hearty applause from the crowd. No more goals were scored and at the final whistle Town were 4-1 winners. The difference between the two teams was said to be greater than the difference in the score.

Nuneaton Town v Coventry City

24-04-1909

Having no league match the following week, a friendly was arranged and Coventry City sent a strong team to Nuneaton for the game. Town scored first through a penalty, awarded after Sheldon was brought down. Ladkin took the kick, and Moults saved, but was penalised for coming off his line. The kick was ordered to be retaken and Ladkin scored.

Jelley then equalised for Coventry with a long, hard ground shot that found its target, and the sides went in all square at the break. Five minutes after the break Town regained their lead when Sheldon raced up the wing and got in a good centre, which was turned in by Ladkin. Coventry equalised after three forwards found themselves free in the area, Fisher putting the ball in the net to make it 2-2. Sheldon then opened up Coventry again and passed to Ladkin who put the ball over the bar from almost on the line.



Nuneaton Town v Redditch

29-04-1909

The final game of the season saw Town play the Redditch game that was postponed in February.

Town started off on the offensive and Carris missed an early chance and Haven saved well from Spriggs during a spell of sustained Nuneaton pressure. Nuneaton won a fruitless corner, but just after Carris opened the scoring to put the home side 1-0 up. Sheldon forced Haven to handle, and went close with two further efforts shortly after. Nuneaton went 2-0 up when Finch passed to Jephcott, who scored with a fine shot.

Redditch had the occasional attack, but Nuneaton were by far the better side and Haven was called into action again, when Ladkin shot from long range and just after Jephcott made a mess of Carris' pass. At half-time Nuneaton were leading 2-0.

Spriggs put the ball over the bar, while Carris shot weakly at Haven before Ladkin forced a corner, which Sheldon placed superbly and Haven nearly put in his own net. From a Jephcott back-header, Carris headed on to Spriggs, who headed into the net to put Town into a 3-0 lead. The crowd warmly applauded the move. Sheldon forced Haven to save from a free-kick and just after the keeper had to fling himself full length to prevent Ladkin from scoring.

Nuneaton then extended their lead further when Jeffcott put over a magnificent cross that Sheldon powered into the net from a difficult angle to make the score 4-0 to Town. Ladkin brought the keeper to his knees and Carris missed a good chance, before Haven was in action again, saving from Jeffcott. Haven conceded a corner under pressure from Boonham and Finch shot over from the flag kick. "Muzzer" rounded off the scoring from long distance and the final whistle saw Nuneaton run out 5-0 winners. Only a great performance from the Redditch keeper Haven prevented a much bigger defeat.

Birmingham Combination 1908-09

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Willenhall Pickwick	30	20	6	4	129	54	46
Cradley Heath St Lukes	30	20	3	7	91	52	43
Darlaston	30	20	1	9	104	46	41
Wednesbury Old	30	16	6	8	80	54	38
Bilston United	30	15	6	9	78	63	36
Redditch United	30	15	5	10	68	52	35
Bournbrook	30	14	3	13	59	83	31
Willenhall Swifts	30	13	4	13	56	49	30
Hednesford Town	30	14	1	15	63	74	29
Nuneaton Town	30	12	3	15	81	62	27
Stirchley United	30	12	3	15	75	95	27
Bromsgrove Rovers	30	11	2	17	50	94	24
Coombe Wood	30	9	4	17	87	99	22
Rowley United	30	8	4	18	53	87	20
Langley St Michaels	30	5	6	19	33	94	16
Bournville Athletic	30	6	3	21	50	104	15

Football Betting Scandal

Featured second from the left on the Nuneaton Town Reserves photo is John 'Jackie' 'Sandy' Sheldon, who was transferred from Nuneaton Town to Manchester United in 1909 and made 26 appearances (1 goal), winning a championship medal in 1910-11 for United, before being sold to Liverpool in November 1913.

Sandy's Liverpool career spanned the First World War, and overall he made 147 appearances (20 goals). He missed only three games in the 1913-14 season including an FA Cup run which culminated in the last ever final at The Crystal Palace, which ended with a 1-0 defeat against Burnley.

Sheldon was involved in a football betting scandal in 1915 when a match between Manchester United and Liverpool was fixed in United's favour, with several players benefiting from the match fixing, and Sheldon named as the ringleader.

Seven players from both clubs were implicated in the scandal and accused of fixing the outcome at 2-0 to Manchester United, a result that saw them profit on the bookmakers odds of 7-1 for such an outcome. The bookies suspicions were raised following a surprising amount of bets placed on the outcome.

During the match Liverpool missed a penalty and saw a confrontation between two Liverpool players after one of them, who knew of the scam, came close to scoring.

In 1915, all the players involved were banned for life, but when football was suspended for the course of the war the players were offered pardons should they volunteer to sign up to fight in the war. The bans were lifted in 1919 in recognition of the players' service to their country.

Only one player, E. J. West, refused to accept, sued the League for libel, and served a lifetime ban. Sheldon later admitted to having plotted the whole affair.

Retained List

Supporters will be gratified to learn that the Directors have lost no time in procuring the signatures for next season of the players they were desirous of retaining, chief of which was undoubtedly Finch. Others are: Wright, Sheldon, Moore, Clarke, Dale and Hilditch. With the past season's experience behind them, it is certain to say that only capable men will be secured to fill the remaining positions.



FA Cup: Nuneaton Lose Out To Hednesford

For the first time in nine seasons and the second time in their history Nuneaton Town had entered the English (FA) Cup. It was Nuneaton's first season at the Newdigate Arms ground and in accordance with the competition rules the price of admission had been increased by one penny to four pence.

Their visitors that Saturday for the Preliminary Round tie were Hednesford Town. One time members of the Birmingham League, they had that season joined Nuneaton in the Birmingham Combination from the Walsall and District League.

Nuneaton were forced to make a last minute change to their line-up. Paddock had missed his tram and they were forced to play a reserve half-back Payne, out of position. The fans' idol George 'Kid' Moore had been transferred to Birmingham City and his replacement was Jack 'Sandy' Sheldon, later to join Manchester United.

Nuns: Hilditch, Dale, Clarke, F. Marlow, Cook, Boonham, Payne, Sheldon. Higgins, B. Carris, Jephcote.

Town: Thrupp, Reaney, Woodward, E. Gough, Morris, Jones, Blakemore, Evans, Perks, Cumberlidge, Baker.

The English Cup tie had caught the imagination of Nuneaton's footballing public and the game attracted a record gate for a Nuneaton match.

The first action saw Hednesford win a corner, which was cleared by Dale and Carris got a good shot in at the other end. Sheldon also put in a good effort for the home side, forcing Thrupp to handle. An exciting few moments ensued, but Nuneaton could not get through.

A cross by Carris was headed over by Higgins, while a mistake by Clarke allowed the visitors through, but Hilditch saved when Hednesford

looked certain to score. Nuneaton then conceded a penalty for handball, but Hilditch saved the initial penalty and then again on two consecutive occasions, winning an ovation from the crowd.

Despite Hilditch's heroics, Hednesford broke the deadlock through Cumberlidge, and five minutes later the visitors added another following weak half-back play by the home side. At the half-time whistle Hednesford were 2-0 ahead.

After the break the visitors got close, but Dale relieved the pressure, while Carris put a shot just over the bar. Five minutes from the restart Sheldon reduced the arrears amid intense excitement. Sheldon and Higgins put in decent efforts and Jephcote also shot wide.

Town continued to press and Sheldon grazed the crossbar, while Higgins went through shortly after, but Sheldon was caught offside.

Hilditch was tested again and Town won some corners, which came to nothing, before Carris put in a cross that was converted by Payne to make it 2-2 and send the crowd wild with excitement.

The latter stages of the game were very scrappy and at the final whistle the home side could have been considered lucky to have rescued a draw.

The replay took place at The Cross Keys on the following Thursday and Nuneaton were accompanied to Hednesford by a good following of their supporters.

The home side won the toss and pressed from the kick-off, when they looked dangerous, but Nuneaton hit back and Sheldon was fouled when in a good position. Marlow placed the free-kick well, and it was converted by Clews to give Nuneaton the lead, with 20 minutes gone.

Despite this success, Nuneaton were under constant pressure with the

home side enjoying the majority of the play throughout the half. The home side were unfortunate in not equalising on at least half-a-dozen occasions. Time and again Hilditch saved in miraculous style, at one stage saving five times in succession as the home team threatened to run riot.

Hednesford's equaliser came following a good centre by Baker, which was met by Perks and scrambled into the net. Nuneaton put more energy into the game for some time after, but were still kept in their own half of the field, and when the whistle sounded for half-time the score was 1-1.

For the first half-an-hour of the second half Nuneaton fought their way back and they held their own, mainly due to the efforts of Hilditch and Clarke.

Then a marvellous change came over the game when the referee, Mr. Jones awarded a dubious penalty to the home side, which was converted to give the home side the lead.

Thereafter, Nuneaton completely collapsed and, including the penalty, they conceded four goals in the last 13 minutes of the game, thus losing the tie 5-1.

Hilditch had been the hero of the tie and received applause from the spectators at both half-time and full-time. He was judged never to have played better.

Dale was off-colour, but Clarke's play was a revelation. He played a fine game right through the match, and several times came to the rescue when all hope seemed lost.

The half-back line was the weak spot in the Nuneaton team. "Muzzer" Moore was far and away the best of the three.

Sheldon was good at times, but lacks height and weight for Black Country football; Higgins and Clews were the best of the five, and are a fine pair; while Carris does not play as good on the wing as he does at inside-left.

Nuneaton Town 1894-1919 Part 1



1908

09.03	Birmingham City XI	H	Friendly	1-3	Ladkin
09.05	Hinckley United	H	Friendly	1-2	Sheldon
09.12	Bournville Athletic	A	BC	9-2	Higgins 5 (1p), Carris 2, Sheldon 2
09.19	Hednesford Town	H	EC Pr	2-2	Sheldon, Carris
09.24	Hednesford Town	A	EC PR Rep.	1-5	Clews
09.26	Bilston United	A	BC	5-3	Paddock, Clews, Higgins, Carris, Lloyd (p)
10.03	Atherstone Town	H	Friendly	2-3	Higgins, Carris
10.10	Rowley United	A	BC	2-2	Higgins, Carris
10.17	Bournville Athletic	H	BC	2-3	Paddock, Higgins
10.24	Stirchley United	H	BC	7-2	Higgins 3, Carris, Moore, Paddock, Gilliver
10.31	Bournbrook	A	BC	0-4	
11.07	Darlaston	H	BC	2-3	Carris, own goal
11.14	Coombs Wood	A	BC	2-1	Paddock, Higgins
11.21	Bromsgrove Rovers	A	BC	3-0	Higgins, Griffiths, Boonham
11.28	Rowley United	H	BC	9-1	Sheldon 2, Spriggs 2, Higgins 2 (1p), Lloyd 2, Carris
12.05	Wednesbury Old Athletic	A	BC	0-4	
12.12	Stirchley United	A	BC	2-3	Sheldon, Spriggs
12.19	Leicester Nomads	H	Friendly	6-0	Higgins 4, Spriggs, Jephcote
12.26	Bilston United	H	BC	1-2	Higgins

1909

01.02	Willenhall Pickwick	A	BC	2-6	Higgins 2
01.09	West Bromwich Albion Reserves	H	Friendly	1-2	Spriggs
01.16	Redditch	A	BC	1-2	Sheldon
01.23	Hednesford Town	H	BC	0-1	
01.30	Bournbrook	H	BC	0-1	
02.06	Willenhall Swifts	A	BC	1-2	Spriggs
02.13	Willenhall Swifts	H	BC	2-3	Sheldon, Jephcote
02.20	Cradley Heath St.Lukes	H	BC	3-1	Ladkin 2 (1p), Spriggs
02.27	Darlaston	A	BC	2-4	Sheldon, Spriggs
03.13	Willenhall Pickwick	H	BC	2-2	Ladkin, Jephcote
03.20	Langley St.Michaels	H	BC	1-1	Wright
03.27	Cradley Heath St.Lukes	A	BC	2-5	Ladkin (p), Jephcote
04.03	Wednesbury Old Athletic	H	BC	3-0	Wright 2, Spriggs
04.10	Langley St.Michaels	A	BC	0-2	
04.12	Hednesford Town	A	BC	4-1	Ladkin, Carris, Jephcote, Finch
04.13	Coombs Wood	H	BC	5-0	Ladkin 2, Spriggs 2, Sheldon
04.17	Bromsgrove Rovers	H	BC	4-1	Ladkin 2, Spriggs, Wright
04.24	Coventry City Reserves	H	Friendly	2-2	Ladkin 2 (1p)
04.29	Redditch	H	BC	5-0	Sheldon, Spriggs, Carris, Jephcote, Moore

Key: BC=Birmingham Combination, EC=English Cup

Nuneaton scores first.



Pre-Season Preparations

The management of the Nuneaton Town Football Club are busy making the final preparations for the coming season.

The Birmingham Combination will consist of seventeen clubs, Langley St. Michael's having successfully appealed against the decision to exclude them from the League owing to the late arrival of their delegate at the annual meeting. Cannock Town, who were then elected in their stead, have in consequence been specially elected. This gives another two fixtures and with Atherstone provisionally fixed up for December 25th (home) and February 26 (away), the Town have only one vacant Saturday left for the whole of the season.

All the Clubs consider themselves as likely to be stronger than last year, and there can now be little difference in the class of the Birmingham Combination and Birmingham League. It will be a rare tussle for the championship, as each club will have to fight every inch of the way.

The first practice match of the pre-season warm-ups was played at the end of August, with the team being made up mainly of local players and promising juniors. The kick-off was scheduled for 6pm and a small charge was made of 1d, which would be donated to the General Hospital.

The two teams were:-

Platt; Meakin and Clarke; Scattergood, F. Payne and Flag; Sheldon, G. Moore, S. G. Marvin, W. Wright and A. Munn.

Wilson; Baker and Stirley; S. Smith, Marvin and A. Moore; Watkins, Dutton, Mitchell, Stringer and Wilson.

Nuneaton fans were buoyed by the return of George "Kid" Moore, back after a season at Birmingham City.

1909-1910

Nuneaton Town v Hinckley United 02-09-1909

Nuneaton: Platt; Dale and Clarke; Camwell, Finch and Moore; Such, Sheldon, Walker, Rankle and Thomas.

Hinckley: Pick; Keogh and King; Wilber, Hall and Hewitt; Whitmore, Harris, Osborne, Savage and Morley.

The season opened with a friendly against Hinckley, which attracted a crowd of 1,500. Thomas was caught offside from Nuneaton's first attack, but Camwell then played the ball forward to Sheldon who crossed for Walker. The ball was then returned to Sheldon who shot wildly. Thomas called Hinckley keeper Pick into action, and just after, with only five minutes on the clock, Nuneaton scored the first goal when Rankle shot high into the net.

Such provided Rankle with another chance, which was missed, before Finch took the ball the length of the field,

and although Pick ran out to stop his run, the ball broke to Rankle, who scored his and Nuneaton's second.

Hinckley cut the deficit through Osborne, who scored a simple goal from right in front of the net. Platt was then deceived by a long shot from Osborne, the ball ending up in the net for Hinckley's equaliser. Sheldon blazed a shot over the bar when well placed and when the half-time whistle was blown, the score was 2-2.

After the break Nuneaton attacked through Walker, whose run was cut short by Pick. The ball broke to Thomas, who got round the keeper and hit the ball into the side netting. Pick had to save again before Walker went close, heading the ball just over the bar. A corner from Such was then cleared, but Walker gained possession and completed the attack by heading the ball into the Hinckley net.

Finch raced away for the home team, but was pulled back for offside. Such forced Pick to concede a corner, followed by a long shot from Finch, which was only just wide. After a period of little action Walker missed a good chance for the home side, putting the ball over the bar. This effort was quickly followed by a miss from "Muzzer".

Sheldon put Town 4-2 up, but immediately afterwards Hinckley cut the lead with a penalty from Savage. Darkness was falling by the final whistle and the game ended with a 4-3 win for Nuneaton.

Nuneaton Town v Coombs Wood 04-09-1909

Nuneaton: Platt; Dale and Clarke; Camwell, Finch and Marvin; Sheldon, G. Moore, Walker, Rankle and Thomas.

Coombs Wood: Bagley; Cooper and Daniels; Partridge, Hassall and Owen; Jones, Mee, Hadley, Price and Fellows.

The league season opened with a visit from Coombs Wood, a team that had never beaten Nuneaton, and following a good display against Hinckley the previous week, hopes of a victory were high. It was thought that the crowd was the biggest ever for an opening league fixture in Nuneaton.

Dale conceded an early corner, but Nuneaton started strongly and looked certain to score in the opening stages. Finch started a fine movement with a pass to Thomas who found Moore, whose shot was just wide. Walker went close after a pass from Marvin and Sheldon fired into the side netting after a pass from Finch, which followed a good run upfield.

With 20 minutes gone Coombs Wood broke away and Mee shot into the net. Nuneaton had enjoyed the lion's share of the play, but found themselves a goal down. They almost equalised through Walker before Sheldon made a thrilling run up the wing to put in a fine cross, but no-one was far enough forward to take advantage.

Platt then saved well from a "Woodites" corner and Marvin hit a tremendous long shot which went just wide. Rankle struck the post and Mee almost got through for the visitors,



but just before the half-time whistle a mistake from Clarke let in Price who put the visitors 2-0 up.

Wood's keeper Bagley made a hash of a shot from Walker, but only at the expense of a corner, before Nuneaton cut the deficit with a header by Walker from Thomas' cross. Rankle failed to convert a Sheldon cross before Bagley was disabled after taking a drive from Walker full in the face.

An electrifying piece of work was then witnessed when Marvin secured the ball near the half-way line, and brushing aside all opponents, got close to goal and shot into the net, giving Nuneaton an equaliser and lifting the crowd. However, the joy was short-lived as winger Fellows beat Dale in a race for the ball before putting in a shot which hit the target.

Rankle missed a good chance before one of Sheldon's corners landed right on the goal-line. Sheldon had the ball in the visitors net, but he was pulled up for an offside infringement. It was a dubious decision as the ball looked to have rebounded back from a Coombs Wood defender, but the final whistle saw the visitors win 3-2.

Coombs Wood v Nuneaton Town 11-09-1909

Coombs Wood: Bagley; Cooper and Scrivens; Partridge, Hassall and Owen; Jones, Perry, Hadley, Price and Fellows

Nuneaton: Platt; Harper and Dean; Camwell, Finch and Marvin; Sheldon, Rankle, Walker, Savage and Thomas..

There was a quick chance of revenge as Nuneaton travelled to Coombs Wood the following week for the return league fixture. The team saw changes at back, with Harper and Dean replacing Dale and Clarke. "Kid" Moore was unfit due to a knee injury. Goalkeeper Platt also took his pet monkey along to act as mascot for the day.

Coombs Wood were first to attack and Dean was quick to clear the ball, causing the opposing keeper to handle. Rankle was caught offside, followed by a long shot from Savage. Dean gave away a corner, from which Platt was called into action. Town took up the running and attacked strongly, and from a Thomas corner, Walker headed into the net.

Coombs Wood pressed and forced Platt to concede a corner. Sheldon broke and got in a good centre, which Thomas headed narrowly wide of the target. Camwell won possession and played the ball up to Walker, whose lightning shot grazed the bar, before Dean put in some good defensive work to keep Coombs Wood at bay.

Walker almost scored again from a Sheldon centre, the ball going just wide. Sheldon again centred, and this time Savage missed the chance of a lifetime, heading the wrong side of the post. It looked certain that Nuneaton would add another goal with Savage, Sheldon and Rankle all going close. At this stage of the match it looked as though the visitors were just shooting in, with Bagley saving shot after shot. However, when the whistle sounded for half time the visitors led by just a single goal.

Town started the second half on top, just as they had finished the first, and Savage put a shot just wide. Walker missed a chance from Sheldon's cross and Savage just shaved the upright. The home team were given a look in when Harper failed to clear, but the ball went narrowly wide.

Coombs Wood won a corner, which was safely negotiated, but soon afterwards Marvin failed to halt Price and Fellows, with the inside man getting clean through and scoring with a low shot. Having equalised, the home side became more dangerous and Dean and Harper were both called on to clear. Cooper had to leave the field for treatment following a clash of heads with Savage, with the latter then scoring an offside goal at the other end.

Nuneaton turned up the heat again and Bagley was again called into action, saving from Marvin. Wood had a succession of corners which were dealt with before Rankle went close at the other end. Savage put a cross in for Sheldon, who volleyed the ball yards over the bar. Sheldon then went on a good run, but Walker failed to convert his cross, and just before the end, Walker headed over from a Thomas cross, and the game ended all square at 1-1.

It was reported that the opposition's tactics of kick-and-rush and the state of the pitch, being uneven, and with the grass too long, had gone against Nuneaton. Despite the conditions Nuneaton should have won anyway, with Bagley saving his side time and again.

The English Cup

A special report on the English Cup ties against Kidderminster Harriers and Cradley Heath St Lukes appears on a later pages.

Nuneaton Town v Wellington St. George 09-10-1909

Nuneaton: Platt; Dale and Dean; Harper, Finch and Marvin; Such, Savage, Walker, A. Moore and Thomas.

Wellington: Rider; Pickering and Davies; Bowles, James and Corbett; Turley, Barber, Massey, Plant and Jones.

The second league game of the season took place almost a month after the first following a succession of English Cup ties. The visitors to The Newdegate were new league members Wellington St George's. There was a large crowd to greet them.

Nuneaton almost scored as early as the first minute when a long shot from Harper hit the upright and rebounded in front of goal with no-one on hand to score. Town continued to attack and "Muzzer" was prominent with some near misses, before the home side grabbed a goal. Marvin found Such, who beat Davies and centred for Moore, who headed home.

Savage then hit the underside of the bar and the ball rebounded back into play. Alban Moore delighted the crowd with a fine shot before the visitors hit back, forcing Dale



to concede a corner. Walker broke through the opposing defenders and was clear through on keeper Rider, who looked to be beaten, but recovered to clear. Platt was also called on, but the majority of the attacks came from the home side.

Town should have been several goals up by the time Savage scored the second, when he headed in from a Thomas corner to give the home side a 2-0 half time lead.

Less than five minutes after the break Nuneaton went further ahead with Finch finding a good position and hitting a powerful drive into the net. Thomas put in a good run and centre, which found Walker who put the ball into the net, only to be given offside. Savage was forced to go off injured and the home side were down to ten men.

This made the game disjointed and to make matters worse, Marvin was also involved in a collision which resulted in him having to be carried off. Wellington looked to take advantage, but Nuneaton were still able to contain them. Thomas made a glorious run from the half-way line and got round the backs, before centring for Walker to score. The home side seemed content with the scoreline and played out the rest of the game to win 4-0.

Nuneaton Town v Langley St Michaels 16-10-1909

Nuneaton: Platt; Dale and Dean; Harper, Finch and Marvin; Such, Savage, Walker, A. Moore and Thomas.

Bottom of the table Langley St Michael's were the next to visit Nuneaton and yet again there was another large crowd to witness the occasion.

