



Nuneaton's Footballing Heritage

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# Nuneaton Town 1894-1919 Part 2

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## Season 1911-1912

### Pre-Season

The signatures of 25 players have already been secured, and negotiations are at the present time proceeding with several more experienced players. As Nuneaton will this year only run the one team, it will be seen that plenty of players will be at the disposal of the management. No less than five goalkeepers have been signed, Lines, one of last year's custodians, being among the number. The new signatories are Withers (late of Cradley St Peter's), Lucas (Handsworth St Mary's), Alcock (Leamington Town) and Stell. Alcock is well known in this locality as a thoroughly capable man, while Stell has had five years' first-class experience in the Lancashire Combination (1st and 2nd Division). He has secured work at Coventry, so will be close at hand.

There should also be a sound defence, as in addition to Leslie Dale, the backs include Jones (Coombs Wood), Brooks (Coalville), and Cotton. Arthur Harper, Payne, and A. Moore ("Muzzer") have all been retained as half-backs, and these three alone were greatly respected throughout the whole of the Combination Clubs last season. In addition Richard Harper (of Delta Works), who so pleased the crowd the few times he played in the blue and white has signed for the Town, and two others are Clemence (of Kettlebrook), and J. Shipman, a promising player from one of the Birmingham Junior Clubs. Negotiations are proceeding with another well-known Combination half-back, so this all-important department bids fair to be A1.

In football parlance the prospective forward line should be "hot." Smith (of Delta Works) proved his capability last season as a pivot, and has been much sought after. Then Oliver and Dunn should cause little misgivings as to the right wing. Mason is also known to the crowd as a capable and hard-working player, but he will probably have a job to retain his place against some of the new-comers. Olley, who is in the scholastic profession in the district, has had good experience in Yorkshire football, and is a proved goal-getter. He plays either centre or inside-left. T. Evans is a youth from the Black Country, who has become prominent in minor football in that district; others - young chaps with a future before them - are Branson (outside or inside right of Arden Hills Works League team); Jones (outside left from Phillips' Athletic, Works League); Glover (outside forward from Coalville), with a magnificent goal-scoring record - 48 in one season. "Taddy" Stringer has also signed on and efforts are being made to secure yet another one or two forwards, notably an outside left who is well-known, and for whose services next season there is keen competition. We hope to announce the additional names next week...

### Football "Smoker"

In connection with Nuneaton Town Football Club, a smoking concert was held at the Granby Head Inn on Saturday evening last, and was a successful event. In the unavoidable absence of the Mayor, Mr G. R. Biggs presided, and during the proceedings presented the medals won by the first and second teams last season. A capital programme was carried out. Mr F. Jukes rendering several brilliant pianoforte pieces, as well as accompanying the artistes. Mr W. J. Pashley (Birmingham) and Mr H. Lawrence delighted the company with their humorous selections, and Messrs. S. Stevenson, Slater, Roper, Davis, and others were much appreciated.

### Wellington St George's v Nuneaton Town 02-09-1911

**Nuneaton: Lines; Dale and H. Jones; A. Harper, R. Harper and Payne; Oliver, Dunn, Smith, A. Moore and Beaman.**

The opening day of the season saw Nuneaton make the long journey to Wellington St. George.

Town started off strongly, but only eight minutes had gone when they found themselves a goal down, Davies being the scorer for Wellington. Town were level almost immediately when Smith scored a beauty from Beaman's cross. Davies then scored again for the home side, but Nuneaton continued to attack and the Wellington goal had some narrow escapes.

The home forwards were playing well and pushing back the visitors and eventually scoring a third goal. Towards the break "Muzzer" and Dunn both had near misses, but at the whistle Wellington led by 3-1.

Town attacked strongly at the start of the second half, but the "Saints" soon regained the upper hand and Davies scored their fourth goal after seven minutes of the second half had elapsed. The game was very exciting with Lines having to save shot after shot, but Town eventually broke away and Arthur Harper played the ball up to Oliver, who netted the ball to make the score 4-2. Nuneaton then bombarded the home goal, but they could not force another goal and in the closing stages Davies scored Wellington's fifth and his fourth to make the score 5-2. After this Town became totally demoralised and Wellington monopolised the rest of the play.

### Nuneaton Town v Hinckley United 02-09-1911

**Nuneaton: Allcock; Cotton and W. Jones; Clements, Somers and Scattergood; Branson, G. Moore, Olley, Robbins and Moulton.**

On the same day as the Wellington St George's away game, Nuneaton put out a side in a friendly match against Hinckley United. There was a good crowd at the Newdegate for the game and "Kid" Moore gave the home side the lead after 30 minutes, giving Pick, in the Hinckley goal, no chance. The

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Hinckley keeper then saved from Olley, but just on half-time Wilson got Hinckley's equaliser, making the score 1-1 at the break.

Soon after the restart "Kid" was making his way through the visitors' defence when he was brought down. He took the penalty himself and Pick charged at the shot, but only managed to deflect the shot onto the post and into the net. Not long after, Hinckley got the equaliser with Hackett heading home to make it 2-2. Town then pressed a great deal and Pick was called on to save again and again. The home side pressed hard and won a corner, which was well placed by Moulton. Robbins headed accurately to Olley, who found the net to put the home side ahead 3-2, which was the score when the final whistle sounded.

## Nuneaton Town v Stoke City XI 04-09-1911

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Dale and Cotton; A. Harper, R. Harper and Payne; Stringer, Dunn, Robbins, A. Moore and Smith.

On the Monday evening, Nuneaton welcomed Stoke City to the Newdegate Ground. Albert Savage turned out for Stoke and their side contained several first team players. Town were without Beaman, who was injured.

The game proved to be a decent game, with Stoke displaying more science, but with Nuneaton holding their own. It looked as if it would be 0-0 at the break, but Griffiths scored for the visitors with a great shot to put them 1-0 ahead at the interval.

On the restart Dunn put in a tremendous shot which Herron just managed to tip over, and "Muzzer" scored a goal, which was given offside. Stoke increased their lead through Paxton, but "Muzzer" then scored one that counted. Just before the end Robbins looked to be making his way through when he was tripped. A penalty was awarded, which Robbins took himself and made no mistake from the spot, giving the home side a creditable 2-2 draw.

## Nuneaton Town v Hednesford Town 09-09-1911

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Dale and Cotton; A. Harper, R. Harper and Payne; Oliver, Dunn, Smith, Robbins and A. Moore.  
**Hednesford:** Tatem; Reaney and Corbett; Owen, G. Walker and Lyons; Bristow, W. Walker, Shinton, Riley and J. Moore.

A large crowd assembled for the visit of Hednesford Town. Town experimented in playing local lad Cotton at left back in place of H. Jones, while Alban Moore was moved to outside left in place of the injured Beaman. Robbins figured at inside left.

Dale won the toss and kicked towards the Burgage End. The game started with Payne having to clear and Robbins getting the ball forward. From a throw-in by Arthur Harper, Robbins shot just over the bar. The same player then narrowly missed from another attempt. Riley missed a good chance at the other end, shooting wide with only the keeper to beat. Jack Moore forced Dale to concede a corner, but Arthur Harper cleared. Reaney all but put in his own net, the ball grazing the crossbar.

Tatem scrambled away Payne's long shot, before Richard Harper went close with another long shot. Dunn struck the upright with a rattling shot. Oliver's corner was accurate but came to nothing before Nuneaton pressed hard and an exciting few minutes play followed, with the crowd letting out several "Oh!s" as Town went close on three occasions.

The visitors attacked and a goal looked certain, and Lines managed to stop the shot, but rebounded to Jack Moore who put the visitors 1-0 up. Town equalised just five minutes later when a throw in from Arthur Harper was picked up by Robbins, who scored a beauty, to make it 1-1. Soon after, a fine centre was missed by Smith and Robbins, as "Muzzer" rushed in, the ball was cleared by Reaney. Smith then put in a ripping shot that was very close to giving the home side the lead.

Nuneaton were not to be denied, however, and Oliver put a cross in, which "Muzzer" turned goalwards, but one of the Hednesford defenders kept the ball out with his hand and a penalty was awarded - Robbins making no mistake. At half time Nuneaton were 2-1 ahead.

Town attacked from the off in the second half, with Tatem and his backs experiencing difficulty in getting the ball away. Robbins was then robbed at the last minute when he looked to go clear, before two lovely centre from "Muzzer" went begging, Smith heading over from the second one. A Hednesford corner was cleared by Lines, who then won an ovation following a brilliant save from Shinton.

Shinton was pulled up for offside when in a good position and "Muzzer" put in a good cross that Robbins put wide. A foul was awarded against Hednesford for impeding the keeper. Arthur Harper passed forward to Robbins, but Reaney dashed in to clear. Payne and Cotton were then both beaten on the visitors' right and Walker scored, the ball slipping through Lines' hands and into the net.

Oliver picked up the ball from the re-start and shot hard at Tatem, who managed to divert the ball. Robbins then shot over the bar when well placed and Payne followed suit shortly after. Hednesford's Owen then had to retire, leaving the visitors with ten men. Town then battled during the latter stages of the game to get the winner, but the final whistle came with the scores at 2-2.

A English Cup page featuring matches against Willenhall Swifts and Brierley Hill Alliance appears on later pages.

## Coombs Wood v Nuneaton Town 23-09-1911

**Coombs Wood:** Hayes; Parkes and Bill; Watton, Causer and Hadley; Hemming, Westwood, Wright, Pritchard and Timmins.  
**Nuneaton:** Platt; Dale and A. Harper; Dunn, Payne and A. Moore; Oliver, G. Moore, Robbins, Mason and Smith.

Town travelled to Blackheath to face Coombs Wood. The ground was not one of the best and the constant drizzle made conditions slippery. Beaman was out injured, so Smith moved to outside left and was partnered by Mason.



Coombs Wood kicked off in front of a fair crowd, and the first action saw Pritchard shoot over the bar for the home side. Harper was then forced to clear from under the bar, before Town attacked again through Smith and Mason, who forced a corner. Smith's shot forced Hayes to push around the post, while Robbins then missed by a couple of inches. With about 14 minutes gone "Kid" Moore had practically an open goal, but took too much time, and the ball broke to Oliver whose shot was punched out by Hayes, but only as far as Smith, who trapped and shot the ball into the net to give the visitors the lead.

Mason almost made it two, but was narrowly wide. Wright then shot over for the home side before Mason had the ball in the net at the other end, but it was disallowed for offside. The home side then pegged Town back for some time. Platt punched clear, but the Woodites pressed again and Harper badly miskicked in front of the goal and Wright banged the ball past Platt to make it 1-1.

Dale had to concede a corner as Coombs Wood kept up the pressure for a time, but Town then broke and came very close to scoring on more than one occasion, but the ball was either wide of the post or over the top. "Kid" then exhibited some tricky play, but the ball was forced wide. Just before the break the home team got down the right and Pritchard got into a shooting position, but shot straight into Platt's hands. At the break the score was 1-1.

Straight after the break, both teams had attacks that came to nothing, but after five minutes Payne took the ball down the left and beat several players before crossing the ball to "Kid", who shot into the net to make it 2-1. Hemmings then got away for the home side, but shot weakly from a good position, and Town came back at the "Woodites" and Robbins shot wide before another break looked like a certain goal, but was brought to an halt by an offside decision. Hayes then had to kick away under pressure from "Kid" and had some difficulty in dealing with Robbins' header from Dunn's cross.

The home goal had a miraculous escape as Town laid siege, with Hayes having to deal with several hard shots, while Oliver landed the ball on top of the net. Play then became monotonous and confined in home territory, with Robbins missing an easy chance. Coombs Wood broke at last, forcing a corner, which came to nought. The rain then began to fall heavily, which caused a mass stampede of spectators. Town held the upper hand right up until the final whistle, which saw them win a poor game 2-1.

Town captain, Dale, who has had many partners in his time at the club, now has a permanent one, as he was married last Wednesday and travelled from his honeymoon in Blackpool to take his place in the side that faced Coombs Wood.

## Cradley Heath St Lukes v Nuneaton Town 07-10-1911

**Cradley Heath:** Walters; Partridge and Court; J. Parkes, Ellis and I. Parkes; Williams, Hackett, Stevens, Kimberley and Franks.

**Nuneaton:** Platt; Dale and Harper; Dunn, Payne and A. Moore; Oliver, G. Moore, Smith, Robbins and Beaman.

Nuneaton travelled to Codsall Park, Cradley, to face Cradley Heath St Lukes. The only team changes saw Smith moved to centre-forward and Robbins to inside-left.

Stevens ran at Town's defence in the first minute, but was stopped by Dale at the expense of a corner. Payne put in a stinging shot for Town which was saved by Walters, with Parkes completing the clearance. Partridge then cleared from a Nuneaton attack in an exciting period of play, with both goals being visited. Smith sent in a rasping shot, but Walters cleared and at the other end Platt punched clear from Stevens.

Dunn put a shot wide before Payne's shot was cleared by Walters. Smith got away on the left, but was halted by Court. Robbins struck the crossbar and Walters got the ball away at the expense of a corner. The home team were under severe pressure at this stage, but their defence stood firm. Cradley then took the lead - Kimberley picked up Williams' centre and passed to Franks, who shot against the upright and Stevens struck the rebound into the net to make it 1-0.

Cradley attacked strongly and won three corners, all unsuccessful. Franks tested Platt with a long shot and later shot over the bar. Harper checked a dangerous rush from the home side, but then conceded a penalty. Platt saved the initial kick, but it was ordered to be retaken and Ellis scored to make it 2-0, which was the score at half-time.

After the break, the game changed dramatically, with Cradley monopolising the play, with Williams scoring straight after the break. Stevens made it four following a Williams' corner and shortly after Hackett made it 5-0, quickly followed by a goal from Stevens, who completed his hat-trick. Town's misery was complete when Ellis scored from Williams' cross to make it 7-0.

Town made one or two attacks, but Walters was in good form and this together with the ineptitude of the visitors' forward line ensured no goals were conceded. At the final whistle Nuneaton had suffered their biggest ever defeat in Combination football. The Press took the opportunity to accuse Nuneaton Town's committee of being 'penny wise and pound foolish' in trying to run a team on the cheap.

## Nuneaton Town v Bournville Athletic 14-10-1911

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Dale and Page; A. Harper, Payne and A. Moore; Oliver, Dunn, Smith, Corbett and Beaman.

**Bournville:** Dixon; A. Price and Bowden; Terry, Higgins and Crabtree; Dolphin, Powell, H. Price, Cope and Grayland.

Bournville visited The Newdegate, being one of only two teams so far unbeaten in the league. Lines replaced Platt in goal. Dale won the toss and kicked towards the Bond Street end.



Nuneaton attacked from the off and scored a goal in the first minute of the match, Smith shooting home after a pass from Dunn. Smith then struck the upright before Bournville broke and Lines was forced into a fine save. Corbett shot wide when well placed and Oliver finished off some tricky play by testing Dixon with a good shot.

Dunn troubled Dixon with a terrific shot before a pass from "Muzzer" enabled Beaman to centre, but Dunn was moving too quickly to bring the ball under control. Dixon was then forced to punch away twice in quick succession before the cocoa-boys attacked to no avail. Smith shot just over the bar from a good position shortly before half-time, at which point Town led 1-0.

After the break Corbett tested Dixon and as Town continued to press, Dunn headed goalwards, but Dixon pulled off a tremendous save, punching clear, but only as far as Oliver, who put the ball back in and a melee ensued, but nothing came of it. Lines was forced to save before Dunn took the ball down and forced a corner. Oliver placed so well that Bournville were forced to concede another and when Beaman crossed Corbett met it and placed the ball into the net to make it 2-0.

Lines was forced into a save from Cope, while at the other end Dunn's centre was collected by Dixon. Bournville pressed but could not get the ball past Lines and play was quickly transferred to the other end where Dunn shot just wide of the goal. Dolphin then crossed all the way over the goal mouth, but the visitors forwards failed to capitalise. Payne was then penalised for handball, but Lines saved twice in short order.

As Bournville kept up the pressure, Harper committed a foul in the penalty area and Dolphin gave Lines no chance from the kick, making it 2-1. Town then had a penalty appeal for handball turned down before Oliver's well placed corner was shot home by Smith, making it 3-1. Oliver went on a good run before Dale tried his luck but his effort went just over the bar. Dunn won applause for some tricky play before Smith put in a lightning shot which almost found the target. Town increased their lead when Dixon rushed out to meet "Muzzer", whose shot hit the post. When the ball bounced out, two or three Nuneaton players tried to put the ball into the empty goal, but Corbett got the last touch and made it 4-1, despite protests from the visitors. Later, Dale played in Oliver and the winger put a shot just over the bar as Nuneaton continued to press, but there were no further goals and Town ran out 4-1 winners.

## Dudley Phoenix v Nuneaton Town 21-10-1911

**Dudley:** Lester; Scrivens and H. Greenaway; Hughes, S. Greenaway and Amphlett; Tonks, Smith, Corbett, Osborne and Fellows.

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Dale and Page; A. Harper, Summers and A. Moore; Oliver, Dunn, Smith, Corbett and Beaman.

Town made the trip to Dudley to face one of the league's newcomers, Dudley Phoenix, who hadn't made a great start in their debut Combination season. Payne was injured for Town and Summers came in.

Dunn and Oliver featured early on, which resulted in Corbett

heading goalwards, but Lester handled safely. Dudley made headway towards Town's goal, but Summers and Moore broke up the attack. Page also put in some good defensive work. Oliver was then fouled close to the penalty area, but Harper's kick came to nothing. However, Dunn opened the scoring with a high cross shot to put the visitors one up.

Dale made a clearance when a goal seemed likely before Town played some clever football and won a corner. Beaman crossed well but Lester cleared. Town were having most of the play and Summers, Dale and Page all featured prominently. Smith's pass found Oliver who let the ball run out of play when well placed. Fellows shot wide for the home side before Town tested the Dudley goal, Dunn shooting straight at Lester. Smith and Dunn broke through again and Lester saved from Dunn.

After 30 minutes play, Nuneaton increased their lead when Smith put past Lester. Dunn broke through with Oliver, but Dunn put his shot wide. Town had Dudley under constant pressure with Lines only having handled the ball twice in the entire half. At the break Nuneaton were 2-0 ahead.

Town made it 3-0 immediately after the break when Dunn scored. Beaman then forced Lester into a good save after Corbett and Smith had combined, however, the keeper was then beaten by a long effort from Smith to make it 4-0. Corbett had a goal disallowed for offside before Harper put in a beautiful shot which Lester cleared. Summers, Moore and Page then put in good shots, but Dunn eventually made it 5-0. In spite of Town's total dominance Dudley then scored two goals from breakaways to make the score 5-2 at the final whistle.

## Walsall Reserves v Nuneaton Town 23-10-1911

Making their first appearance in the Birmingham Senior Cup, Town travelled for a midweek match at Walsall. Because the match was scheduled for midweek, Nuneaton were unable to field a full side, with players being unable to get time off. Chance scored for the home team after 10 minutes play. Lines then made good saves from Haywood, Chance and Chambers, but was well beaten by a long shot from Adams. Beaman went close for Town but Caddick scored a third for Walsall following good play from Rogers. The half time score was 3-0 to the home side.

On changing end Walsall continued to dominate and Chance scored a fourth goal with a shot from a narrow angle. Town did attack occasionally, but the game degenerated and at the final whistle Walsall had won a poor game by 4-0.

## Nuneaton Town v Willenhall Pickwick 28-10-1911

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Dale and Page; Payne, Summers and A. Moore; Oliver, Dunn, Smith, Corbett and Beaman.

**Willenhall:** Henworth; Archer and Edge; Kent, Robinson and Wootton; Kirby, Holt, Langford, Bliss and Dobbs.

A good crowd of over 2,000 greeted old rivals Willenhall Pickwick to the Newdegate. Fred Payne returned in place of Arthur Harper and Summers kept his position at centre-half.



Smith kicked off for Nuneaton and after some midfield play, Oliver secured possession and passed to Dunn, who shot wide. Oliver then crossed to Beaman, who forced Henworth to save. A roar of disapproval greeted the referee's decision to give an offside as Nuneaton broke away. Dale then stemmed a rush for the visitors, while at the other end Dunn's lightning shot went narrowly wide and Payne shot from distance.

Smith then won applause for a fine individual effort and Bliss headed over from Kirby's cross. Summers was not having a good game at centre-half and he and Payne swapped places. Henworth then had a save to make at the expense of a corner, but Beaman's cross was cleared. Although the home forwards were getting some shots in, the Willenhall defence stood firm.

Picks then attacked through Robinson, which ended in Bliss gaining possession and shooting past Lines, who stood no chance. Town attacked desperately and Henworth saved from both Smith and Dunn, while Payne shot just wide. Town were unlucky not to have scored on the balance of play, but at half time the score was 1-0 to the visitors.

Town started the second half with ten men, Beaman being injured, but still they attacked and Henworth saved well from Corbett. Lines then saved at the other end before play was transferred to Dunn who grazed the crossbar. A shot from Payne missed by inches before Beaman returned to the action.

Oliver missed a good chance by wanting too much time, but later the winger almost made amends when he put in a brilliant centre, from which a melee ensued and a defender handled, but the referee ignored penalty appeals. Lines then won the applause of the crowd when he saved from Holt, who had the goal at his mercy. However, a minute or two later Holt worked a beautiful opening for Bliss, who scored to make it 2-0.

Town then attacked for some considerable time, but the Willenhall goal led a charmed life. Oliver had a good attempt before Lines was called into action and defended well, but Bliss then tried one from thirty yards, which sailed into the net to make it 3-0. Two minutes before time Oliver got the ball out to Dunn on the right, who returned to Beaman, whose centre was netted by Oliver, making it 3-1 at the final whistle.

## **Bromsgrove Rovers v Nuneaton Town 04-11-1911**

**Nuneaton: Lines; Bayliss and Page; Harper, Payne and A. Moore; G. Moore, Dunn, Sheldon, Smith and Beaman.**

**Bromsgrove: Winsper; Jew and Barrett; Bowker, Penney and Michael; Fryer, Hayward, Styles, Savage and Baker.**

Town drastically reshaped their team for the visit to Bromsgrove Rovers. Dale, Summers and Corbett were all dropped, whilst Oliver was indisposed. Town gave a debut to Wolverhampton based right-back Bayliss, Arthur Harper came back at right-half and a centre-forward, Sheldon, from Hednesford came in. Smith moved to inside-left and "Kid" Moore took Oliver's place on the right wing.

Payne captained the Town and following the kick-off they

immediately attacked Winsper's goal, Beaman shooting in the keeper's hands. Sheldon and Payne both had shots and the visitors were well on top during the first ten minutes. Dunn burst through, but shot wide. Bromsgrove then attacked but Bayliss and Page forced them back, while at the other end Beaman forced a corner and Smith shot wide.

Michael's shot was cleared by Lines as Bromsgrove had a period of pressure. Nuneaton hit back and good inter-play between Harper and "Kid" transferred play to the other end where Beaman put in a good shot that was well saved by Winsper. At this stage Nuneaton swarmed around Winsper, but the keeper was having a great game and saved repeatedly. Nuneaton eventually took the lead following a great run from Emmin Dunn, which ended when Beaman beat Winsper to put the visitors 1-0 up after 30 minutes.

Smith got a second goal following a great pass from Beaman, who ended a great run by beating Winsper to make it 2-0 to Town. Bromsgrove attacked briefly before the visitors went further ahead when Dunn broke through before finishing with a beautiful effort which beat Winsper easily. Bromsgrove went close through Hayward, whilst later Page conceded a fruitless corner. Sheldon and Payne both troubled Winsper before the half time whistle, which saw Nuneaton go in 3-0 up.

Town attacked again after the break with "Kid" and Dunn pressing. Town were having practically all of the play and Dunn missed two good chances when he looked like scoring. Beaman put one into the side netting as Bromsgrove tried to open up the game, but Harper and "Muzzer" were working well, as were the backs. Lines also made some good saves. Town soon had Bromsgrove back defending and Payne sent in a brilliant long shot which just missed.

Smith then missed a chance and the inside men played some brilliant football. Sheldon and Smith again dashed off for the home goal, but the shot went wide. However, Sheldon broke through and Dunn picked up the ball to score Town's fourth goal. Bromsgrove, realising they were facing heavy defeat, then came to life and Lines tipped Penney's shot over the bar.

Bromsgrove were not to be denied and eventually they were rewarded when Hayward netted to make it 4-1. Penney then scored a second making it 4-2, but Town reasserted themselves and Sheldon started a move that ended with Emmin Dunn completing his hat-trick and making the final score 5-2.

## **Nuneaton Town v Cannock Town 11-11-1911**

**Nuneaton: Lines; Bayliss and Page; Harper, Payne and A. Moore; Oliver, Dunn, Sheldon, Smith and Beaman.**

**Cannock: Rostance; Gray and Shorter; Morris, H. Gray and Brooks; Harrison, Saunders, Hughes, Stokes and Cresswell.**

Cannock Town visited the Newdegate in some decent form and the home team showing just one change with Oliver coming back from illness to replace "Kid" Moore.

Payne won the toss and kicked toward the Bond Street end.

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In the first minute Dunn passed out to Oliver whose cross was put wide by Sheldon. The centre-forward then gave a beautiful pass to Oliver, who put in a good centre that Sheldon headed over. Bayliss and Page had some defending to do, but a foul against “Muzzer” saw Cannock win a corner from which Lines saved Saunders’ shot.

Sheldon played some long swinging passes out to his wingers as Nuneaton kept the ball upfield and Payne had two long shots which were both off target. Beaman then put in a gem which went close and then centred for Dunn, who failed to control, although Smith dashed in and made a late attempt.

At the other end, Cannock saw a shot hit the top of the bar and bounce over before Nuneaton resumed their attack, with the visitors’ goal having a miraculous escape - the goalkeeper falling on top of the ball with the home players trying to kick the ball into the net from underneath him. Rostance was kept busy and saved well from shots by Smith, Sheldon and others.

Oliver landed a shot just over the bar and Harper shot yards wide. Oliver then went on a fine run, but lost the ball on the point of shooting. The right winger next got forward and shot, with Rostance running out, missing the ball. Sheldon who was in the goalmouth inadvertently stopped the ball going into the net. Payne and Smith then missed by a couple of inches. Rostance then dealt with an effort from Oliver in masterly fashion, while Sheldon headed over from a corner.

Nuneaton dominated play but were unable to score, but at last the inevitable happened - Payne put the ball out to Oliver, who centred, and Dunn met the ball, and from an acute angle, put the ball into the net. Just on half-time Town looked to score again when Oliver found Sheldon unmarked in the area, but just as he was about to score the referee blew for half time, much to the disgust of the crowd.

Beaman shot over at the start of the second half and “Muzzer” dropped the ball in the area, but Sheldon was offside. Rostance then made a wonderful save from Smith, amid half-choked cries of “goal!” Beaman then rattled one into the side netting and Smith landed one on the top of the net. The same player then exhibited an exhilarating bit of play, going around player after player and forcing a defender into an acrobatic clearance which ended with Rostance running out to clear.