Nuneaton started at a cracking pace and within four minutes of the kick-off, "Muzzer" Moore had headed home Such's cross, and just a few minutes later Savage found the net with a good shot. Such was having a great game on the right and another of his centres was converted by Savage to make the score 3-0 at the interval.

Walker then netted a fourth straight after the break which was quickly followed by another, after another good run and cross from Such found "Muzzer", who hit the ball so hard, it was reported that it was a wonder that it did not break the net. The sixth goal arrived after good work by Finch, who got close in and passed to Such. The right-winger crossed for Savage to score.

Town missed a couple of chances when Moore's corner was headed over by Savage, followed by a miss by Walker after he had been set up by Such. Finch, who was prominent in the middle of the field, took the ball through the visitors defence and unleashed a good shot, which Walker steered into the visitors' net.

Langley eased the pressure with a visit upfield and won a corner, but it was short-lived pressure and Such picked up the ball and made progress down the right and put in a centre. Tatton ran out, but only managed to divert the ball and Walker put the ball into the net before the keeper could

get back to his line. "Muzzer" was the main instigator of the ninth goal, but was hustled off his shot and instead passed to Walker who scored easily for a 9-0 victory. Such was the stand out player and it was said that there was 'rarely has a finer outside right display been seen'.

Stirchley United v Nuneaton Town 23-10-1909

Nuneaton: Platt; Dale and Dean; Harper, Finch and Marvin; Such, Savage, Walker, A. Moore and Thomas.

The conditions for the match at Stirchley were far from ideal with rain at regular intervals throughout the game, a high wind to contend with, and a pitch that was described as a morass. Proper football was out of the question.

Winning the toss Stirchley chose to kick down the very pronounced slope. Such was very prominent in the early stages of the game and from one of his centres Savage tested goalkeeper Perry. The home side won a corner, which came to nothing and Such raced away before centring for Moore, who stood in front of an open goal, but missed his shot. A Harper free-kick again found "Muzzer", but again he failed to find the target.

A sustained period of pressure from Stirchley followed, and they won three successive corners. After 25 minutes Aston broke away and hit a fast rising shot, which, helped by the wind, sailed into the top corner to give the home side the lead. Nuneaton hit back and from a lovely centre from Such, Savage headed over. Walker then kicked wide when well placed.

Dean broke up a Stirchley attack and passed to Savage, who controlled well and warmed the keeper's hands with a powerful shot. The same player had another chance shortly afterwards, but blazed yards over the bar.

Shortly after the break, Thomas was fouled as he was about to centre and "Muzzer" put the ball into the area. Lever, attempting to defend the cross, tried to head it away, but made a hash of it and headed the ball into his own net to level the scores.

Savage took the ball forward and swung a cross into the goalmouth, but no-one was on hand to convert. Town pressed strongly and Stirchley were forced to concede a corner, and Lever nearly repeated his performance of scoring for Town. The home side were penned in their own half and conceded corners galore and aside from the odd breakaway, Town dominated the game.

Play became increasingly difficult and the ground in front of the goals was nothing but a mud heap, which meant that players had difficulty keeping their feet. Town still had chances to win and when Thomas put in a cross, Such stood with the goal in front of him, but unaccountably put the ball the wrong side of the post. Towards the end Savage had a long shot which went just wide, and at the final whistle, the score was 1-1.



Bilston United v Nuneaton Town 30-10-1909

Bilston: Bragger; Smith and Shorter; Harris, Vale and Pritchard; Bird, Saunders, Lowe, Wilkes and Robinson.

Nuneaton: Platt; Dale and Dean; Harper, Finch and Marvin; Such, Rankle, Savage, A. Moore and Thomas.

Town were again on their travels the following week, when they met Bilston United. Savage was moved to centre-forward to replace the injured Walker and Rankle was at inside-right.

Bilston were the first to show, but play quickly switched to the other end where Marvin tested Bragger with a long shot. Bilston missed a good chance when Bird shot wide when well placed. Moore put in two good shots, which severely tested the keeper and shortly after forced the keeper to punch away. Marvin then missed by a matter of inches, and a breakaway by the home team forced Platt into a good save.

The home team took the lead after 25 minutes, Lowe scoring from Robinson's centre. Platt was soon in action again, but Marvin took the ball upfield, working his way through the Bilston defence and winning a corner. Town swarmed around the Bilston goal and gave Bragger an uncomfortable five minutes, during which "Muzzer" hit the upright and Such got in several good centres, one of which should have been converted by Rankle.

Harper missed another glorious chance and Bragger had to concede a corner from an effort by Finch. Savage then got the equalizer, putting in a shot that the keeper was unable to hold, the ball rolling over the line, making the half-time score 1-1.

Town won a corner in the first minute of the second half and this was followed by a shot by Moore, which was followed by another from Rankle, who put the ball wide. Moore looked certain to score sooner or later and eventually he did just that, hooking a shot past Bragger to make it 2-1 to the visitors. Nuneaton pushed on and dominated play for a while. A Such centre was completely missed by Thomas when well placed.

Bilston broke and grabbed an equaliser, with a shot from Wilkes being placed out of the reach of Platt. The Nuneaton goalkeeper required some attention before play resumed and Savage missed another good opportunity, but the ball broke to Such who made good progress and ended up scoring a brilliant goal to make it 3-2.

An exciting few minutes took place in front of the Bilston goal, with the ball hovering around in a sea of players, when the ball appeared to be over the line on more than one occasion. However, no further goals were scored and Nuneaton had won 3-2. In summarising, it was reported that "Muzzer" Moore had done the work of two men and deserved greater reward from the number of shots that he put in throughout the match, than his single goal.

Nuneaton Town v Willenhall Pickwick 06-11-1909

Nuneaton: Platt; Dale and Dean; Harper, Finch and Marvin; Such, Sheldon, Savage, A. Moore and Thomas.

Willenhall: Craddock; Archer and Richards; Danks, Robinson and Wootton; Woolaston, Potts, Holt, Heath and Spencer.

The visit of the previous season's champions attracted a large crowd. Walker was still not fit to play and Sheldon took his place, fit again after sustaining an injury down the pit.

The visitors almost got in from the kick-off, but Marvin was covering for Dean and relieved the pressure. Sheldon and Such both threatened for Nuneaton, who then took an early lead. Richards' clearance found Such, who put in a top quality centre for Savage to head home.

Finch forced Craddock into a save and the keeper was called on again shortly afterwards, going full length to keep out an effort from "Muzzer". Town forced two corners in quick succession and continued to attack. Moore looked to have a good opening, but was unable to turn quickly enough and the chance was gone.

Willenhall grabbed an equaliser on 20 minutes when Platt failed to hold the ball and Holt, following up scored the equaliser. Finch found Sheldon, who put his shot wide, before Town lost the services of Marvin for the rest of the half. No further scoring took place and it was 1-1 at the break.

Town were restored to full strength after half time and reshuffled the forward line with Such and Sheldon swapping places, as did Marvin and Moore. Sheldon broke and put in a good centre from which Savage shot wide. Willenhall then took the lead, Spencer scoring with a cross shot.

Sheldon was caught offside twice in quick succession, but then received a pass from Finch and forced Craddock to concede a corner. The Town forwards failed to make any headway for the remainder of the match, despite good service from the half-backs and in fading light the match ended in a 2-1 defeat for the home team.

Nuneaton Town v Stirchley 13-11-1909

Nuneaton: Platt; Dale and Dean; Harper, Finch and A. Moore; Such, Savage, Ladkin, Wright and Chamberlain.

Stirchley: Fagan; Mortiboys and Court; Pugh, Harris and Mason; Aston, Greaves, Dougherty, Newey and Crow.

For the visit of Stirchley, Marvin was unable to take his place in the team, being injured against Willenhall, and reserve centre-forward Ladkin was brought in.

The first action saw Chamberlain put in a good cross, which was cleared. Such also put in a cross that came to nothing, before Dale broke up a 'rush' from Dougherty and Newey. A good shot from distance by Finch forced Fagan to save. After 15 minutes Chamberlain gained possession and passed to Ladkin, whose shot was turned in by Such.

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Ladkin broke clear and looked as though he might go all the way, but he passed to Wright and the chance was gone. Chamberlain picked up on a “Muzzer” clearance, but his shot ended up on top of the net.

Such was caught offside, twice in quick succession, which drew an unfavourable reaction from the crowd. Stirchley’s goal came under pressure and survived by a miracle before the visitors broke away, Platt ran out to meet the attack and there was a collision between the keeper and Greaves, who was forced to retire. Platt was forced to save again for Nuneaton, but when the half-time whistle sounded, the score was 1-0 to the home team.

Nuneaton extended their lead just two minutes after the restart when a passing move involving all five forwards was converted by Such. Ladkin forced Fagan to save with a shot from distance, and a few minutes later Town scored again, with Chamberlain finding the net to make it two goals in five minutes.

Dean gave away a penalty, from which Aston scored for the visitors. Finch put in a long pass which found Savage, who trapped the ball on the line before screwing it back into the net with the Stirchley defenders appealing for offside. Finch then missed a penalty before Such put in a brilliant run down the right, finding Ladkin who scored Town’s fifth.

Such again got away down the right and Wright headed home, only to be given offside. Town were playing like demons at this stage and Finch brought up the half dozen before Greaves notched a second for Stirchley. The visitors had the ball in the net again, but offside was given. Such tested Fagan with a cracking shot, from which the keeper conceded a corner, but the clearance found Such, who raced forward and scored a great goal for his hat-trick. At the final whistle the home team had won 7-2.

Presentation to Mr. T. J. Cooper

By the departure of Mr. T. J. Cooper for California, football in Nuneaton loses a real enthusiast. In addition to being assistant secretary of the Town club, he was a trustee and member of the management committee of the Nuneaton and District League, as well as being connected with the Nuneaton Hospital Cups Association. Mr Cooper has been the recipient of several presentations, the Town club management on Tuesday night presenting him with a silver cigarette case and a silver match box. The same evening the Nuneaton and District League management and club representatives made Mr. Cooper a present of a gold and pearl scarf pin, the presentation being made by Mr J. Hurst, president of the League. Harry Marlow, the well-known local player, accompanies Mr. Cooper to the new world, and he also received many tokens of good will. Both gentlemen sail tomorrow.

Nuneaton Town v Bournville Athletic 20-11-1909

Nuneaton: Tustin; Dale and Dean; Harper, Finch and A. Moore; Such, Savage, Ladkin, Wright and Chamberlain.

Bournville: Edwards; Wood and C. Smith; Ward, Barnes and Goode; C. Jones, H. Jones, Price, Grayland and T. Jones.

Town next entertained the ‘cocoa lads’, putting out the same team with the exception of Platt, who had been injured against Stirchley the previous week. Tustin took over in goal.

The opening minutes saw H. Jones caught offside for Bournville and Such testing Edwards at the other end. After five minutes Dale cleared to Chamberlain who in turn passed to Wright, whose centre eventually found Savage, who scored with a good shot. Savage then tested Edwards again with the keeper making a good save. The same player made several openings for Ladkin, who failed to take advantage. Bournville mounted an attack and Tustin did well to get the ball clear following a melee. The visitors attacked again and H. Jones looked set to score, but kicked over.

Edwards saved from Wright as Town kept up the pressure. Wright again put in a beauty from which Savage forced a corner which Chamberlain put behind. Edwards had to save twice in a minute, once from Ladkin and another from Finch. At the other end Tustin was called into action and conceded a corner, while Such and Ladkin missed good chances at the other end.

Town scored again, when Finch got the ball forward to Savage, who gave Edwards no chance with a low, hard shot. Two minutes later Savage and Ladkin got through again and the latter lifted the ball over the keeper and into the net. At half-time Nuneaton led by three goals to nil.

From the first attack of the second half, Wright shot wide, while just after Such put in a corner of such quality that Harper looked certain to score, but the chance slipped away. Ladkin was slow to react to another opportunity, but Such put in another corner of the same quality as earlier, from which Chamberlain scored.

Town were now shooting at will, but Edwards pulled off a string of saves to keep them out. Bournville eventually broke away and H. Jones pulled a goal back for the visitors. Chamberlain then put another Such cross wide.

Finch got injured and had to be carried off, but Nuneaton attacked just as often with ten men. Chamberlain got round the backs and crossed to Ladkin who scored. Just on time a tangle between “Muzzer” and a Bournville player went against the home side and a penalty was awarded and scored. The whistle then sounded for the end of the match, at which stage there followed some ‘unseemly behaviour from some misguided youths’.

Edwards had excelled in the Bournville goal and was credited with keeping the score down to 5-2.



Willenhall Swifts v Nuneaton Town 27-11-1909

Willenhall: Nix; Humphries and Jones; Arkinstall, Clift and Williams; Hadley, Heath, Tate, Moore and Worsnip.

Nuneaton: Tustin; Dale and Dean; Harper, Camwell and A. Moore; Such, Savage, G. Moore, Walker and Chamberlain.

Town lost the influential Finch for the away fixture at Willenhall Swifts, Camwell deputising. "Kid" Moore was recalled after a knee injury. Tustin again took the place of the injured Platt.

Willenhall were caught offside in the opening stages and Walker passed forward to Chamberlain, who was too slow to make anything of the opening. Willenhall then took hold of the game and attacked for some time. At the other end George Moore was unlucky when a shot cannoned off a defender. Tustin won applause for a fine save, but from the resultant corner Clift headed the home side into the lead.

Chamberlain put in a good cross, but George Moore completely missed the ball. Swifts made repeated attacks on the visitors' goal with Hadley being involved in most things, and from one of his centres Willenhall's Moore extended the home side's lead, which saw the home team go in at half time with a 2-0 lead.

Nuneaton attacked at the start of the second half and Dale took the ball all the way through and put in a great shot, which was turned around the post by Nix. Town players claimed the ball had crossed the line, and after reviewing the events, the referee awarded Nuneaton a goal. "Kid" Moore had a great chance to equalise, but instead of running on chose to shoot from range and the ball went over the top.

Tustin won more applause for a save made when he had several players on top of him. The keeper showed his bravery by lying on the ball as the Willenhall forwards tried to hack it away, until finally the referee was obliged to sound his whistle. Savage headed into the goalkeeper's hands from a cross by Such, before Dale forced Nix to save at the expense of a corner.

Tustin was eventually beaten again by Hadley, who scored with a cross shot to give the home team a 3-1 win.

Nuneaton Town v Cradley Heath St Lukes 11-12-1909

Nuneaton: Platt; Dale and Dean; Harper, Finch and Payne; Such, Savage, Marvin, A. Moore and Chamberlain.

Cradley Heath: Turner; Boxley and Smith; Waldron, Pearson and Brooks; G. Saunders, Tudor, A. Saunders, Savage and Stevens.

Goalkeeper Peter Platt made a return to the side for the home game against Cradley Heath St Lukes, the team who had knocked Nuneaton out of the English Cup earlier in the season. Marvin was tried at centre forward after the non-appearance of a new man. Fred Payne was called up from the reserves to take up the left-half position.

Turner was forced to save from Savage in the opening

minutes and then Platt was tested at the other end. The playing surface was in poor condition due to the weather and players were slipping around. Savage missed one opportunity as he slipped when shaping up to score. Platt was applauded for a good save and from the resultant corner Town cleared. The home goalkeeper made a first class save, which won him more applause from the crowd.

Two goals were scored in quick succession, G. Saunders giving Cradley the lead and almost immediately Payne picked up the ball from a throw-in, and put in a first class cross, which was turned home by Such. The Town goalscorer then missed a good chance, taking too long to get his shot away. "Muzzer" put in some good work which led to a Chamberlain cross, which was converted by Marvin, to great cheers from the crowd. There were no further goals before half-time and Town went in leading 2-1.

After the break Chamberlain was caught offside from a Such centre, but the winger centred again immediately afterwards and this time Marvin scored to make the score 3-1. The visitors won a corner from a Platt save, but Davison put the cross wide. From a Town break, Marvin headed home, but it was given off-side. A Cradley corner was headed out by Harper, but the visitors soon won another, which was headed clear by "Muzzer". Chamberlain raced down the pitch and was brought to a halt by the Cradley keeper Boxley.

Play then became a bit stale, but Platt was called into action to save from Saunders. "Muzzer" and Chamberlain broke clear and the latter passed to his partner, who scored the fourth goal for the home side. Platt then saved well from a free kick and despite further shots from "Muzzer" and Harper the game ended 4-1 to the Town. Payne deserves a special mention, having stepped up from the reserves and not looking out of place.

Langley St. Michael's v Nuneaton Town 18-12-1909

Langley: Sedgeley; Quinton and Carpenter; Pardoe, Oldfield and Coles; Wood, Blair, Dinning, Spooner and Wilkie.

Nuneaton: Platt; Dale and Dean; Harper, Finch and Payne; Such, Savage, Marvin, A. Moore and Chamberlain.

Nuneaton kept exactly the same team for the trip to Langley St. Michael's and were in confident mood, having beaten their opponents 9-0 earlier in the season and coming into the game on the back of a 4-1 win against Cradley.

Nuneaton attacked from the off with Payne narrowly missing from a long shot. Such put in another one of his perfect centres, but Sedgeley saved well for Langley, and repeated the feat with an effort from Finch. Savage looked odds on to score, but again Sedgeley saved. Platt was required to save when he punched out, while at the other end Savage headed a Such centre straight into Sedgeley's hands.

"Muzzer" had a shot as the visitors proved themselves vastly superior to their hosts, with most of the play taking place in



front of the Langley goal. Sedgeley was the busiest man on the pitch, twice clearing shots from Moore and pulling off two miraculous saves from Payne and Finch.

Sedgeley was beaten eventually, when he was forced to concede a corner, and from Chamberlain's cross Savage headed into the net. "Muzzer" was fouled as he made his way into the area and a penalty was awarded. Sedgeley saved Savage's kick, but he followed up to score. More chances were missed before the half time whistle, by which point Nuneaton had a 2-0 lead.

Town increased their lead immediately after the break with a fine individual effort from Marvin. Following a corner to the home side which came to nothing, the home team broke through Wood, who beat Platt with a cross shot. Straight from the kick-off Town raced away and Savage scored again to complete his hat-trick.

At this point the game was very one-sided and the home team hardly had a look in. Town simply did as they liked, and might have scored several more goals than the additional efforts from Marvin and Moore. At the final whistle Town had netted six to Langley's one.

Nuneaton Town v Bilston United 27-12-1909

Nuneaton: Platt; Dale and Dean; Harper, Finch and Marvin; Such, Savage, Walker, A. Moore and Chamberlain.

Bilston: Braggar; Turrell and Penn; Miners, Vale and Field; Griffiths, Saunders, Roberts, Westwood and Robinson.

A good crowd assembled for the Boxing Day game against Bilston despite the rain. The teams were both at full strength.

There was a sensational start to the match when "Muzzer" scored immediately from a Such centre. The rain was pelting down and conditions heavy, but the crowd forgot about that in their excitement. Town continued to attack with shots galore being handled expertly by Braggar in the Bilston goal. A shot from Such hit the bar and dropped down in front of the goal, but Chamberlain lifted it over the top.

Walker missed a good opening before Savage crashed a drive against the bar, which rebounded into play. Bilston broke occasionally and got the ball into the net, but it was given off-side. Town, however, kept up the pressure and eventually increased their lead, Savage taking advantage of a fine centre by Chamberlain, to give the home team a 2-0 half-time lead.

Town started well in the second period and Braggar was again forced to save, this time from Finch and Savage. The goalkeeper made a magnificent save from Moore. Walker had several long range efforts, which might have deserved better, but after a long period of defensive work, Bilston broke away and Roberts scored an easy goal to cut the deficit.

Centre-forward Walker missed an open goal to the consternation of the crowd, while Bilston forced their first corner of the game, which came to nothing. Such broke

away for the home side and put in an inviting centre, which went begging. It had seemed as though the visitors' goal had a charmed life, but they broke away again and Westwood levelled the scores. Town tried hard to get the winner, but it would not come and the match ended 2-2.

Redditch v Nuneaton Town 28-12-1909

The following day Town travelled to Redditch to play the game that had been postponed on December 4th. The game was another 2-2 draw with goals from Alban Moore and Such for the visitors.

Wednesbury Old Athletic v Nuneaton Town 01-01-1910

Wednesbury: Crutchley; Fisher and Wilkins; Mills, Bollington and James; Rollinson, Hall, Morris, Plant and Adams.

Nuneaton: Platt; Dale and Dean; Harper, Finch and Marvin; Such, Savage, Walker, A. Moore and Chamberlain.

Nuneaton travelled to Wednesbury Old Athletic for the first match of the New Year. It was a venue where they had yet to secure a point in the Birmingham Combination.

The "Old Uns" quickly set the pace and Platt was soon in action, saving from Bollington. Nuneaton took the lead when Chamberlain was fouled in the area and Such scored from the penalty. Wednesbury equalised and threatened on several occasions and although Platt was in great form he was beaten from the penalty spot before the interval. The home team went in 2-1 up at half time.

Soon after half time Town equalised through Savage. At this stage the play became very fast and the home team, being urged on by a large crowd, were playing with confidence. Hall gave the home team back the lead and towards the end Adams made it 4-2. It had been a great game to watch, but play had become rough towards the end of the match, with Adams lucky to stay on the pitch after striking Dale.

Nuneaton Town v Willenhall Swifts 08-01-1910

Nuneaton: Platt; Dale and Dean; Harper, Finch and Marvin; Such, Savage, Walker, G. Moore and A. Moore.

Willenhall: Steventon; Franks and Whitehouse; Hadley, Clift and Arkinstall; Bishop, Hanson, Grainger, Heath and Peek.

Willenhall Swifts travelled to Nuneaton reassured by the fact that they had never lost a single point to the home team. Town made a couple of changes with George "Kid" Moore coming in at inside left and "Muzzer" taking Chamberlain's place at outside left.

Nuneaton started strongly and it was not long before they were a goal up. Savage was the architect, crossing for "Muzzer" to head home. The home team continued to work Steventon in the Willenhall goal, while at the other end the visitors were pulled up for an offside and then Dean cleverly halted another attack. Platt had a shot to deal with, while at the other end

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“Kid” Moore’s shot was only just dealt with by Steventon. The home team, however, kept up the pressure and Savage took advantage of some good work by Walker to increase the lead. The brothers Moore initiated another attack, but Franks cleared. Platt was forced to concede a corner, tipping over the bar after Marvin fly-kicked a clearance towards his own goal, while Savage had another fine attempt, but half time arrived with the score 2-0 to Town.

On the restart “Kid” and “Muzzer” broke away on the left, but Swifts quickly transferred the play and Platt had to run out to clear. The visitors counter attacked following a Nuneaton corner and Platt was forced to keep out a great shot from Heath. Town increased their lead to 3-0 when Such hit a shot from long range that beat Steventon.

Willenhall’s goal escaped time after time as Town laid siege. Platt, however, had to be alert to tip a dangerous shot from Grainger over the bar. Nuneaton continued to attack with shots coming in from Walker and Marvin. Alban Moore made a splendid run and passed to Savage, who in turn passed to Such, whose shot caused Steventon to concede a corner.

“Kid” Moore then looked certain to score, but was robbed and the ball broke to Savage who passed to Such whose shot was only partially cleared and “Kid” ran in to score. Town were all over the visitors and before the end of the game Savage netted again, giving the home team a 5-0 win.

Nuneaton Town v Bromsgrove Rovers 15-01-1910

Nuneaton: Platt; Dale and Dean; Harper, Finch and Marvin; Such, Savage, Walker, G. Moore and A. Moore.

Bromsgrove: Whitmore; Lippitt and Skinner; Harris, Jennings and Bissell; Finlan, Wall, Stiles, Richards, Peplow.

Town kept the same team for the game against Bromsgrove Rovers, who had been going quite well prior to their visit to The Newdigate.

The game opened at a fast pace and in an end to end fashion. Alban Moore played Walker in early on, but he was robbed as he was about to shoot. Walker was leading the line well and some good play by the brothers Moore won applause, but George Moore wanted too much time and Skinner cleared, sending the visitors to the other end. Savage got round the half-backs and passed to Such who put his shot wide. Savage put in a fierce shot which Whitmore tipped over the bar. Whitmore made several good saves from the home forwards.

Wall shot over for the visitors before Alban Moore, running half the length of the field, put in a cross to Savage, who had an open goal, but put the ball straight into the hands of Whitmore. The play was quite entertaining despite the heavy conditions, and Savage again had an opportunity from which Walker, following up, was just too late arriving.

After the break Bromsgrove had a short period of pressure, but Platt had no difficulty in saving Wall’s shot. Savage and Such got away, but the former was fouled and the free

kick came to nothing. Peplow spoiled an opportunity for Bromsgrove by being caught offside before Savage forced Whitmore to save. By this stage Bromsgrove were packing their goal to nullify any threat from the home forwards, but following a break, Dean handled at the other end and Bromsgrove were awarded a penalty. Lippetts, who took the kick, hit the crossbar and this sparked a period of intense pressure as both sides fought for the ball. Nuneaton pressed again towards the end, but the game ended 0-0.

Willenhall Pickwick v Nuneaton Town 08-01-1910

Willenhall: Walker; Archer and Edge; Wootton, Robinson and Danks; Wollaston, Potts, Price, Heath and Spencer.

Nuneaton: Tustin; Dale and Dean; Harper, Finch and Marvin; Such, Savage, Walker, G. Moore and A. Moore.

Nuneaton arrived at Willenhall Pickwick without the services of goalkeeper Peter Platt and Tustin stepped in. Otherwise both teams were at full strength.

Town started well and had the best of the opening stages when the home keeper, Walker had to save from George Moore. Pickwick attacked for the first time after about 10 minutes when Price beat Tustin to put “Picks” one up. Nuneaton responded and “Kid” Moore shot over and “Muzzer” forced the goalkeeper into another save, Walker punching the ball away.

Town had a chance to equalise after Edge had handled, but when Such took the penalty kick, it turned out to be a pathetic attempt that just rolled to the keeper, who threw it clear. Heath got away for the home side, but to no effect. Nuneaton hit back again, but missed a good chance and lost a man in the same move, when Savage and Walker both went for the same ball and collided. Savage came off worst in the collision and was forced to retire and took no further part in the game.

Walker missed an Alban Moore cross completely. However, following a Such corner, the ball landed on the goal-line and “Muzzer” was able to force the ball home. Straight from the kick-off Willenhall attacked and Heath, receiving the ball from Wollaston, headed past Tustin, to restore the home side’s lead.

“Picks” increased their lead when Price headed towards goal and Spencer rushed in to make sure. Walker saved from “Muzzer”, while a short time after, the same player placed a corner so well that a goal looked certain, but the ball was scrambled away. Half-time arrived with the visitors leading 3-1.

For the second half Dale pushed up into the forward line and Nuneaton played the one back game. Many offsides followed after the adoption of this tactic. It was reported that the play became so dull that it wasn’t even worth describing. Willenhall however managed to score a further four goals to Nuneaton’s one — Dale fashioning an opening for Walker, who made no mistake.



Bournbrook v Nuneaton Town 29-01-1910

Bournbrook: Jukes; Hale and Camwell; Horden, Wall and Snipe; Turner, Powers, Poyner, Boyce and Battersby.

Nuneaton: Platt; Harper and Dean; Marvin, Finch and A. Moore; Such, Savage, Dale, G. Moore and Thomas.

After the second half experiment the previous week, with Dale being moved up front, the defender retained his place in the forward line for the visit to Bournbrook. Other changes were Harper, who took Dale's position in the backs, Marvin from left to right half and after a long absence, Thomas came in on the left wing.

Bournbrook played with ten men for the first 15 minutes. With the wind in their favour, Town had much the better of the opening exchanges and scored after just 10 minutes, when Savage converted a centre from Such. Two minutes later Marvin added another. The home team had occasional visits to the Town end, but Nuneaton were in command and Dale added a third goal. Bournbrook had a rare sortie into the Town half and Harper handled in the penalty area, but Platt saved the spot kick. Town continued to monopolise the game and further goals were added by Savage and Marvin. A misunderstanding between Platt and Alban Moore gifted Bournbrook a simple goal to make the half time score 5-1.

Dale and Savage both missed chances at the start of the second period, both coming from Such crosses. With the aid of the weather conditions Bournbrook came more into the game and gained several corners. The home team won a penalty, from which Turner beat Platt to make it 5-2. Bournbrook were enjoying more of the game and after gaining a corner, Hale scored from close range.

Platt was now being called on more frequently, but saved well when required to do so. When Nuneaton attacked "Kid" narrowly missed the target. Town pressed strongly towards the end of the match, but Bournbrook defended stubbornly and when the whistle was blown, Nuneaton had won 5-3.

Nuneaton Town v Cannock Town 05-02-1910

Nuneaton: Platt; Dale and Dean; Harper, Finch and Marvin; Such, G. Moore, Savage, A. Moore and Fellows.

Cannock: Thrupp; Gray and H. Linnell; J. Linnell, Harrison and Tranter; Morris, Appleby, Perks, Dalloway and Williams.

Town were back at home after successive away games and the team showed only one change, Fellows joining from Coombs Wood and taking his place on the left wing.

Early in the first half, Nuneaton were penned in their own half, but when Town broke forward, Finch found "Muzzer", who made progress before swinging the ball over to Savage, who scored from long range. "Kid" Moore missed a glorious chance from "Muzzer" Moore's cross, and Finch put over the bar from a Fellows corner. Dean conceded a corner at the other end and Harrison equalised for Cannock.

Marvin made an opening for "Muzzer" who spurned the chance to score and Such also missed when well placed. Town were doing all the pressing and finally it paid off when "Muzzer" and Marvin worked an opening for Savage, who found the net. Two minutes later "Kid" gave a glimpse of his old form, scoring a solo effort. Within the next five minutes Town added a couple more, "Muzzer" heading home from a Such centre.

Following a good passing move between Savage and "Muzzer", the later beat Thrupp in the Cannock goal. Fellows found the net, but it was disallowed for offside, even though the ball came back off the goalkeeper. Cannock scored again before half time when Platt was forced to run out to clear, but his kick cannoned off one of the Cannock players and into the net.

Such went on a run that saw him go round Linnell and put in a shot that beat Thrupp. "Kid" Moore then went on a solo run, but when he was fouled, he kept going and beat Thrupp, but the goal was disallowed and a penalty given. "Kid" took the penalty himself and Thrupp saved. Town scored again when Savage found the net from a Such centre. The referee then cautioned one of the Cannock players. An impressive display of inter-passing between "Kid", Savage and "Muzzer" resulted in the latter scoring a lovely goal — the eighth.

Platt was called on to save before "Kid" got away again, rounded the back, drew Thrupp out of his goal, and scored. Town mounted another attack that ended with Such giving Savage the chance to score the tenth goal.

Darlaston v Nuneaton Town 12-02-1910

Darlaston: Hale; Page and Blangford; Lavend, Read and Lloyd; Blakemore, Bates, Lee, Bould and Wilkes.

Nuneaton: Platt; Dale and Dean; Harper, Marvin and A. Moore; Such, G. Moore, Savage, Walker and T. Fellows.

Finch was absent with illness for the visit to Darlaston and Marvin moved over to cover the centre-half position, Alban Moore dropped back to left half and Walker occupied the inside left position. Darlaston were at full strength.

Darlaston started strongly and went close early on before Town hit back and forced two corners, "Kid" shooting wide from the second one. The same player forced keeper Hale into a save, which was followed by a good build up by "Muzzer" and Marvin, which ended when Walker missed by a couple of inches.

Bates and Bould went close for the home side before Marvin tried his luck with two long shots and Platt was forced to punch away from Lloyd. Hale saved from Walker, followed by another close attempt by Savage. "Kid" broke through and looked as if he might score, but chose to shoot from too far out and put the ball narrowly wide. Darlaston then put the Town goal under some pressure, but the visitors' defence held firm.

Such forced a corner and "Kid" headed into Hale's hands. Darlaston again went on the offensive and several shots were

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put in on the Town goal. When half time arrived the score was 0-0.

At the start of the second half, Bould missed a good chance for the home side before good work by Such, "Kid" and Walker ended with an offside decision against Walker. Hale was forced to save from Walker, which was followed by efforts from "Muzzer" and Savage. Platt showed his worth with some excellent keeping after the Town defence came under pressure. At the other end, Walker grazed the bar with a pot shot.

Harper was injured and after the throw up, Town again went on the offensive. A corner and cross from Such came to nothing, but his next cross was headed just wide by Walker. Platt pulled off a magnificent save from Lee from close range. Moore missed a chance, shooting into Hale's hands. The play then went end to end with both teams looking to break the deadlock.

Walker shot wide from long distance before Savage tried to go through on his own, but was closed down and shot yards wide. Darlaston had two very narrow escapes, Hale clearing with difficulty from Walker and "Kid" Moore. Savage drove wide and a couple of minutes later the final whistle sounded and the game ended 0-0.

Nuneaton Town v Atherstone Town 26-02-1910

The old rivalry that existed between Nuneaton Town and Atherstone Town was as keen as ever and the 'friendly' game at the Newdegate saw upwards of 1,000 fans travel from Atherstone, despite the wet weather. 887 people travelled on the special train. The respective fans cheered as their team entered the ground.

Windridge won the toss for Atherstone with the result that the blue and whites kicked towards the Burgage end and into a slight wind. 'Adders' were caught offside in the first minute and Tom Field shot wide. Finch was out of the game for a couple of minutes, but when the game resumed Atherstone keeper Butler had to run out to clear from Such.

Platt was forced into a save from Tom Field, but Archie Field put 'Adders' in front to the delight of their supporters. Immediately following the first goal, Atherstone attacked again, and as the Town defence stood appealing for offside Archie Field shot into the net for his and Atherstone's second.

Nuneaton rallied and gave the visitors an anxious time. Windridge cleared from "Kid" Moore and Butler saved from Such, who shortly after went round Windridge and forced Butler to concede a corner. Thomas dropped the corner right in front of goal, which had a miraculous escape. "Muzzer" then forced Butler to save, but not to be denied the inside left broke through again and made no mistake.

The first unpleasant incident of the afternoon then took place. Such beat Grazier and won possession after which the Atherstone player fouled the home right winger. A further duel between Such and Grazier saw the ball go out for a throw in.

From the throw Nuneaton won a corner and Butler was forced to defend his goal at the expense of another corner. A period of pressure from Atherstone resulted in Platt saving from Archie Field followed by a Harrison shot into the side netting.

"Kid" Moore had the ball in the Atherstone net, but was given offside, while Atherstone won their first corner of the game, which came to nothing and the half ended with the visitors holding a 2-1 lead.

Harper opened the second half with a shot from distance which went just over the bar and Marvin tried to thread his way past several players in the Atherstone area, but was ultimately stopped in his tracks. Savage narrowly missed the target and then put another shot over the bar.

Archie Field missed an open goal from Chamberlain's cross before Nuneaton took up the running again and it looked as though "Muzzer" would score, but he was tripped and a penalty was awarded. "Kid" Moore took the penalty kick, but Butler pulled off a fine save.

Grazier and "Kid" Moore had been conducting their own personal battle throughout the match, and after one incident "Kid" was ordered off, with the crowd urging the referee to mete out the same punishment to Grazier. Not long after Dunkley and "Muzzer" came together, with the Atherstone man getting injured and "Muzzer" joining his brother on the touchline. Nuneaton were now playing with nine men and the sight of Platt standing close to the half way line caused some amusement among the crowd.

A breakaway by Atherstone saw them force a corner, but Nuneaton got away and amidst the wildest enthusiasm the blue and whites bore down on the Atherstone goal through Dale, and Thomas scored a lovely goal.

At 2-2 and down to nine men the home side still pressed the most, but with only two minutes left Harrison broke away for the visitors and shot. Platt ran out and fielded the ball, but before he could get back it was returned and, striking him on the shoulder, rolled slowly and unhindered into the net.

There was just time left to restart the game and one last attack for Nuneaton, but the 'Adders' defence stood firm and at the final whistle, the visitors had won 3-2.

Nuneaton Town v Wednesbury Old Athletic 05-03-1910

There was again a large crowd for the return fixture against Wednesbury Old Athletic. Both teams were at full strength.

Savage got forward in the first minute of the game, but was pulled up for offside, and got free again shortly after but put his shot wide. Harper headed against the bar from a corner, but Savage was on hand to score the first goal.

Immediately afterwards Town broke again and Such put the ball in to "Kid" Moore, who scored the second, making it two goals to the home side with only ten minutes gone. Town maintained their superiority and "Muzzer" narrowly missed



another opportunity. Finch was then forced to clear and the ball found Thomas, who was given offside.

“Muzzer” and Savage both gave Crutchley work to do, before the visitors went close at the other end. Such shot over from close range following Thomas’ cross and Savage got through, but was caught offside. Shortly afterwards, Platt pulled off a great save from Adams.

Such put in a long range effort before a breakaway from the visitors ended with Hall sending in a fine shot, from which Platt made a magnificent save, winning him an ovation from the crowd. Clever play between Such and “Kid” forced Crutchley to concede a corner, which was cleared. The Old Uns had a lucky escape when a shot from Savage struck the goalkeeper, who was out of his goal.

Town almost added to their lead on several occasions with Such, “Kid”, “Muzzer” and Harper all putting in good shots. At the half time whistle Nuneaton lead 2-0.

A Thomas shot at the start of the second half caused the visitors to concede a corner, which came to nothing. However, with just five minutes of the second half gone, Nuneaton extended their lead when “Muzzer” passed to Thomas who forced his way through the backs and scored.

A fine move involving all of the Town forwards looked promising, but came to nothing, before Platt was called on to save. Such forced Crutchley to save and at the other end Platt was called into action on more than one occasion. Morris put over the bar for the visitors when well placed, and Harper grazed the crossbar from a Such corner.

Marvin was forced to clear from under the crossbar and at the other end a cross by Such was headed narrowly wide by “Muzzer”. In the closing minutes Crutchley had plenty to do, but no further goals were scored and the game ended with a 3-0 win to the home side.

Nuneaton Town v Redditch 12-03-1910

Nuneaton: Platt; Dale and Dean; Harper, Finch and Marvin; Such, G. Moore, Savage, A. Moore and Rampton.

Redditch: Craner; Hillman and Pickering; Frank, Court and Cottrill; Ashby, Rossborough, Coulson, Evans and Davis.

Nuneaton were at home for the third week in succession when they met Redditch, who had never yet taken a point away from Town on their own patch. Rampton who once played at Atherstone was included in the Nuneaton side on the left wing.

Town attacked from the kick off and forced a corner, then, following a Redditch attack, Rampton got away and crossed to Savage, whose shot grazed the bar. Craner had a busy time before two consecutive corners to the visitors were dealt with. Finch won applause for a long shot and Rampton again gave Savage an opportunity, but Craner saved.

Marvin and Rampton exchanged passes and “Muzzer” received the ball and brought the keeper to his knees with

a good shot. Play entered a give and take stage, but after twenty-five minutes, a throw-in half way in the visitors’ half found “Muzzer” whose long shot found the net. Shortly after “Muzzer” and Rampton broke through, with the latter running in and scoring a lovely goal.

Five minutes later Such broke and Craner left his goal, but failed to reach the ball and Savage ran it into an open goal, making it three goals in six minutes, which greatly encouraged the crowd. Platt had to deal with several shots from Redditch, and Dean was also prominent in defence. At the interval the home side were leading 3-0.

At the start of the second half Platt was forced to clear and Savage missed a good chance, putting the ball high over the bar. Town kept up the pressure and shots continued to rain in on Craner, with Finch gaining applause for one attempt. Savage looked as if he might get through at one stage and two efforts from “Kid” went close.

Such had a couple of good chances before Town won three consecutive corners in an exciting few minutes. Then, at last, Town got another goal with Savage passing to “Kid”, who ran in and shot past Craner. The Redditch keeper saved a header from “Muzzer” and Such got away, but “Kid” was offside.

Craner again saved, this time from a terrific shot by Rampton. Another goal looked on the cards and it came when a Rampton corner was headed home by “Muzzer” to make it 5-0. Such shot wide before Platt was called into action, saving what looked like a certain goal, pushing the ball over the bar.

“Kid” put a shot over the bar and Such landed the ball on top of the net, after which the whistle was blown for full-time and the home team had won 5-0.

Bournville Athletic v Nuneaton Town 19-03-1910

Bournville: Plant; Wood and C. Smith; E. Smith, Barnes and Ward; Coley, Price, H. Jones, Harrison and T. Jones.

Nuneaton: Platt; Dale and Dean; Harper, Finch and Marvin; Such, Savage, Walker, A. Moore and Rampton.

Nuneaton travelled to the model village of Bournville to face the ‘cocoa lads’, who though languishing in the lower reaches of the league table, had acquitted themselves well against some good teams recently.

Nuneaton attacked from the kick-off and won several corners in succession. About five minutes in Walker had the ball in the net, but an offside decision was made. At the other end Platt saved from Jones before the visitors got away again with Such and Rampton putting in good shots. Savage had bad luck when his shot hit the crossbar.

Platt had to be alert to keep out several stinging shots from the home team. Two or three crosses from Coley came to nothing and Town attacked again. It was a miracle that the Bournville goal escaped and the game became fast and exciting with many thrilling incidents. Aided by the wind,

Nuneaton Town 1894-1919 Part 1



the home side attacked, but Dale and Dean defended well. After T. Jones put behind for the home team Marvin got his forwards going again, when Rampton and “Muzzer” both severely tested Plant, who also saved brilliantly from Savage. At the break the score was 0-0.

With the wind behind them in the second half Nuneaton attacked from the off with “Muzzer” and Walker going close. Rampton shot wide from an extremely good position, before Savage broke through, but Walker spoiled the attack by handling the ball. The visitors were looking more and more dangerous and a goal came when good skill from Savage in the area gave “Muzzer” a chance, from which he scored.

Nuneaton went close on several occasions without being able to find the net. Walker broke through and only had the keeper to beat, but put the ball wide. When the final whistle sounded Town had won 1-0.

Nuneaton Town v Hednesford Town 29-03-1910

On Easter Tuesday, a huge crowd assembled to welcome potential champions Hednesford to The Newdegate. The visitors had lost their first game of the season the previous day and had the best attacking and defensive record in the league.

From the kick-off the visitors’ record counted for nothing, as the home side took the game to their opponents and were superior in every department. Half-backs Harper and Finch each got a goal in the first half as Nuneaton dominated. At half-time the score stood at 2-0 to Nuneaton. In the second period Savage notched another two goals, as Town inflicted the biggest defeat of the season on their visitors

Town’s defence was outstanding, while the halves were a brilliant trio, their complete understanding with one another being a feature of the game. The forwards as a line were good, the weakness being Rampton, who appeared to be too slow at times. Savage made many nice openings for his wings, and his two goals were the outcome of clever play. George Moore had bad luck on a couple of occasions.

So great was Nuneaton’s domination of Hednesford that they totally bottled up the visitors towards the end, much to the delight of the crowd. The game had been a great one to watch with the crowd getting good value for money.

Nuneaton Town v Darlaston 30-03-1910

The following day Nuneaton hosted Darlaston, another of the league’s front-runners and another large crowd assembled to watch the proceedings. Nuneaton had never beaten Darlaston, but this time there was only one team in it.

Marvin scored first for Town and then Payne, who took the place of Rampton at outside left added another with a great shot to send Nuneaton into the break 2-0 up.

Soon after the start of the second half Finch put his side further ahead from a corner, and “Muzzer” Moore scored the

fourth goal. Darlaston came into the game more towards the end of the 90 minutes and eventually reduced the deficit, scoring the first goal the home team had conceded in six matches. At the final whistle Town had won by 4-1. Over the Easter holiday Town had scored eight goals against two of the best teams in the Combination.

Cradley Heath St. Luke’s v Nuneaton Town 19-03-1910

Cradley: Turner; Stevenson and Jones; Waldron, Saunders and Tudor; Mills, Williams, Roberts, Savage and Stevens.

Nuneaton: Tustin; Dale and Dean; Harper, Finch and Marvin; Such, G. Moore, Savage, Walker, Payne.

Cradley Heath were in the chase for league honours, but Nuneaton had already accounted for two of the top teams in the last week. Town had lost keeper Platt to injury and his place was taken by Tustin. “Muzzer” was under suspension and Walker came in at inside left and Payne at outside left.

Town pressed early on with Savage and Moore being prominent in attack, but the home side retaliated, only for Nuneaton to press forward again, Walker putting a shot wide after creating a good opening. However, when Cradley attacked again, Dean fouled Saunders and Stevenson put the home side into the lead from the spot.

Town tried to get back into it and the game became fast and exciting with Savage and Walker testing Turner in the Cradley goal. Good defensive work by Finch and Marvin kept Cradley at bay before Payne forced an unproductive corner, and just after Walker put the ball in the net for the visitors, only to be given offside. At half-time Cradley had a 1-0 lead.

After the break Cradley took up the running, with Tustin being tested on several occasions. Then, completely out of the blue Cradley scored three goals in the space of three minutes, Stevens, Savage and Roberts being credited. Pulling themselves together Town tried to retaliate and Such and Moore broke through without success.

Saunders scored again and Town were disheartened as Cradley dominated the game. Walker shot over after being set up by Savage and then ran through, but Turner saved. Payne went close with a shot from distance before Saunders missed an open goal for Cradley. Town came back into the game and Walker put a good shot into the side netting. Tudor put through his own goal to give Town a consolation and Savage tested Turner again, but no further goals were scored and the game ended with a 5-1 win in favour of the home side.

Nuneaton Town v Bournbrook 09-04-1910

Nuneaton: Platt; Dale and Dean; Harper, Finch and Marvin; Such, Savage, Walker, Rankle and Thomas.

Nuneaton’s final home game of the season saw them face Bournbrook and the gate reflected the end-of-season feeling surrounding the proceedings. Platt returned in goal after injury kept him out of the game at Cradley.



Nuneaton started the game at a disadvantage when they lost Marvin early on and were forced to play the rest of the game with ten men. Several good openings were missed by the home team before Walker opened the scoring when he headed home a corner from Such.

Savage increased the lead after the break and before the end Finch added another to give the home team a 3-0 winning margin. The football was described as 'the most insipid seen on The Newdegate all season' and further comment suggested that the game did not warrant a description.

Nuneaton Town v Wellington St George 11-04-1910

On the following Monday, Town travelled to Wellington St. George's and the game was goalless, with Finch missing a penalty for Town. Scattergood replaced Marvin, Horton — a Dudley amateur — replaced Such; and Rampton and Payne constituted the left wing.