“Muzzer” was then injured and required ambulance treatment. Smith dropped to half-back, and even then put in a beautiful shot that Rostance had difficulty in holding. The same player then missed by barely an inch before Cannock finally went on the attack, sending in a shot which cleared the bar. Normal service was soon resumed as Sheldon headed over, Payne shot wide and Smith hit the bottom of the upright. “Muzzer” then made a re-appearance and played up front.

Rostance was heartily applauded for another great save from Dunn and then saving from a crowd of players, which won

him further applause. The assault continued and Rostance saved again and again as right up to the finish it was a series of thrilling attacks and brilliant defence. When the final whistle sounded a large section of the crowd surrounded Rostance and congratulated him on his performance.

## **Birmingham Trams v Nuneaton Town 18-11-1911**

**Trams: Tustin; Lippett and Pritchard; McCourty, Goode and Walker; Regan, Foster, Sheppard, Coyle and Bennett.**

**Nuneaton: Lines; Bayliss and Page; Harper, Dale and Payne; Oliver, Robbins, Sheldon, Smith and Beaman.**

Town travelled to King’s Heath to face Birmingham Trams in what was recognised as being a stiff task. Town were forced into two changes, with Dunn and “Muzzer” being replaced by Robbins and Dale.

The opening exchanges were fairly even, with play being of a fairly dull nature for some time. This was relieved when Oliver got away, but nothing resulted. Page then stopped a dangerous rush by Trams, before a home corner resulted in Foster shooting wide. A little later Fisher shot wide for the home side and Tustin saved from Sheldon. Handball against Dale spoiled a Town move, but shortly afterwards Robbins forced Tustin into a save.

When Trams pressed Coyle missed narrowly with a long shot. Robbins should then have scored for Nuneaton, but mis-kicked in front of goal and Tustin scrambled the ball away. Town continued to press, but Trams held firm. Beaman then failed to take advantage of a good chance, missing the ball which ran out of play.

The heavy ground was slowing the pace of the game and there was little spirit in the game. The next action saw Lines made a great save from Goode before a free kick on the edge of the area looked ominous. It was, however, negotiated. Trams, though, continued to press and just before the interval Regan crossed for Sheppard to head into the net. Trams almost doubled their lead from a corner before Beaman beat his man and shot into the side netting. Half-time came with Trams leading 1-0.

At the start of the second half Tustin tipped over Oliver’s cross before Smith and Sheldon exchanged passes, the move coming to nought. Town then had a period of pressure and Payne shot over from distance before Trams again attacked. The play was end to end and Tustin saved well from Beaman and again from Sheldon’s header. At the other end Lines and Page both cleared dangerous attacks by Trams. Oliver got a cross in that Smith fired hard at Tustin, who brought off a great save, and Lines took the ball off Coyle’s toe, on the goal line.

Smith then missed an open goal following Oliver’s centre, appearing to slip at the last minute. Darkness began to fall as the game progressed, but it remained end to end, with Town trying desperately hard to get an equaliser, but being thwarted by Tustin and his backs. At the final whistle Trams were the winners by 1-0.





## Halesowen v Nuneaton Town 25-11-1911

**Halesowen:** Baptist; Bache and Jones; Danks, Gilbert and Sharpe; Baker, Perry, Tilesley, Bathford and Batty.

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Bayliss and Page; Harper, Dale and Payne; Oliver, Dunn, Sheldon, Smith and Beaman.

Nuneaton travelled to Halesowen, the home team struggling in the Combination and there being only a poor attendance. The only team change for Town saw Dunn replace Robbins.

In the early action, Dunn forced a corner early on and Beaman got away, only to kick the ball too far in front, enabling keeper Baptist to clear. At the other end Batty shot wide and Page was forced to clear from close in. Harper tried a long shot which Baptist saved in style, and after a rush by the visiting forward line, Baptist had to save again, this time from Smith. The same player hit the ball high over the bar before Oliver won a corner, but put the ball outside.

Bayliss cleared a home attack and Sheldon passed out to Beaman who passed on to Smith, who again fired over. Smith then headed into the keeper's hands from a cross by Harper, but a goal did come eventually, when Town forced a corner on the right. Oliver's cross was well placed and Smith headed the ball into the net with 30 minutes gone.

Halesowen rallied, but Dale and Page drove them back, and Sheldon got away, but Bache stopped him short. Good play between Sheldon, Smith and Dunn saw the latter shoot over. Good work by Gilbert saw Halesowen get forward, but Bayliss cleared to Dale who tested Baptist. Payne then got Beaman away, resulting in a bombardment of the home goal, which ended in Oliver shooting wide. Bathford made a good run for the home side, and Harper conceded a corner, from which Gilbert shot over. Baker was then stopped by Page before the half time whistle sounded with Nuneaton 1-0 up.

On the restart Town forced two corners before Gilbert skimmed the bar at the other end with a rattling shot. Beaman crossed to Sheldon, who was well placed to shoot, but was given offside. Sheldon also forced a corner, but despite repeated attempts, Town could not score. Time and again Nuneaton bore down on the home side with Baptist saving from Sheldon, Oliver, Smith and Beaman. Apart from a solitary effort from Halesowen late in the game the play was entirely dominated by the visitors, whose forwards were unable to convert their superiority. At the final whistle Nuneaton had won 1-0.

## Nuneaton Town v Bournbrook 02-12-1911

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Bayliss and Palmer; Harper, Dale and A. Moore; Oliver, Dunn, Sheldon, Smith and Wright.

**Bournbrook:** Groves; Mortiboys and Husler; Jones, Campkin and Allso; Skryme, Tickle, Weate, Holmes and Greaves.

Nuneaton welcomed Bournbrook to the Newdegate with the visitors doing well in the league and occupying a higher position in the table than Town. The home side made

three changes. Page, being ill, was replaced by new signing Palmer from BSA, Wright came in at the expense of Beaman and "Muzzer" made a welcome return in place of Payne.

Dale won the toss and Town kicked towards the Bond End. The visitors had the better of the opening exchanges, with Moore and Palmer being prominent in defence. Harper then got Oliver going, but he was forced out. The winger got going again, though, and put in a perfect cross to Smith who scored with just 10 minutes on the clock, giving Nuneaton a 1-0 lead.

Lines was then forced to defend and put the ball upfield before Town missed a good chance to increase their lead when Smith and Sheldon got mixed up as to who would shoot when in front of an open goal. Bournbrook then pressed strongly and Weate hit the upright with a rasping shot. Bayliss cleared and Town resumed their offensive with Dunn and Sheldon being prominent.

Wright then gained possession and centred accurately. Smith trapped the ball and with deliberate aim, put the ball well out of the reach of Groves and into the net, making it 2-0 after just 20 minutes. Dale shot over the bar before Greaves got well forward on the left, but Lines saved well at the expense of a corner. Town then got forward following some good passing, but Wright carried the ball too far. The interval arrived with Nuneaton leading 2-0.

The teams crossed straight over and Groves saved well from Sheldon before Wright headed wide from Dunn's cross. Palmer stemmed a Bournbrooke attack and Nuneaton were off again, forcing Groves to rush out and clear. Wright shot weakly at Groves, while at the other end, Lines saved with a crowd of players on top of him, and was later forced to save when one of his own defenders fly kicked towards the goal. Dale then sent Oliver on a thrilling run, which saw a cross over the goalmouth, but it went wide. Sheldon looked as though he might go through on his own, but eventually put the ball out to Oliver, who won a corner that came to nothing.

Bayliss tried his luck with a shot from distance, but Groves saved at the expense of a corner. Dunn then brought a save from Groves and Dale put wide. When Bournbrook attacked Lines was forced to put over for a corner. Oliver was then brought down on the edge of the area and from the free kick, Groves again saved. Town's pressure yielded a goal at long last when Smith worked a great opening for Dunn to score, to give the home side a 3-0 lead.

Good work between Oliver and Dunn then allowed the former to put in a magnificent shot which hit the underside of the bar before bouncing back into play. At the other end, Lines was called on to save, but the visitors broke away again and Tickle cut the deficit with only a few minutes to play and the light fading. The final score was 3-1 to Nuneaton.



## Redditch v Nuneaton Town 16-12-1911

**Redditch:** Ward; Hillman and May; Slade, Cleaver and Court; Richardson, Morrell, Harper, Ainsworth and Perkins.

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Bayliss and Palmer; Harper, Dale and A. Moore; Oliver, Savage, Sheldon, Robbins and Smith.

Nuneaton travelled to Redditch never having achieved a single Combination win against Needle Town. Nuneaton's front line was much changed, Savage coming back to the club from Stoke, which caused Dunn to lose his place, which was a controversial decision in itself. Wright missed his train which meant Smith was moved to left wing and Robbins came in at inside-left and Page was still on the sick list. Despite the miserable weather, a good crowd was in attendance.

The first action of the match saw Sheldon pass out to Oliver, who raced away and shot across goal, but Smith misjudged the flight and the ball went over his head. A minute later Smith saw his shot hit the crossbar. "Muzzer" cleared at the other end, after which Town won a corner, which Robbins put in the net, but was given offside. Nuneaton at this stage were well on top.

Sheldon grazed the crossbar after receiving a throw-in from Harper before Redditch went into the lead. Richardson put the ball across the face of the goal, Ainsworth returned the ball and Morrall placed into the net, with ten minutes gone. Nuneaton pressed again and Robbins forced a corner, from which Sheldon put in a good shot, but Ward saved. Following a Redditch attack Savage got through at the other end and put in a brilliant shot which Ward just managed to punch away. Harper tried a long shot and then Robbins put the ball the wrong side of the post.

Town had Redditch penned in and Ward was busy dealing with shots from all quarters. A corner which brought about a period of excitement in front of the Redditch goal was followed by a free kick, which was kept out by Ward. Redditch were under siege, but try as they may Nuneaton could not score, and a free kick awarded against "Muzzer" save the home side extend their lead, Morrall fastening onto the ball and beating Lines. Half-time came almost immediately, with the home side leading by 2-0.

Savage shot wide at the start of the second half and a shot from Harper went over the bar. At this stage Smith moved to centre-forward and Sheldon to outside left. Smith and Robbins both tested Ward. Redditch then had a prolonged attack in which Lines saved several times. Nuneaton they got back on the front foot, but a goal proved elusive with Ward in great form and luck not in their favour.

Eventually Town's efforts were rewarded when Dale scored a fine individual goal, working his way through the opposition defenders and bending a hard ground shot into the net, which put new heart into the Nuneaton players, but there were only a few minutes to play, and the end came with Redditch victors by two goals to one.

## Cannock Town v Nuneaton Town 23-12-1911

Two days before Christmas, Nuneaton were at Cannock, where the home fans invaded the pitch after Gray, of Cannock had been sent off. By the time the crowd had been cleared the player who had been sent off was still on the pitch. The referee then decided to make a run for it, bringing about an abrupt end to the game, with 78 minutes on the watch.

As the teams left the pitch Gray and his brother attacked Nuneaton winger Albert Savage, who managed to escape and find refuge, locking himself in the dressing room.

The match was ordered by the league to be replayed after Nuneaton were 4-2 ahead and entirely the innocent party. The goals scored before the abrupt end were credited to Wright (2) and Savage (2).

### Savage To Take Proceedings

A full Council meeting of the Birmingham Football Association was held at Birmingham last night to inquire into the disgraceful proceedings which occurred in the Cannock v. Nuneaton Town match on December 23rd. Mr Crump presided. The findings of the Combination were:

Cannock Town to be severely censured for not making adequate provision for any disorder that might arise. Notices of warning issued by the Football Association are to be posted on the ground.

Cannock Club to pay all the expenses incurred by the holding of the Commission.

The Brothers Gray suspended sine die until they appear before the Council.

Albert Savage, of the Nuneaton Club, was instructed to take proceedings against the Brother Gray.

The referee was censured for not stopping the game when the player Gray refused to go off when ordered to do so.

## Nuneaton Town v Bilston 25-12-1911

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Bayliss and Payne; Harper, Dale and A. Moore; Stringer, Dunn, Savage, Smith and Wright.

Bilston were regular visitors to the Newdegate Ground on Boxing Day and their visit was eagerly anticipated by Town supporters. Unfortunately the weather was absolutely miserable, but the crowd was better than may have been anticipated given the conditions. Page was absent and Oliver was injured, so Payne stepped in at left back and Stringer on the right wing.

Town pressed straight from the kick-off, but were caught offside. "Muzzer" then missed the target by inches and the



same player put wide a couple of minutes later. After about seven minutes Dale made room and passed out to Stringer, whose centre found Savage, who in turn found the net to put the home side 1-0 up. Three minutes later Town were awarded a penalty, which Savage converted to make it 2-0.

The Bilston goal then had some narrow escapes before they finally crossed the half-way line. Smith won the ball, however, and took it all the way upfield, his shot bringing Jackson to his knees to save. Still pressing hard, Town attacked again through Stringer, who got the ball inside to Dunn, who dropped the ball into the goalmouth for Savage to head into the net, making it 3-0 and completing his hat-trick. Within another couple of minutes, Town made it 4-0 when a Stringer corner was cleared back to the winger, who passed to Dunn. Dunn's shot hit the upright and bounced into the goal. Wright had a goal disallowed for offside before beautiful passing between Smith, Savage and Dunn resulted in Wright scoring a great goal, which made it 5-0. Stringer, who was having a great game, got the ball across the area to Savage, who scored the sixth and two minutes before half-time another Stringer centre was converted by Dunn to make the score 7-0 at half-time.

After the break Savage and Smith went close and keeper Jackson had to fall on the ball to stop Dale's shot. Smith then set Wright free, but he took the ball too far and his centre went behind. Stringer was again involved when his centre was picked up by Smith, who put the ball wide. Bilston then pulled a goal back through Bayliss, who put through his own goal.

Smith won the cheers of the crowd for a fine piece of individual play, before Savage brought a save out of Jackson. Bilston then attacked strongly, but could not make much impression on Town's defence. Dale tested Jackson with a long shot before Savage and Dunn (twice) narrowly missed the target. Stringer forced Jackson to concede a corner, from which the ball found its way into the net, but it was disallowed for an infringement. Jackson was kept busy with shots from Stringer and Payne plus three consecutive corners, but time had elapsed and at the whistle Nuneaton had won 7-1.

## Nuneaton Town v Atherstone Town 29-12-1911

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Bayliss and Payne; A. Harper, Dale and A. Moore; T. Stringer, Dunn, Savage, C. Smith and Wright.

**Atherstone:** Archer; T. Hargreaves and A. Windridge; Pardoe, Hanson and H. Hargreaves, Vines and Pellow.

The most interesting event in the Christmas holidays for miles around took place at the Newdegate Ground on Wednesday for the game between Nuneaton Town and Atherstone. The visitors were without Fred Hargreaves - Taylor taking his place and Nuneaton were still without Page, who was still ill, while Oliver was suffering with injuries sustained at Cannock. Palmer was also unavailable, so Payne filled in at left-back.

Long before the kick-off time, people began to pour into the ground, and a great round of cheering shortly after 2pm

announced the arrival of Atherstone's fans. By kick-off time it was thought the crowd was a record for the ground.

The weather had cheered up, although the pitch was not in ideal condition. When the teams came out onto the pitch, there were tumultuous applause from the crowd and another roar greeted the referee's whistle to start the game, although Atherstone were ten minutes late on the field.

Windridge won the toss and Nuneaton were set to kick towards the Burgage End. Savage kicked off and Stringer got possession and shot across goal before a Wright effort was cleared and Town won two unproductive corners. Dale robbed Hargreaves and put Dunn away, who passed out to Stringer. The winger returned to Dunn, whose shot was wide. Bayliss failed to intercept Vines, who looked like going through, but Harper brought him down and a penalty was awarded and Smith converted, but the referee ordered it be retaken, with Lines saving the kick.

The excitement was intense and the crowd had grown to around 5,000. Bayliss brought an Atherstone rush to a halt and Nuneaton attacked, but Hargreaves cleared from in front of goal. Savage and Dunn both shot wide, while at the other end Bayliss won applause for his clearance. A rush from Vines and Hanson put the Nuneaton goal under threat, as Atherstone won two corners. Tricky play from Savage and Stringer led to Smith bringing a save from keeper Archer. Dale then put in a shot, which went just wide.

Pardoe came out best in a tussle with "Muzzer" but was then laid out and required treatment. Lines then saved from Hanson before Stringer was left prone, following a collision with Alf Windridge. Having recovered Stringer put in a lovely shot which forced Archer into a good save. Dale then tested Archer with a long shot and soon after put an effort just wide.

A good move featuring Smith, Savage and Dunn resulted in Wright struck the side netting, accompanied by cries of "goal!" from the crowd. Payne stopped an Atherstone attack and found Stringer, who was given offside. An overhead kick from Smith found Savage, who passed out to Wright, Hargreaves challenged him and a fruitless corner resulted.

Bayliss distinguished himself in clearing danger and Vines missed what looked like an open goal before the half-time whistle sounded with the score 0-0.

On the restart Savage and Dunn exchanged passes, and the latter got through and passed back to Savage, whose shot was brilliantly saved by Archer. Lines cleared at the other end and Nuneaton attacked again, Archer saving from Stringer. Windridge then conceded a corner from Dunn's shot and Savage put the flag kick behind. Stringer then put in another corner which went so close that the crowd again yelled "goal!"; but Dunn's effort rolled wide. Atherstone were under continual pressure and a shot from Savage forced Archer to concede a corner, and soon after the goalkeeper had to save from Harper. Pardoe then broke away for Atherstone, but



messed up his final effort. Town then returned to the attack and Savage again found Stringer, whose centre was headed over by Smith. A free kick against Moore was well placed by Peplow and Lines was forced to dodge a crowd of players to get clear, but was penalised for carrying. Atherstone gained no advantage from the free kick and Nuneaton found their way back up the other end where Archer saved from Savage.

Dale and Hanson then came close to blows, but the referee intervened. Bayliss stemmed an "Adders" attack and offside relieved the pressure. Dale then shot over and from the goal-kick Pardoe got clear, but Harper won applause for clearing the danger. Stringer beat Windridge to the ball and made ground before putting in a cross that Atherstone's Smith nearly put through his own goal. A thrilling run by Stringer, with Windridge in pursuit raised the excitement, but Archer ran out to clear and "Muzzer" shot wide from the resulting corner.

Nuneaton's Smith then went through a host of players, but was overwhelmed by the force of numbers. Stringer then put an effort over the bar before the final whistle sounded with the final score being 0-0.

## Travelling Support

The train that conveyed the Atherstone fans to the match had 61 compartments and carried 1200 people. It was a sight to see the crowd making its way down the steps and along the subway of Nuneaton Station. The arrangements made for the comfort of the travellers were very "scanty" indeed.

## Nuneaton Town v Birmingham Trams 30-12-1911

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Bayliss and Payne; Harper, Dale and A. Moore; Stringer, Dunn, Savage, C. Smith and Wright.  
**Trams:** Tustin; Lippett and Broadfield; McCourty, Goode and Walker; Regan, Shepherd, Webber, Humphries and Edwards.

Town were unchanged for the third game in a row when Birmingham Trams visited the Newdegate. Trams had their strongest line-up on display and a large crowd had assembled for the game.

The match started quietly, there being very little action to speak of, but Stringer eventually got a cross in which was completely missed by Smith. Trams forced two corners at the other end, and a little later Goode put in a terrific shot which narrowly missed the target, but immediately following, Humphries, who appeared to be in an offside position, put the ball into the net and the goal was allowed by the referee, making it 1-0 to Trams.

Wright put a shot into the side netting at the other end before Trams again attacked, and as Payne failed to clear, Humphries scored a second to make it 2-0. Savage then grazed the upright and Wright put a shot wide. Lines then

cleared with some difficulty before Stringer raced away, only to be shoved off the ball by Broadfield. The home side then gave Tustin some shot to save, but they lacked a cutting edge and at the half time whistle Trams led 2-0.

Dunn missed an easy chance at the start of the second half and in another attack Stringer got in a magnificent shot, which Tustin tipped over for a corner. The corner was well placed and Trams goal escaped by a miracle, while at the other end Trams were caught offside and shortly afterwards Bayliss headed clear. Reagan then made his way down the right, and after some clever play Shepherd placed the ball into the corner of the net to make it 3-0 to Trams.

Shepherd looked like he would add another shortly afterwards, but Lines made a brilliant save, which he followed up with another just after. At the other end, Town forced a couple of corners which came to nothing before Dunn and Savage both shot yards wide. Dunn hit the crossbar from Stringer's corner, which was followed by a melee involving four or five players, but the ball would not go in.

Regan shot wide at the other end before Smith went on a brilliant run, which was cut short by offside. Wright's shot was saved by Tustin and a long period of dull play followed before Nuneaton won a corner. Tustin saved, but the ball went back out to Wright, who centred for Savage to head into the net. There was only a few minutes left to play and the game ended with a 3-1 win for Trams.

## Nuneaton Town v Redditch

13-01-1912

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Bayliss and Page; Harper, Payne and A. Moore; Oliver, Savage, Dunn, Smith and Wright.  
**Redditch:** Ward; Hillman and May; Slade, Cleaver and Court; Wall, Willcox, Hughes, Morrell and Perkins.

Town had the chance to avenge their recent defeat at Redditch, when the Needle-men visited The Newdegate for the first match of the New Year. The gate was down, which was attributed to the weather and the counter-attraction "next door". Page came back into the side following a long illness and Payne reverted back to his centre-half position. Redditch were late arriving and the kick-off was 20 minutes late, meaning five minutes were trimmed off each half.

Payne won the toss and elected to kick towards the Bond End. Dunn was caught offside early in the match and Savage put in a shot that keeper Ward pushed away for a corner. Wright placed well, but the ball went upfield to Payne, who dropped the ball back into the area, where Savage banged it into the net, making it 1-0 to the home side. Ward then punched away from Oliver's cross before Harper won the crowd's applause for breaking up an onslaught by the Needle-men. "Muzzer" broke up another attack, while at the other end Ward pushed a shot from Savage round the post for a corner, from which Smith headed over. Wright then hit the crossbar, and a little later put a shot wide of the post.

# Nuneaton Town 1894-1919 Part 2



It was not an exciting game, but Nuneaton enjoyed the majority of the possession. Dunn put wide from a good position and Smith forced a corner, when Ward touched his shot round the post. May failed to stop Dunn, who had broken away, and the centre-forward made his way into the mouth of the goal where he gave Ward no chance, making the score 2-0.

Redditch livened up at this stage and forced a couple of corners, with Wall finding the corner of the net from the second, to make it 2-1. Smith and Dunn both tested Ward, but at the break the score remained 2-1 to Town.

After the break Wilcox tested Lines with a stiff shot, but Nuneaton quickly retaliated and Oliver put in a magnificent shot, which was equally well saved by Ward, who made another save from Oliver, before the danger subsided.

Wright shot wide from a good position before Oliver put in a good centre for Dunn, who missed another good chance. Town then exerted tremendous pressure on the Redditch goal which resulted in the generation of much excitement in the crowd. Smith then put in one of the greatest shots ever seen on the Newdegate, which almost forced Ward over the line with the impact. Savage did the same soon afterwards, with many thinking the goalkeeper and ball had been over the line.

Ward conceded a corner following a shot from Dunn and Savage headed the resulting corner on top of the net. Nuneaton's persistency was then rewarded, Dunn having the simple task of putting the ball into the net following brilliant play by Oliver, which made the score 3-1 to Town. Ward again saved following more good work by Oliver, and a centre by the right winger then went begging. Redditch then attacked briefly, but Town's forwards raced away, and after beating the back were given offside. Redditch then attacked again, but Lines cleared upfield, where Hillman handled in the penalty area. Savage took the kick and the ball flashed past Ward like lightning to make it 4-1 to Town.

Town continued to press, but Hillman and Ward were in good form. Redditch then attacked through Morrell, but Payne cleared, as did Bayliss a little later. The final whistle sounded shortly after and Nuneaton were the winners by 4-1.

The next fixture, a trip to Bournbrook was postponed because of heavy snow, as were the rest of the Combination fixtures.

## Nuneaton Town v Halesowen Town 27-01-1912

**Nuneaton: Lines; Bayliss and Page; Harper, Payne and Moore; Oliver, Savage, Dunn, Smith and Sharp.**

**Halesowen: Cartwright; Bache and Jones; Everton, Webster and Jenks; Williams, Morgan, Roberts, Peabody and Bowser.**

Halesowen travelled to The Newdegate with only a single win to their name in half a season. Town relied on the same side that had beaten Redditch the previous week, with the exception of Sharp from Halesowen, who replaced Wright.

When the game eventually kicked off, 20 minutes late, Town

mounted the first attack, while at the other end Harper was called on to defend. Dunn shot over from a good opening and Savage missed the target by barely an inch. Smith put the ball wide from a corner, but after ten minutes play Smith headed goalwards, where Dunn provided the finishing touch to give the home side a 1-0 lead. Savage then missed an absolute sitter, standing on his own in front of goal, he put the ball yards wide. Halesowen scored a soft equaliser, with Lines watching as the ball trickled into the net, to make the score 1-1. This livened Town up and following two corners Smith gained possession and put in a terrific shot, which found the net, giving Town a 2-1 lead.

Payne tried a long shot and Sharp went close before Savage shot into Cartwright's hands, with the keeper having to be alert to save another hard shot from Payne. Lines cleared at the other end, but Nuneaton returned to the attack and Cartwright had to deal with shots from Harper, Smith and Payne. Smith dribbled into a good position, but was hustled off just as he was about to shoot. Nuneaton were totally dominant and at the break had a 2-1 lead.

Dunn caused Cartwright to handle at the start of the second half and then hit a shot against the crossbar and Savage headed the rebound goalwards, but Cartwright hooked the ball out from under the bar. Halesowen broke and Lines scraped away a shot, Morgan followed up and netted the equaliser, making the score 2-2. Nuneaton continued to enjoy the majority of the play and Dunn brought the keeper to his knees with a good effort, while "Muzzer" deserved better with an absolute beauty. The game became quite monotonous because of its one-sided nature, but Town could not beat Cartwright, even when awarded a penalty for handball, which Savage drove straight at the keeper. When the final whistle sounded the teams were level at 2-2.

## Bournville Athletic v Nuneaton Town 03-02-1912

**Bournville: Dixon; Smith and Bowden; Terry, Price and Crabtree; Coley, Pickering, Tildesley, Cope and Jones.**

**Nuneaton: Lines; Bayliss and Page; Harper, Payne and Moore; Stringer, Dunn, Savage, Smith and Wright.**

Nuneaton visited mid-table Bournville, a side they had beaten 4-1 earlier in the season. Wright regained his place in the side at the expense of Sharp and Dunn went back to inside-right with Savage taking the centre-forward position, while Stringer partnered Dunn on the right wing.

The first action save Savage have a shot charged down, while Dunn also had a good effort, which went wide. The Cocoa-boys then attacked, but good defensive work by Bayliss and Page cleared Crabtree's centre. Dunn passed out to Stringer, who put in a weak shot before Lines was forced to clear following a Bournville rush, and was again called upon to make a brilliant save from Tildesley. Nuneaton's defence was under some pressure, but they broke away and Savage headed for goal,



the ball going narrowly wide. Harper, Savage and Stringer then combined and won a corner. Bournville cleared and Tildesley shot wide before Stringer and Dunn worked down the right and Smith tried to get through on his own, but the ball ran out.

Dixon cleared from another Town attack and Lines did similar from a Bournville attack. Wright then broke away and centred beautifully to Savage, who passed to Dunn, who lost the chance. Bournville's defence came under pressure for a time and good work from Dunn, Stringer, Savage and Smith looked certain to yield a goal, but Dixon saved Smith's shot. Then, breaking quickly Bournville got to the other end where Cope scored for the home side to make it 1-0, which was the score at the half-time whistle.

Town again pressed at the start of the second half, but Crabtree cleared before some short passing took the home side right upfield where Harper cleared. Bournville came back again, but were stopped short. Savage and Stringer launched an attack, but a long clearance put Bournville on the front foot again and Lines was called on to save, but Cope put in a fine shot, which beat the keeper and made the score 2-0.

Town cut the deficit, when following a superb round of passing, Smith put in a centre which was turned home by Payne, making the score 2-1. Despite a further attack from Town's forwards Bournville broke again and Cope fought off the attention of Page and gave Pickering the easy task of scoring Bournville's third goal to make the score 3-1. Following another attack by Bournville, Tildesley and Page were both sent off for fighting. Play became quite dull towards the end, but the home team were awarded a penalty, which Bowden converted to make the final score 4-1.

## Benefit Match

Nuneaton Town were without any real match last Saturday, so they selected a mixed team to play the members of the Coal Trade, for the benefit of the miners thrown out of work at the Tunnel Pit. There was a very good crowd, and the game ended in a win for the Town by 5 goals to 1. All interest was centred on Howard Spencer, the old Villa international, and perhaps the finest back the game has ever produced. He still possesses most of his old ability, some of the science delighting the spectators.

## Hednesford Town v Nuneaton Town 17-02-1912

**Hednesford:** Tatem; Reaney and Corbett; W. Walker, G. Walker and Lyons; Cooper, Roberts, Riley, Griffiths and J. Moore.

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Bayliss and Page; Harper, Dale and Dunn; Hall, Savage, Sheldon, Smith and A. Moore.

Having a good record against Hednesford, Nuneaton travelled to the Black Country hopeful of two points, especially after their 2-1 win the previous season

Town were soon on the attack and Moore forced a corner, which came to nothing and Hednesford carried the ball up the other end where Dale cleared. Bayliss stopped Jack Moore in a breakaway and Page conceded a corner, which again was fruitless. A free kick to Hednesford flashed just past the upright before Town got up the other end where Savage tested Tatem from Moore's cross. Dale also tested the keeper, who saved.

Jack Moore put in a weak effort for the home side, while Roberts shot over from a good position. Dunn tested Tatem before good play by Sheldon and Savage was nullified by Hall. Dale shot wide from a corner before Hednesford launched a terrific onslaught on the Town goal, with Lines making three or four top class saves. Nuneaton then took up the attack and a fine effort from "Muzzer" opened the scoring, the winger taking the ball close in and beating Tatem to make it 1-0.

Hednesford then unleashed a terrific bombardment on the Town goal, which miraculously escaped. However, following a spell of play in midfield, Hednesford managed to equalise, Griffiths netting from Lyons pass, despite Town's appeals for offside, making the score 1-1. Not many minutes after the home side took the lead when a bad misunderstanding between Page and Bayliss let in Griffiths who scored with some ease to make it 2-1. After another few minutes had elapsed Town got an equaliser, Hall getting round Corbett, taking the ball in close and slotting home as Tatem came out.

Town continued to press and "Muzzer" got in some great centres, but Tatem showed his class in dealing with them. Hall then put in a good corner, but Tatem was again equal to the situation and at half time the score was 2-2.

After the break Hednesford got close in an early attack, but were pushed back and at the other end Savage shot wide. "Muzzer" was then tripped going forward and from the free-kick the ball was played to the right where Hall returned and Smith banged the ball into the net to give the visitors a 3-2 lead. At the other end a Hednesford corner came to nothing, but a few minutes later, George Walker scored with a lightning shot from 18 yards out, making the scored level again at 3-3.

Dale and Bayliss defended well, while a Hednesford corner came to nothing and Nuneaton got to the other end where Harper went close and Savage looked to have scored when a shot went very close. "Muzzer" also went close and the home goal enjoyed a charmed life at this stage. A free-kick against Hall for handball came to nothing, but then Lines dithered and the Town goal had a lucky escape. Dale conceded a corner with a clearance that almost went in his own goal.

A throw-in from Harper found Sheldon who tested Tatem and a corner from Hall was well placed and the ball swung backwards and forwards in front of the Hednesford goal. The end of the game saw the pace slacken and play was confined to midfield. Although both teams strove to get the winning goal the final whistle saw the game end 3-3.



## Town Player Suspended

The unpleasant incident in the Nuneaton-Bournville match some weeks ago had its sequel on Thursday evening last at the monthly meeting of the Birmingham Combination, when Page, the left-back of Nuneaton Town, and Tildesley, centre-forward of Bournville, were both suspended for fourteen days each. This is indeed hard lines both for the Town club and Page, as Page simply protected himself against the aggressiveness of his opponent.

## Nuneaton Town v Coombs Wood

24-02-1912

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Bayliss and Palmer; Harper, Dale and Dunn; Hall, Savage, Sheldon, Smith and A. Moore.

**Coombs Wood:** Hayes; Parker and Bills; Pritchard, Harris and Lavender; Price, Hooper, Stephens, Smith and B. Smith.

Nuneaton returned to the Newdegate after a month's absence to face Coombs Wood. Palmer was brought in as cover for Page, who was suspended. There was a good crowd and Dale, having won the toss, chose to kick towards the Bond End.

Hall got away to test Hayes and Harper got the ball forward and a several attack was mounted on the Woodites' goal, with Hayes saving well, especially from a fierce Dale shot. Hall placed a corner well, but Dunn ballooned it over the top. Dale won applause for some good play in midfield and then Savage and Hall played well out on the right. Smith missed a great chance to score, shooting over with virtually just the keeper to beat. A handball decision against the visitors allowed Harper to drop the ball in front of goal, but Smith headed wide. The same player grazed the bar a couple of minutes later.

Palmer then stemmed a rush before "Muzzer" put in a terrific shot which forced Hayes to save. At the other end, Palmer, Bayliss and Dale all cleared and Lines was forced to handle for the first time. Town got down the other end again and following good work by Sheldon, "Muzzer" put in a fine cross to Savage, who gave Hayes no earthly chance to make it 1-0.

This success spurred on the home team and Hall, Dale and "Muzzer" all tested Hayes before Smith set Moore free, but Sheldon was given offside. Another offside decision cut short a move by the entire Nuneaton forward line. A corner from Moore then bobbed about in the visitors' area, but refused to go in the goal. Palmer then cleared a Coombs Wood attack and Smith got through, but his shot went the wrong side of the post. However good play by Hall on the right resulted in Sheldon finding the net, after which the referee blew his whistle for half time with the score being 2-0 to Town.

Straight after the break a corner from Town was put over the bar by Sheldon, before Hayes was forced to save from Dale and "Muzzer". Sheldon then sent in a tremendous ground shot, for which Hayes dived full length, injuring himself in the process. He quickly recovered though and was kept busy for some time.

Price was then laid out and Coombs Wood started to play with one back, which resulted in many offsides against the home team. A corner by Hall then instigated an exciting few minutes and Hayes was stranded out of his goal, but the ball refused to go into the net. Smith was then clean through and looked certain to score, but Hayes dropped to his knees and saved the shot. "Muzzer" then rushed forward and banged the ball into the net, but the goal was disallowed with no-one being sure why. Nuneaton continued to press but they were either offside or the ball went wide or Hayes saved.

A beautiful pass from Savage found Hall, who centred for Smith to shoot into the keeper's hands. A rare break by the visitors saw Lines clear well upfield before Town at last succeeded in scoring another goal. Hall got round the back and centred to Sheldon, who shot into the net to make it 3-0. The centre-forward nearly repeated the trick just after, but Hayes scraped his shot away. Shot after shot rained in on the Coombs Wood goal, with one tremendous effort from "Muzzer" glancing off a defender, when it looked certain to go in the net. The referee then blew for full time with the result being 3-0 to Town.

## Atherstone Town v Nuneaton Town

02-03-1912

**Atherstone:** Archer; T. Hargreaves and A. Windridge; F. Hargreaves, Taylor and Alf Windridge; Pardoe, Hanson, H. Hargreaves, Vines and Peplow.

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Bayliss and Palmer; Harper, Payne and Dunn; Hall, Dale, Sheldon, Smith and A. Moore.

Atherstone was in a state of great excitement, with "Adders" hoping to humble their near and dear neighbours, Nuneaton. Atherstone were undefeated at home in the Combination and losing would be a bitter pill. Nuneaton suffered a setback in that Page was suspended and Savage had to miss the match due to a family bereavement. Nuneaton were well represented with special trains, conveyances, bicycles and "Shank's pony".

Long Street presented a strange sight at 3pm, the arrival time of the first train, as the vendors selling 'colours' did a roaring trade. Women and children lined the route to watch the invasion. On the ground itself, the scene was animated, who could realise the fact that the majority of the huge crowd had that very day come out on strike, and were faced with a period of anxiety and suffering?

Cheering, singing and banter between the two sections of partisans added to the excitement and when the strains of martial music heralded the oncoming of the "Adders", in the midst of a throng of enthusiasts, one was forcibly made to realise the intense feelings a match between the two teams engenders.

Dale was chosen to take Savage's place at inside-right, Payne was brought in at centre-half, and Palmer again deputised for Page. Atherstone were at full strength.

Hargreaves kicked off for "Adders" and within the first few minutes a free kick had been awarded to either side. A Palmer



clearance brought about a corner, from which Dunn shot wide. A free kick by Harper found Sheldon, but he shot across goal.

“Adders” transferred play, but were soon back on the defensive following good work between Smith and Dunn. Moore then shot wide, while keeper Archer dealt with a surprise shot from Dunn in good style. Palmer and Hanson were spoken to by the referee following a disagreement. Pardoe found himself in the clear and bearing down on goal, when the whistle sounded for offside. Even though the effort would not have counted Lines denied him the satisfaction of putting the ball into the net.

Dunn’s pass found “Muzzer”, who was offside and Taylor handled in his excitement, but nothing came of the free kick. A long kick from Windridge changed the venue, but Bayliss dispossessed Peplow. Palmer came to the rescue when the home side threatened. Peplow then put in a good centre, which Pardoe failed to intercept. From the throw-in Nuneaton exerted severe pressure on the home goal and a roar of cheering all around the ground rewarded a magnificent save by Archer from Sheldon’s shot.

Palmer robbed Henry Hargreaves when the Atherstone man looked like getting through, and then Smith worked his way through, but his shot missed by a inches. Dunn got Hall away and the winger passed to Sheldon who passed back to Hall, and he returned to Smith. Archer kept his nerve and pulled off a save following a bewildering movement by the visitors.

Harper conceded a corner from which Fred Hargreaves shot yards wide, and Payne then handled on the edge of the area. The free kick found Pardoe, who kicked the wrong way and Smith set “Muzzer” clear, but he failed to make ground. Peplow then beat Harpet and Bayliss but Henry Hargreaves shot wide. At the other end Windridge was spoken to by the referee. A free kick for handball looked dangerous and Archer had to fling himself full length to keep out Harper’s shot. Bayliss then brought Peplow’s run to a halt.

Then, the pent-up excitement was let loose. Nuneaton got away and out of a scrimmage on the right, following a throw-in by Harper, Smith got possession, and with a truly magnificent drive, gave Harper no chance. The strength of Nuneaton’s support was clear as hats went up into the air and pandemonium was let loose.

Atherstone looked for a quick equaliser and bore down on the Town defence and Hanson missed an open goal before the half time whistle sounded with Nuneaton leading 1-0.

Athersone had the benefit of a strong wind for the second half and they opened as if they meant business. Lines cleared upfield and Dale shot weakly when well placed. Nuneaton had the bulk of play for a while but were kept at bay by Windridge and Hargreaves, while Taylor worked hard at centre-half. A goal kick switched play, but Bayliss nipped in and cleared the danger. Palmer then took the ball right off the toe of Hargreaves, right in front of goal. Lines then cleared a good shot from Hanson at the expense of a corner.

Hanson had another effort later which Lines saved, with the Town defence being severely tested at this point. Nuneaton had a brief visit to the other end before Vines won the applause of the crowd for a gem of a shot, but Lines enhanced his reputation by pulling off a good save.

Payne then set the forwards away and Moore centred twice, with Archer dealing with the second. Play veered from end to end with both half back lines dominating the situation. Smith broke away and unleashed a drive that looked a goal all the way. Many yelled “goal!”, but Archer, with a superhuman effort managed to divert the ball round the post.

At the other end Payne passed straight to Peplow, who shot wildly over the bar from in front of goal. “Muzzer” tested Archer from long range and Fred Hargreaves upped the excitement by putting in a long range effort, but Lines saved. Atherstone still pressed forward and with just five minutes remaining, they were awarded an equaliser. Lines made ready to catch the ball, but just before it reached him Peplow dashed up and punched the ball into the net. To the surprise of everyone referee Mr Rew pointed to the centre. Atherstone supporters celebrated, but even they admitted that it was not a genuine goal.

The air seemed charged with electricity when after some time the players lined up to start again. Nuneaton tried desperately hard to get the winner, but there was little time left, and the final whistle heralded a draw.

## The Football Association

### Important Proposals Regarding the Offside Rule

At their meeting today the Football Association Council will consider some important proposals brought forward by the Rules Revision Committee.

In the laws of the game alterations are recommended which will revolutionise the offside rule by substituting the words “at least 18 yards from his opponent’s goal-line” for “within his own half of the field of play,” which means that a man may receive a forward pass when within 18 yards of the goal-line irrespective of the position of his opponents. The goalkeeper may within his own penalty area use his hands, but shall not carry the ball. This is instead of the old rule dealing with his action in his own half. The penalty line parallel to the goal-line to be extended to the touch lines, for the purpose of the new offside rule.

If these alterations are approved by the Football Association Council they will, of course, have to be adopted by the International Board before coming into operation.

It is suggested that a player shall not be registered as a professional unless he is paid weekly wages, and that a player who has received £2 or more a week or been registered as a professional for five years shall not be eligible for re-instatement as an amateur.





## Nuneaton Town v Cradley Heath St. Luke's 09-03-1912

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Bayliss and Page; Harper, Dale and Dunn; Hall, Savage, Sheldon, Smith and Moore.

**Cradley:** Walters; Stevenson and Partridge; I. Parkes, Gilbert and J. Parkes; Williams, Hackett, Roughley, Morgan and Franks.

The visit of the prospective league champions aroused much interest and though the weather was threatening, the game was above average. Cradley arrived late and the kick-off did not take place until 4pm.

In the first minute Dale put in a free kick to Smith who headed goalwards but Walters pushed the ball over. Cradley attacked and Harper cleared, before Hall put a pass out to Smith, whose fast ground shot just grazed the post. Lines kicked away before Bayliss cleared out of a ruck of players.

Rain started to fall in a torrent and the players were slipping everywhere, but a good run by Hall saw him cross to the left, where an inter-passing movement between Dunn, Sheldon and Smith, found Savage, who completely unmarked, shot into the net to great cheers, putting the home side 1-0 up in 16 minutes.

Partridge cleared from in front of the Cradley goal and the visitors took up the offensive, but they were driven back. Walters was called into action before Smith, Sheldon and Savage worked an opening, allowing Savage to test the keeper. Town were well on top and Sheldon got possession from Hall and beat the back, shooting into the net as Walter ran out.

Nuneaton then scored a third, "Muzzer" putting in a shot from the touchline, which dropped under the bar, Walters only able to help it into the net to make it 3-0. A handball decision against Bayliss put Cradley in a dangerous position, but Lines saved from the free-kick. At half time the score was 3-0.

Cradley attacked at the start of the second half, but Page headed away. Nice passing from Savage, Smith and Sheldon took Town upfield, but Hall spoilt the move with a weak centre. Bayliss cleared a Cradley attack before Savage headed goalwards and the ball was cleared out to Dale, who shot, but Sheldon was standing offside. Savage then shot over from a pass by Hall, and Smith put in one of his "extra specials", which Partridge headed out for a corner.

Hackett tested Lines with a rattling shot, but the keeper saved. Bayliss stopped Williams, but a melee developed and Bayliss handled. Despite Lines getting a hand to the ball, Stevenson converted to make it 3-1. Nuneaton again took up the attack and Dale shot before Sheldon worked a nice opening and passed to Savage, who shot over. Harper then missed by the narrowest of margins, and Smith looked as if he might get through, but was hustled off the ball. Dale then got injured and had to be carried off.

Town, even with ten men were playing brilliantly and a great centre from Hall found Moore, who shot into the net to make it 4-1. Savage tested Williams with a beauty and just after

Nuneaton launched a fierce bombardment on the Cradley goal, which escaped by a miracle, Walters being grounded two or three times. Town's perseverance paid off though, and Sheldon found the net out of a melee to see Nuneaton home by 5-1.

## Willenhall Pickwick v Nuneaton Town 16-03-1912

**Willenhall:** Henworth; Archer and Edge; Langford, Robinson and Wootton; Howell, Mason, Holt, Bliss and Dabbs.

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Bayliss and Page; Harper, Dale and Dunn; Hall, Savage, Sheldon, Smith and Moore.

Nuneaton journeyed to Willenhall to face Pickwick and fielded the same side as the previous week. Owing to travel problems the team didn't arrive until 43 minutes after the kick-off time. Pickwick were at full strength.

Nuneaton took up the attack from the kick-off, but Archer and Edge were comfortable and cleared for the home side. Dabbs and Bliss both had shots at the other end, and the home side also won a corner which came to nothing. Nuneaton then went on the offensive and Smith, Savage and "Muzzer" all tested Henworth in quick succession. Town's halves were playing well and putting their forwards away. Hall put in a good centre, but Smith shot yards too high from a good position. Coming back into it, Robinson shot wide for Willenhall.

Nuneaton attacked and clever play by Smith gave him an open goal, but unaccountably he missed. Bayliss checked Dabbs time and again, but Picks kept up the pressure and Lines had to be alert to save. Howell put a shot over the bar and Holt followed suit. Smith then broke clean through the Willenhall defence, but Henworth ran out to save.

Willenhall again took up the offensive and after Bliss shot wide, Holt scored with a lovely shot to make it 1-0. A piece of clever work by Smith initiated another attack and Sheldon forced Henworth to save. At half-time Pickwick led by 1-0.

The Picks pressed and forced several corners, all of which were cleared by Town's stubborn defence. Eventually though Willenhall got through and Bliss netted again, making it 2-0.

Smith was the only player who really looked like scoring, and he was being well looked after by the Picks defence. Bliss eventually got his second and Willenhall's third goal. After a period of uninteresting give and take play the whistle sounded for full time with Willenhall 3-0 winners.

## Nuneaton Town v Dudley Phoenix 23-03-1912

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Bayliss and Page; Harper, Dale and Dunn; Hall, Savage, Sheldon, Smith and Moore.

**Dudley:** Wainwright; Hughes and Preston; Corbett, Greenway and Amphlett; Spooner, Parkes, Aston, Haudin and Fellows.

The gate was low for Dudley's visit, probably due to the coal strike and the miserable weather. Owing to problems on the railways Dudley arrived late, and it was exactly an hour after the advertised kick-off that a start was made.

# Nuneaton Town 1894-1919 Part 2



Early on Smith received a pass from Sheldon, and placed the ball into the net to make it 1-0. Hall missed a good chance, putting the ball wide of the post with the goal at his mercy. Good play between Savage and Hall saw the latter fire into keeper Wainwright's hands, but keeping up the attack Hall centred for "Muzzer" to head into the net to make it 2-0.

Dunn gave a pass to Moore, who shot across goal and Hall returned to Savage who shot over. Dale was then applauded for a magnificent drive that grazed the bar. Spooner shot over for Dudley and Haudin looked like getting through, but failed at the final hurdle. A good move started by Smith set Nuneaton attacking, and Moore passed to Savage who passed on to Hall, but the winger shot high over the bar. Moore and Sheldon then combined and the latter put the ball in the net, but was given offside.

Dale shot over from Moore's corner and Dunn got Moore into a shooting position, his shot landing on top of the net. Dale then tried a grounder that Wainwright kicked away and at the interval Nuneaton led by 2-0.

Lines was forced to save in the first minute of the second half, but Hall forced a corner that came to nothing, however, Sheldon got possession, and passed to Savage who scored to make it 3-0 to Town. A great centre from Hall then looked bound for "Muzzer", but he was robbed in the goalmouth. Town were then caught offside, a decision loudly challenged by the crowd, before Wainwright saved from Smith.

Lines won applause for a fine save before Town hit back and Smith was unlucky with a good shot. Wainwright saved from Savage and Moore got close in and passed to Sheldon who failed to reach the ball by an inch or two. Dale also went close as the Dudley keeper was kept busy. Town had Dudley pinned in their own half with corner after corner being won, and eventually Smith beat Wainwright to make it 4-0.

Two minutes later fine play by Sheldon enabled Savage to score and with just a minute or two of the match remaining, Savage completed the scoring and his hat-trick to make the final score 6-0 to Nuneaton.

## Nuneaton Town v Bromsgrove Rovers 30-03-1912

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Bayliss and Page; Harper, Dale and Dunn; Bristow, Savage, Sheldon, Smith and A. Moore.

**Bromsgrove:** Winsper; Penny and Skinner; Bowker, Miller and Nicholls; Troth, Field, F. Crowe, Merrick and G. Crowe.

The crowd for the visit of Bromsgrove Rovers was greatly affected by the miners' strike, with less than 1,000 people being in the ground by kick-off time, 4.30pm. The only change in the Town side saw Bristow, of Hednesford, in for Hall.

Dale won the toss and chose to play with the wind at Town's back. Bayliss stopped a Bromsgrove attack early and got away on the right, from where Field shot over. Nuneaton found their way to the other end where a shot from Savage struck Skinner on the head and went out for a corner, which

Bristow centred poorly. This was followed by a similar incident with the same input from Bristow. Sheldon headed wide from Savage's centre. Nuneaton continued to attack and several well hit shots came close to hitting the target, "Muzzer" and Albert Savage going closest.

A shot from Sheldon hit the bar and Winsper hooked one from under the bar from Smith's shot. Sheldon again put in a great shot, which was accompanied by a loud "Oh!" from the crowd. Town then won a penalty for a handling offence, and Savage took the spot kick, but Winsper saved. The game had consisted of almost continual pressure from Nuneaton and Bromsgrove resorted to packing their goal.

Nuneaton opened the scoring when a tremendous shot from Harper glanced off the head of Skinner and into the net to give the home side a 1-0 lead. Just before the interval Smith made a great run and put the ball in to Savage, who shot the ball past Winsper for the second goal, and Nuneaton went into the break leading 2-0.

Smith started the second half with a display of dazzling football with several Bromsgrove players giving him their attention, which left other players free. Nuneaton reaped the rewards from this situation when Smith drew the Bromsgrove defence before passing to "Muzzer" who scored with a great shot, to make it 3-0. Bromsgrove pulled a goal back when Merrick gave Lines no chance, making the score 3-1.

Bristow brought Winsper to his knees, before Crowe looked like getting through for Bromsgrove and Lines saved, but conceded a free kick for carrying the ball too far. At this point Nuneaton lined up their entire team in front of the ball, preventing Bromsgrove from gaining any advantage. Town extended their lead from a penalty after a foul from Bristow's cross. Dale took the kick and gave Winsper no chance, making the score 4-1.

Smith went on a run, but Winsper stopped the attack at the expense of a corner. Savage had a chance for the "old five", but dithered and the chance was lost. After some pressure from the visitors, which met with strong defence, Savage shot yards wide from a good position. The game petered out towards the end and at the whistle Nuneaton had won 4-1.

## Bournbrook v Nuneaton Town 06-04-1912

**Bournbrook:** Whitehurst; Mortiboys and Husler; Jones, Campkin and Allso; Brettel, Tickle, Weate, Holmes and Millward.

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Bayliss and Batten; Harper, Dale and Dunn; Bristow, Savage, Sheldon, Smith and A. Moore.

Town travelled to Bournbrook to play a match postponed from January 20th. Town had won the home fixture 3-1, but Bournbrook had improved since then. There was one change in Nuneaton's line up with Batten, a Works League player replacing Page at left back.

The first action saw Tickle put in a shot for the home side, while at the other end Dale tested Whitehurst with a long shot,

# Nuneaton Town 1894-1919 Part 2



and Savage shot wide. Millward forced Harper to concede a corner, which brought a save from Lines. Batten defended well while at the other end Bristow crossed from the right, but Savage wanted too much time and the chance was gone. A corner from Bristow was then missed by the forwards, while Moore shot wide in another attack and Weate followed suit at the other end.

Some attractive play by Smith and Bristow ended when the ball ran out of play. Bournbrook then attacked and Dale, Harper and Bayliss were strong in defence. Sheldon missed a good chance, while Bournbrook shot better than Town when they had the chance, but Lines was up to it. Smith, Sheldon and Savage all had shots, but could not beat Whitehurst. Smith then shot wide, but just on half-time Savage beat Whitehurst with a shot that hit the post and went in, to give the visitors a 1-0 half time lead.

Town were facing the elements in the second period and Bournbrook were soon on the offensive, and Holmes beat Lines to make the score 1-1. Bournbrook attacked repeatedly and from a corner kick Brettell put them 2-1 up with a great shot into the far corner of the net. Holmes then made it 3-1, heading into the net following a free-kick. Although Nuneaton tried hard to get another goal the Bournbrook defence was too good, as were Bournbrook's forwards in relation to Town's defenders. Tickle made it 4-1 and shortly after Holmes scored a fifth to make the final score 5-1 to the home team.

## Bilston v Nuneaton Town 08-04-1912

Nuneaton travelled to the Black Country to face Bilston on Easter Monday.

Aided by a strong wind Bilston forced the early pace and the Nuneaton goal came under a severe bombardment, but Lines was in good form and saved whatever was thrown at him in the opening stages. Bilston then mounted a fierce attack, which Lines saved at full length, before he was beaten late in the first half. Mann sent in a fine shot which hit the crossbar, and from the rebound Shelley put the ball past Lines and into the net, which meant that when the half time whistle sounded Bilston led 1-0.

In the second half Bilston had most of the game, and only Lines stood between them and a big score. Bradley made it 2-0 after Lines had made several good clearances. Bristow should then have reduced the deficit, but he missed with only the keeper to beat. He made amends later when he notched Town's only goal before Mann restored Bilston's two goal advantage to make the score at the final whistle 3-1 to the home side.