Death of Rt. Hon. James Tomkinson M.P.

Nuneaton was deeply moved on Monday by the startling announcement of the fatal accident which had befallen the Right Hon. James Tomkinson, M.P., Lord of the Manor of Nuneaton. As was previously announced, the Right Hon. gentleman rode in the Parliamentary Steeplechases at Epping on Saturday last.

Mr. Tomkinson, who was the veteran of the field, was leading the first round, and seemed like riding to victory, when his horse threw him heavily at the last jump but one, not far from the winning post.

Cannock Town v Nuneaton Town 16-04-1910

Cannock: Thrupp; Gray and Shorter; H. Gray, Harrison and Armishaw; Riley, Appleby, Perks, Richards and Williams.

Nuneaton: Platt; Dale and Dean; Harper, Finch and Scattergood; Horton, Moore, Savage, Walker, Bee.

Nuneaton travelled to Cannock Town, a team they had beaten 10-2 earlier in the season, for the return fixture. Scattergood again replaced Marvin and Hinckley left-winger Bee was given a start.

The early action saw Thrupp save from Walker before Cannock hit back, forcing Dean to defend. Platt was then tested by Perks, while back at the other end Thrupp was called into action, saving from Walker once again. Each keeper was called into action before Town won several corners and Finch went close with a drive.

Platt punched away from a corner and the play became rough with many fouls being awarded. After 30 minutes Perks put Cannock in the lead, which stung Town into action and they dominated the rest of the half. At the half-time whistle Cannock led 1-0.

Town pressed early in the second half, but Cannock soon had the ball up the other end where Platt was put under pressure from the home forwards. Walker handled in the penalty area but Appleby put the kick wide of the post. Walker forced a corner after some good play between Savage and Bee, but the Cannock forwards again took charge forcing Dale and Dean to defend. Scattergood, Finch and Harper were having to defend hard to keep Cannock at bay.

Moore tried hard to make openings for the wide men, but Bee and Horton hardly saw the ball and the Cannock forwards finally beat Platt again to make the final score 2-0.

It was a rough game, in which the referee could have been firmer. Savage was blatantly fouled by Gray, which left him struggling throughout. The crowd were also unruly with Platt being jeered from the start by the crowd behind the goal.

Bromsgrove Rovers v Nuneaton Town 23-04-1910

Bromsgrove: Willmore; Bissell and Skinner; Harris, Juggins and Lee; Wald, Finlan, Stiles, Richards and Peplow.

Nuneaton: Tustin; Dale and Dean; Harper, Finch and Marvin; Such, Moore, Savage, Walker, Malungani.

Nuneaton travelled to Bromsgrove for the penultimate game of the 1909-10 season. Tustin replaced Platt in goal and another winger was trialed — Malungani.

The first half was fairly evenly contested with Stiles scoring the only goal of the first half to make it 1-0 at the halfway stage.

Town then fell apart in the second half and Bromsgrove scored a further four goals through Finlan, Richards (2) and Peplow to make the score 5-0 at the final whistle. The new winger, Malungani, was said to have shaped up very well.

Hednesford Town v Nuneaton Town 30-04-1910

Hednesford: Picken; Corbett and Reaney; Gough, Greenaway and Mobberley; Bristow, Potts, Sheldon, Cumberlidge and Lloyd.

Nuneaton: Platt; Dale and Dean; Harper, Finch and Marvin; Such, G. Moore, Savage, A. Moore and Malungani.

On the final day of the season, Nuneaton travelled to meet the champions, Hednesford Town. Given recent results, no-one was holding out much hope of a win. Platt returned in goal, but was incapacitated early on.

Hednesford had a slightly better start and Platt was called on to save on several occasions. On 14 minutes Cumberlidge opened the scoring for the home side. Nuneaton then hit back and Savage went close on two occasions, forcing Picken into one outstanding save. Sheldon scored a second for Hednesford, after which Nuneaton lost Platt, who injured his wrist saving a terrific shot from Bristowe. Dale went in goal and at the break Hednesford were 2-0 up.

Finch pulled a goal back for Nuneaton in the second half before Bristowe scored Hednesford's third. At the final whistle the home side had won 3-1.



Birmingham Junior League 1909-1910

Hednesford Town	30	24	3	3	93	39	51
Cradley Heath St Luke's	30	21	6	3	80	41	48
Wednesbury Old Ath	30	18	4	8	76	44	40
Darlaston	30	16	7	7	78	60	39
Coombs Wood Tube	30	16	6	8	85	48	38
Willenhall Pickwick	30	15	5	10	82	51	35
Nuneaton Town	30	14	7	9	79	53	35
Bilston United	30	11	8	11	66	62	30
Cannock Town	30	12	4	14	68	69	28
Willenhall Swifts	30	12	2	16	71	69	26
Bromsgrove Rovers	30	9	5	16	65	70	23
Wellington George's	30	8	7	15	62	78	23
Redditch	30	9	4	17	63	71	22
Bournbrook	30	7	3	20	64	128	17
Stirchley United	30	5	3	22	48	129	13
Bournville Athletic	30	4	4	22	43	112	12

Retained List/New Signings

The management of the Nuneaton Town Club have almost completed their team for next season.

The old players signed include Dale, Harper, Marvin, A. Moore, and F. Payne while amongst newcomers will be found T. Foster, a back from Hinckley United; Wakeham, centre-forward, last season with West Bromwich Albion Reserves; Tom Field, inside-left from Atherstone Town; C. Oliver, Kettlebrook's speedy and well-known outside-right.

King Edward VII

It is with profound regret that we announce the death of King Edward VII.

The sad event occurred at Buckingham Palace at 11.45 on Friday night, and has caused poignant sorrow and consternation throughout the civilized world, for he was not only our beloved ruler, the Monarch of Great and Greater Britain; he was universally regarded as the world's peacemaker.

The end has come with tragic suddenness. The malady from which His Majesty suffered was bronchial, but it is understood that this was accompanied by heart failure, and that periods of unconsciousness supervened on more than one occasion...

Miss Florence Nightingale

Miss Florence Nightingale, the heroine of the Crimean War Nursing Service, died at her residence, 10, South Street, London, somewhat unexpectedly, on Saturday afternoon. The cause of death was heart failure. Two members of her family were present when Miss Nightingale passed away.

She had received every attention, and had been under the constant supervision of her own doctor, Sir Thomas Barlow. The deceased was in her ninety-first year.

Miss Nightingale's funeral will take place in the course of the next few days and will be of the quietest possible character in accordance with the deceased lady's wishes. Miss Nightingale, who celebrated her ninetieth birthday on May 12, was a daughter of Mr. W. E. Nightingale, of Embley Park, Romsey, and was educated in nursing by the Protestant Sisters of Mercy at Kaiserwerth-on-Rhine.

She had proceeded to the Crimea in 1854, and organised a nursing service on behalf of the British soldiers there. She received a national testimonial of £50,000 to the foundation of the Nightingale Home for the Training of Nurses. Miss Nightingale received the Order of Merit from King Edward in 1907, and the freedom of the City of London in 1908. She was a Lady of Grace of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem.

In connection with the death of Miss Florence Nightingale, it is interesting to recall the fact that two of her colleagues in the mission of ministering to those wounded in the Crimean War were the late Mr and Mrs Charles Holt Bracebridge, of Atherstone Hall, Atherstone.

Nuneaton Town Football Club

Since our last issue the Nuneaton Town Football Club have secured the signatures of A. Savage, Scattergood, T. Briers, and J. Moore. The first two are old players. Briers is an inside forward from Shepshed, and Moore is an outside left from Watford, who played in a considerable number of Southern League games last season.

English Cup draw

Nuneaton Town have been drawn to play either Birmingham Trams or Bromsgrove at home in the English Cup qualifying rounds on September 17th, and Hereford City on October 1st, again at home, if the 'bits of blue' survive the first cup-tie.



FA Cup: Nuneaton Town v Kidderminster Harriers

Nuneaton Town entered the F.A. Cup for the third time with a home tie against Kidderminster Harriers in the Preliminary Round on September 18th 1909.

Nuneaton's record in the competition was played three, drawn one, lost two.

It was a fine Saturday afternoon and the match drew a large crowd to the Newdegate for the 3.30pm kick-off.

The Nuneaton team was: Platt, Harper, Dean, Marvin, Finch, A. Moore, Sheldon, Savage, Walker, Rankle, Thomas.

Only "Sandy" Sheldon survived from the eleven players who had taken the field just one year previously for the equivalent home tie against Hednesford. Finch won the toss and elected to play with the sun at his back.

The Harriers began strongly and Platt was forced to make two early saves. Only ten minutes had been played when Kidderminster's Smith gave them the lead with a fine individual effort.

The Town tried to fight back and Thomas and Walker both came close.

Then came a peculiar incident. Nuneaton's full-back and local boy, Harper — under the mistaken impression that the ball had run out of play — picked it up, causing the referee to blow immediately for a penalty kick. It proved a gift to Kidderminster, giving them a 2-0 lead at half-time.

Fortunately Nuneaton came out after the break in a positive frame of mind and a Thomas shot into the side-netting livened up the home crowd. Shortly afterwards Walker got the much-needed goal and the crowd were going wild.

The Kidderminster keeper was now under constant pressure and was beaten again only for the goal to be disallowed, much "to the chagrin of the crowd" as the newspaper reported. But the equaliser was

inevitable and it came when a Sheldon shot was deflected into the net by a visiting defender — "the scene which followed beggars description" according to the journalist. It looked for a while as if Nuneaton must win but their attacks were regularly rebuffed and it ended 2-2.

If any spectators had a sense of déjà vu it was hardly surprising as in the previous year's Preliminary Round the Town had gone 2-0 down at half-time against Hednesford before fighting back to draw. It was to be hoped that the replay would not repeat itself in similar fashion.

It had been, wrote the reporter: "probably the most exciting game ever seen on the ground". All the Nuneaton players had distinguished themselves, with Albert Savage — a local lad who would later go on to play for Stoke City — the pick of the forwards.

The replay took place at Kidderminster on Wednesday, September 22nd. It was a real cup-tie played at a furious pace and the home team led 1-0 at the interval.

Nuneaton's equaliser came when a shot from Savage was saved but rebounded to Finch who slotted home.

Towards the end the Harriers were awarded a penalty, but fortunately the ball went wide of the post. There were no further goals even though 30 minutes extra time was played.

Savage had another fine game, but Sheldon played the game of his life and was a favourite with the crowd.

The Kidderminster supporters were one of the best sporting crowds that Nuneaton have ever played before, and they were generous in their praise of the Town players."

This meant a second replay, which also took place at Kidderminster on Saturday, September 25th.

By this time the town of Nuneaton was in a state of some excitement and a good number of supporters travelled

with their team. Several changes had to be made to the Town eleven. Marvin and Finch had both been injured on the Wednesday, but worse was the fact that Sheldon had been injured in a pit accident and was also unavailable.

With Rankle dropped, the team was: Platt, Dale, Dean, Harper, Payne, A. Moore, Such, G. Moore, Walker, Savage, Thomas.

There was a crowd of about 2,000 present when acting captain Platt lost the toss.

Nuneaton began strongly and shots from Savage and Payne both came close. It was no surprise when Walker scored after 18 minutes "amid the cheers from the Nuneaton contingent."

At this stage it was all Town as first "Kid" Moore missed an open goal and then Savage hit the woodwork. For half an hour the home side had barely escaped their own half and their supporters could be heard asking what had become of their forwards. It was much against the run of play when, having roused themselves for a few minutes, Kidderminster equalised on the stroke of half-time.

It was a different game after the break. A close, grim and scrappy affair with no quarter asked or given — but with little good football and no goals either. Extra time came and went with only a George Moore shot which hit the woodwork looking at all likely to break the stalemate.

Nonetheless, it had been exciting for the spectators and 'as soon as the whistle sounded they flooded the field and surrounded the players, and there was much hand-shaking with one another.'

There could have been another replay, but after the match the Kidderminster management held a meeting, following which they announced that they were "scratching" from the competition in favour of Nuneaton.

So, for the first time, Nuneaton moved beyond the Preliminary Round, though



they had yet to win an F.A. Cup tie.

It also meant that October 2nd 1909 was the third successive Saturday that Nuneaton had been engaged in the Cup — this time at home to Cradley Heath St. Luke's. Marvin and Finch returned after injury but Sheldon was still unfit, though he received a huge reception from the crowd when he arrived at the ground as a spectator.

The game began as if it would be firecerely contest and Platt was soon pressed into service at the home end.

However, both teams flattered only to deceive and the game soon ran 'fitful and in a somewhat casual fashion'. In fact, the Nuneaton team seemed lethargic and uninspired as if all that football at Kidderminster had taken its toll.

It was disappointing said the reporter, that whenever Nuneaton attract a large home crowd they fail to do themselves justice. The nearest to a goal came early in the second half when a shot from Thomas looked to

have crossed the line to give Nuneaton the lead, but the referee disallowed it, despite appeals from the players.

Generally the referee did not endear himself to anyone, seeming over-fond of his whistle — to such an extent that he blew for half-time at least five minutes early.

It ended goalless and there is little else to say. Although "Jumbo" in the Observer did manage to find a little to excite him in the fact that this was Town's fourth successive F. A. Cup draw: "To meet a club three times without coming to a decision, and then start on the same order is an exploit without parallel, I should think. They will soon be getting notorious in the football world."

The replay was two days later at Cradley's Codsall Park, before another large crowd.

The report is quite brief. It was a robust affair and Cradley took an early lead. Then Nuneaton were awarded a penalty but Savage's shot was saved.

A beautiful goal from Alban Moore brought the Town level before half-time — and then a great solo effort from Thomas made it 2-1 to Nuneaton at the break.

In the second period Cradley threw everything at their opponents and Platt made a number of vital saves. When he added to this by saving a Cradley penalty, it must have felt like it was Town's day, but it was not to be. With time running out Cradley finally got the goal they probably deserved. Buoyed by this they snatched the winner in the final minute of the game. It was less than Nuneaton's play had warranted.

In the next round Cradley Heath beat Hednesford away, 2-1 and then beat Darlaston at home, 3-1. This gave them a Fourth Qualifying Round tie at home to Chesterfield which they lost 2-1.

Nuneaton Town had now played eight F.A. Cup ties and had yet to win one.

1909

09.02	Hinckley United	H	Friendly	4-3	Rankle 2, Walker, Sheldon
09.04	Coombs Wood	H	BC	2-3	Marvin, Walker
09.11	Coombs Wood	A	BC	1-1	Walker
09.18	Kidderminster Harriers	H	EC PR	2-2	Walker, o.g.(Brown)
09.22	Kidderminster Harriers	A	EC PR Rep.	1-1 aet	Finch
09.25	Kidderminster Harriers	A	EC PR 2nd Rep.	1-1 aet*	Walker
10.02	Cradley Heath St.Lukes	H	EC 1Q	0-0	
10.04	Cradley Heath St.Lukes	A	EC 1Q Rep.	2-3	A.Moore, Thomas
10.09	Wellington St. George	H	BC	4-0	Walker, Savage, A.Moore, Finch
10.16	Langley St. Michaels	H	BC	9-0	Walker 4, Savage 3, A.Moore 2
10.23	Stirchley United	A	BC	1-1	o.g.(Lever)
10.30	Bilston United	A	BC	3-2	Such, Savage, A.Moore
11.06	Willenhall Pickwick	H	BC	1-2	Savage
11.13	Stirchley United	H	BC	7-2	Such 3, Finch, Savage, Ladkin, Chamberlain
11.20	Bournville Athletic	H	BC	5-2	Savage 2, Ladkin 2, Chamberlain
11.27	Willenhall Swifts	A	BC	1-3	Dale
12.11	Cradley Heath St. Lukes	H	BC	4-1	Marvin 2, Such, A.Moore
12.18	Langley St. Michaels	A	BC	6-1	Savage 3, Marvin 2, A.Moore
12.27	Bilston United	H	BC	2-2	Savage, A.Moore
12.28	Redditch United	A	BC	2-2	A.Moore, Such

1910

01.01	Wednesbury Old Athletic	A	BC	2-4	Savage, Such (p)
01.08	Willenhall Swifts	H	BC	5-0	Savage 2, G.Moore, A.Moore, Such

01.15	Bromsgrove Rovers	H	BC	0-0	
01.22	Willenhall Pickwick	A	BC	2-7	Walker, A.Moore
01.29	Bournbrook	A	BC	5-3	Marvin 2, Savage 2, Dale
02.05	Cannock Town	H	BC	10-2	Savage 4, A.Moore 3, G.Moore 2, Such
02.12	Darlaston	A	BC	0-0	
02.26	Atherstone Town	H	Friendly	2-3	A. Moore, Thomas
03.05	Wednesbury Old Athletic	H	BC	3-0	G. Moore, Savage, A. Moore
03.12	Redditch United	H	BC	5-0	A. Moore 2, Savage, G. Moore, Rampton
03.19	Bournville Athletic	A	BC	1-0	A. Moore
03.29	Hednesford Town	H	BC	4-0	Savage 2, Harper, Finch
03.30	Darlaston	H	BC	4-1	A. Moore, Payne, Marvin, Finch
04.02	Cradley Heath St. Lukes	A	BC	1-5	o.g.(Tudor)
04.09	Bournbrook	H	BC	3-0	Savage, Walker, Finch
04.11	Wellington St. George	A	BC	0-0	
04.16	Cannock Town	A	BC	0-2	
04.23	Bromsgrove Rovers	A	BC	0-5	
04.30	Hednesford Town	A	BC	1-3	Finch

*Sep 25 English Cup Prelim Round Kidderminster Harriers scratched in favour of Nuneaton Town

Key: BC=Birmingham Combination, EC=English Cup

Nuneaton scores first.

Nuneaton High School for Girls Opening Ceremony



©Windows on Warwickshire

The handsome building which the Warwickshire County Council have erected at Nuneaton as a High School for Girls, has been in use for several weeks, but circumstances of one kind or other have operated to delay the formal opening ceremony until Thursday last (June 23rd). To the invitation to attend the ceremony, issued by the Governors and the Headmistress, there was a very hearty response, over 300 ladies and gentlemen from Nuneaton, Tamworth, Atherstone, Warwick and other parts of the county attending. Miss L. M. Faithfull, M.A., the Principal of the famous Cheltenham Ladies' College, attended, and in declaring the school formally open, she gave an address of

surpassing interest and value, in which she pointed out the ideals which should animate all associated with the school, and the influence for good which the girls, imbued with the true spirit of those ideals, would carry with them in later life to their homes in all parts of the Empire.

But first of all it is necessary to say that the chairman for the afternoon was Mr. J. Stratford Dugdale, K.C., the chairman of the County Council, and he was supported on the platform by the Governors of the School. The Chairman of the Governors, Mr Alderman J. K. Bourne, is at present on a visit to South Africa for the benefit of his health, but testimony was borne during the proceedings to his earnest advocacy of the school, and to his hard work in connection with the arrangements for the erection of the building.

The meeting was opened with the singing of the appropriate hymn, commencing "Now thank we all our God," after which Mr Dugdale pointed out that the governing body consisted of 18 members, of whom eleven are appointed by the County Council, five by the Nuneaton Town Council and two are co-operative. Although the school has been built for pupils resident in North-east Warwickshire, Nuneaton, and the neighbourhood, yet it is open to pupils (at a slightly increased fee) from Leicestershire. In introducing Miss Faithfull the Chairman humorously recalled the fact that the school at which he made his first acquaintance with the cane was conducted by a Mr Peel, at Hatfield, and was next door to a school carried on by Miss Faithfull's grandfather, whom he knew very well, and he therefore looked upon Miss Faithfull as an old friend although he had not seen her before that day.



1910-1911

Practice Matches

On Saturday afternoon the Nuneaton Town AFC will hold a professionals' practice match on the Newdegate Arms ground; kick-off at five o'clock prompt. The teams will include the following new players:- Latham (goalkeeper, from Darlaston), T. Foster (back, Hinckley), G. May (back or half-back, Wolverhampton Wanderers), Towe (right half-back, Coventry Lord Street), Oliver (outside right, Kettlebrook Oakfield), Wakelam (centre-forward, West Bromwich Albion), T. Field (inside-left, Atherstone), J. Moore (outside-left, Watford), and T. Briers (inside forward, Shepshed Albion). Among the old players will be seen L. Dale (who is now commencing his fifth season with the Town, and who has been elected captain), Arthur Harper, W. Marvin (vice-captain), Alban Moore, Fred Payne, Scattergood, and A. Savage.

The charge for admission will be 2d and the proceeds will be devoted towards local charities. The management are endeavouring to get Mr George Boylin, secretary of the Birmingham Combination to referee the game.

The season proper will open on Thursday next, when the Town entertain Coventry City. The kick-off is timed for six o'clock and there should be a large "gate", as the City have promised to send over a very strong eleven.

In the friendly game against Coventry City, Town surprised their neighbours, winning the game 3-2 with a hat-trick from Albert Savage.

Nuneaton Town v Bromsgrove Rovers 03-09-1910

Nuneaton: Latham; Dale and Foster; Harper, Payne and May; Oliver, Savage, Wakelam, Field and Moore.

Bromsgrove: Elkin; Penny and Skinner; Harris, Juggins, and Lee; Field, Malpas, Poole, Emms and Bissell.

The season started in earnest with the opening league encounter with Bromsgrove Rovers. There was a crowd of 2,000 at The Newdegate. Marvin was out injured with a sprained ankle.

Dale lost the toss and Town were set to face a strong wind and the sun. Latham was called into action in the opening minutes, but clearing well he found Wakelam who made progress before passing to Oliver who centred. Savage tried to get in a header, but was bundled off the ball. Tom Field broke through from Savage's pass and he looked odds on to score, but his shot hit the upright.

With a strong wind behind them Bromsgrove pressed for long periods, before Moore forced a corner for Town from which Savage shot behind. Moore put in another centre forcing Elkin into a save. After 30 minutes, Moore shot across the goal and the ball glanced off Penny's head and into the net. Some

good interpassing between Harper and Oliver forced Elkin to concede a corner. Oliver placed the corner well and another one was conceded. At the half time whistle Town led 1-0.

Town forced the goalkeeper to handle in the first minute of the second half, while Bromsgrove attacked before Nuneaton missed a good chance — Wakelam and Savage wanting too much time on the ball. Payne struck the crossbar with a fine shot, before Foster cleared to Oliver, who put in a cross that bounced over the top. The same player tried his luck from the half way line and the ball flew into the net for the second goal.

Savage put in a weak shot when well positioned, while Oliver forced Elkin to save from his corner as Town kept up the pressure. Two corners caused plenty of excitement in the visitors area, with the ball bobbling about in bewildering fashion. The Bromsgrove keeper was laid out, which caused him to retire for a time.

Field shot wide for Bromsgrove and Nuneaton broke again with a move involving all five forwards, Moore eventually putting the ball over the bar. A minute later Tom Field hit a shot that struck the upright and bounced into the net. Nuneaton kept up their pressure and had chances from Wakelam, Savage and Oliver.