## Nuneaton Town v Atherstone Town 09-04-1912

The following day Town beat Atherstone in a friendly game at the Newdegate Ground. The home side chalked up a 3-1 win with a hat-trick from Smith.

## The Titanic Sinks



## Local Connection

We are informed that the head gardener of Mr Henry Stubb, of Camp Hill Hall (Mr John Charman), had a brother-in-law on the ill-fated "Titanic," and it is feared he has gone down with the vessel. His name was Collyer, and with his wife and daughter, had gone from Devonshire by the "Titanic" to Canada. His wife and daughter are fortunately among the survivors.

## The Titanic Disaster

In the "Green Book of Prophesie", published by the proprietors of the famous Zam-Buk healing balm, the following appears in Sepharial's predictions for April: "About the 13th submersions and deaths at sea occur."

The Titanic went down on the 14th. Sepharial also foretold the death of the Duke of Fife in January last.

## Nuneaton Town v Wellington St. George's 20-04-1912

Nuneaton: Lines; Bayliss and Batten; Buckler, Dale and Dunn; G. Moore, Savage, Sheldon, Smith and A. Moore.

Wellington: Hoof; Jones and Astley; Dabbs, Maudesley and Rushden; Garbutt, Davis, Peake, Cooper and Hollis.

The last home match of the season was set aside for the benefit of two loyal and popular players Alban "Muzzer" Moore and Leslie Dale. Regretably, the gate was disappointing. Harper



was to lose his place to a new left-half, Gumbley, but the player failed to show up and Buckler had to be called upon. Watson also cried off and George “Kid” Moore stepped in.

Town started brightly with Sheldon testing Hoof, who kicked out for a corner. “Muzzer” placed the corner kick accurately and Sheldon headed the ball into the net, with only four minutes gone. Garbutt shot yards wide at the other end before Nuneaton pressed again, and a great shot from Smith found its mark, Hoof partially stopping the ball, but being unable to hold it, making it 2-0.

Smith exhibited some tricky play before shooting wide, and the same player then ran from the half-way line, beating all opponents before scoring again to make it 3-0 to Town. After a brief respite for the visitors good play by Dunn led to Sheldon getting position and scoring with a great shot to make it 4-0. Smith then headed over from a corner. Nuneaton were continually on the attack with Smith and “Kid” both putting in good shots.

Wellington broke away and following a free kick, Batten cleared to Davis, who put a long shot past Lines and into the net to make it 4-1, which was the score at half-time.

After the break Town won two corners, the second of which was saved by Hoof. The visitors scored an offside goal through Cooper, before play was transferred to the other end where “Kid” went close, Hoof just managing to scrape the ball away. Dunn put in a long shot which Hoof punched away. Smith returned the ball, but it was diverted away for a corner, from which Savage headed it into the net to make it 5-1.

Play on the right between “Kid” and Savage enabled Sheldon to get through, and the centre forward shot home to make it 6-1. The play was dictated by Town, and after several attempts by “Muzzer”, Smith notched another goal to make it 7-1 and added the eighth a minute later. Another followed, which was scored by Savage following a corner, making the final score 9-1.

Cannock Town v Nuneaton Town	27-04-1912
<b>Cannock Town: Rostance; Shorter and Poynton; Morris, Harrison and Ridgeway; Harrison, Saunders, Wells, Stokes and Cresswell.</b>	
<b>Nuneaton: Lines; Bayliss and Batten; Buckler, Dale and Jones; Watson, G. Moore, Sheldon, Smith and Evans.</b>	

Town’s final match of the 1911-12 season was one that was not looked upon with any pleasure by the players, being a return to the venue of the disgraceful scenes exhibited before Christmas. Due to the nature of the game, “Muzzer”, Savage and Dunn were not chosen and their places were filled by Buckler, Evans and Jones, the last two being new players. The team were met by a posse of police, who escorted them to the ground in recognised “strike” style.

Soon after the start Saunders netted for Cannock, but was it was given offside. Shorter and Poynton defended well for the home side and several Nuneaton attacks were cleared. The

Cannock defenders were keeping a sharp eye on Charlie Smith and immediately he received the ball he was tackled, and none too gently. Smith frequently outwitted the Cannock players, however, and almost beat Rostance. Cannock then broke away and following a free-kick Morris put the home side 1-0 ahead.

Watson tested Rostance, who pulled off a fine save, before Lines did the same from Wells. The game began to be spoiled and the referee spoke to Morris about his foul play, threatening to send him off when he continued to argue. Watson and Moore combined well on the right and frequently had their defenders in difficulty. Smith made a solo effort to go through the Cannock defence but the defenders swarmed round him and stopped him just in front of the posts.

Not to be denied Smith put in another magnificent solo run, and this time it proved successful, as he scored with a really great shot which made the score 1-1. Soon afterwards a good combination between Smith, Evans and Sheldon resulted in Smith scoring again, making it 2-1. Cannock seemed to lose heart and their attacks became rare and their shooting wild and erratic, and at the half-time whistle Town had a 2-1 lead.

Nuneaton again showed their superiority after the break, and Rostance, was frequently tested with Sheldon and Dale going close. The home side went down to ten men when Saunders was injured, but they still probed and Harrison was fouled as he went through. From the free-kick Stokes hit the crossbar and Town cleared the danger.

Dale, Sheldon and Smith all tested Rostance, but the keeper was in fine form. The game lacked interest towards the end of the game, and at the whistle Nuneaton had won 2-1.

Immediately after the whistle the referee was surrounded by the home crowd. There were repeated cries of ‘Chuck him in the brook’, but fortunately for the referee and the Cannock Club nothing of that nature was attempted.

## Birmingham Combination 1911-12

Cradley Heath St Luke’s	30	21	2	7	99	50	44
Atherstone Town	30	16	8	6	72	41	40
Birmingham Trams	30	18	4	8	58	37	40
Willenhall Pickwick	30	18	3	9	66	43	39
Bournbrook	30	19	0	11	85	61	38
Hednesford Town	30	14	7	9	73	42	35
Nuneaton Town	30	15	5	10	77	57	35
Bilston United	30	15	3	12	64	55	33
Redditch	30	14	3	13	63	56	31
Bromsgrove Rovers	30	11	5	14	51	53	27
Coombs Wood Tube	30	11	4	15	48	52	26
Bournville Athletic	30	10	4	16	40	62	24
Cannock Town	30	9	5	16	51	81	23
Wellington St. George’s	30	9	1	20	56	105	19
Dudley Phoenix	30	7	4	19	41	89	18
Halesowen	30	2	4	24	37	99	8



## Willenhall Swifts EC Preliminary

Over 3,000 people were in attendance for the English Cup preliminary round game against Willenhall Swifts of the Birmingham League. Richard Harper sent a telegram saying he was ill and could not possibly play. His brother Arthur, took up his position at left back, Dunn moved back to right half and "Kid" Moore came in at inside right.

Willenhall were first to show, but Nuneaton came back and keeper Jenkins was forced to clear. Fred Payne shot wide, while at the other end Dale won applause for bringing Spencer's run to a halt. "Muzzer" then committed a deliberate foul, but the resulting free kick came to nothing.

Robbins headed over, while Arthur Harper was putting in some sterling defensive work, repeatedly setting the forwards going. Beaman picked up one of these and made good headway, putting in a lovely centre from which an exciting period of play took place in front of Swift's goal. The ball eventually came back out to Beaman whose centre was met by Oliver who placed the ball into the net to give the home side a 1-0 lead. The tremendous cheers that met this success had barely died down before Town again piled forward, but Willenhall steadied.

A foul by Dunn relieved the pressure on Willenhall, but Smith was playing a great game and set Beaman free, his centre resulted in a melee in front of the goal, during which Jenkins distinguished himself with some fine saves.

Nuneaton's next attack saw "Muzzer" put in a magnificent long range shot, which beat Jenkins all the way to extend the lead to 2-0. At this stage the crowd's enthusiasm reached concert pitch, and roars of applause greeted another fine effort from Robbins. Half-time arrived with the home side leading 2-0.

Crossley restarted for Willenhall and they pressed from the off and

eventually Town conceded a free kick, which found Spencer, who netted a simple goal to make it 2-1. Encouraged by their success, the visitors pressed forward, but were brought up short by an offside. Nuneaton then responded to the shouts from the crowd of 'Liven up Town' and Payne put in a good shot which Jenkins saved.

Three successive corners to Town, kept Willenhall under pressure, but their goal was leading a charmed life. Beaman was then injured, kicking the ground, and was carried off, which took the sting out of the home team's forward line and the game became more even. Platt then saved twice before Beaman returned to the fray, but it was evident that he was badly injured. Oliver then made a good run and centre, but Willenhall cleared.

Swifts then visited the other end and Harris got a shot in following good work by Heath. Oliver forced a corner, after which several more followed, and from the final one, the ball reached "Kid" Moore who worked his way through the defence and shot home to make the score 3-1, with 10 minutes to go.

Realizing that the third goal had virtually made the game safe, the crowd engaged in a great amount of cheering and although Swifts made another attack, Dale and Harper kept them at bay and when the whistle sounded for time, Town were the victors by 3-1.

The performance of "Muzzer" Moore was said to be greater than that of his 1906 triumph against Aston Villa. 'Where the ball was, there was "Muzzer"'

## Brierley Hill Alliance EC 1Q

There was a great crowd, with many travelling in from outlying towns and villages to see Town face Brierley Hill, of the Birmingham League, in the English Cup 1st Qualifying Round. Beaman was declared fit and the visitors were at full strength.

Dale was greeted with a mighty cheer when he led his men out and straight from the kick-off Oliver got upfield and crossed into the area, but Payne could not get in a shot and the ball cannoned into Robbins, laying him out.

Fine work between Dunn and Oliver resulted in Smith shooting wide, which was followed by Oliver forcing Davis to save. Town got forward via Beaman and Smith, but an offside cut the attack short. "Muzzer" shot yards over and Smith likewise. Two Oliver centres saw Beaman skim the bar and Davis kick away.

"Muzzer" conceded a free kick, from which Platt saved, after which Beaman crossed for Payne to shoot narrowly wide. The wind was playing havoc with the game and the ball was in touch too often for a good game.

Dunn set Oliver free, but Davis was safe, before the visitors won a fruitless corner. "Muzzer" then tried a long shot, but the wind carried the ball out. Oliver beat his man, but slipped at the crucial moment, before Beaman got away, but failed to allow for the wind and the ball sailed out.

"Kid" Moore should then have burst the net, but shot too high from six yards out. When the whistle sounded for half-time the score was 0-0.

On the restart, Paddock got away on the right, but Dunn cleared in the nick of time. Catastrophe then followed as Dale put the ball into his own net to give the visitors a 1-0 lead.

"Kid" Moore shot wide for Town before Smith worked his way through to wild excitement from the crowd, who sensed a goal, but Davis pulled off a marvellous save. Town eventually got an equaliser when Dunn crossed and Davis punched out, but didn't get enough distance and Smith levelled the scores, to tumultuous cheering.

Town kept up the attack and put several shots wide before Davis tipped a Beaman shot over the bar, but a goal kick was awarded. Oliver had to briefly

leave the field. On Oliver's return Town maintained their attack and Davis was again forced to save, this time from Smith. Payne put over the bar.

Brierley Hill then broke away and Harper failed to halt their attack. Former Nuneaton player, Paddock, swung the ball across the area where Brown headed into the net.

Robbins received a nasty blow to the face and had to be carried off, but still Nuneaton pressed, and from a corner, which was dropped right under the bar, Payne headed over. Beaman then put one in from close range, but Davis saved, with time running out.

Try as they may, Nuneaton could not get a goal, and when the final whistle sounded Nuneaton had lost by 2-1 and were out of the English Cup.

Town's experience in the English Cup was much the same as previously, short and unhappy. Nuneaton had been unlucky and were the better team, but the visitors' goal led a charmed life at times. A shot from Beaman looked certain to find the target until the wind took it wide of the post.

Despite his ill-luck in scoring for the visitors, Dale had enjoyed a good game. The other goal was courtesy of a slip by Arthur Harper, who again had

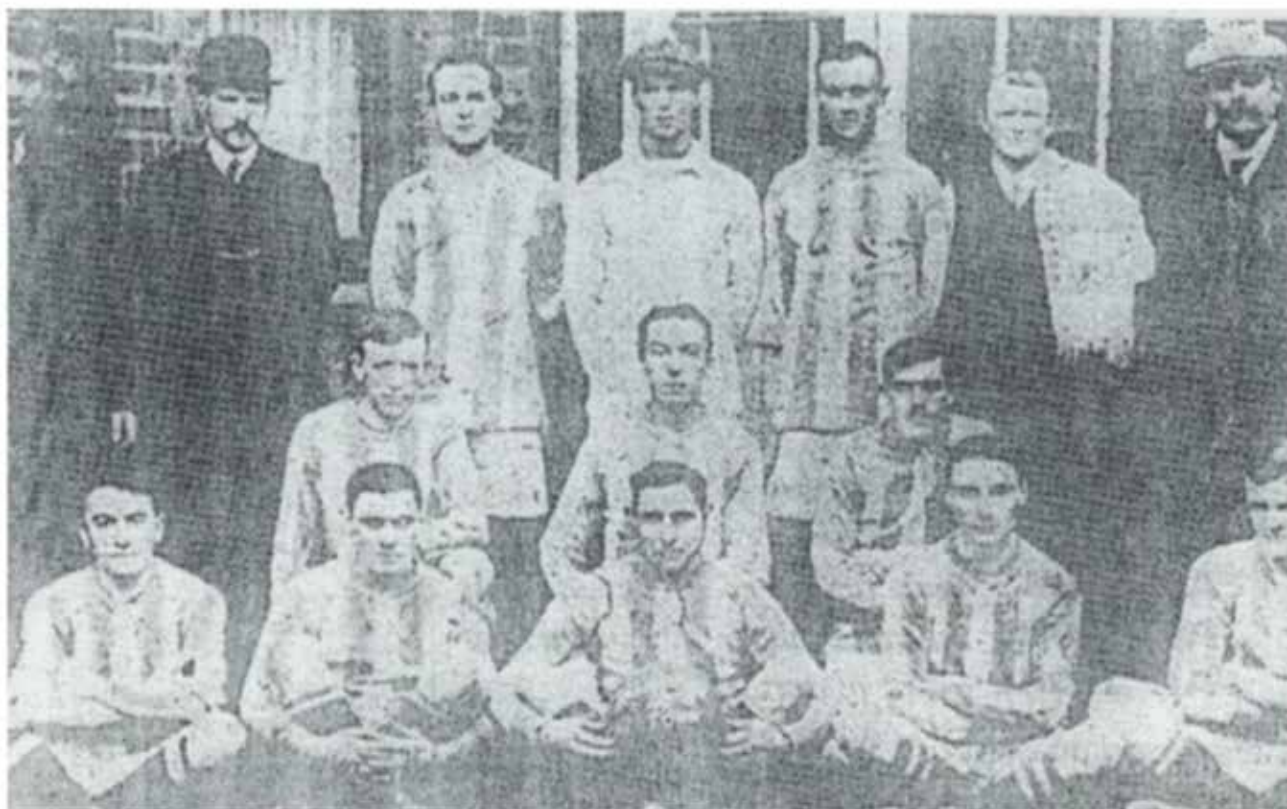
a good game, his mistake aside.

The Town halves were on their game and Emmin Dunn was again phenomenal, his passing to his forwards being one of the features of the afternoon.

Smith was the finest forward on the field, playing brilliantly. Robbins was unfortunate, as he was crocked in the first few minutes, and "Kid" was as good as usual.

Regarding Brierley Hill, they were pleased with themselves and grateful to Dame Fortune. Their two ex-Nuneaton men Paddock and Walker were responsible for the winner.

## Nuneaton Town FC 1911-12



**Back Row (left to right, players only): Bayless, Lines, Fred Payne.**

**Middle Row (left to right): Harper, Dale, A. Moore**

**Front Row (left to right): Stringer, Dunn, Savage, C. Smith, Wright**

# Nuneaton Town 1894-1919 Part 2



## 1911

09.02	Wellington St. George's	A	BC	2-5	Oliver, Smith
09.02	Hinckley United	H	Friendly	3-2	G.Moore 2, Olley
09.04	Stoke City Reserves	H	Friendly	2-2	Robbins (p), A.Moore
09.09	Hednesford Town	H	BC	2-2	Robbins 2 (1p)
09.16	Willenhall Swifts	H	EC PR	3-1	A.Moore, G.Moore, Oliver
09.23	Coombs Wood	A	BC	2-1	Smith, G.Moore
09.30	Brierley Hill Alliance	A*	EC 1Q	1-2	Smith
10.07	Cradley Heath St.Lukes	A	BC	0-7	
10.14	Bournville Athletic	H	BC	4-1	Smith 2, Corbett 2
10.21	Dudley Phoenix	A	BC	5-2	Dunn 3, Smith 2
10.23	Walsall Reserves	A	BSC 1	0-4	
10.28	Willenhall Pickwick	H	BC	1-3	Oliver
11.04	Bromsgrove Rovers	A	BC	5-2	Dunn 3, Smith, Beaman
11.11	Cannock Town	H	BC	1-0	Dunn
11.18	Birmingham Trams	A	BC	0-1	
11.25	Halesowen	A	BC	1-0	Smith
12.02	Bournbrook	H	BC	3-1	Smith 2, Dunn
12.16	Redditch	A	BC	1-2	Dale
12.23	Cannock Town	A	BC	4-2**	Wright 2, Savage 2
12.25	Bilston	H	BC	7-1	Savage 4, Dunn 2, Wright
12.29	Atherstone Town	H	BC	0-0	
12.30	Birmingham Trams	H	BC	1-3	Savage

## 1912

01.13	Redditch	H	BC	4-1	Savage 2 (1p), Dunn 2
01.27	Halesowen	H	BC	2-2	Dunn, Smith
02.03	Bournville Athletic	A	BC	1-4	Payne
02.10	Members of the Coal Trade	H	Friendly***	5-1	unknown scorers
02.17	Hednesford Town	A	BC	3-3	Smith, A.Moore, Hall
02.24	Coombs Wood	H	BC	3-0	Sheldon 2, Savage
03.02	Atherstone Town	A	BC	1-1	Smith
03.09	Cradley Heath St.Lukes	H	BC	5-1	Sheldon 2, A.Moore 2, Savage
03.16	Willenhall Pickwick	A	BC	0-3	
03.23	Dudley Phoenix	H	BC	6-0	Savage 3, Smith 2, A.Moore
03.30	Bromsgrove Rovers	H	BC	4-1	Harper, Dale (p), Savage, A.Moore
04.06	Bournbrook	A	BC	1-5	Savage
04.08	Bilston	A	BC	1-3	Bristow
04.09	Atherstone Town	H	Friendly	3-1	Smith 3
04.20	Wellington St. George's	H	BC	9-1	Smith 4, Sheldon 3, Savage 2
04.27	Cannock Town	A	BC	2-1	Smith 2

Key: BC=Birmingham Combination, EC=English Cup, BSC=Birmingham Senior Cup

Sep 2 Town put out two teams

\* Sept 30 played at Newdegate Arms Ground, Nuneaton

\*\* Dec 23 game abandoned after 78 mins. Referee ran away after Town players attacked Gray brothers from Cannock.

Match replayed on April 27 with A.Moore, Dunn and Savage left out

\*\*\*Feb 10 match played for Tunnel Colliery (Stockingford) Relief Fund



## Season 1912-1913

### Players Signed

Charles Smith\*, the “darling of the crowd” has moved on to pastures new, and despite the strenuous efforts of the Committee to get him to re-sign, he has succumbed to the offer of joining Northampton, runners-up in the Southern League.

Fortunately, Town has been able to secure the services of Charles Williams, an inside-left from Olive Mount, a club that produces many fine players, including Jephcote, currently the outside right of West Bromwich Albion. To partner Williams, Bee of Hinckley United has been captured, who has been described as the best outside-left in Leicestershire.

Other players signed so far are: Goalkeepers: Lines and Humphries (who represented Birmingham Works Association); Backs: Bayliss, Batten, Tommy Foster (returning from Hinckley), and T. Williams (Sparkhill Avondale, winners of the Birmingham Junior Cup). Half-backs: E. Dunn, Whitehouse (Longford and Coventry City), Smith (centre-half of Foleshill Albions), and W. Gumbley (Sparkhill Avondale). Forwards: T. Stringer, Harbourne (Foleshill Great Heath), Williams and Bee. Other well known forwards are expected to sign in the next few days.

\*Charles Smith went on to make 59 appearances for Northampton Town, scoring three goals, before being transferred to Coventry City in 1915.

### Trial Game

Everyone is now eagerly looking forward to the opening of the football season, and on Saturday local supporters will be catered for in the shape of a trial game on the Newdegate Arms Ground.

Of the twenty-two players selected for the first trial game, only Bayliss, Batten, Dunn and Savage were involved last season. Those players who have departed the club include Sheldon, Dale, A. Harper, Oliver, A. and G. Moore and Page.

Among the players trialling are Jarvis (ex-Town and Luton), Westall (centre-forward, BSA), Godderidge (Amington Rovers), Hartley (previously played in Yorkshire football), George Warren is on holiday and therefore unavailable, whilst Bee is running at Hinckley.

Season tickets are now available and can be purchased at the match. The whole of the gate proceeds will go to local charities, and a charge of 2d is being made, and 1d for ladies and boys.

### Annual Meeting

The adjourned annual meeting of the Nuneaton Town Association Football Club, Ltd., was held at the Newdegate Arms Hotel on Friday evening last, Mr R. Biggs presiding. Amongst those present were Messrs. Geo. Manchester, Joseph Smith, G. R. Clay, T. Jeffcoate, and W. A. Thompson (secretary).

The Directors' annual report was read by the Secretary, who said it was the Club's fourth annual report. The result of the past season's working was that for the first time they had a small balance on the right side, and that in spite of the fact that they lost at least £50 in gate money owing to the coal strike. That good result had, no doubt, been brought about by the dropping of the reserve team. They had, during the last season played 36 matches, and had won 19, lost 11, and drawn 6. Their goal average was 93-67. In the Birmingham Combination they had gained 35 points out of a possible 60. In the coming season they would be without the services of Dale and Alban Moore, whilst their greatest loss would be Smith. Of the old players Lines, Bayliss, Dunn, Payne, and Savage would be available during the coming season.

The chairman congratulated the directors on the very successful balance sheet, and the result of the past season's working, which was very satisfactory - especially in view of the coal strike and the bad weather, both of which very materially affected the gates.

The report was then adopted.

The accounts for the year were then submitted by the Auditor, Mr G. R. Clay, and it was pointed out that chiefly as a result of the abandonment of the second team a small profit has been made, as compared with a loss of £20 8s. 5d. the previous year.

Mr Manchester proposed, and Mr Jeffcoate seconded, the adoption of the accounts as presented, and this was carried.

On the proposition of M Manchester, seconded by Mr Jeffcoate, the retiring director Mr J. Smith was unanimously re-elected.

Mr G. R. Clay (chartered accountant) was unanimously re-elected auditor.

In closing the meeting, the Chairman hoped that the Club had an even more successful season before them than the last had been.

A vote of thanks was passed to Mr Biggs for his services to the chair.





## Nuneaton Town v Willenhall Pickwick 07-09-1912

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Bayliss and Foster; Dunn, Payne and Gumbley; Dolphin, Goldie, Warren, Savage and Stringer.

**Willenhall:** Henworth; Archer and Edge; Wootton, Robinson and Crabtree; Pardoe, Mason, Langford, Harris and Dunn.

The season got underway with a visit from Willenhall Pickwick. There were several other attractions in the area, but there was a large attendance, the weather was just right for football and the pitch was in great condition. The new captain, Bayliss, won his first toss and Town elected to kick towards the Station.

Although the visitors mounted the first attack, Warren gained possession and passed to Dolphin, who carried the ball out. Good play between Savage and Stringer ended in a shot from the latter, which sailed into the far corner of the net, putting Nuneaton 1-0 up with just five minutes played.

Willenhall attacked but were driven back and Stringer was applauded for going close. Dolphin then put across an accurate centre and moments later Warren met a centre from Stringer with his head, but Henworth saved. Edge then had to retire leaving Willenhall a man short before Gumbley put in a long drive, which was saved by Henworth. Payne put in a great shot followed by a fine centre by Dolphin, which was headed into the net by Warren, making the score 2-0.

Edge re-entered the fray, but Town continued to attack and Goldie found the net, but the whistle had gone for offside. The same player skimmed the bar with a long shot following good play by Stringer. Picks then forced a corner which came to nothing before Savage was robbed when in good position.

Langford shot high for the visitors with Lines out of goal, while at the other end, Stringers shot from Dolphin's centre grazed the bar. Savage put in a great shot, which met with a great save from Henworth. The resultant corner was well placed, but again Henworth saved. Picks then attacked but the ball was cleared by Lines and Bayliss and at the other end, Stringer put in a cross which was powered in by Goldie, but Henworth made a good save, winning applause from the crowd. Savage then headed into the net, but the whistle had gone for an infringement.

Nuneaton then extended their lead when, following a melee, the ball came out from a sea of legs and Dunn rushed in to put a shot of terrific force through a crowd of players and into the net. At three up Nuneaton were playing with confidence and notched another, but again it was disallowed. Warren then passed to Dolphin, who ran through on his own. Henworth saved but the winger met the ball and put it into the net. Cheers sounded around the ground, but the referee again disallowed the goal, to the dismay of the crowd. Half-time then arrived with Town leading 3-0.

The game had barely restarted when Robinson was carried off with a knee injury. Bayliss then tried his luck from the half-

way line and later Payne put wide. Bayliss and Foster both cleared when Willenhall mounted an attack, while Emmin Dunn grazed the upright with a great shot. Warren then made a mess of a cross from "Taddy" Stringer. Willenhall's Dunn then shot yards wide, while Lines had to save from Robinson. Emmin Dunn then passed to Stringer, who crossed to Goldie, who hit the upright.

Warren created a chance for Goldie, who was an inch or two wide. Town then had a lucky escape when the ball dropped right in front of goal and Lines failed to save and the ball bounced on top of the net. Warren was fouled at the other end and took the free-kick himself, driving the ball at Henworth. Stringer and Goldie were given offside in quick succession before an exciting race between Dolphin and Henworth ended with the goalkeeper conceding a corner, which Dolphin placed well and Warren headed into Henworth's hands.

Gumbley brought Henworth to his knees before Warren worked a good opening for Stringer, who let fly but the ball cannoned off a defender and Savage looked like scoring, having three attempts to get the ball into the net in an exciting passage of play. Willenhall tried desperately to get a goal as time drew near, but Nuneaton defended well and at the whistle were clear winners 3-0.

A report on the English Cup matches against Rugby Town and Worcester City appear on later pages.

## Nuneaton Town v Dudley Phoenix 21-09-1912

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Bayliss and Foster; Dunn, Payne and Gumbley; Dolphin, Goldie, Warren, Savage and Stringer.

**Dudley:** Hartland; F. Parkes and Preston; Hughes, Copson and Amphlett; Lockley, Troman, Knox, L. Parkes and Allen.

Dudley Phoenix were the visitors to The Newdegate Ground for a Birmingham Combination fixture. Town's management had decided to keep the same team that face Rugby Town the previous week. Dudley were also at full strength.

Goldie brought a save out of Hartland in the opening exchanges before a superb centre from Dolphin was headed goalwards by Goldie, but Hartland saved again. The keeper was again in action when a great shot from Warren was met by a magnificent save, followed by another from Dunn's shot.

With 15 minutes gone Dunn exhibited a fine piece of play which resulted in Warren fastening on to the ball and shooting into the net to give Town an early 1-0 lead. Dudley won a corner, but at the other end Hartland saved several shots in rapid succession before Dolphin dropped the ball in front of goal for Savage, who headed over. Dudley pressed again and won a fruitless corner and Parker forced Lines to tip over the bar.

When Town attacked again Warren slipped when in front of an open goal. Payne then put in a magnificent shot which Hartland saved in miraculous fashion. Goldie and Savage



both tested Hartland. Nuneaton had all of the possession up until half time when they led by 2-0.

Goldie and Savage changed places for the second half, and Savage twice went close - Hartland saving brilliantly. Parkes hit the crossbar for Dudley, and 10 minutes into the half won the distinction of being the first player to score against Lines this season, making the score 2-1. Gumbley and Dolphin both put in fine shots before Savage and Goldie changed position again.

A brilliant centre by Dolphin was headed in by Warren to make the score 3-1, to make the game practically safe for the home side. The rest of the game consisted of a duel between Town and Hartland in the Dudley goal, with the custodian giving a great display. When the whistle sounded for the end of the game Town had won by 3-1.

## Grand Capture by Nuneaton Officials

On Monday, Mr Thompson (secretary) did an exceptional stroke of good business when he signed on W. Smith, the well-known forward of Coventry City. Smith can play in any of the three inside positions, and has a remarkable reputation for goal-scoring ability. To accompany Smith the club are giving Hinckley's tricky outside left Bee a chance.

## Barracking

A word of two now in reference to a growing practice of a section of the Nuneaton supporters who indulge in "barracking". Such a reprehensible action is not true sport. It is also harmful to the players, and Savage in particular is always adversely affected by it. It is hoped that the spectators will display encouragement towards the "blue and white" tomorrow, for they will need it. Worcester City, the visitors in the English Cup, are a strong Birmingham and District League team, and Town will have to display their best form if they are to triumph...

## Nuneaton Town v Hednesford Town 05-10-1912

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Bayliss and Foster; Dunn, Ellis and Gumbley; Dolphin, Warren, Smith, Dunkley and Bee.

**Hednesford:** Tatem; Reaney and Corbett; Shaw, Howen and Lyons; Horton, Crossley, Bentley, Griffiths and Nicholls.

The visit of Hednesford Town saw Nuneaton again change their personnel with Ellis, a centre half, coming in for Payne. Warren was moved to inside-right, Smith to centre-forward and Dunkley, from Rugby Town, was included at inside-left.

A crowd of around 2,000 saw Bayliss lose the toss, with Hednesford having the advantage of wind and sun at their backs. The early action saw Bayliss having to clear before Ellis played the ball up to Smith, who passed to Warren. The latter

sent Dolphin away to put in a cross which Reaney cleared. Fine play from Dunkley gave Smith a chance, but he passed to Bee, whose centre found Dunkley. The latter passed to Smith who mis-kicked.

Hednesford scored an offside goal, and keeping up the attack, Lines saved from Griffiths at the expense of a corner, which was cleared. Smith then got Bee away, whose centre was cleared, but only as far as Ellis, who shot just over the bar. Dunkley and Smith combined, but Smith's pass back to Dunkley went astray, and was cleared.

Gumbley tricked Howen, but put the ball out in trying to find Dolphin. Bee won a fruitless corner, which was cleared. The action transferred to Nuneaton's half and Horton won a corner off Gumbley, from which Howen headed wide. Lines threw away from another shot, but Nicholls stopped it from going out and centred for Crossley, who hit the junction of the bar and post, with Horton shooting over from the rebound.

Some weak defensive play by Reaney saw the ball passed to Dunkley, who gave Tatem no chance from close in to give Nuneaton a 1-0 lead.

Hednesford hit back and Howen shot over from Horton's centre. A free-kick awarded again Ellis looked dangerous, but Gumbley cleared, while at the other end a free-kick was cleared by Reaney. Ellis gave away another free-kick which came to nothing. Bee then tricked Shaw and Dunkley placed in front of goal but Corbett cleared.

Lines was then forced to kick away, before Shaw shot wide. Ellis shot wide at the other end. Howen dribbled well for the visitors, but on receiving the ball Crossley put the ball out. Bayliss cleared forcing Corbett to concede a corner, which was cleared and Lyons shot wide at the other end. Dolphin then beat Corbett in a sprint and crossed to Dunkley, who shot into the net, only for the goal to be disallowed to the chagrin of the crowd.

Bayliss cleared to Dolphin who passed to Dunn, but the right-half was robbed and Nicholls got away, centring over the bar. A free-kick from Bayliss found Warren, who passed to Smith, who shot wide with only the keeper to beat. The Town goal was the scene of some excitement as two or three Hednesford forwards missed Nicholls' centre and Bayliss cleared out of a cluster of players.

Ellis' pass to Warren was intercepted, and Hednesford broke away, but were given offside. Bayliss was forced to clear again at the visitors kept up a fierce attack before Dolphin got away on the right, only to be stopped by Corbett, after which half time was blown and Nuneaton took in a 1-0 lead.

The second half started with Ellis finding Smith, who sent Bee away, but Reaney cleared. Following a great clearance by Foster the visitors attacked in force and Crossley found himself with practically an open goal, but Lines ran out and smothered his shot. Dolphin found Smith in space, but he had to turn, and placed his shot wide. Lines then saved from



Horton before good play between Horton and Bentley ended in Dunn conceding a corner, which was cleared.

Crossley, who was injured in a collision with Lines had to retire, but still Hednesford pushed forward keeping the Nuneaton defence busy. On Crossley's return Hednesford made a desperate attempt to equalise and Foster badly missed the ball, with Crossley looking to have an open goal, but Lines rushed out and made a great save.

Bayliss broke up a Hednesford attack and cleared upfield, where Warren seized on Corbett's mistake, got away and centred to Smith, who beat Reaney and scored from close range, giving Tatem no chance and making the score 2-0. Bee's centre went begging before Dolphin cross for Dunn to shoot over the bar. Smith then shot over from a centre by Bee, before Warren, looking as if he would score, put the ball across the goal. Bayliss was busy at the other end, first checking an attack and then thwarting Howen and Crossley.

Dunkley and Dunn then sent Dolphin away, but Smith again ballooned over. Bayliss was having a lion's game at the back and twice stopped Hednesford attacks. Dolphin then crossed well at the other end, but Reaney cleared. The game was now very fast and both ends came under scrutiny. Warren was penalised for impeding, while Dunn wanted too much time and lost the ball. Howen then shot wide of the Town goal before Ellis put Dolphin in possession, but Tatem cleared his cross.

Warren and Ellis both had shots charged down by defenders, before a change came over the game and Hednesford got well forward and weak defensive play let in Nicholls, who centred for Crossley to head in the net to make the score 2-1. The last action of the match saw Dunkley forcing Tatem to clear, and on the whistle Nuneaton had won 2-1.

<b>Bournbrook v Nuneaton Town</b>	<b>12-10-1912</b>
<b>Bournbrook: Groves; Castle and Husler; Ford, Campkin and Taylor; Harrison, Humphries, Weate, Holmes and Clarkson.</b>	
<b>Nuneaton: Lines; Bayliss and Foster; Dunn, Payne and Gumbley; Dolphin, Warren, Smith, Dunkley and Bee.</b>	

Nuneaton travelled to Bournbrook, with the home side not having registered a win so far. The ground has the reputation for being the worst in the league, with a big slope. Town only intended one change with Payne replacing Ellis, but Bee had a bicycle accident and was not fit, so was replaced by Stringer.

Nuneaton opened on the attack, but met with a strong defence. A corner to the home side was cleared before Dolphin crashed the ball into the side netting with terrific force. Bournbrook got the first goal when Weate sent the ball out to Clarkson, who beat Lines with a cross-shot to make it 1-0. Shortly afterwards Humphries again beat Lines to give the home side a 2-0 lead, with just 10 minutes having been played.

Warren and Smith then put in some good work, and a fine centre by Dolphin was got away with some difficulty. The home side pinned Town in their own half for long periods,

possibly due to the slope. Lines was called on to make several saves, while at the other end, Dolphin won a corner and Ford nipped in to break up another Town attack. Lines made a great save from Weate. Payne featured well in midfield and an attempt by Stringer was just wide.

Gumbley put a ball forward, but the forwards were hustled off the ball by Bournbrook's defence. A run and cross by Stringer was cleared by Husler and Campkin set his forwards going again. Bayliss and Foster looked vulnerable, making many mistakes, but Lines was in good form and saved repeatedly. The home side pressed right up until the half-time whistle which saw them lead 2-0.

After the break Warren was moved to centre-forward and Smith to inside right, which sparked a Town recovery. Payne was the first to test the keeper, with Groves getting the ball away with some difficulty. Dolphin then received from Payne and his cross ended with Dunkley beating Groves to make it 2-1. Immediately from the kick-off, Dolphin again got possession and from his perfect centre Dunkley scored his second goal to level the scores at 2-2. A few minutes later Dolphin and Dunkley struck again when the former's cross was headed home by Dunkley to put the visitors into a 3-2 lead, with Dunkley completing a ten minute hat-trick.

When Bournbrook recovered from the shock of conceding three quick goals, they made several raids on the Town goal, and only bad shooting prevented them from drawing level, with Humphries missing an open goal. Having been let off the hook, Town attacked again and Smith scored a fourth goal. Town then outplayed Bournbrook up to the final whistle when the score was 4-2 to the visitors.

<b>Nuneaton Town v Halesowen</b>	<b>19-10-1912</b>
<b>Nuneaton: Lines; Batten and Barratt; Smith, Payne and Gumbley; Dolphin, Stringer, Warren, Dunkley and Varnish.</b>	
<b>Halesowen: Baptist; Bache and Chamberlain; Hyde, Burton and Borroughs; Lewis, Hadley, Robbins, Treherne and Shirley.</b>	

There was a crowd of fair proportions assembled for the visit of Halesowen. Backs Bayliss and Foster were both dropped in favour of Batten and local youth Barratt. The outside-left position was taken by Varnish, from Rugby Town. Dunn was absent with illness and was replaced in the half-back line by Smith, with "Taddy" Stringer going inside right.

More upheaval was introduced into the Nuneaton team, when after ten minutes play Warren received a nasty kick, left the field and was unable to return. Lines was called into action early on, making a great save from Hadley. Varnish made an opening at the other end before Lines was called upon again.

Having lost Warren to injury, Nuneaton played with four forwards and Dolphin's cross was almost met by Dunkley. Stringer then shot weakly at the keeper and a shot from Smith was caught by Baptist, who threw clear. Smith shot wide following a free-kick and the visitors got away on the left, but



Shirley put the ball out and later Lewis shot high over the bar. Varnish then made a good attempt with the ball flashing across to Dolphin, who missed by the narrowest of margins.

Dolphin won applause for a corner, which Baptist tipped onto the roof of the net. Tricky work by Smith put Stringer away, who shot wide. Stringer then received cheers for a fine attempt which saw the ball roll along the goal-line, with Dunkley missing it. Half-time arrived with the game goalless.

Dunkley tried to get through on his own, but without success and at this point the ball burst. Baptist then saved from Dunkley, the ball having been hit with terrific force. Stringer changed places with Dunkley, won a corner which Varnish placed behind. Lines was cheered for a fine save, while at the other end Smith worked his way through and shot past Baptist, making the score 1-0 and winning the cheers of the crowd. Dolphin grazed the bar when he looked certain to score before Lines stemmed a rush from the visitors.

Dolphin put a shot wide and again managed to test Baptist, who dropped the ball, but managed to scoop away. Payne picked up the loose ball and Baptist saved again. Varnish missed from a good position and Smith hit the upright. Robbins looked like going through for the visitors, but was hustled off the ball. Dolphin won another corner, from which Payne shot over and Dunkley missed an open goal from Dolphin's pass. Batten let in Treherne, who looked certain to score, but Lines was alert to the danger and saved. The final whistle sounded soon after and Nuneaton had won 1-0.

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**Atherstone Town v Nuneaton Town 26-10-1912**

**Atherstone:** Archer; T. Hargraves and A. Hargraves; Harper, H. Hargraves and F. Hargraves; Howell, Drake, Izon, Vines and Norton.

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Barratt and Foster; Smith, Payne and Gumbley; Dolphin, Savage, Warren, Dunkley and Stringer.

The "Match of the Season" took place at Sheepy Road between an unbeaten Nuneaton Town and Atherstone Town, who had not lost at home for many a long day. Torrential rain

throughout the day kept the crowd with its hundreds, rather than thousands, with 300 making the journey on the special train. Dunn was unfit for Nuneaton and Windridge for Atherstone. Smith took Dunn's place in the half-back line and Albert Hargrave filled in for Windridge.

From the minute the referee tossed the coin, there was a continual buzz of excitement. Archer was forced to kick away in the first minute and Tom Hargraves conceded a corner. The ball flashed across the area and Stringer put in a magnificent shot which hit the crossbar.

The players were finding it difficult to keep their feet, but it was apparent that the game was going to be played at a fast pace. Ison was robbed by Gumbley as he was about to shoot and the home side continued to press until they were caught offside. At the other end Stringer played the ball right across to Dolphin, who shot over. Nuneaton then won a free kick on the edge of the area, but it was put over the bar.

Vines shot way wide for Atherstone, but Lines goal did come under pressure for a short while. Foster cleared eventually with Smith setting the forwards going, and Stringer shooting wide. Savage came out of dual with Tom Hargraves having won a corner, from which Smith narrowly missed. A foul throw by Smith gave Atherstone possession and another throw from Harper put the ball right in front of the visitors' goal where Vines scored from close range to make the score 1-0.

Atherstone fans went wild with delight, but their delight was short-lived as Dunkley and Warren took play into the home territory, where Warren passed to Dolphin, who transferred it on to Savage, who had hard luck as Archer scooped the ball out from under the bar. However, a minute later Savage received the ball from Warren again, and steadying himself, placed a lovely shot into the corner of the net with a low shot, making the score 1-1. Nuneaton fans showed their delight and barely had their cheers subsided before another huge cheer rent the air as Nuneaton took the lead. Dunkley raced away and Harper tried to bring him down, but Dunkley kept possession, and from fairly long range hit a shot with terrific force that flew into the net, giving Archer no earthly chance, and putting the visitors 2-1 up, with three goals being scored in six minutes.

Foster robbed Izon and put the ball upfield where Harper kicked out under pressure from Stringer. Atherstone then attacked strongly and Barratt was forced to concede a corner, which Howell placed behind. Stringer beat Harper for possession and sent in a rasping shot, but Archer excelled himself in getting the ball away. "Adders" renewed their attack and Norton found Izon who shot hard at Lines, who caught the ball, but then dropped it. Izon was on the ball in a flash and placed it into the net to make the score 2-2.

Stringer gained possession, and going past Harper, put in a magnificent shot which Archer somehow saved. Stringer found himself in another good position, but slipped at the last minute. When the half-time whistle sounded the score was 2-2.

# Nuneaton Town 1894-1919 Part 2



A change of jerseys took place at half time with Atherstone coming out in white and Nuneaton all blue. Atherstone were the first to attack, with Howell putting behind. From the goal-kick the visitors raced away and Dunkley crossed to Dolphin who failed to take advantage. Harper headed over from a corner before Dolphin went on a fine run and centred into the goalmouth where Archer put out for a corner, from which Dunkley headed over the bar.

Nuneaton then penned the home side in their own half and Stringer got in a magnificent cross, Archer making a good save from Warren. Smith showed some tricky work and robbed Norton as he looked to break before setting Nuneaton on the attack again. Archer saved brilliantly from Savage before Payne put one just the wrong side of the post. Smith then looked like going through, but Hargraves kicked out in the nick of time.

Stringer was then treated for an injury before Dolphin broke away, but was beaten in the corner. Dolphin continued to show for the visitors, but attracted a lot of attention from the "Adders" defence. Smith shot behind and after Archer's work in saving from Warren and Dunkley, his colleagues gathered around to shake his hand. Dolphin put in an effort that looked destined for the net, but it shot wide of the far post with Stringer trying, and failing, to make contact.

Atherstone at last got an attack going and Norton looked dangerous, but Foster cleared. Lines saved well from Izon and set Dolphin racing away to the other end where he was bowled over by Tom Hargraves and badly winded. Stringer put in a good cross which Dolphin put behind. A free-kick to Atherstone looked ominous, but Lines caught Norton's shot and threw the ball out for a corner.

With just five minutes remaining, Atherstone pressed strongly, and Lines had to throw himself full length to keep out a ground shot. By this stage the light was very bad and it was almost impossible to follow play, but the whistle sounded and at the end of the match, the score was 2-2.

## Nuneaton Town v Redditch

02-11-1912

**Nuneaton: Lines; Foster and Barratt; Smith, Payne and Gumbley; Dolphin, Savage, Warren, Dunkley and Stringer.**

**Redditch: Ward; Hillman and May; Bowker, Edwards and Cleaver; Williams, Morrell, Barratt, Court and Pointer.**

Nuneaton fielded the same side as the previous week for the visit of Redditch. Town lost the toss and kicked toward the Burgage.

The early action saw Dunkley tap the ball back to Warren, who tried a long shot, which Ward caught and threw away. Dolphin then centred across goal and Stringer missed a good chance, putting his shot wide. Payne took a pass from Stringer and his shot was also wide of the post. Redditch then attacked, but Barratt cleared and at the other end Savage won a corner which Payne headed right under the bar, but Ward hooked the ball out and threw away.

After 10 minutes, Savage passed out to Dolphin who rounded both backs before shooting home to give Town a 1-0 lead. Redditch hit back and forced a corner, which came to nothing. Foster cleared in the nick of time, after which Barratt also kicked away. Dolphin worked the ball up to the other end and crossed to Dunkley whose shot hit the post, but an offside was given anyway. A corner to the Needlemen resulted in a free kick from which the ball was dropped in the area and following a melee, Lines stumbled, and while he was on the ground, Barratt made the score 1-1.

Warren put a shot over the bar, which was followed by some exciting play, with Stringer getting in several good shots in quick succession which was followed by a spell of heading work in front of goal. Lines was then called on, but was secure. Stringer pleased the crowd as he dodged opposing defenders before passing across the field, where a race between Dolphin and Ward saw the goalkeeper just get there first. A free kick to Redditch on the touchline was well placed by Cleaver, and though Lines partially saved, Morrall ran in and put Redditch ahead.

The Redditch lead was only temporary as Stringer got in an oblique shot and Ward and May went for the ball, but it glanced off May into the net to make the score 2-2. Dolphin shot into the goalkeeper's hands following a pass from Savage and then Smith almost got through, putting the ball just wide. Ward saved from Stringer at the end of the first half when the score was 2-2.

Redditch were the first to show after the break but a handball stopped their progress. Payne put in a long shot which Ward just kept out before Savage worked an opening for Warren. The inside man placed the ball in to Dunkley, who brought a miraculous save out of Ward from his header. Savage then put wide before Gumbley set Dolphin away, who crossed to Stringer. The little winger put in a great shot, and although Ward threw himself at the ball, it rolled into the net, to make the score 3-2 to the home side.

Having gained the lead, the home side kept up the pressure through Savage and Dolphin. Dunkley and Warren rained shots in at Ward, with Warren seeing one of his shots diverted round the post by Ward. Barratt stopped the visitors with a huge kick, but it was returned and Lines kicked well down field. The home wing men superbly fed by the halves now began to monopolise play and Hillman and May were all over the place. Stringer shot hard and true and Warren followed up to add the finishing touch, making the score 4-2.

Dolphin and Stringer in turn forced corners and for a long time Town kept up the attack, with the ball flashing backward and forward across goal. An offside decision relieved the pressure and Redditch had a brief attack before Warren beat May for possession, but his final effort was weak. Dunkley then accepted a pass from Stringer and banged into the net, but the goal was disallowed.

Dolphin harrassed the Redditch defence again and again,



much to the amusement of the crowd. Ward was kept busy, but was looking secure. Lines picked up and threw away from a Redditch attack. A corner to the visitors fell to the home side and Ward and Stringer raced hard for possession, but the keeper cleared into touch.

A handball decision against May looked promising for Town, but Payne's shot just missed the angle of the crossbar. Dolphin had a brilliant shot that skimmed the bar, but Warren immediately gained possession and with a well-judged effort put up "the old five".

Redditch rallied toward the end, but Nuneaton scored again when Dolphin found Stringer, who returned the ball into the centre where Warren found the net, completing his hat-trick and making the score 6-2.

## Stafford Rangers v Nuneaton Town 09-11-1912

**Stafford:** Parker; Duckers and Lycett; Smedley, Lamplugh and Wilson; Chattoe, Turley, Riley, Hilston and Wright.

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Foster and Barratt; Smith, Payne and Gumbley; Dolphin, Savage, Warren, Dunkley and Stringer.

A number of supporters accompanied the team to the away fixture at Stafford Rangers. The Town team was unchanged for the second consecutive game.

Nuneaton immediately got forward and Dolphin centred, Warren sprinted towards the ball and was brought down by Duckers. The resulting penalty was taken by Smith, and although Parker saved the kick, Smith followed up and banged the ball into the net to give Town a 1-0 lead. Stafford hit back almost straight away as Riley ran through, from what looked like an offside position, and scored with a shot that gave Lines no chance to make the score 1-1.

The game was being played at a fast pace and swung from end to end. Stafford pushed forward and won two corners before Barratt stopped a dangerous rush, as the home team began to gain momentum. Lamplugh put in a shot that flashed across goal and was put out for a corner. The corner was well placed and Hilton headed into the net to give Stafford a 2-1 lead. Rangers continued to press and Gumbley, under pressure from Stafford, put the ball back to Barratt, but Chattoe won possession, running in close and gave Lines no chance to make the score 3-1. It was a bad error by Gumbley and Barratt, with Gumbley shouldering most of the blame.

After pulling themselves together, Town attacked, but it was not long before Stafford pressed again, although a free-kick for impeding Lines relieved the pressure. Stafford forced two corners with Turley gaining a chance from one, but the ball being cleared. Hilton found the net from Chattoe's centre, but offside was given, before Nuneaton broke and Dunkley shot wide. Savage then played the ball out to Dolphin, whose shot was intercepted and Stafford got away. The half-time whistle sounded with Stafford having a 3-1 lead.

Nuneaton forced a corner straight after the break, but it came

to nothing and Gumbley put in two shots, both of which were saved by Parker. Warren also tested the keeper as the visitors fought their way back, with Stringer putting in a great shot which Parker saved, the crowd applauding his fine save. Foster launched a massive clearance when Stafford attacked, but Stafford came again and Lines threw away. Payne then set the forwards going and Dolphin rattled a shot into the side netting.

Lines saved at the expense of a fruitless corner and from the goal-kick Payne tried to go through on his own, but was checked by force of numbers. Dunkley then featured, but was given offside before Savage grazed the bar. Stafford came back and Turley put in a great drive which was saved by Lines. The same player then put another shot in which Lines tipped over for a corner. Good play between Savage and Dolphin resulted in the former getting a shot in and Dunkley was given offside, when he attempted to go clear.

Long shots from Gumbley and Smith both went dangerously close before a move involving Warren and Stringer saw a defender boot clear. Stafford defenders were working like Trojans to keep Nuneaton at bay, and although Town made a last determined effort, the home defence stood firm and Stafford held out till the final whistle with the score 3-1.

## Nuneaton Town v Birmingham Trams 16-11-1912

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Bayliss and Barratt; Dunn, Payne and Gumbley; Dolphin, Savage, Warren, Dunkley and Stringer.

**Trams:** Tustin; Palmer and Pritchard; McCourty, Goode and Vann; Regan, Beardsmore, Anderson, O'Rourke and Jarrams.

Birmingham Trams visited a foggy Newdegate Arms and there was a good crowd in attendance. Smith and Foster were dropped and Emmin Dunn's return was heralded by a special cheer from the crowd. Bayliss won the toss and elected to kick towards the Bond End. Referee Mr Townsen of Leamington sounded his whistle five minutes later than the advertised start time.

Bayliss and Barratt were called on to defend in the first minute before Savage passed out to Warren, who in turn found Stringer, who made ground before being halted by Palmer. Warren then put a shot wide. Town's forwards were unable to take advantage of Stringer's cross, but a corner followed from which Dunkley shot wide. A free-kick for a foul on Stringer was cleared and Warren was pulled up for offside when Town looked dangerous.

Savage and Warren both tested Tustin, following good work by Stringer, while at the other end Barratt won applause for driving back the visitors. Dunkley was then unfairly charged in front of goal and a penalty resulted. Warren took the kick and made no mistake, the ball flashing past Tustin to make the score 1-0. Payne then put in a great shot, which Tustin saved at the expense of a corner, after which Dunn put in a hard ground shot which Tustin scrambled away. Dolphin then caused Tustin to save again.



Regan got forward for Trams and, going round Barratt, centred. Payne and Lines both went for the ball, but Payne eventually cleared. Stringer then narrowly missed before Palmer conceded a corner when under pressure from Warren and Stringer. Trams then broke, but Barratt passed back to Lines who cleared upfield. A move between Stringer, Warren and Dolphin was spoiled by Savage, who wanted too much time. A goal by Dunkley was ruled offside before Dolphin featured and was fouled. The free-kick went close and was followed by a bombardment of the Trams' goal. The whistle sounded for half-time with Nuneaton leading 1-0.

Tustin saved well from Dolphin at the start of the second half before Bayliss let in Jerrams, who put Anderson clear with no one in front of him, but Barratt dashed across and cleared at the expense of a corner. Dunkley went close at the other end and Warren tried to force his way through, gaining a corner, which Dunkley headed over. Trams then broke away and following some good passing which put Town's defence all at sea, Regan shot home to make the score 1-1. Dolphin was then pushed off the ball as he tried to break and Lines was forced to pull off a fine save from O'Rourke.

Dunkley's shot grazed the upright. Savage and Dolphin made a chance for Warren, who shot hard. The ball looked as if it went in the net, but amid terrific shouts from the crowd, Tustin threw the ball clear and the referee played on. Warren then grazed the bar with another shot before Dolphin and Dunn worked together, but Dolphin came under a fair bit of attention from Trams' defence.