Moore fashioned an opening for Savage to score, making it 4-0. Latham cleared to Payne who found Moore, who moved the ball on to Savage to score number five. Field had a chance and May shot wide, but then found Tom Field. The inside-left passed on to Wakelam, who netted the sixth. Town continued to press for the rest of the game, but the match ended 6-0.

Nuneaton Town v Hinckley United 10-09-1910

Nuneaton: Hilditch; Dale and Foster; Harper, Payne and May; Oliver, Savage, Wakelam, Field and Moore.

Hinckley: Pick; King and Vickerstaff; Storer, Ball and Osborne; Puffer, Hackett, Warburton, Morley and Snape.

Both teams were at full strength, but Hilditch had been forced to deputise at the last minute after Latham smashed a finger.

Both goalkeepers were called on to save early in the game, before Wakelam headed into the net, only to be given offside. Vickerstaffe conceded a corner, from which Oliver shot wide. Morley missed an easy chance to put the visitors in front and a minute later Hinckley also scored an offside goal. Pick saved for Hinckley and Wakelam put a shot over the top. Hilditch was forced to save with Hinckley having a good share of the play, and Ball had hard luck with a terrific shot. Wakelam shot over the bar and Moore had a chance to open the scoring but shot across the area.

Nuneaton were awarded a free kick just outside the area, which was taken by Dale, but came to nothing. Tom Field put in a good shot which touched Vickerstaffe on its way through, but ended up in the net to give the home side the lead. Moore broke through and his shot hit the foot of the post, while Dale worked the ball up to Savage, who shot into the net, but an



offside was given against the inside-right. At half time the score was 1-0 to the home side.

At the start of the second half Town looked like going all the way through, but Wakelam was robbed. A corner to Nuneaton was cleared and Hilditch stopped long, low drives from both Ball and Morley. Hinckley peppered the home goal for a while, but Town broke and Oliver had bad luck in not scoring. Payne landed a shot on top of the net. All three inside men failed to score from right in front of goal. When Field tried to go through on his own a corner resulted, which was cleared and Hinckley raced away and forced Hilditch into a save from Osborne. Field shot over with only the keeper to beat and Moore also got clear, giving Savage the easiest of chances to score, with Pick being beaten all the way.

Morley missed an easy chance for Hinckley before Oliver ran the length of the field to cross for Wakelam, who just missed. Payne dribbled through, but was robbed and Oliver passed to Savage, who shot over. Then, Wakelam got clean through Hinckley's defence and Moore came from nowhere to score.

Erratic shooting from Hinckley let them down and Nuneaton raced away again for Payne to go very close. Warburton missed a good chance for Hinckley before Nuneaton attacked again and from Moore's centre, Savage placed the ball into the net. The goal was disallowed, as the referee had already blown for a handling offence against a Hinckley defender, but Oliver took the penalty kick and beat Pick.

Oliver got away again, which resulted in Wakelam missing an open goal. Moore put in an excellent centre, which Pick put round the post for a corner. In the closing stages Nuneaton were well on top, but no further goals were scored and at the final whistle Nuneaton had won 4-0.

A report on the English Cup matches against Birmingham Trams and Halesowen appears on later pages.

Wellington St. George's v Nuneaton Town 24-09-1910

Wellington: Davis; Smith and Bott; James, Smith and Bowles; Turley, Picken, Williams, Atkins and Lewis.

Nuneaton: Hilditch; Dale and Foster; Harper, Payne and May; Oliver, Savage, Wakelam, Field and Moore.

On the visit to Wellington St. George's, Nuneaton captain Dale lost the toss and they were forced to kick up the slope and against the wind. There were no changes to the Nuneaton team from the previous week.

St George's were the first to show and a Williams shot hit the post before being cleared. Nuneaton won a corner which came to nothing, while at the other end Hilditch was forced to kick clear. Savage failed to get on the end of Moore's centre and St George's raced away on the right. Turley put in a fine centre and Williams banged into the net.

Hilditch was under pressure for a few minutes, but then Payne tried a long shot which went wide and shortly after

Savage worked keeper Davis. Field tried to get through but was bundled off the ball. St George's got away again and forced a corner from which Picken shot wide. Moore put in a beautiful shot which Davis tipped on to the top of the net.

Wakelam found Oliver who put a lightning shot into the side netting and Wakelam looked certain to score before Davis cleared, but only as far as Savage who wanted too much time. Field put wide before Nuneaton were penalised for hand ball, but Dale cleared well, right up to Moore, who missed an open goal. Wakelam headed over from Moore's corner, while Oliver's free kick went wide of the goal. The home team won two corners in quick succession before half time, but they came to nothing and the home side lead 1-0 at the break.

Harper lifted the ball over the bar from close in at the start of the second half and four minutes later, after good work in front of the home side's goal he scored the equaliser with a good shot. Two minutes later Payne surprised Davis in the St George's goal with a long shot which rolled into the net. Savage put over the top following a throw-in and then shot wide.

Field failed to take advantage of Oliver's centre and Savage tried to break, but shot weakly, before Wakelam extended the visitors lead with a lovely shot. The home team paid a short visit to the other end, but Hilditch threw clear and Nuneaton pressed again with Payne shooting over following good work by Oliver. Savage scored a fourth following a corner, with the spadework done by Wakelam.

Good play from Moore led to Field gaining possession and passing to Wakelam who found the back of the net for number five. Davis had many saves to make, some preventing what looked to be certain goals. At the final whistle Town were winners by 5-1.

Bilston United v Nuneaton Town

08-10-1910

Bilston: Tatton; Cooper and Froggatt; Lavender, Dickens and Field; Turner, Morris, Daw, Westwood and Pickering.

Nuneaton: Lines; Dale and Foster; Harper, Payne and May; Oliver, Savage, Wakelam, A. Moore and Morley.

Town changed their forward line-up for the first time with Morley of Hinckley coming in for J. Moore, who was injured and Alban Moore came in for Field. Lines came in for Hilditch, who was unavailable. A crowd of about 1200 were there to witness the proceedings.

Straight from the kick-off Oliver's shot just grazed the upright, while Foster stemmed a rush from Bilston, and Westwood tried an overhead shot which went just over. Oliver had a shot cleared after good work from Savage and Morley for the visitors. Bilston scored an offside goal, while Oliver shot behind from Wakelam's corner.

A move involving Morley and Moore set up Savage, who ballooned the ball over the bar from a couple of feet out, while Tatton saved from Oliver and Payne was tripped, with May putting the free-kick over the top. Morley missed by an

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inch and Savage grazed an upright, but when the half-time whistle sounded it was 0-0.

Nuneaton won two corners early in the second half, which came to nothing, and Savage put a shot wide, and straight after tested the keeper with a good shot. Nuneaton got the breakthrough, when Wakelam netted from Oliver's pass.

Moore worked a good position and the Bilston goal had a miraculous escape before the home team equalised. Lines partially cleared, but the ball found Turner whose shot beat the keeper to make the score 1-1. Savage shot wide when well placed, before Lines was forced to clear at the expense of a corner. Nuneaton regained the lead when "Muzzer" got possession and passed to Morley who rounded a defender and passed back to "Muzzer", who beat Tatton to make it 2-1.

Bilston were awarded a penalty for handball against Dale, but Lines saved, to the delight of the travelling supporters. A long shot from Harper missed by inches and "Muzzer" went close from almost on the half way line. Savage beat several opponents, but his shot missed the target by a whisker. The final whistle sounded soon after and Nuneaton had won by 2-1, their third win at Bilston in three seasons.

Nuneaton Town v Willenhall Pickwick 15-10-1910

Nuneaton: Lines; Dale and Foster; Harper, Payne and A. Moore; Oliver, Savage, Wakelam, Field and Morley.

Willenhall: Henworth; Archer and Edge; Langford, H. Robinson and Wootton; Kent, Griffiths, Drake, Heath and J. Robinson.

When Willenhall Pickwick visited The Newdegate, they had never been beaten by their hosts, who had made a good start to the Combination season. Team changes for the home side saw Field coming back at inside-left and "Muzzer" replacing May at left-half. Lines retained his place in goal. A large crowd was in attendance.

Town won a corner in the first minute of the match, from which Alban Moore kicked over the bar. Willenhall won a corner, which was cleared and Oliver got away on the right before passing to Wakelam, whose shot was cleared. Payne gave the ball away to Kent and the winger was clean through, but Dale rescued the situation. "Muzzer" shot from range, but the wind carried the ball wide.

Dale conceded a corner, which was put behind, before the visitors pressed strongly and Dale and Payne nearly let them in. Oliver went close before "Muzzer" put one a couple of inches wide. The visitors were presented with an open goal when Lines ran out and missed the ball, which fortunately rolled past the post. Oliver forced Henworth into a good save before Lines had to save well at the other end and Dale almost put through his own goal in conceding a corner.

Pickwick were on top and the Town halves were struggling to contain their forwards. Nuneaton came back, however, and Savage tricked a defender and put the ball across the goal. Morley picked the ball up and centred. Eventually Morley

regained possession following a scrimmage and placed the ball into the net, giving the home side the lead after 30 minutes.

Field steered a header goalwards from Harper's pass, but the goalkeeper came to the rescue. Foster was forced to concede a corner at the other end before clever play between Savage and Oliver ended with the former putting in a good shot, which was saved by Henworth. Savage missed from a Morley pass and the interval arrived with the home team holding a slender lead.

After the break Field was just wide with a shot before Wakelam was fouled when going for goal. Payne put in a good cross from the free-kick and a corner was forced. Oliver's corner came out to Payne who dropped the ball back in the box for Wakelam to make it 2-0.

Lines was forced to punch away at the other end, before Oliver got away, but Savage miscontrolled his pass and the chance was gone. Willenhall defender Archer missed a through ball from Payne, but Edge tidied up at the expense of a corner. Field had a chance from Oliver's pass but put the ball wildly over. Payne skimmed the bar with an effort from long range. Lines was forced to save from Griffiths and then Nuneaton broke through Oliver, who dropped the ball on top of the net. Oliver swung in a cross that found Morley who passed to Savage, who forced Henworth into a fine save. Kent hit one into the side netting, before "Muzzer" forced Henworth to save with a shot from the half-way line.

"Muzzer" was feeding his forward line time after time and from one pass Wakelam should have scored, Henworth scooping the ball out. Oliver got round his man, but put his shot wide before Nuneaton extended their lead — a clever centre from Morley finding Savage who netted the third.

The Picks got away and Drake put in a terrific shot which Lines pounced on, stopping the ball right on the line, a save for which he received great cheers. The final whistle sounded soon after and Nuneaton had won 3-0.

Cannock Town v Nuneaton Town 22-10-1910

Cannock: Thrupp; J. Gray and Shorter; H. Gray, Wood and Jones; Harrison, Appleby, Libby, Dudley and Salt.

Nuneaton: Lines; Dale and Foster; Harper, Payne and A. Moore; Oliver, Savage, Wakelam, Field and J. Moore.

The visit to Cannock saw just one change from the previous game with James Moore replacing Morley at outside-left.

The first action of the game saw Dale clear a Cannock threat which was followed by more pressure on the visitors' goal — Appleby shooting wide. Oliver got away on the right, but his effort was cleared and when he again gained possession, his cross saw Field head into Thrupp's hands. Cannock had two efforts go wide in quick succession, but Town hit back and Oliver passed to Moore who centred. The centre was cleared back to Moore, who lofted a ball into the area and from a ruck in front of goal Wakelam fired home and with ten minutes gone Nuneaton were 1-0 ahead.

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Savage shot just wide and “Muzzer” halted Cannock’s progress on the right. A passing movement involving all of Town’s forwards was halted by a foul against “Muzzer”. After a brief period of Cannock pressure, Payne passed forward to Field, whose hard shot just missed. James Moore forced Thrupp into a save, with Lines called on to make a good save at the other end.

A great pass from Savage found Oliver who crossed for Wakelam to head goalwards, forcing Thrupp to save. Town were still pushing forward when the whistle for half time sounded, at which point the visitors were 1-0 up.

Nuneaton resumed where they left off after the break and Thrupp and his backs were again called on to defend. The home keeper had to save again, dodging around Savage and Field to get the ball away. Dale was forced to clear for Town before Field put in a great individual effort, his screw shot going so close that the Nuneaton fans all shouted “goal!”

Thrupp again faced more pressure and had to deal with shots from Wakelam and James Moore. A Cannock attack was halted by an offside decision before an inter-passing move between Field, Moore and Wakelam resulted in the latter shooting just wide. A clearance from a Cannock corner fell to Oliver, with Thrupp having to run out to halt his progress. “Muzzer” put a hard shot wide from Oliver’s corner and Dale came to the rescue at the other end and when the home side attacked again Lines saved. In double quick time Town were up the other end and Thrupp was again called on to save from Wakelam. Harper was temporarily disabled and “Muzzer” was laid out a few minutes later, but soon resumed. Time was pressing on and Cannock attacked hard, and with Harper feeling the effects of his injury, Savage dropped back to help out the half-backs. James Moore made a splendid run and looked like scoring, but his final effort was weak. The home side again pressed hard towards the end and Lines pulled off a marvellous save. The whistle sounded shortly afterwards and the visitors had won by 1-0.

Nuneaton Town v Birmingham Trams 29-10-1910

Nuneaton: Lines; Dale and Foster; Harper, Payne and A. Moore; Oliver, Savage, Wakelam, Field and J. Moore.

Birmingham Trams: C. Broadfield; Lippett and A. Boradfield; McCourty, F. Goode and J. Smith; Regan, Shepherd, Atkins, Cyle and Tye.

A crowd of 3,000 assembled to see ‘The Invincibles’, who were unchanged from the previous week. Dale lost the toss and Nuneaton kicked towards the Bond End goal.

Trams won an early corner before James Moore dropped in an accurate cross, from which Wakelam should have scored. Oliver and Savage combined well on the right before a brief attack by Trams was halted at the expense of a corner. Town won a free kick after a foul on “Muzzer” from which Field gained possession, and manoeuvring the ball cleverly inside, he found Wakelam who netted with a glorious shot.

Corner after corner then fell to the home team, with Oliver

having the beating of his man, and getting in some good centres. Foster stemmed several rushes from the Trams forwards and Dale was forced to concede a corner. Lines made a good clearance which enabled Payne to get the ball to the forwards, where James Moore hit a lightning shot into the side netting. Oliver gained possession from a free-kick by Dale and passed to Harper, whose magnificent shot hit the upright.

James Moore, following up, banged the rebound into the net to the accompaniment of much cheering. Nuneaton continued to attack with the half-backs doing their fair share of the shooting. Trams had a brief attack, but made no impression on the home defence, and when Town attacked again Broadfield was forced to make a last ditch save from Wakelam.

Lines saved easily from Regan, before Nuneaton’s left wing indulged in some tricky footwork, and finally the whole forward line passed and re-passed the ball, a movement which all but resulted in success. Payne almost scored for the visitors, heading towards his own goal from a corner. Dale and Foster defended well and when the interval arrived Nuneaton were 2-0 ahead.

James Moore put a centre behind shortly after the restart and Savage had a shot deflected for a corner, which the same player headed over. Savage passed to Oliver, whose centre found Wakelam, who drove the ball into the net.

Savage headed over and the Trams retaliated, but “Muzzer” got the better of several opponents and relieved the pressure. Atkins broke away for the visitors, but Foster took the ball off his toe to prevent what looked a certain goal. Savage, Harper and Oliver were responsible for some brilliant play which was worthy of success and was warmly applauded. Field made several good openings for Moore, whose crosses were not converted. Lines saved from Shepherd after a Trams’ break before an exciting melee followed at the other end with the visitors’ goal having some miraculous escapes.

Harper was having a great game and his shot from distance caused the visiting goalkeeper Broadfield to save. Moore made a run, almost the full length of the field, and his cross found Oliver who hit the ball back across the area, but no one was on hand to finish. The visitors rallied slightly towards the end, but it was to no avail and Nuneaton ran out 3-0 winners. It had been an impressive display from the home side with the score not reflecting their overall superiority.

Bournville Athletic v Nuneaton Town 05-11-1910

Bournville: Plant; Wood and C. Smith; Passant, Hawkins and Ward; C. Jones, Harrison, H. Jones, Grayland, and Tickle.

Nuneaton: Lines; Dale and Foster; Harper, Payne and A. Moore; Oliver, Savage, Wakelam, Field and J. Moore.

Nuneaton faced the ‘cocoa lads’ in front of a meagre crowd, which included a fair proportion of Nuneaton supporters. The Town side was unchanged. Dale won the toss and Town kicked towards the Pavilion.

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Town attacked in the first minute and Plant was called on to save from Harper. Field passed to James Moore, who forced Plant to tip round for a corner. Moore's cross from the corner kick was placed accurately for Savage to head into the net with just five minutes gone.

Payne forced Plant to concede another corner, which was quickly followed by another, which Oliver placed accurately and the ensuing shot ended up on the roof of the net. "Muzzer" got the ball forward to James Moore, whose centre was put over the bar by Payne. Savage played in Oliver and the right winger crossed to Field, who looked certain to score, but Plant pulled off a brilliant save.

The keeper made another superb save from Wakelam a minute later before James Moore put in a perfect centre for Savage to bang into the net.

Just after, Town scored a third goal, Wakelam putting the ball into the net following a corner. Plant threw a clearance straight at his own defender, Wood, from where it cannoned into the net for a fourth goal. Oliver beat several men and finished up flashing the ball across the goal, before a fifth goal followed, James Moore passing to Savage, who stood unmarked and put the ball into the net. Savage and Field both missed good chances before half-time arrived with the score standing at 5-0 to the visitors.

At the start of the second half Plant was forced to save and Bournville had a brief attacking spell, which was easily dealt with. James Moore put a terrific drive against the post, before Oliver tricked three defenders and got in a cross, but the ball was scrambled away. The 'cocoa lads' took up the running and Lines was forced to clear and then save a powerful shot from Jones.

There was an extended period of quiet play before Nuneaton scored again — Field heading home. A fine run by Oliver saw a cross flash across the area, but Moore failed to control and the chance was lost. Dale went close with a long drive before Savage headed home the seventh goal. Tickle put an effort into the side netting, but the game gradually degenerated and at the final whistle Nuneaton had won 7-0.

Redditch United v Nuneaton Town 12-11-1910

Redditch: Stokes; Hillman and Crutchley; Slade, Cleaver and Court; Davis, Anson, Morris, Houghton and Perkins..

Nuneaton: Lines; Dale and Foster; Harper, Payne and Marvin; Oliver, Savage, Wakelam, Morley and J. Moore.

The away fixture at Redditch saw in excess of 3,000 supporters, who were in a state of high excitement despite the miserable weather. A few Nuneaton supporters had made the journey to watch their unbeaten favourites.

Redditch gained a corner in the first minute of the match from which Court headed into the net, giving the home team an early lead. Nuneaton hit back, forcing four corners in quick succession, with the goal narrowly escaping on each occasion.

Lines saved at full stretch, tipping the ball round the post, before Redditch had a goal disallowed for offside.

Payne forced Stokes to run out of his goal to clear, while Dale headed out for a corner at the other end. Oliver tried a long shot after a Savage pass, but Stokes pulled off a fine save. Morley put in a magnificent effort for the visitors, which went narrowly wide. Oliver shot into the side netting and Moore got away and passed to Morley, who put in a good attempt.

Redditch got away and forced a corner, from which Lines saved, while Savage tested Stokes, who fumbled the ball, but managed to clear. Oliver fastened on to the clearance however, and put in a lightning shot. Savage had a goal disallowed as Wakelam was adjudged to have fouled the keeper.

Lines made several fine saves during a period of Redditch pressure before Oliver got in a fine centre which Wakelam headed over. Wakelam scored from another Oliver cross, but straight away Redditch capitalised on some weak defensive play with Morris scoring to put Redditch 2-1 up. Payne suffered an injury, but kept on playing and when the whistle went for half time Redditch led by a single goal.

Early in the second half Redditch forced a corner, from which Perkins scored to make it 3-1. Wakeham cut the deficit from Oliver's centre and a long shot from Payne went over before Redditch restored their two goal lead when Dale was unable to stop Perkins who made it 4-2.

Marvin put a shot over the top and Oliver placed a shot on top of the net. Stokes was forced to punch away from Wakelam. Payne put a long shot wide of the target, but Redditch were proving irresistible and Perkins went on a terrific run which ended with the Redditch man completing his hat-trick

Savage missed a golden opportunity, trying to walk the ball into the net and being dispossessed. Redditch had several shots on target and at this time Nuneaton were thoroughly beaten, but rallied right at the death when Stokes was in some difficulty in saving from Savage. The final whistle quickly followed and Nuneaton had lost 5-2.

Nuneaton Town v Stoke City Reserves 19-11-1910

Nuneaton: Lines; Dale and Foster; Harper, Payne and A. Moore; Oliver, Savage, Wakelam, Field and J. Moore.

Stoke: Rathbone; Burns and Williams; James, Burton and W. A. Owen; Leigh, Hawe, Greaves, Brown and Swarbrick.

Nuneaton entertained Stoke City Reserves of the Southern League 2nd Division in a friendly in front of the smallest home crowd of the season.

Town took the lead after only three minutes through Wakelam, but Swarbrick equalised immediately after. Following a quiet passage of play Swarbrick scored again to give the visitors the lead. Town then went close through Oliver and Stoke's keeper Rathbone saved from Harper. Leigh then struck the crossbar for the visitors.

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Wakelam forced Rathbone to save and Harper also went close. Wakelam gave Savage a chance which he put over and at half time it was 2-1 to Stoke.

James Moore put in good shot straight after the break before an extended period of uninteresting play. Moore again put in an effort which rolled along the crossbar. Harper went close from a free-kick after Savage was tripped. Wakelam put in a fine header which the keeper tipped over. Town went close from a free kick which saw Payne jump over the ball and Savage, following up, put in a good shot which Rathbone just scraped out.

Town took control of the game and went on the attack, their efforts being rewarded when Savage beat Rathbone from close range to tie the match 2-2 at full time.

Nuneaton Town v Cradley Heath St Lukes 26-11-1910

Nuneaton: Lines; Dale and Foster; Harper, Payne and A. Moore; Oliver, Savage, Wakelam, Field and J. Moore.

Cradley Heath: Turner; G. Jones and Palmer; T. Jones, Wakeman and Tudor; Franks, Goode, Parsonage, Stevens and Williams..

Snow covered the ground for the visit of Cradley St Lukes, which affected the attendance. Cradley had beaten Redditch the previous week, so a tough match was anticipated.

Savage forced a corner soon after the kick-off. Harper placed the kick well and Harper's strong shot was saved by Turner in the Cradley goal. Wakelam put a shot over the top before Franks forced a corner up the other end. "Muzzer" checked the progress of the visitors, who later scored an offside goal via Franks.

Then after 10 minutes, Town took the lead. Good play between Field and James Moore ended in the latter beating his man and crossing to Wakelam who scored just as Turner came out to meet him. Savage and Oliver again attacked the visitors goal, but it was from the other wing that Town extended their lead. James Moore forced a corner and Field headed in from the resultant cross to make it 2-0.

Cradley hit back and reduced the deficit when Goode scored with a shot high into the net following a corner. The Town defence was then caught napping and Parsonage beat Lines in a race for possession — the Cradley centre-forward levelling the scores.