Nuneaton again put the ball in the net from a corner, but despite the roar of the crowd, the referee awarded a goal kick. At this stage Town swarmed around the Trams goal and Dolphin was roughed up in the area and a penalty was awarded. Tustin saved Warren's spot kick and fell on the ball, and with players on top of him and the excitement intense, the referee awarded Trams a free kick.

At this stage the light was very bad and it was almost impossible to follow play. Payne missed by a narrow margin and Stringer's shot was greeted by shouts of "goal!" from the crowd behind the posts. The referee then sounded his whistle and the players trooped off the pitch with spectators bemused, but it transpired that the game had been abandoned with six minutes to go and would have to be replayed.

## **Cannock Town v Nuneaton Town 23-11-1912**

**Cannock:** Latham; Grainger and Shorter; Wood, Harrison and Ridgeway; Penton, Saunders, Wells, Stokes and Sheldon.

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Foster and Barratt; Hartley, Payne and Gumbley; Dolphin, Smith, Warren, Dunkley and Stringer.

Nuneaton travelled to Cannock with some trepidation following the events of the previous season. Dunn was missing due to unforeseen circumstances and Hartley took his place. Sheldon got away from the kick-off, but Payne cleared. There

was some excitement in the Cannock area following a corner before the home side pressed at the other end, where a shot went wide of the post. Latham was called on to defend, but cleared weakly to Dolphin right on the touchline. The little winger put in a magnificent shot which curled into the far corner of the net to give Nuneaton a 1-0 lead. At the other end Wells hit the upright, while Stringer's cross went begging when Town attacked. Lines was called into action to save from Sheldon before Saunders scored a simple goal for the home side to make the score 1-1.

A Cannock attack was stopped by Gumbley before Dolphin beat Shorter, his centre rolling along the home side's crossbar. Dunkley almost beat Latham with a header before Saunders raced away, and when challenged by Barratt, passed to Wells who was clearly offside, but the referee failed to blow and the Cannock centre-forward netted to make the score 2-1 to the home side. Town players protested in vain.

Latham was called into action on several occasions before Dolphin put in a good run and centre, which Dunkley struck into the net. The 'goal' was disallowed for offside, but both backs were on the right side of Dunkley. Nuneaton did most of the pressing up until the half-time whistle, with Payne's shot skimming the bar. Cannock led 2-1 at the break.

Cannock had the lion's share of the play after the break with the first action seeing the home side score an offside 'goal', another debatable decision. Warren was fouled and Gumbley forced Latham into a save from the free-kick. An effort by Warren was ruled offside. Sheldon on the right was giving Hartley a torrid time, putting in several good crosses and giving Town an anxious time, with Wells scoring a third goal for Cannock during this spell, giving them a 3-1 lead.

Dolphin tested Latham when Nuneaton pushed forward and they made spasmodic attacks, but for the most part Cannock held the upper hand. Towards the end the game degenerated into a scramble, with the only action of note being Lines great save. The full time whistle saw Cannock win by 3-1.

## **Nuneaton Town v Bournville Athletic 30-11-1912**

Such was the form of Nuneaton Town, that by the time they faced Bournville in the last week of November, any match details were dispensed with and a couple of columns of analysis and criticism took their place, hence:

"Last Saturday's match needs but little reference - it is not worth much. It was a poor game, and Bournville deserved their victory. The visitors scored twice, and Dunn replied for the Town a few minutes from time. Humphries (a new goalkeeper whom the Town were trying) should have prevented the first goal. The team was all sixes and sevens, Dunn and Gumbley being the only two players to shape anything like well. Dolphin and Stringer were in good form, but they only received the ball about three times in each half, and no player can be



successful if he cannot get the ball. Bournville were not by any means a good side - but such a fact only renders Nuneaton's defeat more distasteful."

## **Cradley Heath St. Luke's v Nuneaton Town 07-12-1912**

**Cradley:** Walters; Grout and Partridge; J. Parkes, Bowen and I. Parkes; Williams, Milliner, Hooper, Podmore and Watkins.

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Bayliss and Barratt; Dunn, Dale and Gumbley; Stringer, Savage, Weate, Warren and Dunkley.

Town travelled to the rain sodden Black Country to face Cradley Heath. Dolphin was sick and so Warren was recalled to the team, and Dunn acted as captain.

Weate started a good move but Town were pushed back, before Dunn brought Walters to his knees and a ball across the goalmouth saw Cradley hard pressed to defend. A foul on Weate saw Dale shoot wide from the free-kick, while just after Warren and Dunkley then got away on the right and from the centre Weate skimmed the bar. Weate was then caught offside before an exciting episode took place the home goalmouth, with a free kick six yards out looking dangerous, but Cradley cleared.

Weate again shot over before Cradley attacked and Hooper tested Lines, who made a good save. Weate had back luck with a great attempt, with Walters struggling to clear. A good move by Town saw Warren fail at the last moment, after which Cradley pressed hard, and from a scrimmage in front of the Town goal Hooper made it 1-0 to the home side.

Lines then saved well from a corner, while at the other end, Dunkley put in a fine centre, but Grout cleared. Watkins extended the lead to 2-0, scoring after Lines had made two successive saves. Weate then missed a chance to cut the lead when he missed Stringer's centre. Walters cleared from Dunkley's corner and Bowen picked up the ball and booted well up field, where Williams dashed in and shot past Lines with terrific force to make the score 3-0, after which the referee then blew for half-time.

Dunn stopped a Cradley breakaway at the start of the second half, while Weate missed a great chance, and shortly after went close when he forced Walters to save with some difficulty. Dale also tried his luck before Cradley put great pressure on the Town defence, but Bayliss cleared. Town's attack was fended off and at the other end Dale saved a certain goal, kicking away when the backs were beaten. Dale grazed the bar with a great shot, after which Dunkley centred well for Savage, who steered the ball past Walters to make the score 3-1.

Weate again put the ball over the bar, as Town continued to press and Barratt put the ball into the area for Savage, whose shot was saved brilliantly by Walters. Warren missed a chance and then Walters cleared. The home side then broke away and following a centre by Williams, Podmore made it 4-1. Nuneaton forced Cradley back and Savage got a second goal following good work by Dunkley, to make the score 4-2.

Weate skimmed the bar again and Lines had to run out and save brilliantly from Hooper. Town attacked for the last few minutes, but could not get a goal and the final score was 4-2.

## **A Plea for Enthusiasm by True Blue**

...The more I attend away matches the more am I struck with the difference between the Nuneaton crowd and those of other places. In the Black Country, for instance, a continual roar is kept up right through the game. So likewise is the case at Atherstone, where the home crowd is worth quite two goals to the "Adders". Contrast this with Nuneaton. On the Newdegate Ground silence abounds except when a goal is scored. In many games the visiting team receives quite as much encouragement as do the Town players.

Men who have at one time donned the Nuneaton jerseys say the crowd in this town is the worst behaved towards their own team than any other they have played before...

## **Nuneaton Town v Coombs Wood 14-12-1912**

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Bayliss and Barratt; Dunn, Dale and Gumbley; Dolphin, Savage, Weate, Smith and Stringer.

**Coombs Wood:** Tatton; Jones and Bills; Watton, Gilbert and J. Smith; Hipkiss, Darby, Hancox, Freeman and B. Smith.

Coombs Wood were struggling in the league and their best days were behind them, but a fairly good gate turned out to welcome the "Woodites". Dolphin came back into the line-up with Stringer crossing over to the left in place of Dunkley. Warren was dropped and his place was taken by Smith.

Town made the early running and Dolphin passed to Weate, who transferred the ball to Stringer, the winger flashing the ball past the upright. Dolphin got in a cross which found Weate, but his shot went wide of the post. Dale, Dunn and Bayliss turned in some good defensive work after which Smith broke from the half-way line and shot over the bar.

Good play by Stringer resulted in an exciting few minutes, after which Tatton was left sitting on the ground holding the ball, with several Town players trying to dispossess him. Eventually the ball was cleared and Dale sent in a shot that Tatton saved. Lines then kicked away at the other end before Gumbley took up the running, got through all opposition and passed to Smith, whose shot was stopped by Tatton who injured himself in the process.

Dolphin got another centre in, but Weate disappointed the crowd by shooting wide. Dunn set Dolphin and Savage away, but Tatton again saved when a goal seemed certain. Weate's shot went just wide of the post. Tatton again saved, this time from Dolphin and a nice pass from Dale gave Savage a chance, but Tatton cleared. The last action of the half saw Stringer hit a shot into the side netting and when the whistle went, the score was 0-0.



# Nuneaton Town 1894-1919 Part 2



Five minutes into the second half, a good move by Smith and Stringer resulted in Savage running through to score a good goal, putting the home side 1-0 up. Within a minute Barratt sent the forwards away and Smith scored with a fine shot to make the score 2-0, amidst much enthusiasm.

Coombs Wood broke but Gumbley stopped the attack. Barratt then cleared from under the bar in the nick of time, while at the other end Tatton cleared from Savage's shot. Barratt again came to the rescue as Coombs Wood attacked. Gumbley was victim of a nasty foul, having parted with ball some seconds previous to the 'tackle'. Although it looked like he may have incurred a bad injury, he resumed after a few minutes to loud applause. Weate passed out to Stringer, who put in a good shot, which Tatton saved. The keeper then fended off a succession of corners before Dale shot narrowly wide. Some good play between Smith and Weate saw the ball reach Stringer, who hit a shot across goal with terrific force. The ball hit Jones right under the chin and went into the net to make it 3-0. The defender had to be carried off but returned shortly after.

A good piece of passing play by Nuneaton's forwards saw them score a fourth goal through Smith. It was a ground shot from 20 yards out, and the best goal of the match which put Town 4-0 up. Dunn hit the crossbar just after the goal, and Dolphin's tricky play was defended by the Woodites. Darby looked dangerous for the visitors and just before the final whistle, he worked his way through, winning a corner from which Darby shot at Lines. The keeper stopped the ball, but Hancox bundled him over the line to make the score 4-1.

## Nuneaton Town v Dudley Town 21-12-1912

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Bayliss and Barratt; Dunn, Dale and Gumbley; Dolphin, Savage, Weate, Smith and Stringer.

**Dudley Town:** Errington; Walleth and Gill; Green, Basterfield and Mills; Fellows, Haycock, Horton, Sheldon and Shingler.

A good crowd had assembled for the Birmingham Senior Cup first round tie against Dudley Town, who were considered to be one of the top teams in the Birmingham and District League. Both teams were at full strength.

Savage forced Errington to save at the expense of a corner and a little later the same player shot over the bar. Errington was then put under pressure for quite a while and Dolphin's centre was headed just wide by Savage. Dale and Barratt stopped an attack by the visitors before a long drive by Smith went just over. Weate then put Dolphin away and Savage got a shot in, but Errington saved. Dolphin then put in another fine run and just skimmed the bar with his shot.

Dolphin broke yet again and his centre found Savage with the goal at his mercy, but his weak shot posed Errington no problems. Yet again Dolphin caused problems when he got in a brilliant shot which missed by a few inches. Weate also went very close before Dudley broke and Heycock sent in a long shot which hit the upright and bounced back into play

where Sheldon looked certain to score, but Lines literally took the ball off his toe and threw away.

Stringer shot wide and another attack saw Savage spoil a good move by Waite, by being caught offside. Lines cleared upfield where Dolphin gained possession and a tussle between the winger and Mills ended with Dolphin coming out on top, but being fouled by Mills. A penalty was awarded and Smith made no mistake from the spot to put Nuneaton 1-0 ahead. Savage ballooned the ball over the bar from Dolphin's cross, while at the other end a corner was headed onto the roof of the net.

Offside pulled up the visitors before Dolphin broke away after a pass by Dunn. He rounded Gill and put across to Weate, who transferred to Savage. The inside-right was unfortunately in an offside position.

Lines was then called into action and tipped the ball away from Sheldon's shot. A good move between Dunn and Dolphin was ruined by offside before Gill got laid out, but was able to resume shortly after. Weate was prominent in midfield and put the ball out to Stringer who won a corner which was cleared. At the half-time whistle Nuneaton led 1-0.

Stringer and Dunn took the ball forward, with both players hitting the ball into the side netting in quick succession. Barrett cleared from a Dudley attack before Stringer beat Walleth and centred to Savage who was narrowly wide. Dudley then got on the attack and Barrett cleared from under the bar, but the ball was returned and a corner forced, which was well placed and banged into the net by Green to make the scores level at 1-1.

Town hit back and the Dudley goal had a narrow escape, but the ball found its way to the other end where Sheldon forced Gumbley to concede a corner. Gumbley then hit the bottom of the upright with a good shot, while Weate hit the upright with a long drive. Town were not enjoying the best of luck and seemed destined not to score. Dudley broke away and with a long shot from Green, took a 2-1 lead. Within two minutes the visitors scored again, with a mistake by Bayliss letting in Sheldon who made it 3-1 to Dudley.

Savage missed from a good position and had hard luck later on, but try as they may Nuneaton could not score and Dudley ran out 3-1 winners.

## Nuneaton Town v Birmingham Trams 25-12-1912

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Bayliss and Barratt; Smith, Payne and Gumbley; Dunn, Savage, P. Moore, Weate and W. Smith.

A large crowd assembled on Christmas morning to witness the replay of the match against Birmingham Trams, which was abandoned when the teams met in November. Several changes were made to the Town team with a young centre-half, Smith, from Foleshill Albions, being tried. Pat Moore, who is 17 and with Stafford Rangers. Pat is the brother of former Town player Jack Moore.



Nuneaton had the bulk of the play early on, but Trams scored twice through Goode and Sheppard. Nuneaton responded well and before the interval had dragged the scores back to level pegging with goals from Pat Moore and Billy Smith. The half-time score was 2-2.

In the second half Nuneaton were easily the better side, but missed many easy chances. Weate eventually put Nuneaton 3-2 ahead with an easy shot and Moore hit the inside of the post, with the ball being scrambled away by Broadfield. Town's appeals for a goal to be awarded went ignored by the referee. Towards the end the visitors' centre-forward broke away and beat both Bayliss and Barratt, shooting into the net as Lines ran out to meet him, making the score 3-3. Nuneaton tried their hardest to score in the last few minutes, and several exciting scrimmages took place in Trams' goalmouth, but the match ended in a draw at 3-3.

## **Bilston United v Nuneaton Town 26-12-1912**

**Bilston:** Jackson; Higgs and Hanbury; Evans, Whittingham and Harrison; Haines, Bishop, Caddick, Smart and Pritchard.

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Field and Barratt; Dunn, E. Smith and Gumbley; Dolphin, Savage, P. Moore, Weate and W. Smith.

Nuneaton visited Bilston on Boxing Day at Proud's Lane. It was a miserable day and torrential rain fell from just before the start of the game up until half-time, making the ground heavy and slippery. The weather greatly affected the size of the crowd and there were only a moderate amount of spectators in attendance at the kick-off.

Nuneaton made just one change to their line-up with Field, an ex-Bilston player, being signed from Birmingham City. Play had only been in progress for four minutes before Weate opened the scoring in favour of the visitors, giving Town a 1-0 advantage. Bilston retaliated and Field and Barratt both had to clear before Dolphin's centre caused problems at the other end. E. Smith then placed the ball out to Moore, who tried to burst through, but was checked.

Gumbley dispossessed Haines and put the ball out to Weate, who in turn passed to E. Smith, whose centre found W. Smith. The left-winger skimmed the bar with his shot. E. Smith's free-kick from 30 yards, went just over before Lines had to clear at the other end. Pritchard dribbled the ball along the touchline and his shot beat Lines comprehensively to level the scores at 1-1, which was the score at half-time.

Bilston attacked at the start of the second half, and Field cleared, but the ball was returned and Barratt missed his kick and the Town goal had a narrow escape. Good play between Moore and Weate saw Nuneaton take the lead, with Moore applying the finish with a great low drive into the net to put the visitors 2-1 up. Pritchard shot wide for the home side, while Weate headed just wide. Dolphin's centre wreaked havoc in the Bilston goalmouth with Jackson saving repeated efforts from Town's inside men. Bilston attacked again and

Lines was forced to kick clear before great play between Smart and Pritchard resulted in the ball being placed in front of the Town goal. Gumbley ran across to clear but the wet ball skidded off his boot and into his own net to level the scores at 2-2. Jackson saved well from Moore and Dolphin put a shot into the side netting. Lines cleared twice from on target shots before Savage headed just wide and Dolphin just missed with a rasping shot.

Moore received the ball near the half-way line and beat all opposition in front of him and scored a great goal to put Town 3-2 into the lead with five minutes remaining. Nuneaton easily held on for a fully deserved win.

## **Bromsgrove Rovers v Nuneaton Town 28-12-1912**

**Bromsgrove:** Skinner; Slade and Bridgwater; Merrick, Miller and Nicholls; Roberts, Houghton, Cashmore, Jeffs and Williams.

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Field and Barratt; Dunn, Dale and Gumbley; Dolphin, Savage, P. Moore, Stringer and Smith.

Nuneaton Town and a fair number of their supporters travelled to Bromsgrove Rovers for the final match of 1912. Dale came in for E. Smith, who was engaged in a cup match for Foleshill Albions and Stringer replaced Weate at inside-left.

From the kick-off, Moore passed out to Dolphin, whose centre was cleared, but a minute or so later the move was repeated and Slade put through his own goal in attempting to clear, to give Town an early 1-0 lead. Immediately following the goal Moore hit the post, and following a brief sortie by Bromsgrove, which Lines cleared, Dolphin was tripped and the free kick resulted in a skirmish. The ball was half cleared, but Stringer picked up the ball and scored, making it 2-0 to Town.

The home side were playing with ten men and employed the one-back game, which frustrated Nuneaton attacks. A corner to Rovers was cleared and wing to wing passing between Smith and Dolphin resulted in an offside decision. Shortly after, though, Stringer's pass picked out Moore, who made it 3-0. Bridgwater then made the Bromsgrove team up to full strength. Barratt gave away a free kick on the edge of the area, but Field cleared Nuneaton's lines.

Williams put the ball all the way across the Nuneaton area, but no one was on hand to receive the ball. Smith skimmed the bar for Nuneaton, before Moore received the ball near the half way line, and beating all the opposition, scored a fourth goal with a great shot. Lines then saved from Williams before Town exerted more pressure and won a penalty. Moore's kick hit the crossbar and dropped down at the feet of Skinner, who cleared. Although Nuneaton continued to press for the rest of the half, no further goals were scored and at the whistle Town led by 4-0.

Bridgwater replaced Skinner in goal at the start of the second half with Skinner going to back. A few minutes into the half Moore made it 5-0, when he and Savage raced clear. Dunn put the ball just wide following a good move between

# Nuneaton Town 1894-1919 Part 2



himself, Savage and Dolphin and a brilliant effort from Moore was saved by Bridgwater, with the keeper tipping over the bar from Smith just after.

Bromsgrove cleared two corners before Smith passed back to Gumbley, who scored number six. Bridgwater again saved from Moore and Dolphin's centre was put wide by Smith. Dale was penalised for a foul and shortly afterwards Moore was clean through when he was tripped, the free kick being cleared. Stringer and Dolphin were both brought down, with nothing accruing from the free kicks and Savage and Dolphin made an opening, but Slade cleared. At the final whistle the scored stood at 6-0 to Nuneaton.

A special mention for Pat Moore, whose second goal will live long in the memory. He received the ball near the half-way line, threaded his way past three players and when the two backs came out to meet him, he slowed a little, until Slade and Bridgwater came close, when he accelerated between them and ran a few yards further before putting a glorious shot past the helpless Skinner.

## Hednesford Town v Nuneaton Town 01-01-1913

**Nuneaton: Lines; Foster and Barratt; Smith, Payne and Gumbley; Dolphin, Savage, Warren, Dunkley and Stringer.**

Nuneaton travelled to Hednesford on New Year's Day and played their part in a thrilling match, which some Hednesford supporters said was the finest game seen on their ground since they joined the Combination. The home supporters freely admitted that Nuneaton deserved better and a share of the spoils would have been fair.

The visitors slipped to a 2-1 defeat with W. Smith scoring for the visitors from a penalty.

## Nuneaton Town v Northampton Town 04-01-1913

Town faced Northampton Town Reserves in a friendly match which was arranged as part of Charles Smith's transfer. Moore and Dunn scored for Nuneaton in a 2-0 win.

## Dudley Phoenix v Nuneaton Town 18-01-1913

**Dudley: Hartland; Parkes and Jones; Pritchard, Lavender and Roberts; Lockley, Hughes and Knock, Green and Pagget.**

**Nuneaton: Lines; Field and Barratt; Dunn, Dale and Gumbley; Dolphin, Savage, P. Moore, Dunkley and Smith.**

Town journeyed to Shavers' End, home of Dudley Phoenix, with concerns as to the state of the pitch, the weather having turned many grounds into quagmires. The Dudley pitch, though, proved a pleasant surprise, with a well drained playing area with no boggy spots for the goalkeepers.

The first action saw Dale pass out to Savage, who put Dolphin away and he shot into the keeper's hands. A free kick from Dale was cleared which set Dudley's forwards going, but Gumbley checked the run and passed out to Dunkley, whose

shot was cleared by Hartland. Barrett and Dale then broke up Dudley moves before Lockley shot over for the home side.

Lines cleared following a shot from Knock, while Dale headed clear from Lockley and a long shot from Lavender cleared the bar. Dunkley then tested Hartland with a rasping shot, which was cleared. Savage shot wide from Smith's pass before Hartland was called on again, clearing from Dolphin.

Jones cleared from Dolphin and Dunn shot wide before Parkes cleared. At the other end Hughes put the ball out under pressure from Barrett, after which Smith broke away, but his centre was caught and cleared by Hartland. Lines was then called upon to make two good saves before Dunn found Savage, who in turn found Moore, who hit the net support with a great shot, and then put another shot wide.

Dunkley and Dale exchanged passes and Dale's shot was charged down, while when Dudley attacked Hughes found Pagget, who put in a weak effort. Town broke away following the goal kick and Savage hit the post with a terrific shot, but Moore seized on the rebound and scored an easy goal to put the visitor 1-0 into the lead.

Dunn cleared from Knock, while Dolphin shot wide at the other end. Following good work by Dunn and Dale, Smith forced a corner, which was cleared and Lines was called into action, making two clearances before Paggett shot over following an exciting melee, during which Town seemed sure to concede. Knock was then caught offside and from the kick Dunkley gained possession, running all the way through, and though Hartland knocked the shot up, he could not stop it going into the net, for 2-0 to Town.

Dunkley scored an offside 'goal' a minute later, before Hartland made saves from Dolphin and Savage, while at the other end Hughes headed over when Barrett conceded a corner. Barrett conceded another corner, but at the half-time whistle, Town were leading 2-0.

Barrett stopped Pagget in his tracks at the start of the second half, but Lavender picked up the ball and shot wide. A Dunn centre was then cleared and Hartland saved from Moore following Smith's centre. Lines saved from Green, before Savage broke with a clear field, but wanted too much time, and only a corner accrued from which the ball was cleared. Dunkley headed over from another corner, while a Lockley centre was put wide by Paggett at the other end.

Hartland then cleared when Moore put Savage clear and kicked away from Smith shortly afterwards. Savage put in a good shot that Hartland dealt with, before Smith got away and passed to Moore who transferred to Savage, who was given offside. Dudley broke and Green found Pagget, whose centre caused a mix-up in the area, which resulted in Pritchard shooting past Lines to cut the deficit to 2-1.

Town restored the two goal margin within a minute when Dunn was charged in the back and Smith easily beat Hartland with the penalty to make the score 3-1. Town looked like

## Nuneaton Town 1894-1919 Part 2



scoring again and a passing movement saw Field put forward to Smith, who found Dunkley who in turn passed to Gumbley, who shot just wide. The home team forced two corners, but both were cleared.

Dudley put the ball out for a goal kick at the other end, which led to Pat Moore receiving the ball. Moore went through on his own and fired hard and low into the corner of the net, with Hartland hopelessly beaten, to make the score 4-1. Lockley got away on the right, but Barrett was too good for him, while crosses from Dolphin and Gumbley were caught and cleared by Hartland. Dunkley then headed over Gumbley's cross. The final action of the game saw Hartland make a marvellous save from Dunkley following Smith's centre. At the whistle Nuneaton had won 4-1.

### **Nuneaton Town v Hinckley United 25-01-1913**

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Field and Barratt; Dunn, Dale and Gumbley; Dolphin, Savage, Weate, Dunkley and Smith.

**Hinckley:** Pick; Tams and King; Warburton, Ball and Phipps; Mandley, Puffer, Butler, Moore and Chamberlain.

A large crowd with a good contingent from Hinckley assembled for the Atherstone Nursing Cup semi-final against Hinckley United at The Newdegate Arms ground.

The early action saw Mandley get away for Hinckley, but he shot wide. Weate's pass found Dolphin, but Tams broke up the move before a free kick to Nuneaton was put wide by Dale. Mandley skimmed the bar at the other end before Dunn set Dolphin going, who rounded King and centred for Dunkley to head home to put the home side 1-0 up.

Smith then shot and Pick fumbled and a crowd of players were on the ball. While on the ground Tams handled and a penalty was awarded. Smith took the kick and put it over the bar. Smith's cross then found Dunkley who misheaded before Dunn worked his way through and passed to Dunkley, who was given offside. Barrett's miskick let in Butler, but Lines came to the rescue when a goal looked certain. A succession of corners to both sides came to nothing were followed by two fouls on Dolphin, which suffered a similar fate. At the other end Warburton shot over from a corner before Nuneaton took play upfield and Pick had to save twice from Dolphin. Hinckley won a couple of corners that came to nothing, before the half-time whistle, which saw Nuneaton with a 1-0 lead.

Hinckley opened the second half with an attack, but play soon transferred to the other end where Savage shot over. A brilliant run and cross by Dolphin forced Pick to save with some difficulty. A Hinckley corner was got away and Dolphin won applause for some tricky play, which was spoiled by some wild shooting by Town's forwards. Lines tidied up from a Hinckley attack, while at the other end Pick kicked clear from Savage, who tested Pick for a second time.

Following good work from Savage, two or three openings were made, but these were not taken advantage of. However,

Dolphin then got in a good centre from which Dale scored with a hard and fast drive to put the home team 2-0 up. Chamberlain got away and looked likely to score, but Lines brought off a marvellous save. Pick saved at the other end and Lines was again in action, saving from Butler and Puffer.

Weate looked like going through, but Pick beat him, before the keeper had his hands full with shots from Smith and Savage. The ball then went all the way across the Hinckley area with no-one to finish, and Pick saved from Dunn. Town were now outplaying the Tin-hatters and Pick again saved from Dunn, and right up until the final whistle Town swarmed around the Hinckley goal. At the final whistle Nuneaton had won 2-0.

### **Willenhall Pickwick v Nuneaton Town 01-02-1913**

**Willenhall:** Henworth; Archer and Edge; Kent, Robinson and Wootton; Paddock, Mason, Davies, Houghton and Smith.

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Field and Barratt; Dunn, E. Smith and Gumbley; Dolphin, Savage, Warren, Dunkley and W. Smith.