Savage shot wide from Oliver's cross, but Cradley broke quickly and Parsonage put Cradley 3-2 up with a cracking shot. Oliver went on another run and centred, but there was no one at hand to finish. It was not long though, before the home side were level — James Moore scoring with a good effort. The atmosphere was now electric and Oliver was having an excellent game on the right, being continually brought into play by Savage.

Following a goalmouth melee in which Field and Wakelam tried to bundle the keeper into the net, a corner resulted,

which almost brought another goal. James Moore made a good run up the wing and forced Turner into an impressive save. The last action of the first half saw the teams go in with the score at 3-3.

The teams crossed over straight away and Stevens shot wide for the visitors. Savage was stopped in his tracks and Payne had a long range effort go wide. Harper tested Turner from a free-kick, and the Cradley custodian saved a shot while on the ground with Town's forwards on top of him. Cradley made a break and Williams beat Foster, but "Muzzer" rescued the situation.

Savage had hard luck with a shot that went just wide before Wakelam, James Moore and Field combined well to bring about a chance, which was missed, as was a long shot from Payne. Dale dribbled through and put in a great shot which was saved by Turner. Oliver also tried his luck as the home team pressed for a winner.

Nuneaton finally broke the deadlock when clever work by the inside forwards, saw the ball passed to Savage, who scored with a glorious shot. The cheering that followed was long and loud and spurred Nuneaton on to more attacks. Before the final whistle Wakelam was injured in the area and had to be carried from the field, but appeals for a penalty fell on deaf ears and the game ended with the home side 4-3 winners.

Darlaston v Nuneaton Town

03-12-1910

Darlaston: Waite; Shinton and Dennis; Butler, Read and Lloyd; Horton, Crump, Bould, Walton and Wilkes.

Nuneaton: Lines; Foster and May; Harper, Payne and A. Moore; Oliver, Savage, Dale, Field and J. Moore.

Despite the terrible weather, over 1,000 people were present for the visit of Nuneaton Town to Darlaston. Wakelam was out injured and Dale was moved out of the back line to take his place. May came in at left back, after a long absence and Foster crossed over to play in the right back position.

Darlaston attacked from the off and May was forced to clear, while at the other end Harper tested Waite with a long shot. Dale tried to dribble through without success and Darlaston gave Lines a busy time at the other end. The game became very fast and there was some good football played. Savage and Oliver combined on the right and James Moore forced the keeper into a save. The home side kept up the pace and May and Foster had to combine to keep them out.

Oliver got forward and put a shot into the side netting, which was followed by an effort by "Muzzer", who almost beat Waite following a corner. Town kept up the pressure, but could not pierce the home side's defence and after 30 minutes, Darlaston went into the lead, with Bould heading the ball into the Nuneaton net.

Payne, Dale and Savage all tested Waite to no avail, although Waite received applause for keeping out the visiting forwards. Nuneaton had been unlucky in not being able to force a goal,

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but Darlaston capitalised by getting two in a short period of time — Bould scoring again and Crump racing clear to score a third, making it 3-0 at the break.

The visitors pressed after the break with J. Moore and Field trying hard to get through. Darlaston, though, scored a fine individual effort, after which Nuneaton became demoralised and were forced back. Just before the end Savage had bad luck, but the game ended 4-0 to the home side.

Nuneaton Town v Willenhall Swifts 10-12-1910

Nuneaton: Platt; Dale and A. Harper; Dunn, Payne and A. Moore; Oliver, G. Moore, Robbins, Smith and Beaman.

Willenhall: Jenkins; Stevenson and Whitehouse; Jones, Clift and Stansworth; Smith, Harris, Crossley, Heath and Spencer.

For the visit of the league leaders, Willenhall Swifts, the pitch was rain sodden and supporters' expectations not at their highest following the 4-0 defeat at Darlaston. Field was dropped and Morley came in to take his place. "Muzzer" took up the inside-left position and May was at left-half. Willenhall were at full strength.

Wakelam missed his train, so Nuneaton had to start with ten men. "Muzzer" broke through early on and the visitors goal had a narrow escape, before Payne and May pushed forward as Willenhall were kept on the defensive. A hearty cheer announced the arrival of Wakelam and Town were up to full strength. Oliver received the ball from Savage and made a great run up the wing, but his cross came to nothing. Oliver tried again and this time his cross was met by Savage, who put Town 1-0 up.

The home side attacked through a concerted effort involving the whole forward line. Jenkins was lured out of his goal, but the chance was lost. Spencer headed just wide for the visitors before Lines received loud cheers, clearing the ball with several players on top of him. Savage played Oliver in again and the winger centred well, a melee ensued in front of Jenkins and "Muzzer" just failed to score.

With twenty minutes gone Town extended their lead, Savage scoring from an impressive centre from James Moore. Harper shot wide, while "Muzzer" and James Moore were both having great games on the left, with the winger putting in some good centres. Savage forced Jenkins into a good save from a free kick while at the other end Lines was forced to save following a succession of corners.

A move involving all of Town's forward line put them on the front foot and following a shot from Oliver, Jenkins conceded a corner. The corner was accurately placed by James Moore and Savage shot home, completing his hat-trick in the process. The cheering had barely subsided when "Muzzer" received a pass from Payne and his drive gave Jenkins no chance. At the break Town were 4-0 in the lead.

Willenhall started the second half strongly, but Nuneaton defended well and eventually James Moore broke away,

but fired wide. Oliver and Savage forced a corner, followed straight away by another one, which went close. Oliver shot just wide, after which Swifts attacked, but Lines easily saved Heath's weak shot. After Mason struck the post for the visitors, Oliver broke through, but Jenkins rushed out of his goal to save.

James Moore had to retire for treatment to an injury and Wakelam was also limping. Despite these setbacks Nuneaton continued to attack and penned Willenhall in their own half. Payne and "Muzzer" both went close, but Swifts eventually opened their account for the afternoon when Heath beat Lines with a good shot.

Savage broke through and tested Jenkins with a fine shot, but the game became scrappy towards the close with Town handicapped by two crooked players. Another of James Moore's crosses again picked out Savage who forced Jenkins to push his shot over the bar. The home side had two corners, but no further scoring took place and at the final whistle Nuneaton had won 4-1.

For the following Saturday's game, Hednesford's ground was under water, so the game was postponed.

Nuneaton Town v Bournbrook 24-12-1910

Nuneaton: Lines; Foster and May; Harper, Payne and Marvin; Oliver, Savage, Dale, A. Moore and J. Moore.

Bournbrook: Mason; Hayes and Dawes; Nicholls, Drayton and Jenkins; Such, Wheeler, Rissborough, Downing and Gee.

Bournbrook arrived at The Newdegate ground on Christmas Eve, having won only one game out of 14 played. The quality of the opposition and the weather meant it was the lowest crowd of the season. Wakelam was injured, so Billie Marvin came in and May went to the back, with Dale pushed up to centre-forward.

Dale won the toss and Town elected to kick towards the Bond Street end. Bournbrook were the first to attack, but Town soon commenced a bombardment of the visitors' goal. Dawes just headed over his own goal from an Oliver cross and from the corner Foster shot over. Payne hit the upright before Savage opened the scoring with a low shot.

"Muzzer" scored with a terrific shot to make it 2-0. Mason was having a good game in the Bournbrook goal keeping out several good attempts. Oliver grazed the bar with a cross shot before "Muzzer" got number three. James Moore was prominent for the home side and from one of his crosses Dale scored the fourth. Another shot from the outside left ran across the bar and just before the interval Lines had his first kick. Nuneaton went into the break leading 4-0.

The second half was almost a repeat of the first and "Muzzer" was first to score, completing his hat-trick in the process. Savage made it six following a mistake from one of the Bournbrook backs and number seven followed soon after from the crowd's favourite "Muzzer" Moore. Dale missed an

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open goal, but redeemed himself a little later by grabbing the eighth goal.

After a short excursion up the other end by Bournville, Savage netted for his hat-trick and Dale scored the tenth, and his third to see the home side win 10-0.

Nuneaton Town v Bilston United 26-12-1910

Nuneaton: Lines; Foster and May; Harper, Payne and Marvin; Oliver, Savage, Dale, A. Moore and J. Moore.

Bilston: Jackson; Aston and Field; Dickens, Evans and Lavender; Lalley, Pritchard, Westwood, Bond and Brooks.

Bilston had been the visitors to Nuneaton for the Boxing Day game ever since they joined the Combination and this, along with the fact that Nuneaton had never beaten Bilston attracted a crowd of over 3,000, all in holiday mood. Nuneaton were unchanged from the previous match.

The visitors won the toss and kicked towards the Bond Street end. Dale kicked off and Nuneaton went straight on the offensive. Oliver put in several centres, but they all went begging. Then, with 10 minutes gone, Nuneaton took the lead with Dale scoring a lovely goal from Jack Moore's centre. Bilston went on the offensive, but Town quickly hit back and "Muzzer" got the second goal. The same player had the ball in the net again, but was pulled up for offside.

Town were forced to defend a corner before "Muzzer" missed an opportunity at the other end. Harper was badly injured and had to retire and Dale fell back to right half. Even with a man short, Nuneaton continued to press and "Muzzer" atoned for his earlier miss by putting Town 3-0 up with one of the best shots seen on the ground.

Towards the break Payne passed to Oliver, who went on a run and almost scored. Westwood missed an open goal for Bilston, but at half time the home side were leading 3-0.

Harper reappeared after the break, and the start to the second half was sensational with Brooks centring to Lalley who scored for Bilston to make it 3-1. Encouraged by their success Bilston pressed forward, but Lines was up to his task and cleared his lines time and again. Payne tested Jackson with a 'stinger', which the goalkeeper saved, before Lines was called into action again and was forced into a save. Brooks picked up the rebound and scored another goal for Bilston to make it 3-2.

At this point Town reorganised their team with Freddie Payne going centre, Marvin centre-half, May left-half and Dale back. This put a bit more go into the home side and a good shot from Jack Moore brought an equally good save from Jackson. Marvin was defending well and keeping the visitors at bay, but they were awarded a free kick close in. An exciting few minutes followed until Town at last managed to clear.

The game was now being fought out at terrific pace and about ten minutes from the end Bilston scored a third goal and

Town's win looked in the balance. Town again swapped players with Harper going centre-forward and Payne reverting back to his old position. The reorganisation seemed to work as Savage scored the winning goal with scenes of wild enthusiasm. Town continued to pressure Bilston to the end of the game when the final score was 4-3 to Nuneaton. Jack Moore had a brilliant game and his enthusiasm inspired those around him.

Stirchley United v Nuneaton Town 31-12-1910

Stirchley: Dixon; Mortiboys and Castle; Nicklin, Harris and Allan; D. Smith, Cox, Spiers, Holmes and Greaves.

Nuneaton: Lines; Dale and May; Harper, Payne and A. Moore; Oliver, Savage, Wakelam, Field and J. Moore.

The final game of 1910 was away at Stirchley and Nuneaton had several players suffering from injuries picked up over the Christmas period. Wakelam was however, fit again and Field took up the inside-left position. "Muzzer" dropping to half and May taking Foster's place at left back.

The play was of a fairly non-descript character early on, but "Muzzer" tried a long shot, which went over and Wakelam forced Dixon to save at the expense of a corner. Oliver placed the corner kick accurately into the area and Field banged the ball into the net with just five minutes gone. Another corner came to nothing before Payne's long drive missed by inches. The home side equalised through Smith, who capitalised on a mistake by Dale. Stirchley attacked again and a fine shot just missed the target. However, the home team resumed the offensive and scored a second goal making the score 2-1.

Savage headed over from a corner and Smith scored an offside goal for Stirchley. Shortly after May got laid out, but the game was not halted and Spiers ran through to further increase the home side's lead. Moore and Field attacked and the latter tested Dixon in the Stirchley goal. The ball hovered around the home side's area for a few minutes following a free kick, but Moritboys eventually cleared. Savage headed just over from Oliver's corner, while Field took too long to get a shot away and wasted a good opportunity. At the interval the score was 3-1 to Stirchley.

The second half opened sensationally when "Muzzer" was tripped in the penalty area and Dale crashed the ball home from the kick. May was missing for a period at the start of the second half, but Nuneaton continued to attack, and when May rejoined the action Savage shot wide.

Jack Moore was pulled up for offside, before Oliver and Savage battled to get the ball in, but the ball rolled the wrong side of the post. Town kept up a continuous attack on the Stirchley defence. Payne's pass found Jack Moore, whose terrific shot forced Dixon to save at full stretch. Long shots from Oliver and Savage went wide.

Lines was called on to save, but Nuneaton quickly returned to the attack, and following a free kick Savage shot at Dixon. The keeper stopped the ball, but Harper dashed in and finished the job. Town, at this point, completely dominated

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the game and a fantastic piece of work by Oliver brought about the winning goal. Tricking the defenders, he dropped the ball in front of Savage, who put his shot past Dixon. The few supporters from Nuneaton made their presence felt and became further excited when Town went close again. The match ended with Town 4-3 winners.

The description of the Stirchley ground was that it was as small as it possibly could be and that this was a great handicap to Nuneaton.

Birmingham Trams v Nuneaton Town 07-01-1911

Birmingham Trams: Tustin; Lippett and Pritchard; MCourty, F. Goode and Smith; Regan, Sheppard, Atkins, Coyle and Tye.

Nuneaton: Latham; Dale and May; Harper, Payne and Marvin; Oliver, Savage, Wakelam, A. Moore and J. Moore.

Nuneaton visited King's Heath to face Birmingham Trams for the first match of the New Year. Latham returned in goal for Town, who were still without Foster at left back. Trams had a good playing area and a splendid pavilion with dressing rooms, etc., on the ground.

Town were forced to defend early on, but Latham kicked clear. Marvin and Jack Moore combined well, but an offside flag brought the move to a halt. Latham was forced to concede a corner, but Savage kicked clear. Payne robbed Coyle, who was looking to get forward, and after 20 minutes play Latham was called on to save from the same player. The ball broke loose and Atkins shot past Latham to put Trams 1-0 up.

Jack Moore centred to Payne who tested goalkeeper Tustin. A Savage shot struck a defender and went out for a corner. Trams pressed and Latham was forced into a save which Dale headed away. At this stage Nuneaton were not playing much football and finding it difficult to get into their stride. Following good work from Payne, Marvin and Jack Moore, Savage headed wide. May almost put through his own goal, with Latham coming to the rescue.

Jack Moore looked to have a chance, but was beaten by Lippett. Payne put wide and although Harper dribbled his way through, he held on to the ball and eventually lost it. Trams got their second goal when Coyle beat Latham with a good shot and at half-time the home side were 2-0 up.

Trams attacked at the start of the second half with Nuneaton struggling to get anything right and following a period of pressure Latham made a good save. Marvin put wide from an Oliver corner, but Trams were having the best of the game. A fine run by Trams' Sheppard looked ominous, but Dale cleared in the nick of time. Latham saved brilliantly from Coyle, before Jack Moore got away, but finished weakly. Finally Town put some pressure on the home defence, and an exciting minute or two took place in the Trams' area, but Tustin cleared.

Two corners from the visitors resulted in a melee in front of Trams' goal, but the ball was scrambled clear. Town attacked more than they had during the rest of the game, but could

not pierce the home defence. May conceded a free kick for tripping, with Dale clearing the danger. Oliver got away on the right and swung the ball across the area, with Savage and Wakelam both missing before an offside whistle brought the move to a halt. Nuneaton mounted a desperate attack at the end, but were too erratic in their play and at the final whistle Town had lost 2-0.

Nuneaton Town v Bournville Athletic 14-01-1911

Nuneaton: Latham; Dale and May; Harper, Payne and Marvin; Oliver, Savage, Wakelam, A. Moore and J. Moore.

Bournville: Edwards; E. Wood and C. Smith; Terry, Bishton and Ward; Dolphin, Powell, Jones, Grayland and Robinson.

The boys from "Cocoatown" arrived with an abysmal league record, having only one point on the board from 17 games played and having lost the home game 7-0. The quality of the opposition and the weather meant the "gate" was down and Nuneaton fielded the same team as the previous week.

Winning the toss, Dale kicked towards the Bond Street end. Town got close in the first minute and Savage's pass was ballooned over the bar by "Muzzer". Payne conceded a corner at the other end which came to nothing. Town had a corner cleared before Dolphin put a shot wide of the home goal. A good passing movement between Town's forwards ended with Wakelam shooting at Edwards and Savage putting in a good attempt.

Oliver got round the Bournville backs and his shot forced Edwards to tip away. Town were caught offside twice in quick succession, before Payne contributed with some tricky play and Wakelam shot wide from a good chance. Edwards saved well from Savage after Jack Moore had worked a chance and Marvin forced a fruitless corner. Edwards received an ovation for two brilliant saves from Payne and Oliver.

"Muzzer" put in a good effort, and keeping up the attack, Edwards saved from Savage and Wood conceded a corner. From the corner Jack Moore placed well and Edwards in attempting to collect, knocked the ball into his own net, giving the home side the lead, with 30 minutes gone. "Muzzer" scrambled the ball into the net through a ruck of players to make the score 2-0. Oliver fired just over on two occasions before half-time arrived with Nuneaton winning 2-0.

Latham had to kick away in the first minute after the break, after which Town attacked strongly with "Muzzer" missing a good chance, letting the ball run through his legs, followed by Jack Moore shooting wildly over the bar. The left winger tested Edwards, who cleared with some difficulty. Oliver broke down the right and some excitement was experienced in front of the visitors' goal, with shot after shot either being saved or just going wide of the target.

The cocoa lads then had a brief attack with Grayland putting a shot into the side netting. Then, gaining their second corner of the match, Bournville lost possession and Harper cleared



well up field where Oliver gained possession, but put the ball out of play. The game was held up for several minutes because of an injury to Bournville defender Bishton, who had to retire. Payne tested Edwards with a long shot.

The visitors grabbed a goal following a mistake by May. As Latham ran out to intercept, Dolphin shot into the open goal. It was a bad misunderstanding between keeper and backs. Savage looked certain to score from Oliver's centre, but Edwards again made a magnificent save, for which he again received an ovation. Some time after Edwards again distinguished himself, saving a stinging shot from Wakelam.

The visitors forced Latham to save well before Savage missed an open goal and Wakelam shot over. However, a minute later Savage found the net, following a pass from "Muzzer". At the final whistle Town were 3-1 victors.

Bromsgrove Rovers v Nuneaton Town 21-01-1911

Bromsgrove Rovers: Winsper; Penny and Skinner; H. Harris, Porter and Bridgwater; Stiles, Haywood, W. Harris, Satchwell and Perks.

Nuneaton: Latham; Dale and May; Harper, Payne and Marvin; Oliver, Savage, Wakelam, A. Moore and J. Moore.

Nuneaton were unchanged for their visit to Bromsgrove, who were in a poor run of form and had made drastic changes to their line-up.

The first action saw Wakelam head wide from Oliver's cross before the visitors won two consecutive corners. Latham was forced to save at the expense of a corner. Town put the Bromsgrove keeper, Winsper, under pressure and eventually Savage found the net to put the visitors 1-0 up.

Another attack followed and good passing work between Oliver and Savage culminated in Wakelam shooting just wide. Payne got the ball forward for Oliver to shoot, and the ball struck a post and rebounded back into play and Wakelam banged it into the net to make the score 2-0.

Town were caught offside a couple of times and some shots went wide before Rovers made their way to the other end where May conceded a free kick from which Latham pulled off a save. Another fierce attack by Town resulted in Winsper having to save twice in quick succession. Following a throw-in Jack Moore put in a good centre which dropped in front of the keeper, but Winsper saved despite being hustled by the Town forwards. May and Dale defended well against a Rovers attack while at the other end Payne shot just wide.

Bromsgrove got upfield and forced a corner which Latham saved well, but did not get the ball clear and Heywood headed into the visitors net to make it 2-1 to Town. A corner from Jack Moore caused some problems, but it was eventually cleared. Payne put in a long shot which sailed over the bar. A centre by Savage was fired in by "Muzzer", but Winsper saved well, and was again called on to save a minute later.

Latham pushed the ball out of play as Rovers came close before Styles swung the ball across the Town area and Perks

shot home to equalise at 2-2, which was the score when the whistle sounded for half-time.

At the start of the second half Oliver put across to Jack Moore who shot right across goal and back to Oliver. The right winger dropped the ball into the goalmouth, but it was put wide from a crowd of players. Town had a narrow escape from a Bromsgrove free-kick before Oliver got away on the right, winning a corner from his centre, from which Jack Moore shot wide. A Rovers attack was cleared downfield to Jack Moore, whose shot went over the bar.

Winsper proved himself to be a fine keeper, making saves from Oliver and Jack Moore. Following a period of midfield play Marvin sent Jack Moore clear. The winger took the ball all the way up and beat his back, worked himself into a good position and shot home for a fine individual goal.

Jack Moore got away again, but was brought down. Savage put in a great shot from the free kick, which Winsper managed to put over. A dull period of play followed with a monotonous succession of throw-ins. Following a series of Nuneaton corners and a shot from Payne, Winsper again made good saves from Oliver and Jack Moore. Oliver forced Winsper to save at the expense of a corner, which resulted in a barrage of shots, which were well dealt with by the keeper.

Harper cleared at the other end with the Town goal under threat before "Muzzer" made ground and put in a terrific shot which struck the crossbar, and although Jack Moore tried to connect with the rebound, he was unable to score. Town now had their opponents pinned in their own area and the home goal had several narrow escapes, but there were no further goals and match ended 3-2 to Town.

For the second week running Town had been denied a more emphatic victory by the opposing goalkeeper. Winsper, once of Worcester City and a Junior International keeper had performed magnificently, making several great saves.

Nuneaton Town v Wellington St Georges 28-01-1911

Nuneaton: Latham; Dale and Foster; Harper, Payne and Marvin; Oliver, Savage, Wakelam, A. Moore and J. Moore.

Wellington: Craddock; Bott and Onions; Powell, Bowen and Jones; Lewis, Plant, Turley, Davies and Picken.

Wellington St. George's visited The Newdegate on the back of a win by four clear goals against Redditch. A large crowd was present and Foster was back in the side following an accident, which was the only change.

The play was mainly in midfield for the early part of the game, but eventually Savage shot over from long range. Jack Moore also tried his luck from distance before Craddock was forced to handle, but nothing came of the free kick. A Wellington attack was broken up by Marvin, and after 15 minutes play the same player placed the ball in front of goal following a throw in, and "Muzzer" scored a beautiful goal to give the home side an early advantage.

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The visitors equalised almost immediately — Latham got a touch on the ball from Davies' shot, but was unable to stop it going in the net. Town attacked once more, with Jack Moore forcing a corner which keeper Craddock cleared with some difficulty. Following a throw in the ball found Dale near the half way line, who put in a drive which sailed into the net to restore Town's lead.

A shot from Savage hit the bar and "Muzzer" missed badly when well placed. Latham saved from Plant before Jack Moore put behind from a corner. Two more corners followed which ended with Savage putting the ball into the net, but an offside whistle against Wakelam prevented a goal. "Muzzer" put over from a great shot following Jack Moore's centre before Latham was forced to save at the other end. Half-time arrived with Town leading 2-1.

Craddock saved from Savage at the start of the second period and sustained pressure on the Wellington goal seemed certain to end in a goal, with Oliver's shot coming closest. After a brief attack from Wellington, Craddock was forced into a brilliant save from "Muzzer". At the other end Latham was forced to concede a corner from Davies, tipping over the bar for a corner. Wakelam, "Muzzer" and Jack Moore broke as one with "Muzzer" shooting wide from a good chance. Oliver also put wide and Payne shot way over the top before putting over another shot following a corner.

Nuneaton extended their lead when Savage shot home with a good shot to make it 3-1. Craddock made great saves from Savage, Oliver and Payne in quick succession, before Dale tried his luck from long range and Savage missed a good chance from Oliver's centre. A thrilling run by Oliver resulted in a corner from which Payne missed by inches. Payne had another shot which struck defender Onions and found its way into the net to make it 4-1.

Wellington cut the deficit shortly after when Turley took a pass from Plant and placed the ball into the Nuneaton net, out of the reach of Latham. Craddock was forced to save from Wakelam and Dale. Jack Moore took play up to the Wellington area where an exciting battle developed, with at least half a dozen players on the ground in the area, with the ball lost among them. The ball eventually being put wide of the post. Both teams had visits to their opponents goal before the final whistle sounded with Nuneaton 4-2 winners.

Bournbrook v Nuneaton Town 04-02-1911

Bournbrook: Stokes; Jenkins and Dawes; Nicholls, Campkin and Drayton; Poyner, Parker, Eldridge, Smith and Greaves.

Nuneaton: Latham; Dale and Foster; Harper, Payne and May; Oliver, Savage, Wakelam, A. Moore and J. Moore.

Due to Willenhall Pickwick having cup commitments, a rearranged fixture at Bournbrook was brought about. Nuneaton had beaten the Selly Oak side 10-0 at the Newdegate, but Bournbrook had made improvements to their side and had beaten Willenhall Pickwick the previous week.

The game opened with a shot from Jack Moore which forced goalkeeper Stokes to save at the expense of a corner from which Harper shot yards wide. Oliver drove the ball across the goal, but neither Savage nor "Muzzer" could put the ball into the net. Latham was called on to save before Town retaliated, but Wakelam was offside.

A long cross shot from Jack Moore was intercepted and put over by Oliver. After about 15 minutes play, Payne put in a lovely shot which Stokes tipped over. From the corner taken by Jack Moore, Savage headed into the net to put the visitors 1-0 up. Stokes was called into action when Oliver put in a powerful shot, which the goalkeeper pushed round the post. Jack Moore landed a corner on top of the net. After further pressure Savage increased the visitors' lead with a fast ground shot after 25 minutes.

The Bournbrook goal had some remarkable escapes as Nuneaton pushed forward. Stokes saved from Savage who had shot from Jack Moore's centre. Bournbrook broke away briefly before Stokes had to save again, this time from Wakelam. From the corner Oliver headed the ball on to the top of the net. The half-time whistle saw Town leading 2-0.

The early part of the second half was pretty even, but eventually Town gained the upper hand, attacking for some considerable time without success. Bournbrook broke away and Payne was unable to bring Smith's run to a halt and Bournbrook's inside-left shot past Latham to make the score 2-1. Nuneaton soon restored their two goal advantage when a shot from Wakelam was turned into his own net by Campkin.

Nuneaton extended their lead further — "Muzzer" shot hard and true with Stokes saving the first and the follow-up shot, but Savage banged the rebound into the net to give the visitors a 4-1 lead. Jack Moore's centre was put wide by Wakelam and following a long spell of attacking by Town, Savage forced Stokes to put over the top for a corner. At the other end Poyner and Parker both went close, with Latham saving from the latter in the nick of time. Nuneaton were on top for the rest of the game, but failed to add to their total, and the game ended with a win for Town by 4-1.

The game ended on a sour note when the crowd became frustrated by May's ease in handling his opposite number, which resulted in the Bournbrook players being encouraged in foul play. At the end of the match the crowd attempted to attack May, who was escorted to the dressing room amid a large and wildly excited mob.

Nuneaton Town v Cannock Town 11-02-1911

Nuneaton: Lines; Dale and Foster; Harper, Payne and May; Oliver, Savage, Wakelam, A. Moore and J. Moore.

Cannock: Thrupp; J. Gray and Shorter; Wood, H. Gray and Jones; Harrison, Saunders, Walker, White and Stokes.

It was a glorious day for the visit of Cannock, and with their favourites having won 4-1 away the previous week, the footballing public turned out in force. Lines replaced Latham

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in goal and Walker, who had previously played for Nuneaton was at centre-forward for the visitors.

Payne was forced to clear in the first minute and “Muzzer” dribbled up the field, but when he passed forward, the ball went out of play. Jack Moore put in a good centre, but no one was there to get on the end of it. Thrupp in the visitors’ goal was put under pressure for some time, but when Cannock broke away Stokes’ centre was badly missed by Dale, with Harper being forced into a hasty clearance, from which Oliver picked up the ball and shot over the bar with Thrupp stranded. Thrupp saved from Savage, only for “Muzzer” to pounce on the ball and drive the ball hard and fast into the net, giving Nuneaton the lead.

Jack Moore placed in a superb corner, but Payne put the chance wide of the goal. Harper put in some good work before firing over. Payne shot at Thrupp, who cleared, but Payne put in a powerful shot which grazed the upright. Savage shot over following good work by Oliver, before Town scored a second – a movement between the two Moores and Wakelam saw Thrupp in considerable difficulty, and not making a good clearance, Savage was able to put the ball into the net to make it 2-0, which was the score when half-time arrived.

The start of the second half saw Jack Moore pass square to Savage, who put in a gem, with Thrupp making a good save from the effort. A few minutes later Jack Moore swung the ball over to Oliver who flashed the ball back across the goalmouth. It looked as though the ball was going in, but it went the wrong side of the upright. Dale fended off a Cannock attack and Jack Moore got away before passing to Payne, who put the ball just wide. Savage forced Thrupp to save yet again.

Nuneaton continued to keep up the pressure and Savage shot well, but Thrupp again saved well before the crowd cheered a brilliant shot from “Muzzer” and another fine save from the keeper. Jack Moore made his mark, when he found himself with a good opening and made no mistake, the ball being placed well out of Thrupp’s reach to make it 3-0.

Good passing between Harper, Savage and Wakelam created an opening for “Muzzer”, but he made a mess of things and shot wildly over. A combination between the two Moores looked promising, but Payne shot weakly wide of the target. Then, as the result of a melee H. Gray had to be carried from the field. When the game restarted, Town renewed their attack on the Cannock goal and Jack Moore scored the fourth goal.

Payne narrowly missed with a long range effort and Wakelam missed an open goal. The loss of Gray meant that Cannock resorted to the one back game, which resulted in Nuneaton constantly being caught offside. However, a long shot from Dale went just wide and Savage forced Thrupp into another good save. The keeper made another terrific save following a corner and Savage put over from a good position, and struck the post with a shot of such power that the ball rebounded yards away from the goal.

Nuneaton monopolised the rest of the play, with Thrupp having even more work to do before the whistle went for full-time with Nuneaton winning 4-0.

Coombs Wood v Nuneaton Town 18-02-1911

Coombs Wood: Walters; Partridge and A. Walters; Watton, Parkes and Parsons; Hadley, Westwood, Robbins, Pritchard and Timmins
Nuneaton: Latham; Dale and Foster; Harper, Payne and May; Oliver, Savage, Wakelam, A. Moore and J. Moore.

Town travelled to Blackheath to face Coombs Wood, where there was a perfect gale blowing, meaning any decent football was out of the question.

The game was of a disjointed nature, with goal kicks being blown out of play, often into an adjoining field. It was going to be extremely hard work in battling against the wind in the first half with a distinct advantage to the side winning the toss, which Coombes Wood did. At the half-time whistle Nuneaton found themselves a single goal down, following a goal from Pritchard, and the talk was of how many the visitors would get in the second half. This theory went out of the window when Coombs Wood scored a second straight after the break, with Westwood doing the damage after Foster had been laid out.

Town’s players became slow and tired after their exertions of the first half and play was laboured and difficult, with the ball being out of play quite a lot.

May and Payne gave Walters work to do, before Town’s goal had many narrow escapes, with one effort hitting the crossbar. “Muzzer” put one over at the other end, while Savage went close shortly after. After the Woodites goal had some remarkable escapes Savage finally cut the deficit, beating Walters following a corner to make it 2-1. The same player again brought a brilliant save out of Walters, as did Payne. Wakelam hit the crossbar, as the home side’s goal came under increasing pressure.

Towards the end of the game Town attacked continuously and Walters had to save shots from Dale and Foster, as well as others, but at the final whistle Nuneaton had lost 2-1.

Nuneaton Town v Redditch 04-03-1911

Nuneaton: Latham; Dale and Foster; Harper, Payne and May; Oliver, Savage, Wakelam, A. Moore and J. Moore.
Redditch: Ward; Hillman and Crutchley; Slade, Price and Court; Davis, Friend, Morris, Hanson and Perkins.

Redditch had been the first team to beat Nuneaton, winning 5-2 at home, but Town were defending an unbeaten home record, not having dropped a single point at home all season.

Dale won the toss and Town kicked towards the Bond Street end. Latham was called into action as early as the first minute, with Redditch maintaining the pressure for a few minutes, before Town had their first chance. “Muzzer” found Jack Moore who ran down and centred to Oliver, who

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ballooned the ball over the bar when well placed. Ward, in the Redditch goal, was severely tested before Town conceded a free kick to relieve the pressure.

Town pressed again and Savage skimmed the bar, before Oliver got away and passed to Jack Moore, who shot yards wide. Payne tried a long shot which was cleared and Redditch got up the other end and forced a corner. May conceded another corner shortly after and Morris put the visitors 1-0 up to frantic cheering from the Redditch fans.

Redditch had slightly the better of things, but Payne made a good opening, tricking several players before passing to "Muzzer" who broke through and scored a terrific goal which encouraged fantastic cheering from the Nuneaton fans. Savage struck the bar following good play by Harper, while Oliver went nearly the full length of the pitch before being tackled by Hillman. The Redditch goal had a narrow escape when Ward left his goal, but Hillman was on hand to clear the danger.

Wakelam headed over from a corner before a long shot from Payne narrowly missed the target, before Redditch attacked, but Dale was up to his task. Nuneaton pushed forward again when "Muzzer" forced a corner, after which the Redditch goal came under some concerted pressure. However, the home side scored a few minutes later when they were awarded a penalty following a foul on Jack Moore. Savage took the kick, but although Ward partially saved, the taker followed up to score, making it 2-1 to the home side. Perkins shot wide for Redditch before the half-time whistle sounded and Nuneaton went into the break leading by two goals to one.

After the break Davis put one into the side netting for Redditch, while at the other end Oliver put a cross in from which Jack Moore got in a lovely shot, which brought about a corner. Savage looked to have an opening, but was dispossessed. Oliver got away down the wing and crossed to Payne who shot narrowly wide and Jack Moore missed a good chance at the other end, wanting too much time.

Redditch got themselves on level terms, Morris finding the net with a terrific shot to make it 2-2. At this stage the visitors were playing an aggressive game and before long they took the lead with Davis finding the net with a long shot intended as a centre. Nuneaton tried their best to find an equaliser, but despite efforts from Savage, Jack Moore and Oliver the final whistle saw Town lose the match 3-2, and their unbeaten home record into the bargain.

Hednesford Town v Nuneaton Town 11-03-1911

Hednesford: Tatem; Reaney and Corbett; Gough, Greenway and Moberley; Bristow, Spriggs, Irwin, Cumberlidge and Bradley.

Nuneaton: Lines; Dale and Foster; A. Harper, R. Harper, and Payne; Oliver, Savage, Smith, A. Moore and J. Moore.

For the visit to Hednesford, Town had acquired the service of two new players, both signed from the Delta Works

Club, and both having a great reputation in junior football in the Birmingham area, Smith having played in a Junior International trial match the previous Monday.

Nuneaton pressed early in the match and Tatem was forced to save from Oliver. "Muzzer" passed to Jack Moore, who shot across goal forcing Tatem to clear. R. Harper tried to create an opening for Oliver, but his pass was cut out by Corbett and the visitors got close to goal, forcing Payne to head clear. Smith put out a pass to Jack Moore, who could not get a shot in, and Smith again picked out a pass to Oliver who worked his way round Corbett and centred to Smith, who missed badly.

Hednesford forced a corner which came to nothing and Smith put over the bar at the other end. Cumberlidge had the ball in the net for Hednesford, but it was ruled out for offside. Lines was forced to clear before Town attacked in force with shots from Jack Moore and Payne just missing. Lines saved well from Greenway, while at the other end Tatem saved well from Savage and "Muzzer". Hednesford's goal had a miraculous escape, as the ball seemed to hover around the goal line for an age, with no player being able to force the ball home.

Bristow got away on the right for the home side, only to be stopped by Dale. "Muzzer" headed just over from Oliver's centre and Jack Moore looked to have a chance, but Corbett cleared. The home side almost scored through Spriggs, but Lines saved smartly at the expense of a corner. Smith received a pass from Payne and tested Tatem, who then saved from Savage, but at half time the game was goalless.

Dale and Foster both had some defending to do straight after the break, before Payne put through to Jack Moore, but Town were pulled up for offside. Tatem made a good save from Jack Moore, who was putting in some telling crosses, and Smith almost scored from one of them, shooting narrowly wide. Dale came to the rescue at the other end when the home side looked dangerous. After some probing by the Nuneaton forward line, Hednesford broke on the left and Irwin found the net to put the home side into the lead.

Nuneaton came back strongly and Tatem was forced into another great save from Savage, and again from Oliver. Smith had an effort, which was again saved by Tatem, who was proving a solid obstacle. Lines saved well before Nuneaton pressed again when Oliver put the ball out to Jack Moore, who scored with a brilliant screw shot to make it 1-1. Two or three minutes later A. Harper set Smith going, with the centre-forward working his way through and beating Tatem to give Town the lead, with the travelling support making themselves heard.

The visitors continued to press, with Jack Moore showing up well time and again. Oliver put in a shot which Tatem only just managed to divert and "Muzzer" had hard lines with 'one of his old sort', the ball just flashing past the upright. As the match progressed Nuneaton looked certain to increase their lead and in the last two minutes Dale passed to Jack Moore, who beat his man and raced clear, making his way

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towards the area, he was just about to shoot when Reaney tripped him from behind. The referee, who was almost at the other end of the field ignored the incident and blew for time, Nuneaton winning 2-1.

Local Lad Makes Debut

Introduced in the pre-match report with the words 'another centre-forward with a good local reputation' and no mention of his name, Emmin Dunn, future legend, makes his way in the Nuneaton line-up for the first time in an away game at Willenhall Swifts.

Willenhall Swifts v Nuneaton Town 18-03-1911

Nuneaton: Latham; Dale and Holt; Harper, Payne and Foster; Oliver, Savage, Dunn, A. Moore and J. Moore.

Willenhall: Jenkins; Francis and Whitehouse; Jones, Clift and Hadley; Spooner, Stone, Grainger, Heath and Atkins.

For the away match at Willenhall Swifts, Town had lost the services of the two new players from the previous week, R. Harper and Smith, but instead included local lad, Dunn at centre-forward and reserve team player Holt came in at left half. This was considered a risky gamble as Willenhall Swifts were unbeaten at home all season.

Swifts gained a corner straight from the kick-off, but Dunn won the ball and passed to Jack Moore, who in turn passed to Oliver, who was eventually stopped by Hadley. Keeper Jenkins had to save from Jack Moore and was tested by "Muzzer". Harper fired just wide of the goal, while Dunn shot over the bar before Payne repeated the action. Lines had to run out of his goal to clear before Dunn found Savage, who put a good chance wide.

Jack Moore missed an open goal before Lines was again required to clear. Aided by the wind Nuneaton constantly attacked, but were unable to score. Jenkins made a good save from Dunn, but shortly after, following several close misses, Payne finally broke the deadlock from Oliver's centre to give Town the lead.

Swifts broke away, but Grainger's shot was yards wide and Nuneaton were back on the offensive. However, a couple of minutes before half time Willenhall attacked and Stone's shot gave Lines no chance and at the break the score was 1-1.

Swifts opened the second half on top, but Town hit back and won a corner. Foster cleared at the expense of a corner but play was soon back up the other end where Clift headed the ball across his own goal. Jack Moore fastened on to the loose ball and banged it into the net to give the visitors a 2-1 lead. Willenhall forced two consecutive corners and from the second one, scored the equalising goal.

Frantic cheering from the home support urged their team on and they came close to scoring again, Heath putting in a beauty which Lines caught and cleared. Three corners were

then conceded by Town, but all were cleared, before Harper was forced to retire for a few minutes, and was a passenger when he returned to the field. Oliver tested Jenkins, who was penalised for carrying, but "Muzzer" failed with the free kick.

Town's forwards missed a good chance following Oliver's centre and Jack Moore's shot struck the bar and went over. Savage dropped back to half, while Harper went up front. Willenhall's goal had a miraculous escape with Jenkins having to field several stiff shots. "Muzzer" put wide of the post before a Willenhall corner went so close as to elicit shouts of "goal!" from the home supporters.

Swifts pressed hard with Town's goal having several close calls. Jack Moore broke away, but was caught offside before Oliver ran almost the length of the field, only to be hustled off the ball when about to shoot. Willenhall attacked again, but Jack Moore was set free and eventually got in a shot at Jenkins, which the goalkeeper only partially cleared, and with only three minutes remaining, "Muzzer" put the ball into the net. The final minutes were highly exciting — a corner to Swifts being cleared and Town going close at the other end when a shot from Dunn hit Harper on the head and bounced out. Soon after, the final whistle sounded, and Nuneaton had won 3-2.

Nuneaton Town v Hednesford Town 25-03-1911

Nuneaton: Lines; Dale and Foster; Harper, Payne and Scattergood; Oliver, Savage, Dunn, A. Moore and J. Moore.

Hednesford: Tatem; Reaney and Corbett; Lyons, Greenway and Moberley; Smith, Spriggs, Bradley, Cumberlidge and Sheldon.

Having won the away game two weeks earlier, hopes of another win were high, when Hednesford were Town's opponents at the Newdegate Arms Ground.

Nuneaton started on the offensive and Payne's shot over the top was followed by a Dunn effort that hit the side netting. Following a storm of snow and sleet, a centre from Oliver was badly missed by Jack Moore. At the other end Spriggs landed one on top of the net for the visitors, before good play between Oliver and Savage, saw the aforementioned shoot yards wide. A minute later the same player shot into Tatem's hands.

Town continued to attack, but the visitor's defence held firm. Lines made a brilliant save from Cumberlidge and Foster conceded a corner, which Lines cleared. A period of uninteresting play followed until Town attacked and Tatem was forced to clear. Oliver's corner was scrambled away with some difficulty. Jack Moore was brought into the game by Savage, but the winger shot wide. Following a corner from Jack Moore, Tatem was forced to save, at the expense of corner.

Dunn was pulled up for a dubious offside when well placed and "Muzzer" worked the ball out to Oliver who hit a powerful shot through a crowd of legs, from which Tatem made a good save. Town continued to attack with Tatem saving from Dunn and Payne shooting wide. Oliver shot wide following a good run and at half-time the score was 0-0.

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At the start of the second half Tatem saved from “Muzzer” and kicked upfield, where Dale had to be sharp to make a clearance. Another snowstorm made conditions unpleasant, but Jack Moore broke down the left before being hustled by Reaney, and although his shot was weak, Tatem conceded a corner. A shot from Harper followed, after which Dunn played in Jack Moore for a lovely opening. The winger made ground, but only managed to win a corner.

Town conceded a free kick just outside the penalty line, but the defence cleared. The game became very dull, and a lapse in concentration by the home defence resulted in Cumberlidge breaking through and scoring, to make the score 1-0 to the visitors. Lines attempted to save, but may have been unsighted.

Savage got crocked and moved to outside right, with Harper also suffering from an injury, picked up in the previous game. Dale reorganised his troops, putting himself up front and moved Scattergood to left-back and “Muzzer” to left-half. Savage left the field and Oliver put a cross over which Jack Moore picked up, with his effort being so close as to draw a cry of disbelief from the crowd.

Dunn notched an equaliser with a fine goal, amid much cheering. At this point Dale moved back into defence, but not long after Spriggs received the ball in a good position and banged the ball into the net. “Muzzer” headed over before the final whistle saw Hednesford emerge as 2-1 winners.

Nuneaton Footballer for Stoke

Local football enthusiasts will be interested to learn that Albert Savage, the Town’s prolific goalscorer, signed for Stoke on Wednesday evening. He will play for his new club tomorrow against Wolverhampton Reserves in the Birmingham and District League.

Savage had scored 25 goal in 25 appearances.

Willenhall Pickwick v Nuneaton Town 01-04-1911

Willenhall: Henworth; Archer and Edge; Langford, Robinson and Wootton; Kent, Dunn, Kendrick, Heath and Cox.

Nuneaton: Latham; Dale and Foster; Harper, Rathbone and A. Moore; Oliver, Mason, Dunn, Jack Moore and Joe Moore.

Nuneaton were forced to re-organise their team for the away fixture at Willenhall Pickwick, as Payne was away in Glasgow for a Junior International, and Savage had moved to Stoke. Mason, previously with Willenhall Swifts, came in at inside-right. Jack Moore moved to inside-left and brother, Joe took his place on the left wing. Rathbone of Bedworth Town made his debut at centre-half and “Muzzer” dropped back to left-half.

Willenhall’s Dunn missed a good chance early on and Heath shot over the bar. Harper found Oliver, whose centre was cleared by Robinson. Rathbone passed to Mason, who shot wide, while Latham saved well from Heath. Harper passed

to Jack Moore, whose pass found Joe Moore, who narrowly missed the target. Latham saved a stinging shot from Heath. Dale and Foster tidied up at the back before Oliver got away on the right with Edge conceding a corner.

Harper went close before “Muzzer” hit the crossbar from long range, with the ball flying straight up in the air and landing near the goal, but Henworth punched away. Jack and Joe Moore were in good form with the new winger crossing and shooting well, when given the chance. A corner for the home team was cleared and at the other end, a corner led to some excitement in front of the Willenhall goal, with Jack Moore and Emmin Dunn producing some tricky play, which saw several attempts on the Willenhall goal.

Dale and Foster were once again called on to defend, while at the other end Mason landed the ball on top of the net from close to the corner flag. Cox looked certain to score for the home side, but Dale diverted the ball away with his body, at the expense of a corner. Oliver got the ball across to Emmin Dunn, who worked an opening for Mason, who shot just over the bar. When half time arrived there was no score.

The first action of the second half saw Heath put a shot yards over the bar, while at the other end Henworth saved from Mason. Oliver put in a terrific shot which Henworth saved magnificently, but he could not get the ball away and Dunn, Mason and others were practically on top of him, but the ball could not be forced home. Henworth was slightly hurt in the melee. ‘Picks’ then opened the scoring when Heath scored with a brilliant shot, following a throw-up by the referee.

Having gone a goal down, Town came back strongly and Henworth had to save from Emmin Dunn and Mason. Rathbone shot wide and a little later Emmin Dunn rattled the boards behind the goal, when he should have hit the target. Jack Moore put wide when well placed. Town’s goal came under threat, having a lucky escape before Joe Moore looked to have a great chance, but was given offside. Town defended well following some pressure from the home side.