Nuneaton had never taken a single point from their visits to Portobello, home to Willenhall Pickwick. A good crowd was present and conditions were heavy.

Town were the first to show and Dunn, Dolphin and Savage took part in a move that resulted in a corner, which came to nothing. Lines cleared a shot from Davis and Houghton put the ball past the post. Nuneaton gave away a free-kick from which Wootton forced Lines to throw away, before Field tidied up when the home left wing attacked. Good play between Dolphin and Savage saw the latter shoot hard, but Henworth saved.

Pickwick came back and Houghton scored the opening goal of the match with a shot that went into the far corner of the net, putting the home side 1-0 up. Warren put in a good shot as Town hit back, which was saved by Henworth. Dolphin's run and cross went begging and a home attack was pushed back. Billy Smith put in an electrifying run for Town, with his cross being perfect, but Savage completely missed the ball. Just after Savage tested Henworth with a great shot that the keeper cleared. Dolphin also had a good shot saved by the keeper.

Houghton missed an easy chance for 'Picks' and Lines saved from Mason. Barratt cleared Town's lines following Paddock's centre. A scrimmage then developed in Town's goal, but Lines emerged with the ball. The home defence was being severely tested by Town's forwards and eventually, five minutes before the break, Warren scored from Dunkley's pass to make the scored level at 1-1. Willenhall, however, regained the lead before the break with Davis putting the ball into the net as Lines attempted to clear, and the home side went in at half time with a 2-1 lead.

After the break Nuneaton were well on top and set up a sustained attack on the Willenhall goal. Henworth saved great shots from Warren before Kent made the scores level at 2-2 by heading through his own goal. Billy Smith skimmed



the bar and Savage grazed a post before Willenhall got to the other end, where Lines made a good clearance.

Henworth made a great save from Savage and Dolphin put in a lovely centre, which Edge managed to clear. Town repeatedly took the ball in front of goal, but could not score. Field intercepted a cross from Paddock before Warren and Savage made desperate attempts to beat Henworth and Billy Smith went close. Dolphin had the measure of Wootton and put in several fine centres, but Nuneaton could not beat Henworth and the match ended 2-2.

## **Bromsgrove Rovers v Nuneaton Town 08-02-1913**

“True Blue” dispensed with any sort of match report for Town’s match against Bromsgrove Rovers, preferring instead to bemoan the lack of skill and effort present to the Nuneaton footballing public.

“Nuneaton Town gave a really great exhibition on Saturday of how NOT to play football. In fact, the game with Bromsgrove Rovers was a libel on the greatest of all English pastimes. Each player in the Nuneaton colours seemed inclined to perform his worst, and they must have succeeded beyond their expectations! It is not my intention to give the usual column and a half report - the match is not worth it. It is most likely that those who saw the “play” have no desire to read much about it; while those people who were fortunate enough not to have wasted a valuable hour and a half on a Saturday afternoon have probably heard sufficient expressions of opinion from the football public to convince them of the nature of the “football” shown. To the crowd - and it was a good one - I extend sympathy for the disappointment inflicted upon them...”

## **Nuneaton Town v Coventry City 18-02-1913**

**Nuneaton: Lines; Field and Barratt; Dunn, S. Smith and Gumbley; Stringer, Townsend, Warren, Dunkley and W. Smith.**

**Coventry: Jacques; Dexter and Parton; Jackson, Boston and Kimberley; Marr, McCulloch, Smith, Wakinshaw and Welch.**

The rules governing eligibility to take part in the Nuneaton Hospital Charity Cup had been changed to maximise the success in raising funds. Nuneaton Town, Hinckley United, Atherstone Town and Coventry City were the only four teams invited and Nuneaton faced Coventry at The Newdegate.

Town showed three changes with Townsend and Stringer replacing Savage and Dolphin, and Sid Smith taking over at centre half from Dale, who was unfit. By kick-off time the ground was enveloped in a thick fog and it was decided to wait to see if it cleared and a start was made at 3.40pm after several inspections by referee, Mr. C. T. Lutwyche.

Jackson cleared a sortie by Town before Coventry centre-forward Smith got through on his own and looked like scoring but Lines pulled off a fine save, and again defended well against Marr and Boston. Kimberley shot wide for Coventry.

Lines saved from McCulloch and Dunn conceded a corner, while at the other end Billy Smith also forced a corner, with Sid Smith getting injured in the resultant melee. Lines saved a magnificent long shot from Welch. Nuneaton attacked and Dexter cleared, while Gumbley conceded a corner at the other end.

Dunkley gained possession and outpaced the back, but passed when he should have gone on his own and the Coventry defence proved too strong. Townsend put a shot into the side netting, while at the other end Marr missed an easy chance, and Wakinshaw shot wide. Field’s clearance dropped on top of his own net before Billy Smith was set free by Dunkley and rattled the side netting with a ripping shot. City attacked again and Smith had a real beauty saved by Lines. The interval then arrived after 35 minutes play with the score at 0-0.

The teams crossed over without a break and the City gained a corner which was cleared, but City resumed the attack and Wakinshaw sent a terrific drive into the far corner of the net to put Coventry 1-0 up. Boston then put in a fantastic shot which Lines saved and earned a round of applause.

Billy Smith then got on the move from Dunkley’s pass, but Warren was offside. McCulloch was very prominent for City and found Marr who swung the ball across to Welch, who scored with a well judged shot, putting Coventry 2-0 up. McCulloch and Marr both missed good chances and Lines saved brilliantly from Boston. Town got forward and Stringer was easily dispossessed, before Dunkley had hard lines with a shot which struck the bar and bounced out again.

Jackson was penalised for fouling in the area and Warren took the spot kick, which was straight at Jacques in the Coventry goal, who caught the ball and ran out, but ran too far and a free kick was awarded almost under the bar. Billy Smith put the ball over the players to Warren who shot through into the net, making the score 2-1. Nuneaton pushed forward, looking for an equaliser and Warren looked certain to score, but Jacques made a great save to deny him. At the final whistle Coventry had won 2-1.

## **Halesowen v Nuneaton Town 15-02-1913**

**Halesowen: Rudge; Bache and Chamberlain; Hyde, Saunders and Evans; Hadley, Robbins, Thorneycroft, Rodway and Owen.**

**Nuneaton: Lines; Field and Barratt; Dunn, S. Smith and Gumbley; Dolphin, Allen, Warren, Dunkley and W. Smith.**

Heavy rain, bad light and the threat of a thick fog rolling in put this game in doubt, but as luck had it the rain relented and the fog held off to allow the game to proceed to the finish. Nuneaton made two changes with Stringer and Townsend being displaced by Dolphin and Allen, with the latter making his first appearance for Town, having served the Coventry City club.

Halesowen started the game with a man short, with Saunders not having put in an appearance. The first action of the match



saw Billy Smith make a good run down the wing, which was spoiled by weak shooting. Halesowen then struggled to clear after good play from Dunn following a corner. A Halesowen attack was pushed back and Allen was caught offside for the visitors. Lines was then called upon to save twice in quick succession before Nuneaton made good progress upfield where a good combination of passing between Dolphin and Allen resulted in the latter scoring an offside 'goal'. Dunkley hit the crossbar and then forced Rudge to save from his overhead kick.

Halesowen won a penalty following a fast break. Thorneycroft took the penalty kick, but Lines saved and got the ball away afterwards. Rudge then saved a shot from Allen following Billy Smith's corner and repeated it when Dunn shot. Dolphin and Allen combined on the right and the latter scored from Dolphin's centre to put Town 1-0 up. Rudge had to clear from Billy Smith's cross before Barratt tested the keeper with a long shot. Lines was called on to do the same from a similar effort.

Billy Smith put in what turned out to be the finest effort of the game when he received the ball on the half way line and after beating a half-back and the backs, shot the ball into the net with terrific force while on the run. The goalkeeper never saw the ball and the rigging shuddered from the impact. Lines cleared a Halesowen attack, with Dolphin picking up the clearance and putting a shot wide. Field dispossessed Robbins when he looked to score and Barratt kicked away under pressure. Thorneycroft shot over the bar from Hadley's centre.

Dunkley's through ball put Warren clear and he raced through in promising fashion before Rudge and Bache both went to meet him and all three collided heavily. Warren escaped injury but the other two players required treatment. Billy Smith then made another good run down the left, but his centre was cleared and half-time arrived with Nuneaton leading 2-0.

From the restart Barratt launched a huge clearance downfield and Dunn passed to Warren, who missed an easy chance. Owen then looked like racing through for Halesowen, but Dunn chased him down and dispossessed him. Dunkley shot wide from a good position, while at the other end Lines had to run out and kick away. Billy Smith put in a great run and from his centre Warren missed an open goal. Gumbley brought a good save from Rudge with a shot from long range.

Nuneaton then made it 3-0 when Allen passed out to Warren, who had no difficulty in beating Rudge. Town almost scored again when Dunn passed to Allen, who in turn passed to Warren, the latter's tremendous shot being charged down.

Rudge saved from Warren and Dunkley and a little later Billy Smith made another great run and Sid Smith tested Rudge with a great shot. Rudge then made a marvellous save from Allen, who gained his reward shortly after putting in a long range grounder that went in the far side of the net. Hadley went close for the home side towards the end, the ball running all the way across the area, where Dunn cleared. At the whistle the score was 4-0 to Nuneaton.

## Late Captain Scott

At the Nuneaton Wesleyan Church on Sunday evening last, a special "In Memoriam" service was held for those who lost their lives in the South Pole expedition. There was a large congregation, and the service was conducted by Rev. G. R. Graham, who preached a most impressive sermon. During the service the choir rendered Tennyson's "Crossing The Bar," in splendid style, and the organist (Mr. J. Reginald Bacon) played "The Dead March" in Saul. As far as we can ascertain this was the only service of its character held in this district.

## New Signing

Nuneaton Town have secured the services of Allen from Coventry City. He is engaged in the teaching profession in Coventry and has seen service with the City club

## THE GREAT EVENT

### FOOTBALL FEVER PREVALENT IN NUNEATON

### NUNEATON TOWN V. ATHERSTONE TOWN

### UNPRECEDENTED ENTHUSIASM ON THE NEWDEGATE

### HUGE CROWD WITNESS EXCITING GAME

### "ADDERS" LEAD BY TWO GOALS, BUT NUNEATON THE VICTORS

#### Nuneaton Town v Atherstone Town 22-02-1913

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Field and Barratt; Dunn, S. Smith and Gumbley; Dolphin, Allen, Warren, Dunkley and W. Smith.

**Atherstone:** Archer; T Hargraves and A. Windridge; Harper, Payne and Goode; Norton, F. Hargraves, Izon, Hughes and Preston.

Many hundreds of Atherstone supporters arrived on the special train, armed with tin whistles, bells and other "musical" instruments. The red and white ribbons wafted too and fro in the breeze. And, having made their way down Bond Street, on entering the Newdegate Arms battlefield, a



more sober, quietly confident gathering was there to greet them. On commencement there were five thousand people throbbing with excitement, prepared for a titanic struggle.

Emmin Dunn won the toss and elected to play towards the Burgage. Izon kicked off for Atherstone and a weak kick by Windridge let in Dunkley and Warren, but an offside whistle cut them short. Adders then pushed forward and Lines cleared a grounder from Preston, while at the other end Billy Smith beat Harper for pace and centred, but Allen put wide. Dunn then found Dolphin with a lovely pass, but the winger's centre was put wide by Warren.

With just five minutes gone Norton got down the right for Atherstone and Gumbley failed to tackle him. The winger swung the ball over and Izon met it squarely and sent the ball into the net amid vociferous cheering from the visiting fans, giving the visitors a 1-0 lead.

Dunkley headed Dolphin's centre towards goal and forced Archer to handle. Dolphin was fouled by Goode as he attempted to break clear and Windridge cleared from the free kick. Allen then exhibited some tricky play, which ended with Dolphin rounding Windridge, before shooting into the side netting. Gumbley failed to intercept Norton who put the ball across to Izon, who shot, but Lines saved. Windridge then took Dolphin out with undue force, but the free kick came to nothing. "Adders" attacked again and Izon received the ball from a throw-in, he centred for Hughes to head into the net, giving Atherstone a 2-0 lead.

Nuneaton were playing a nice passing game, and the better football, but the old problems in front of goal were there for all to see. Allen shot weakly when in a good position, but at last Nuneaton scored. Warren was brought down in the penalty area and Dolphin made no mistake from the penalty to make the score 2-1. Jack Gumbley set Dunkley and Warren going and Billy Smith was given possession, but Hargraves cleared for a corner and Smith placed weakly.

Payne then put in one of his specials, but Lines cleared upfield. Warren was then fouled in midfield and from the free kick Nuneaton should have scored, Dunkley and Warren both wanting too much time. At the whistle Atherstone led 2-1.

After the break, Atherstone attacked before Dunn got Dolphin away, who managed to get the ball across, but the ball drifted out of play. Harper's huge clearance from the Atherstone end dropped the ball in front of the home goal, but Field cleared. Dunn then got the ball out to Billy Smith and his cross was headed onto the top of the net by Allen. Smith then forced a corner, which Warren headed against the base of an upright. There was a period of midfield play before Nuneaton attacked strongly, and a free kick resulted in Warren shooting wide.

Norton made a splendid run upfield, but Field ran across and put the ball into touch. Atherstone were then pulled up for offside before Norton shot yards wide. An exciting race between Dolphin and Hargraves saw the former come off best

and get in a centre, which was cleared by Archer. Nuneaton were well on top but lacked a finish, until at last, a terrific drive forward by Barratt saw Allen gain possession and put across to Dunkley, who in turn found Warren up tapped the ball into the net to make the scores all square at 2-2.

Scenes of the wildest enthusiasm followed, hats and sticks being waved to the accompaniment of a great roar of cheering. Scarcely had the crowd settled that another great outburst signalled that Nuneaton had taken the lead. Warren broke away and drew Archer, slipped by him and steered the ball into the net to give Nuneaton a 3-2 lead. Atherstone hit back and forced a corner, but the home side got to the other end where Dunkley narrowly missed and went close again a minute later.

Izon missed a good chance and a little later and Lines had to save from Hughes, before Nuneaton came again, with Dolphin shooting behind. Norton put a shot behind from a free-kick before putting another effort over the bar. The "Adders" made great efforts to equalise and Fred Hargraves struck a shot against the bar. Izon and Hughes both put in powerful shots but both hit Nuneaton players. Fred Payne also put in a great effort. Atherstone won a corner and an exciting time developed in front of the Nuneaton goal, with the ball dangerously close to the net, but Town defended well.

Nuneaton's final attack saw Sid Smith release Dunkley, who was making ground towards the Atherstone goal when the final whistle blew, signalling a 3-2 win for the home side.

## Redditch v Nuneaton Town

01-03-1913

**Nuneaton: Lines; Field and Barratt; Dunn, S. Smith and Gumbley; Dolphin, Allen, Warren, Dunkley and W. Smith.**

Town faced a tricky trip to Redditch, who had a 100% home record and had beaten league leaders Stafford Rangers 4-0. Nuneaton had a single point from all their visits, that being in their championship winning season in 1906-07.

One of Redditch's largest crowds of the season assembled for the match, with a good number of Nuneaton supporters present. The first action saw Dolphin roughly bowled over, while a Redditch attack was cleared by Barratt. Ogden shot wide for the home team and Lines made a good save from Pearce. Hillman broke up Nuneaton attacks, but Dunkley did head into Ward's hands from Dolphin's cross. Warren went close from another Dolphin cross. Morrell then tricked several Town defenders before shooting wildly over the bar.

Pearce passed the ball forward to Ogden, who was raced by Gumbley for possession and both players got to the ball at the same time, with the Nuneaton player gliding two footed to steer the ball for a corner, but at the same time Ogden tried to centre and fell over Gumbley's leg. A penalty was awarded and Bowker scored to give Redditch a 1-0 lead. Pearce put the ball in the net again, but it was offside. The home side won several corners, but all were cleared and at half-time the score stood at 1-0 to Redditch.



On the restart Ogden immediately got away and centred, but Pointon missed an easy chance. Ward cleared a long shot from Dunkley, while at the other end Sid Smith tackled weakly and let in Pearce, who shot over with only Lines to beat. Dunn and Dolphin set the visitors running and Ward was forced to handle from Dolphin's cross. Billy Smith's hard shot cannoned off Hillman before a foul was given against Allen for handball. Warren almost scored from close in and Nuneaton were now dominating play with Field and Barratt playing well upfield and Redditch rarely attacking.

Dunn put in a long shot that Ward did well to get away before Allen tricked three men before shooting into the corner of the net to make the score 1-1. Redditch, at this point, looked as if they would be overwhelmed and Billy Smith put in several electrifying runs. Allen tried to go through again, but was outnumbered. Dolphin looked to score, but was badly kicked, the referee missing the incident. With five minutes to go Redditch attacked, but Nuneaton's defence held firm. Lines had to make a save towards the very end, but at the whistle Nuneaton had secured a 1-1 draw.

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## GRAND COMBINATION MATCH AT NUNEATON

VISIT OF LEAGUE LEADERS,  
SATURDAY NEXT, MARCH 8th

# STAFFORD RANGERS

VERSUS

# NUNEATON TOWN

Kick-off 3-30 p.m.

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**Nuneaton Town v Stafford Rangers 08-03-1913**

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Field and Barratt; Dunn, Dale and Gumbley; Dolphin, Savage, Warren, Dunkley and Smith.

**Stafford:** Parker; Duckers and Lycett; Smedley, W. Lamplugh and Wilson; Moore, Turley, B. Lamplugh, Hilton and Wright.

There was an above-average crowd for the home game against league leaders Stafford Rangers. Unfortunately R. Allen was unavailable, so Savage came in, Dale replaced Sid Smith. Former Nuneaton players Jack Moore and Wright were in the Stafford side.

Following a throw-up Dunkley secured and passed to Smith, who put in a good run and centre, but Warren's shot was cleared by Parker in the Stafford goal. Dale's free-kick then found Savage, who could not get his shot in and the ball broke to Dunkley, who hit the upright with a beauty amid

cries of "Oh!" from the crowd. Warren was caught offside before Turley put in a fine shot that was saved by Lines. The visitors then exerted strong pressure and looked like scoring on several occasions, missing by narrow margins.

Dale put the ball forward and Dolphin was bowled over. The free-kick was nicely placed, but Warren and Dunkley both missed the ball, when it just needed tapping into the net. Field won applause for some good defending before Smith delighted the crowd with some tricky wing play. Stafford then took the lead with a soft goal, Hilton taking a pot shot and the ball rolling gently into the net to put the visitors 1-0 up.

Warren headed a cross against the crossbar and shortly after put the ball into the net, only for offside to be given. Lines then saved superbly from Turley and Dale cleared well. The score at half-time was 1-0 to the visitors.

Nuneaton hit the side netting twice in the opening minutes of the second half and a beautiful long drive from Dale skimmed the bar as Stafford were pinned in their own half for ten minutes. Eventually Stafford attacked briefly, but Dale set Smith away and a corner was won, which was cleared. Twenty minutes into the second half Stafford had their first shot, Moore hitting his shot into the side netting. Nuneaton then forced two corners before Dunkley headed onto the top of the net, as Nuneaton continued to press. Town were outplaying Stafford and did everything but score. Barratt and Field supported the attack as Stafford's forwards were forced to defend. The visitors then resorted to kicking out tactics with the ball continually out of play.

The Stafford defence stood firm though, and a finely placed Nuneaton corner was headed out by Duckers. Jack Moore went on a solo run but was dispossessed before Nuneaton won yet another corner. The continual kicking out tactics robbed the game of all its interest. Nuneaton won a free kick just outside the penalty line, but Parker saved Smith's well placed shot. Dunkley missed a good opportunity in the closing stages from Smith centre as shot after shot was rained in on Parker's goal and it was extraordinary how Nuneaton failed to score, but at the final whistle the visitors were the winners by 1-0.

**Birmingham Trams v Nuneaton Town 15-03-1913**

Nuneaton travelled to The Stadium, to face Birmingham Trams, having never obtained a single point in an away fixture against their opponents. A rough wind blew furiously throughout the match which made good football very difficult.

The first half was distinctly in Town's favour and they should have had a bigger lead to take into the second half, but the home half backs and defenders Pritchard and Broadfield were outstanding, especially Pritchard. Corners were plentiful, but all came to nothing.

In the early stages of the game, Town were awarded a penalty for handball against Broadfield, but Dolphin tried to hit the ball too hard and it struck the bar and bounced over. Town's





goal came about following a good movement, finished in fine style by Allen, who drew the defence before putting in a shot that gave goalkeeper Broadfield no chance. Town had many other opportunities during the first half, but were unable to take advantage and at half-time it was 1-0 to Town.

Shortly after the break Nuneaton doubled their lead when a corner was cleared, but only as far as Billy Smith, who beat Broadfield with a superb drive to make the score 2-0. Trams redoubled their efforts to score, but were met with a resolute defence. Nuneaton frustrated Trams' efforts time and again, with Lines making some marvellous saves. Nuneaton attacked strongly in the last quarter of an hour, but no further goals resulted and at the final whistle the score was 2-0 **to Town**.

## Nuneaton Town v Cannock Town 22-03-1913

Nuneaton commenced their strenuous Easter holiday programme with a home match against Cannock Town. The Newdegate ground had been rendered treacherous by heavy rain and the mud in some places was ankle deep.

Nuneaton put every ounce of effort into the game, but Rostance in the Cannock goal was outstanding, giving a marvellous exhibition and saving shots from all quarters and angles. Also, their forwards were nippy and their movements were carried out with a rapidity and accuracy that made them a pleasure to watch. The final score was 4-2 to Cannock with Nuneaton's goals being scored by Dolphin and W. Smith.

## Atherstone Town v Nuneaton Town 24-03-1913

**Atherstone:** Archer; T Hargrave and A. Windridge; Harper, Payne and F. Hargraves; Norton, Goode, Izon, Hughes and Preston.

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Field and Barratt; Dunkley, Dale and Gumbley; Dolphin, Allen, P. Moore, Warren and W. Smith.

The final of the Atherstone Nursing Cup took place on the morning of Easter Monday at Sheepy Road between Atherstone, who got through to the final without playing a match, as Stafford Rangers scratched, and Nuneaton Town, who beat Hinckley United in the semi-final.

It was a beautiful spring day with a crowd of 4,000, with 2,000 having travelled from Nuneaton, mainly via the football special and two scheduled trains that were crowded to excess in every compartment including the guards' vans. Prior to the match Nuneaton fans belted out the famous Aston Villa war-cry: 'One - two - three - four - five' along with some rag-time songs taking the music halls by storm just now. Tin bands and rattles were plentiful among both sets of supporters.

Atherstone were at full strength, but Nuneaton had a set-back when Emmin Dunn was injured in the Cannock match, but Pat Moore was available. Dunkley moved to right-half, Warren at inside-left and Moore centre-forward. Dale won the toss and elected to defend the Sheepy Road end.

The early action saw Gumbley receive the ball from a throw-in, passing out to Dolphin on the right, who passed well forward,

but the ball was cut out by Harper. Warren put a centre behind, before the home forwards broke and Barratt rushed out to kick away. The ball was returned and Payne tested Lines. Dolphin then got away and beat both Fred Hargrave and Windridge, finally crossing right in front of the posts, but the inside forwards made nothing of it.

Cries of "Go on Joe" were raised as Norton broke away, but Goode shot wide from his centre. Payne shot wide from a free kick before a combined attack by Nuneaton's forwards almost brought a goal. Nuneaton supporters then raised a cheer as Pat Moore raced through the Atherstone backs, before being overwhelmed. A little later Allen shot wide and Tom Hargrave cleared another Nuneaton attack. At the other end Lines kicked away before handball against Payne put Nuneaton on the attack, but Archer saved. Dunkley then put weakly wide from another free-kick.

A brilliant long range effort from Pat Moore, swerved in the air, but Archer intercepted well and cleared. Barratt then dispossessed Goode and tricked his way past three or four players before putting in a great drive which grazed a post. Smith then beat Harper and Tom Hargrave, and put in a good cross, which was cleared. "Adders" livened up considerably and Izon worked his way through Town's defence and shot hard at Lines, who saved. Atherstone then went into the lead when a free-kick from Fred Hargraves enabled Hughes to turn the ball into the net putting the home side 1-0 up.

Atherstone's success was hailed with delight by their supporters and the team was encouraged to attack further. Norton got away but put the ball behind, while Field tackled Izon in magnificent fashion. Allen and Moore combined, but Tom Hargrave was the stumbling block. Izon shot wide from Harper's centre and then headed over. The game was then of an even nature until half time when Atherstone led by 1-0.

At the start of the second half Pat Moore put the ball out to Dolphin, who went past a defender and crossed to Dale, who shot weakly at the keeper. A little later Dolphin again tricked Windridge, but his cross was put wide by Allen. The game then went through a period of several throw-ins before Goode shot over the bar. Pat Moore then burst between the Atherstone backs, but was again crowded out. Nuneaton then cleared from a free kick on the edge of the area. Nuneaton then mounted some attacks and Dolphin twice ran down and centred, only for the ball to go out of play. At the other end Izon shot yards over the bar.

An exciting melee then developed in the Atherstone area with shot after shot being fired in, only for the ball to cannon off a defender. After the ball had been cleared Allen was seen to be lying injured and had to be carried off. However, from the resultant throw up the ball fell to Billy Smith, who placed the ball into the net, making the score 1-1. Allen came back onto the pitch before Dolphin took the ball down the wing, winning a corner with his centre. Another corner was won, but Smith fired over the top.

# Nuneaton Town 1894-1919 Part 2



Moore and Allen pressed again and Nuneaton looked like getting on top, but another goal would not come and a foul by Dunkley relieved the pressure. Barratt conceded a corner which resulted in Lines kicking away, but the ball was returned to Preston, who centred nicely for Izon to head into the net, giving the home side a 2-1 lead.

Nuneaton swarmed around the Atherstone goal again, but were given offside. Freddie Dolphin put a centre behind, while at the other end Lines kicked clear. Gumbley then handled and from the free kick Goode picked up the ball and his shot grazed the bar. Barratt made a solo effort, with his shot going wide, while Goode performed a similar feat for Atherstone. Pat Moore then made a brilliant effort to get through, beating his opponents, but as he was about to shoot he was tripped from behind. Nuneaton's appeal for a penalty were ignored by the referee.

Nuneaton made a desperate rally in search of an equaliser in the closing period, with even the defence joining in a terrific onslaught on the "Adders" goal. Dolphin grazed the crossbar. From a melee the ball went to Smith, but he mistimed the ball and it glanced off his foot and went past the post. The final score being 2-1 to Atherstone.

## Nuneaton Town v Bilston United 24-03-1913

Following the Atherstone Nursing Cup final, Nuneaton faced Bilston Town in the afternoon, at the Newdegate. Dale and Gumbley were both injured in the morning. Three new players, Franklin, Whitehouse and Spiers were called into the side. With so many new players and some players turning out for the second time that day, a win was perhaps not to be expected. The game did not reach a very high standard and was a typical end-of-season game.