Nuneaton came within an ace of scoring, but Henworth was proving unbeatable. Then, from Rathbone’s pass Dunn shot and the ball looked to be headed for the net, until Henworth miraculously sprang up and hooked the ball away in the nick of time. Town continued to attack, but could not find a goal and at the whistle they had lost 1-0.

Nuneaton Town v Stirchley United 08-04-1911

Nuneaton: Lines; Dale and Foster; Harper, Rathbone and Payne; Buckler, Mason, Dunn, A. Moore and J. Moore.

Stirchley: Dixon; Mortiboys and Castle; Cox, Allsop and Snipe; D. Smith, Humphries, Dyke, Holmes and Downey.

Nuneaton’s footballing public was less than excited about the prospect of Stirchley’s visit to the Newdegate and only a moderate crowd was in attendance. Oliver missed his first match of the season through illness and Jack Moore took his



place on the right. Joe Moore played left wing, but missed his train and the kick-off.

Town opened on the attack and Payne shot wide, while “Muzzer” headed into the side netting. Harper cleared after a rush by the visitors and Sam Buckler, a reserve team player came on to make the side up to a full complement. Buckler was played clear and put in a beautiful centre which Jack Moore placed in front of the goal. “Muzzer” rushed in and put the home side 1-0 up. Three minutes later Harper put a throw-in into the area, right in front of goal, and “Muzzer” beat Dixon for the second time.

Stirchley went on the attack and Lines brought off a fine save from Holmes, tipping the ball onto the roof of the net. Offside spoilt another Town attack, but they came back and Dunn put just wide when well placed. Dunn shot wide again and “Muzzer” put a shot into Dixon’s hands before Harper also shot wide. Lines saved from Downey before Dixon pushed a ground shot from Dunn around the post and a melee ensued from the corner, but Town could not force the ball home.

Dunn made a fine individual effort, which was followed by a rasping drive from Mason, which hit the bar. Dixon scraped out a shot from Dunn, and Buckler forced a corner, which came to nothing. Dale was then hurt in clearing, and had to leave the pitch, before a period of excitement in front of the visitors’ goal. Dunn twice dropped the ball in front of goal, but “Muzzer” twice missed from the chances and the move ended when Jack Moore put the ball the wrong side of the post. When the half-time whistle sounded Nuneaton were leading 2-0.

Dale reappeared for the second half. Jack Moore looked dangerous, but nothing came of his efforts and “Muzzer” hit the side netting before Dunn shot over the bar. Stirchley briefly attacked before “Muzzer” looked like getting through, but failed at the critical moment. Dixon stopped a powerful shot from Dunn, before Mason unleashed a terrific shot which the keeper would not have saved, had it been on target, but it went narrowly wide. However, just a couple of minutes later Dunn set up “Muzzer”, who easily beat Dixon to complete his hat-trick.

Stirchley gained a corner, but from the flag kick “Muzzer” cleared downfield where Jack Moore picked up the ball and made ground. Eventually the ball came back to Payne, who worked his way through all the opposition and scored with a fine shot from a great piece of individual work, which made the score 4-0.

“Muzzer” came close to getting another goal while Payne shot over the bar as Town dominated the game, with the visitors’ keeper Dixon kept busy. Buckler’s well placed corner was headed wide by “Muzzer” before Stirchley won a corner, which Lines cleared. Jack Moore put one over the head of Dixon, but the ball just cleared the bar. At the final whistle Town had won 4-0.

Cradley Heath St Lukes v Nuneaton Town 08-04-1911

The season ended in a frenzy with five games in seven days, the first of which involved a trip to Cradley Heath St. Luke’s. Oliver and Dunn were both absent, with Keeley taking the centre-forward spot and Joe Moore coming in at left wing with brother Jack playing right wing.

In the first half Town found it difficult to get going and went in at half time a goal down. The away side showed a marked improvement after the break and Keeley equalised. Latham then got injured and Payne had to take over in goal, which should have impaired their chances of winning, but Town played better with ten men. Jack Moore gave them the lead with a great shot, but Franks equalised, which got the home crowd wildly excited. Jack Moore put Nuneaton back in front, scoring the winning goal after a thrilling run and shot.

A special mention goes to Payne, who, as stand in goalkeeper rose to the occasion and defended his goal well. Cradley were more than surprised at their defeat, but the final score was 3-2 to the visitors.

Nuneaton Town v Cannock Town 08-04-1911

There was a large crowd at the Newdegate Arms on Easter Monday for the semi-final of the Forester’s Cup, between Nuneaton and Cannock Town. The home side could not muster their first team, so Scattergood and Carris came in from the reserve side.

The game ended in a 1-1 draw and Nuneaton ceded the match. Carris scored for Town after 30 minutes, but Oliver deserved much of the credit for the goal, following his brilliant centre. After the break Town attacked again and again, but chances were missed and Gray equalised for Cannock five minutes from the end. Goalkeeper Rostance played brilliantly for the visitors and it was to him that Cannock owe the draw.

Nuneaton Town v Coombs Wood 18-04-1911

On the afternoon of Easter Tuesday, in front of another good crowd, Town entertained Coombs Wood. “Muzzer” was unable to turn out, Scattergood played left-half and Keeley and Carris were drafted in from the reserve side.

Keeley missed a great chance for Town early on, and Oliver put in a quality cross which the inside men missed out on. Then, from a corner to Coombs Wood, Pritchard headed into the net to give the visitors a half time lead.

The “Woodites” scored again in the second half and ran out winners by two goals to nil. The result was a great disappointment to the holiday crowd, with the displays on both days being less than creditable to the Town. On the Wednesday an away friendly was played at Sheepy Road against Atherstone Town with Nuneaton beating their local rivals 5-1.



Nuneaton Town v Darlaston 22-04-1911

Nuneaton: Lines; Dale and Foster; A. Harper, R. Harper and Payne; Oliver, Dunn, Smith, Mason and A. Moore.

Darlaston: Waite; Shinton and Dennis; E. Wilkes, Reed and Lloyd; Horton, Sharp, Bould, Bourne and G. Wilkes.

On the final day of the season, Darlaston visited the Newdegate, already having won the championship, and having amassed 115 goals in the process. Nuneaton and Willenhall Swifts were still in contention for the runners-up spot. The fixture proved a great attraction and a “splendid” gate had assembled on the ground. Town fielded a strong team, but Darlaston included two reserve team players.

The first action of the match saw Oliver get away and centre the ball, which was cleared. Following good work by R. Harper, Payne shot over, with Smith following suit just after. Waite was forced to handle from Payne and Smith. After 15 minutes, “Muzzer” beat two or three men and centred right in front of goal, with Smith running in to score amid vociferous cheering.

Oliver forced a corner which came to nothing, followed by a second which was almost converted, with a regular melee on the goal line ensuing. Lines was called into action following a Darlaston attack, while Oliver kept Waite busy at the other end. “Muzzer” swung the ball across to Oliver who put in a perfect centre for Mason to shoot into the net, and although referee Mr. Lutwyche pointed towards the centre and the crowd cheered lustily, he eventually altered his decision and disallowed the goal, stating that Mason had elbowed the ball into the net.

Town were not to be denied, however, and Smith passed out to Oliver, who passed back to Dixon, who scored a lovely goal. Lines made a brilliant clearance at the other end, but Town attacked again and Mason just skimmed the bar. “Muzzer” forced Waite to save, while Smith warmed the keeper’s hands with a powerful shot. “Muzzer” put a shot into the side netting, before Town almost scored again from a corner, but the keeper had been impeded and a free kick was awarded. At half time the score was 2-0 to Town.

A terrific onslaught on Darlaston’s goal signalled the start of the second half, and good work by Smith and Dunn was cheered by the crowd. Payne cleared following a Darlaston corner, but the visitors kept up the pressure for a time. Oliver got away and forced a corner, with Waite clearing from a ruck of players. Dunn headed against the bar from a corner and from the rebound “Muzzer” missed a good chance. R. Harper and Smith were brilliant in a tricky passing movement and the ball found its way out to Oliver, whose centre was fired goalwards by Dunn, but Waite caught the ball and cleared.

Dale had to retire injured. The ball found its way back out to Oliver, whose centre was banged into the net by “Muzzer”, with the crowd going wild. Dale came back and Town continued to press with shots raining in. Mason headed

over from a corner and Nuneaton were constantly keeping Darlaston under pressure and sure enough another goal was scored, Oliver sending in a shot of such power that it went into the net and bounced out again.

Among cries of “the old five” Town continued to attack, but the game had settled down and when final whistle sounded Town had won 4-0. The win, combined with Willenhall Swifts’ defeat at Redditch, meant that Nuneaton Town had finished runners-up.

Birmingham Combination 1910-11

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Darlaston	30	25	0	5	115	52	50
Nuneaton Town	30	22	0	8	93	44	44
Willenhall Swifts	30	19	4	7	86	41	42
Hednesford Town	30	16	6	8	85	42	38
Willenhall Pickwick	30	18	2	10	86	49	38
Birmingham Trams	30	17	3	10	71	49	37
Redditch United	30	16	4	10	95	64	36
Cannock Town	30	16	3	11	61	54	35
Cradley Heath St Lukes	29	13	2	14	74	74	28
Coombs Wood	30	13	2	15	62	81	28
Stirchley United	29	9	7	13	58	84	25
Bilston United	30	8	6	16	70	77	22
Wellington St George	30	8	3	19	52	91	19
Bromsgrove Rovers	30	7	4	19	59	96	18
Bournbrook	30	6	1	23	41	116	13
Bournville Athletic	30	1	4	25	30	123	6

Runners-up of Birmingham Combination

With their brilliant victory over Darlaston last Saturday, Nuneaton Town completed a successful season’s work. Up to within the last month or so the championship of the Birmingham Combination has been problematic, and Darlaston, Nuneaton and Willenhall Swifts have each been continually in the running, ultimately finishing up in the order written. The last month saw Darlaston draw away from the other two, interest then centring round the position of runners-up, and it was left till Saturday to decide the matter. Local enthusiasts can congratulate themselves on the splendid position attained by the wearers of the “blue and white”; not since they won the Junior League championship in 1906-07 has Nuneaton Town finished so high up on the chart of merit. While, however, there is cause for congratulation, there is a certain amount of regret that the Town’s splendid record was spoiled by two or three bad slips on their own ground, matches which there was hardly any doubt about their ability to win, and which, as can now be seen have lost them the championship...



FA Cup: Finally — A Win

Nuneaton Town entered the F.A. Cup for the fourth time in the 1910-11 season, filled with ambition to finally win a match in that competition.

They were drawn at home to Birmingham Trams in the Extra Preliminary Round — a game that drew some 3,000 spectators to the Newdegate Arms ground on a fine afternoon on September 17th 1910.

The Nuneaton team was: Hilditch, Dale, Foster, Harper, Payne, May, Oliver, Savage, Wakelam, Field, Moore.

Birmingham's right half was Goode, a former Stockingford player. Leslie Dale won the toss and chose to kick towards the Burgage end in the first half. Nuneaton began strongly with Oliver and Savage featuring prominently and Field shot over the Trams' bar early on.

Savage was denied a scoring chance when he accidentally handled the ball when well-positioned in front of goal.

Town then had four corners in quick succession, but were unable to make their pressure pay.

Half time came with the score at 0-0, but Broadfield, wearing a dazzling red jersey in the Birmingham goal, had covered himself in glory whilst maintaining a clean sheet.

The home dominance continued after the break although Dale was applauded for his work in clearing one rare Trams attack.

The intense attacking play of Nuneaton had the crowd in a state of high excitement and, when Savage finally broke the deadlock, following a nicely worked move by the forwards, his success was greeted by a huge roar. This probably set the team at ease and, shortly afterwards, Wakeham made it 2-0, the chance being created for him by a clever piece of football by May.

However, the second goal seemed to sting the Trams into action and

they almost immediately reduced the arrears when their inside-left converted a centre from the right wing — a goal which some thought Hilditch might have saved.

The rest of the game was tense and Hilditch in the Town goal was much busier than he had been previously.

A corner to Birmingham in the final minute must have pumped up the tension, but Dale cleared it and Nuneaton held on to achieve their first ever F.A. Cup victory — at the ninth attempt — by 2-1, some eleven years after a Nuneaton team made its debut in The Cup.

It had been a typically exciting cup tie though with plenty of open football. The home half-backs performed brilliantly throughout, as did the captain, Dale.

The wingers were the most effective of the forwards and with a little more 'bite' up front Town would have won more easily.

Elsewhere that afternoon, Hinckley United beat Horncastle 2-1 in the FA Cup, whilst in the Coventry and North Warwickshire League, Bedworth Town went down 3-1 at Foleshill Great Heath.

In the next round Town were at home again, to Halesowen of the Birmingham and District League, on Saturday, October 1st. It was another beautiful day and this time a crowd approaching 4,000 crammed the Newdegate enclose.

It was the same eleven that had beaten Birmingham Trams, but this time Dale lost the toss and Town kicked towards the Bond End. From the outset it was a closely-fought encounter and in the early stages a goal for Nuneaton by Moore was ruled offside before, at the other end, Hilditch was required to concede a corner under some pressure. But, after 15 minutes, it was Nuneaton who took the lead through Wakelam, who to great cheers, converted a pass from Payne.

Shortly afterwards a Halesowen player had to leave the field temporarily to receive treatment. During his absence the visitors resorted to the 'one back' game, leading to a number of offside decisions. When the player returned the game became more positive.

Late in the first half came this incident, described by the newspaper: "Halesowen broke away and though Gorman was palpably offside the referee allowed him to go on. He centred across to Roberts who stood with an open goal. A deathless silence prevailed, broken by vociferous cheering when Hilditch brought off a marvellous save." It remained 1-0 at half time.

After the break Nuneaton imposed severe pressure on the Halesowen goal with Wakelam heading just wide. However, the visitors then broke free and equalised when Ison beat Hilditch with a drive at close range.

The remainder of the game was closely and excitingly fought out but there were no further goals, although Moore nearly snatched a Nuneaton winner in the last minute.

The replay was held on the following Monday. This date was chosen because it was the day of the Halesowen Mop.

Mop fairs dated back several hundred years and were autumn hiring fairs where men seeking employment as agricultural workers or women as maidservants would be hired for a twelve month period.

Some 70 supporters from Nuneaton made the journey and made their presence felt throughout the match. At kick off there were about 500 spectators inside the ground, rising later to around 700.

The Town side was unchanged. Halesowen attacked from the beginning with Hilditch tipping a shot over the bar before making a good save from the corner which followed.

It wasn't long before another Hilditch save rebounded to Halesowen's

Tildesley who drove into the net to give the home side an early lead. It was quite a mediocre game there after although the Nuneaton post was hit in another attack. Town had the occasional chance, but Halesowen deserved their 1-0 interval advantage.

Nuneaton seemed more determined after the break and Payne hit the post, before Savage missed an open goal, ballooning over the bar from close in.

On another occasion a Town free kick hit the bar and bounced down onto the line before being cleared.

Finally, with just ten minutes remaining Moore grabbed a deserved equaliser

for the “Nuns”. Then, a clever bit of play by Payne in which he took the ball past several Halesowen players, ended with him being dispossessed just a few yards from the goal.

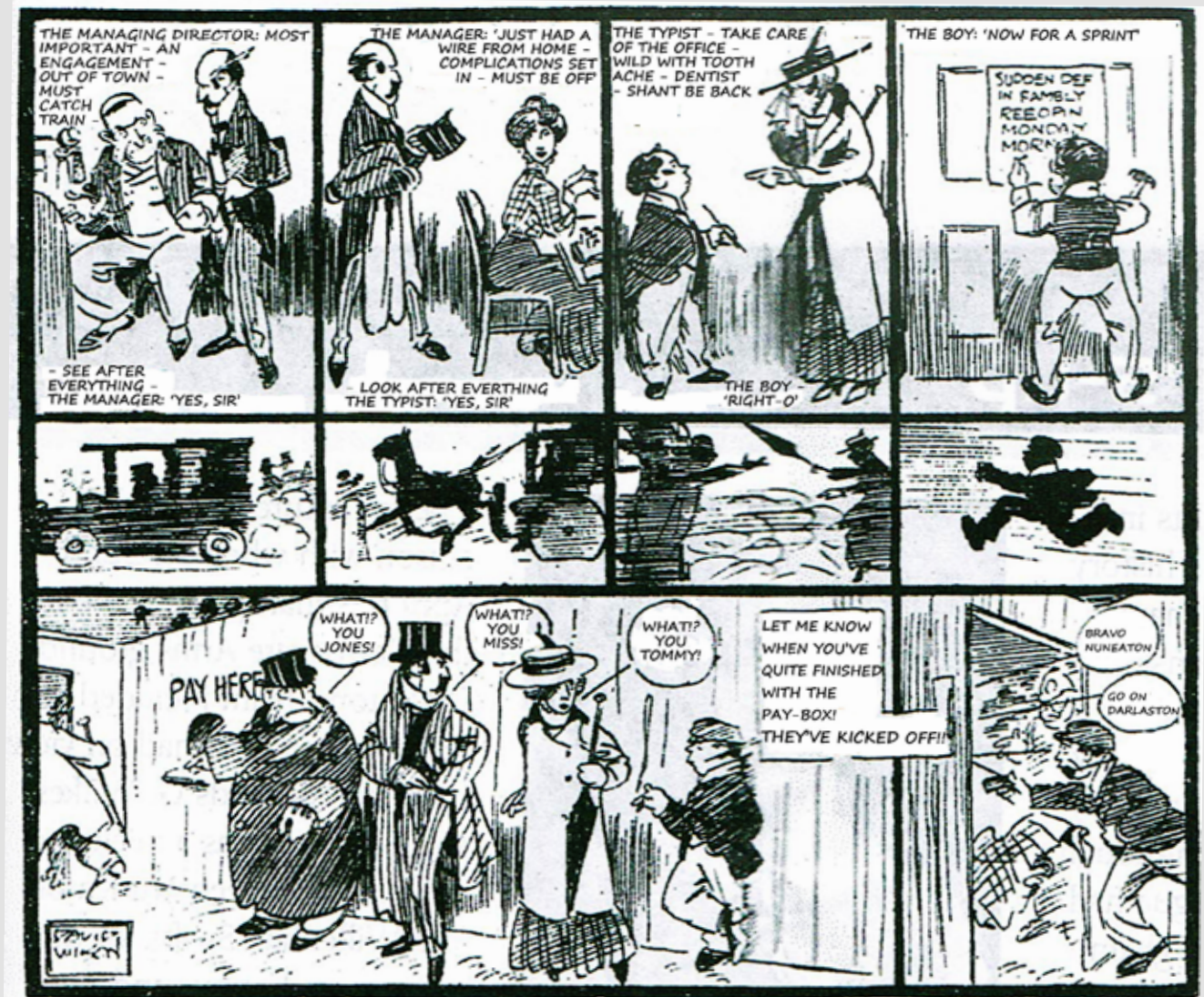
Sadly, from the breakaway Halesowen’s Gorman slotted home the winning goal. It was probably less than Nuneaton deserved.

In fact, it seemed as if it took Nuneaton 45 minutes to get used to the uneven surface, which was very different from the smooth pitch at the Newdegate. As a result it was a generally scrappy encounter. It was also a bad-tempered game with

many incidents of rough play — and a referee who failed to exert authority. Town’s winger Moore was limping for long periods of the game.

So it was the end of the FA Cup for another year. Back in Nuneaton, anyone wanting to know the result could look for the light displayed at Coleman’s the stationers and booksellers in Abbey Street. This time it was red for defeat. The results of all away games were wired to the shop — blue for a win, white for a draw and red for a defeat.

In the next round Halesowen lost 2-0 at Worcester City.



The above cartoon was based on a popular song from 1910 — ‘Saturday-attur-day-Afternoon’

Nuneaton Town 1894-1919 Part 1



1910

09.01	Coventry City	H	Friendly	3-2	Savage 3
09.03	Bromsgrove Rovers	H	BC	6-0	Savage 2, Wakelam, Field, Foster, o.g.(Penny)
09.10	Hinckley United	H	Friendly	4-0	Savage, Field, J.Moore, Oliver (p)
09.17	Birmingham Trams	H	EC PR	2-1	Savage, Wakelam
09.24	Wellington St.Georges	A	BC	5-1	Wakelam 2, Savage, Payne, Harper
10.01	Halesowen	H	EC 1Q	1-1	Wakelam
10.03	Halesowen	A	EC 1Qr	1-2	J.Moore
10.08	Bilston United	A	BC	2-1	Wakelam, A.Moore
10.15	Willenhall Pickwick	H	BC	3-0	Savage, Wakelam, Morley
10.22	Cannock Town	A	BC	1-0	Wakelam
10.29	Birmingham Trams	H	BC	3-0	Wakelam 2, J.Moore
11.05	Bournville Athletic	A	BC	7-0	Savage 4, Wakelam, Field, o.g.(Wood)
11.12	Redditch United	A	BC	2-5	Wakelam 2
11.19	Stoke City Reserves	H	Friendly	2-2	Savage, Payne
11.26	Cradley Heath St.Lukes	H	BC	4-3	Savage, Wakelam, Field, J.Moore
12.03	Darlaston	A	BC	0-4	
12.10	Willenhall Swifts	H	BC	4-1	Savage 3, A.Moore
12.24	Bournbrook	H	BC	10-0	A.Moore 4, Dale 3, Savage 3
12.26	Bilston United	H	BC	4-3	A.Moore 2, Dale, Savage
12.31	Stirchley United	A	BC	4-3	Field, Savage, Harper, Dale (p)

1911

1.7	Birmingham Trams	A	BC	0-2	
1.14	Bournville Athletic	H	BC	3-1	A.Moore, Wakelam, J.Moore
1.21	Bromsgrove Rovers	A	BC	3-2	Savage, J.Moore, Wakelam
1.28	Wellington St.George	H	BC	4-2	Dale, Savage, A.Moore, Payne
2.4	Bournbrook	A	BC	4-1	Savage 3, o.g.(Campkin)
2.11	Cannock Town	H	BC	4-0	J.Moore 2, Savage, A.Moore
2.18	Coombs Wood	A	BC	1-2	Savage
3.4	Redditch United	H	BC	2-3	Savage, A.Moore
3.11	Hednesford Town	A	BC	2-1	Smith, J.Moore
3.18	Willenhall Swifts	A	BC	3-2	A.Moore, J.Moore, Payne
3.25	Hednesford Town	H	BC	1-2	Dunn
4.1	Willenhall Pickwick	A	BC	0-1	
4.8	Stirchley United	H	BC	4-0	A.Moore 3, Payne
4.15	Cradley Heath St.Lukes	A	BC	3-2	J.Moore 2, Keeley
4.17	Cannock Town	H	FC SF	1-1*	Carris
4.18	Coombs Wood	H	BC	0-2	
4.19	Atherstone Town	A	Friendly	5-1	Smith 2, Hadley, Wright, Mason
4.22	Darlaston	H	BC	4-0	A.Moore, Smith, Dunn, Oliver

* Apr 17 Nuneaton Town ceded

Key: BC=Birmingham Combination, EC=English Cup, FC=Forester`s Cup

Nuneaton scores first.

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