Town's forwards showed a lack of cohesion, but did have some bad luck in front of goal. Pat Moore having several near misses. None of the new players were a success with Franklin and Whitehouse being very weak. Nuneaton's defence was good with excellent performances by Field and Barratt. Allen ought not to have played, but did his best. The final score was Nuneaton 0, Bilston 2.

## Nuneaton Town v Bournbrook 25-03-1913

The following day, Nuneaton were at home again, this time to Bournbrook. More changes were brought about with the introduction of Gathercole and Bartlett from Leamington, who played right and left-half respectively. Dale had recovered enough to play centre-half, but Dolphin and Allen were given a well-earned rest. The game proved a good one with Town showing glimpses of football that surpassed anything they had shown during the rest of the holiday period. The half time score was 1-1 with Stringer scoring for Nuneaton and Bournbrook's Tickle scoring a minute before the break.

The second half started in sensational style, with Nuneaton scoring three goals in five minutes. Dunkley got the first, and the applause had barely subsided when Savage sent Stringer away and his cross was headed towards goal by Pat Moore. Bournbrook's keeper Whitehurst reached the ball, but Moore rushed in to make sure. Moments later Smith got away on the left and after beating several opponents, crashed the ball into the corner of the net.

At this stage the enthusiasm of the crowd knew no bounds and Town's players were loudly cheered. Later on a forward ground pass found Pat Moore, who raced between two backs and finished up by beating Whitehurst with a terrific shot on the run. At the final whistle Nuneaton had won 5-1.

## Coombs Wood v Nuneaton Town 24-03-1913

**Coombs Wood:** Tatton; Tibbetts and Bills; Watton, Gilbert and Smith; Hipkiss, Woodman, Price, Freeman and Clark.

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Field and Barratt; Dunn, Dale and Gumbley; Stringer, Savage, P. Moore, Dunkley and Smith.

Nuneaton travelled to Blackheath to take on Coombs Wood. The conditions under which the game was played were something terrible, and only those present can realise the impossibility of football against such odds. For fifteen yards each side and in front of one goalpost, the mud was quite a foot deep. Nuneaton had to defend this goal in the first half and Field and Barratt had to stand somewhere near to the half-way line to stand on a sound foundation.

On one or two occasions Lines tried to run out of his goal to clear, but Mother Earth clung on to him and weighed him down. Coombs Wood's first goal came from a scrimmage in the goalmouth, with the players' efforts to clear or score respectively in those few minutes were positively ludicrous. Price having the satisfaction of scoring. The other goal was a beauty with Clarke, standing unmarked, putting in a powerful shot into the far corner of the net.

Nuneaton attacked many times, but before they reached the Coombs Wood goal they had to encounter a layer of ashes in the centre of the field, and small pools and streams in abundance. By the time they had got over the rough and thorny ground and had paddled through the water, they had lost the strength needed to bring about a score. At the half-time whistle Coombs Wood were 2-0 ahead.

In the second half matters were exactly reversed, with Nuneaton having simply all the play and Lines hardly saw the ball throughout the period. Nuneaton scored first through Dunkley and equalised through Pat Moore. For an hour before the game started and during the whole of its progress, the rain fell pitilessly, and it was no mere drizzle, it was torrential. The game ended in a 2-2 draw, with many people wondering why the referee had started the game. Neither side had wanted to start the match and the referee remarked afterwards that he regretted starting.



## Nuneaton Town v Cradley Heath St. Luke's 05-04-1913

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Field and Barratt; Dunn, E. Smith and Gumbley; Hall, Savage, Allen, Dunkley and W. Smith.

**Cradley Heath:** Walters; Partridge and Palmer; Neale, Bowen and I. Parkes; Williams, Hooper, J. Parkes, Shepherd and Watkins.

Cradley Heath are a popular attraction at The Newdegate and a good crowd normally turns out for the matches, but this time several members of the Cradley Heath team missed their train and the kick-off was put back to 4.15, when many people had decided to go home. Town made many alterations to the team with Ernie Smith replacing Dale, Allen replaced Pat Moore at centre-forward, due to the latter's unavailability, and Hall of Foleshill Albions was tried at outside right. A strong wind blew across the ground.

Town started the game with ten men, Allen coming on late. Cradley attacked through J. Parkes, who shot wildly over the bar before a free kick to Nuneaton came to nothing. The wind was spoiling play and players took their time in settling down. Billy Smith put a long shot over the bar and then forced keeper Walters to handle. Dunkley handled following a melee in front of the Cradley goal, which relieved the pressure. Savage passed out to Hall, who ran round the visiting defenders and put a cross in from the corner flag. The ball hit the post and went into the net, giving Nuneaton a 1-0 lead.

Only a few minutes later Town increased their lead when Dunkley drew the keeper, and after a bit of fumbling about the ball was secured by Allen, who put Nuneaton 2-0 up. For long periods the play was quite dull as the ball was taken out of play by the wind. A Cradley corner was cleared and at the other end Walters cleared a Billy Smith centre. Dunn found Hall, who rattled the ball into the side netting before a corner to Town was crossed by Hall, where Savage put the ball into the net.

Dunn worked his way over to the left and passed to Billy Smith, whose shot was cleared by Walters at the expense of a corner. Cradley attacked, but Barratt cleared before Hall crossed well, but Walters saved. Another corner followed but Walters caught and threw out. Savage shot over from Billy Smith's centre, while a little later Savage shot wide and Walters punched away from Allen. Dunn got Savage away, who in turn found Hall, whose cross was cut out by Walters. Cradley were pushing forward when the half-time whistle sounded with the home leading 3-0.

From the restart, Nuneaton got forward and Savage missed when well placed. Billy Smith then had a good chance, but put the ball right across goal, where it was cleared. Parkes shot over for Cradley and another long shot cleared the bar. Lines saved brilliantly from Williams and the corner was cleared. At the other end, Hall bored his way into the area and put the ball across, and Allen missed by barely an inch. Hooper missed for the visitors, following a good run by Williams and the same player was making headway again when Gumbley dispossessed him.

Cradley, aided by a strong wind, continued to press, but could not pierce the Town defence. The home team broke away, and Hall crossed. The ball was returned to the right-winger, who crossed for a second time, where Allen scored a lovely goal to put the home side 4-0 ahead. Allen almost scored again just after, the ball gliding along the crossbar and going out of play. Cradley got a consolation goal when Watkins sent in a shot from the touchline which curled into the top corner of the net, with Lines deceived by the flight of the ball. Ernie Smith almost got through, but his shot was charged down. The ball went out to Hall, whose centre was cleared. Play progressed in an even fashion up to the final whistle, at which Nuneaton had won 4-1.

## Bournville Athletic v Nuneaton Town 12-04-1913

**Bournville:** Dixon; Vincent and Bowden; Wichello, Hawkins and Wood; D. Smith, Rodway, Weate, Grayland and Jones.

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Field and Barratt; Dunn, E. Smith and Gumbley; Hall, Savage, Allen, Dunkley and W. Smith.

Town finished their Combination season against Bournville Athletic away. Much interest was shown in Nuneaton's visit by the residents of the model village, and in spite of the cold a good crowd assembled. The visit to Bournville is always enjoyable because the atmosphere of the surroundings is healthy and the large number of ladies in attendance is a sure sign of the purity of the conditions prevailing.

The game began tamely, and the first action saw Barratt clear after Jones had headed into the area. Hall shot wide and soon after Ernie Smith showed wide following a corner. Dunkley and Billy Smith made ground down the left, but Smith's cross went begging. Field cleared a Bournville sortie with a huge kick that set the forwards going. Town's play was good, but the old failings in front of goal were apparent. Bournville's D. Smith made a good run, but shot wide under pressure from Gumbley. Lines easily dealt with a long shot and Allen put the ball out to Billy Smith, who shot narrowly wide.

Field made a saving tackle on Jones, who was looking to score. Billy Smith went close after a good run and Dixon cleared from Hall's centre. Billy Smith then hit the crossbar, while at the other end Field took the ball off Rodway's toe as he was about to shoot. Rodway grazed the post with a header from D. Smith's centre. Allen had a couple of attempts, one going wide and the other cleared by Dixon. Some exciting play followed a Town corner, where Bournville's goal came under severe pressure, but when Savage tried to kick the ball out of Dixon's hands, he was penalised for impeding.

Ex-Nuneaton man Weate put a shot wide and Field forced Jones to kick out. Hall put in a good centre, but Savage shot over the bar. A free kick against Nuneaton saw Rodway pass to D. Smith who tested Lines with a great shot and save at the expense of a corner. The corner produced some excitement, but the ball was cleared. A free-kick against Field was put wide by Bowden. Nuneaton then had several close attempts on the Bournville goal before Weate tested Lines and Savage missed with a hard drive. At the half-time whistle the score was 0-0.



After the interval, a centre by Hall saw Allen just put over the bar and a good centre by Billy Smith was missed by the forwards. Dunkley looked as if he might be in, but was sandwiched by the home backs and the incident was ignored by the referee. At the other end Weate forced Lines to save before a good run from D. Smith caused Lines to handle. Nuneaton went back on the offensive and forced a corner, which was well placed by Hall and Dunkley timed it to perfection to head past the keeper and into the far corner of the net, putting Nuneaton into a 1-0 lead. The game was particularly one-sided at this stage, with Nuneaton attacking persistently. Billy Smith's centre was cleared and Nuneaton were awarded a free-kick just outside the penalty area. The kick produced a melee and the ball ended up in the net, but the referee blew for an infringement.

Hall's cross saw another chance go begging before Allen had hard luck with a header that grazed the crossbar. At the other end Barratt conceded a corner from which a melee ensued. One of the home forwards made a rush at Lines as he was in the process of saving and the keeper was injured. His face was cut and his right eye bruised. He pluckily resumed and made a save straight after, from which he was further roughed up. D. Smith raced down the wing and was fouled by Gumbley.

Emmin Dunn almost scored a fine solo effort, and looked to have been brought down in the box and the game degenerated when Dixon and Allen almost came to grips after Allen charged the keeper. It was quite a legitimate charge, but fouls were becoming more frequent. Allen was then robbed on the point of shooting and Ernie Smith shot over the bar. Bournville's goal came under pressure. The final whistle saw Nuneaton win 1-0, securing third place in the table.

## Birmingham Combination 1912-13

Stafford Rangers	30	23	4	3	91	27	50
Hednesford Town	30	23	2	5	81	28	48
Nuneaton Town	30	16	6	8	71	44	38
Redditch	30	15	5	10	77	59	35
Bilston United	30	14	6	10	62	58	34
Cradley Heath St Luke's	30	13	5	12	64	57	31
Atherstone Town	30	13	5	12	73	69	31
Cannock Town	30	13	5	12	62	70	31
Willenhall Pickwick	30	9	11	10	71	60	29
Bournville Athletic	30	11	4	15	52	65	26
Birmingham Trams	30	10	5	15	58	63	25
Dudley Phoenix	30	9	6	15	66	75	24
Bournbrook	30	10	4	16	53	76	24
Coombs Wood Tube	30	8	5	17	41	73	21
Bromsgrove Rovers	30	7	6	17	41	66	20
Halesowen	30	6	1	23	32	105	13

## Retained List/New Players 1913-14

Nuneaton Town have announced the names of players signed for next season. Many of the players have been engaged only after considerable trouble and in face of great opposition. It will be seen that the management have been successful in retaining the services of the best and favourites of last season's players, while the new men in each instance can be counted as worthy captures.

One surprise is the capture of Joe Norton, one of Atherstone's stars from last season, but one of the most pleasing items of news will be that captain Emmin Dunn, has been re-signed, as many expected him to go to a big club, with clubs in the English League (divisions 1 and 2) and the Southern League desired his services.

### Brief details:

- George Lines** (goalkeeper). A player who improved a great deal last season and gave many fine displays.
- Harry Field** (right back). One of Town's best captures. Previously with Birmingham City and Bilston United.
- Billy Barrett** (left back). A local lad, not yet 20, who plays in great style.
- Emmin Dunn** (half back). Commonly known as "The Wizard". Played in a Junior International trial match last season and is captain of the Nuneaton team.
- Jack Gumbley** (left half back). Untiring player who sticks at it. Joined Nuneaton from Sparkbrook Avondale. Noted for his smile that "won't come off".
- Dunkley** (inside-left). Secured from Rugby Town last season. Full of dash but requires a bit more science.
- Joe Norton** (winger). Speed merchant from Atherstone. A very dangerous winger. Has seen service with Stockport County, who retain a transfer on him.
- Wells** (centre-forward). Only 19 years of age, but scored around 30 goals for Cannock Town last season. Signed just in time before a Southern League club came in. Trialled with Wolverhampton Wanderers.
- Roach** (outside-left). Lesser-known player who turned out for Whitwick Imperial in the Leicestershire Senior League. Very fast and thrustful. Still in his teens.

Many juniors have also been signed and negotiations are underway for a first-class centre-half and more inside-forwards.

## English Cup

Nuneaton Town have been drawn away in every round of the English Cup. The first tie sees a repeat of last year, with a trip to Rugby Town, and should they win, they will face Wednesbury Old Athletic away. The winners of the second tie will travel to Brierley Hill Alliance or Kidderminster Harriers in the first qualifying round.



## Rugby Town EC Extra Preliminary

A Special train was laid on for the visit to newly founded Rugby Town. The train departed the L&NW Station at 2.15pm and the fare was set at 1s 4d return. Kick off 3.30pm.

Rugby Town play their football in the C&NW League, but have established a strong side with a view to quickly forging ahead into a higher status.

It was anticipated that the game would attract a record crowd to the town for an Association game in the stronghold of the rugby code.

There were estimated to be about 300 Nuneaton supporters, some of whom had cycled to the match, among the crowd of c.1500.

Bayliss won the toss and chose ends, and Rugby pressed from the kick-off before Payne put the "blue and whites" on the attack and Goldie put in a shot that looked to be going all the way, but an offside whistle against Stringer pulled Nuneaton up short. Dolphin tested Fennell twice, but after 12 minutes Warren took the ball all the way from the half-way line, and though closely pressed, steered the ball home to give the visitors a 1-0 lead.

Straight after the goal Dolphin put across an accurate centre to Warren, who, as he was about to shoot, was tripped and a penalty was awarded. Warren took the kick himself and gave Nuneaton a 2-0 lead.

Lines was called into action to save from Morris. There was then a transgression of the new rule by the Rugby keeper which resulted in their goal being put under a severe bombardment. At the other end Payne conceded a corner which came to nothing, and at the other end Stringer's run and cross found Dolphin who passed to Savage, who was well placed to score, but his shot lacked pace and Fennell was able to clear.

Fennell was again in action soon after, making a brilliant save from Dolphin.

Rugby then came close to reducing the lead through Dunkley, whose shot looked on target, but sailed just over the bar. Dunn and Dolphin then starred in some prominent moves and soon after Goldie was injured. When he recovered the referee's throw up saw the same player bring the keeper to his knees with a fast ground shot.

Fennell saved again shortly afterwards and a Nuneaton attack broke down through offside, but at the half-time whistle the score was 2-0 to Nuneaton.

Rugby forced a corner after the break and monopolised play for a while and Tomlinson put in a hard, low drive which Lines put round the post for a corner. Hodgson stopped Gumbley in his tracks and Warren was hustled off the ball in the nick of time.

Another attack by the visitors saw Savage and Warren literally on top of the keeper, who managed to kick out. Savage then put out to Stringer who put the ball at the feet of Warren, who shot home, only to be given offside.

Foster proved too difficult an obstacle for the Rugby front men and launched the ball forward to Stringer, who had the chance of a lifetime, but shot yards wide. Rugby increased the pace of their game before the end, but Foster and Bayliss both brought attacks to a halt.

Just before the end a melee developed in front of the Rugby goal and Stringer shot wide, as did Payne a little later, but at the final whistle Nuneaton had won 2-0.

## Worcester City EC Preliminary

A crowd of more than 3,000 were in attendance for the English Cup Preliminary Round tie at The Newdegate Arms.

Town made two changes in the forward line with Goldie and Stringer being dropped. Bee of Hinckley came in while Smith, late of Coventry City was given a place in the starting line-up.

Worcester won the toss and there was

a sensational start when the visitors won a corner in the first minute and Francis scored. Shortly afterwards Dilly scored a second and with four minutes gone Worcester had a 2-0 lead.

Town began to fight back and Smith passed out to Dolphin, whose cross was punched away by Sylvester. Dunn picked up the loose ball and grazed the bar with his shot. Lines was then applauded for two brilliant clearances.

Worcester then shot over the bar with Lines out of his goal and the keeper was called on again just afterwards, making a good save from Caddick. Worcester cleared a corner from Dolphin before a move involving Gumbley and Bee resulted in Payne shooting into the keepers' hands.

Lines won applause for a great clearance from Dilly, while at the other end Smith shot over. Town had most of the play up until the interval, but Worcester led at the break 2-0.

Town launched a fierce assault on the Worcester goal after the break, but Smith and Bee got in each other's way, losing the chance. Savage shot wide. Bee then placed a good corner, but it was headed clear. Bayliss then set his forwards going, and Warren passed to Smith, whose shot hit the post.

Worcester were caught offside before Savage shot wide. Dolphin, Smith and Payne were involved in a good move, but Payne shot wide. A foul by Dunn in the area saw a penalty awarded and Payne scored from the spot to make it 3-0 to the visitors.

Warren then put a shot into the keepers hands and Dunn shot wide just afterwards. A pass from Gumbley saw Dolphin put in a good centre that came to nothing. However, Town's persistency was rewarded when Warren scored with a good individual effort to make it 3-1.

Nuneaton made every effort to score again, but Worcester held on to progress to the next round, winning 3-1.

# Nuneaton Town 1894-1919 Part 2



## 1912

09.07	Willenhall Pickwick	H	BC	3-0	Stringer, Warren, Dunn
09.14	Rugby Town	A	FAC EP	2-0	Warren 2
09.21	Dudley Phoenix	H	BC	3-1	Warren 2, Payne
09.28	Worcester City	H	FAC PR	1-3	Warren
10.05	Hednesford Town	H	BC	2-1	W.Smith, Dunkley
10.12	Bournbrook	A	BC	4-2	Dunkley 3, W.Smith
10.19	Halesowen	H	BC	1-0	W.Smith
10.26	Atherstone Town	A	BC	2-2	Savage, Dunkley
11.02	Redditch	H	BC	6-2	Warren 3, Stringer 2, Dolphin
11.09	Stafford Rangers	A	BC	1-3	W.Smith (p)
11.16	Birmingham Trams	H	BC	1-1*	Warren (p)
11.23	Cannock Town	A	BC	1-3	Dolphin
11.30	Bournville Athletic	H	BC	1-2	Dunn
12.07	Cradley Heath	A	BC	2-4	Savage 2
12.14	Coombs Wood	H	BC	4-1	W.Smith 2, Savage, Stringer
12.21	Dudley Town	H	BSC1	1-3	W.Smith(p)
12.25	Birmingham Trams	H	BC	3-3	Moore, W.Smith, Weate
12.26	Bilston United	A	BC	3-2	Moore 2, Weate
12.28	Bromsgrove Rovers	A	BC	6-0	Moore 3, Stringer, Gumley, o.g.(Slade)

## 1913

01.01	Hednesford Town	A	BC	1-2	W.Smith (p)
01.04	Northampton Town Reserves**	H	Friendly	2-0	Moore, Dunn
01.18	Dudley Phoenix	A	BC	4-1	Moore 2, Dunkley, W.Smith (p)
01.25	Hinckley United	H	ANC SF	2-0	Dale, Dunkley
02.01	Willenhall Pickwick	A	BC	2-2	Warren, o.g.(Kent)
02.08	Bromsgrove Rovers	H	BC	0-0	
02.15	Halesowen	A	BC	4-0	Allen 2, Warren, W.Smith
02.18	Coventry City Reserves	H	NHC SF	1-2	Warren
02.22	Atherstone Town	H	BC	3-2	Warren 2, Dolphin,
03.01	Redditch	A	BC	1-1	Allen
03.08	Stafford Rangers	H	BC	0-1	
03.15	Birmingham Trams	A	BC	2-0	Allen, W.Smith
03.22	Cannock Town	H	BC	2-4	Dolphin, W.Smith
03.24	Bilston United	H	BC	0-2	
03.24	Atherstone Town	A	ANC F	1-2	W.Smith
03.25	Bournbrook	H	BC	5-1	Moore 2, Dunkley, W.Smith, Stringer
03.29	Coombs Wood	A	BC	2-2	Moore, Dunkley
04.05	Cradley Heath	H	BC	4-1	Allen 2, Savage, Hall
04.12	Bournville Athletic	A	BC	1-0	Dunkley

Key: BC=Birmingham Combination, FAC=F.A.Cup, ANC=Atherstone Nursing Cup, NHC=Nuneaton Hospital Cup, BSC=Birmingham Senior Cup

\* Nov 16 game abandoned on 84 mins for bad light

\*\* Jan 4 played as part of Chas.Smith`s transfer



## Harold Pearce

The management of Nuneaton Town have succeeded in filling the inside-right position for next season. The person secured is Harold Pearce, who last season played for Redditch. He joined the latter club about mid-way through the season, and in the 18 or so matches he took part in he scored about 20 goals, performing the "hat trick" on two occasions.

He did not play at Nuneaton, but played a fine game for Redditch against the Town in the return Combination engagement at Redditch. Pearce is only 19 years of age, and is on the small size. However, he is wonderfully clever and a fine shot, and it has been predicted by a responsible Nuneaton official that the Redditch boy will be a second "Kid" Moore at his best.

## Birmingham League Application

The result of the Birmingham and District League turned out as expected, as the old-standing popularity of the retiring clubs, especially Stourbridge, who were re-elected unanimously. The vote in favour of Stourbridge meant that only one place was available and the vote went in favour of the old club again.

However, Nuneaton have no need to feel disheartened. The case for the club was very ably put by its representatives, and some of the clubs which eventually voted against Nuneaton, were much impressed by the claims of the Town.

The speech of the Chairman (Mr I. Whitehouse) affords the best proof of the impression created by Nuneaton. Mr Whitehouse said he was conscious of the great possibilities of football in the Nuneaton district, and also referred to the high standing of the Nuneaton club, and the good name earned around Birmingham.

The Chairman warned the league clubs to try and steer clear of the two bottom positions, as some team would most likely find themselves giving way to Nuneaton. He commented on the fact that Nuneaton would not have such strong opposition again, as the constitution of the two bottom places last season was exceptional.

Such remarks as the Chairman made must, of course, be distinctly encouraging to the Nuneaton club and its supporters. It entitles us all to look forward with confidence to the next application of admission to the Birmingham and District League.

By the way, the enterprise of the "Observer" in having a telephoned report of the meeting by a special representative, was much appreciated by local football enthusiasts.

## 1913-14

### Practice Game Tomorrow

The near approach of the football season is evidenced by the announcement that Nuneaton Town are playing their first practice match on the Newdegate Arms ground tomorrow. It will be seen that the team which is looked upon as the Combination team for the ensuing season is being played against eleven other promising players, all new blood. The kick-off is at 4.15, and the proceeds in all the practice games will be devoted to local charities. Teams:

Stripes: Lines; Field and Barratt; Dunn, B. Finch, and Gumbley; Norton, Pearce, Wells, Cope, and Roach.

Blues: Cheadle; Bridgwater and James; Morris, Smith, and Taylor; Watton, Pack, Hines, Hincks and Willett.

### Nuneaton Town v Willenhall Pickwick 06-09-1913

**Nuneaton: Lines; W. Gumbley and Barratt; Dunn, Bartlett and J. Gumbley; Norton, Pearce, Moore, Dunkley and Key.**

**Willenhall: Henshaw; Palmer and Edge; Wood, Robinson and Hustler; Paddock, Drake, Taylor, Mansell and Smith.**

Nuneaton were fortunate in having Willenhall Pickwick for their first home match as they are one of the best-known of all Combination clubs, being stern fighters and generally in among the league's top teams. At kick-off time there would be 1,500 lining the ropes, which steadily increased to 3,000 by half-time. Willenhall looked very smart in their new red and white jerseys and Dunn and Robinson made their way to the centre for the toss, which was won by Dunn, who elected to kick towards the Burgage.

The first action of the game saw Edge divert Norton's centre away, which was followed by a period of Nuneaton pressure that saw several shots on goal with Gumbley and Barratt putting in good efforts. The visitors then broke and Barratt won applause from the crowd when he made a brilliant clearance. The same player stemmed a rush from the visitors, but the pressure was relieved when Robinson shot over the bar. Town took the lead after 10 minutes when Norton got away and swung the ball across to Key, and the left-winger passed to Moore. The latter made no mistake and gave the home side a 1-0 lead.

The "blue and whites" bore down on the Willenhall goal again but Norton centred behind. Lines saved a soft shot from Drake before Pat Moore ran through the whole of the Picks' defence, but Edge brought his run to a halt. Shortly after Pat Moore was brought down in the penalty area and Barratt was entrusted with the kick, from which he hit a terrific shot into the net to resounding cheers from the crowd.

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The home side continued to press and Dunn was feeding Norton in fine style, and the winger skimmed the bar, while Dunn narrowly missed following Norton's pass. Willenhall came into the game and Smith missed a terrific opportunity by shooting over the bar. Dunn and Bartlett broke up some Willenhall attacks, as weak play in front of goal nullified the visitors' pressure. Town exerted a period of intense pressure during which Norton made two great efforts and Dunkley headed wide. Henworth flung himself full length to save from Pearce, while Norton shot behind as Town continued to dominate. Lines saved from Mansell, while Key played Dunkley in, but he was dispossessed. Bartlett then put in a ripping shot, which Henworth saved and at the half-time whistle Nuneaton were leading 2-0.

Willenhall started the second half more strongly, but Barratt was solid in defence and drove Willenhall back. Lines saved from Drake before Norton got away, but his centre went to waste and Lines was forced to throw away after intense Picks' pressure. Paddock had another good attempt, but Lines was sound yet again. Moore then made an opening for Pearce, whose shot seemed to go right into the net and bounce out again, but the referee would not allow the goal.

Town were not to be denied and following a pass from Barratt, Dunn tricked an opponent and passed to Moore, who rounded Palmer and from a difficult position shot into the net to give the home side a 3-0 lead. The visitors made a rush upfield and following a melee in front of Town's goal, Drake netted to make the score 3-1. Nuneaton re-asserted themselves and the Willenhall goal had several close shaves, while Pearce netted following some good work by Norton and Key, but the goal was disallowed for offside. The game ended with Nuneaton having won 3-1.

The English Cup match reports for the games against Rugby Town and Wednesbury Old Athletic appear on later pages.

## Nuneaton Town v Wolves Reserves 15-09-1913

**Nuneaton:** Lines; W. Gumbley and Barratt; Dunkley, Bartlett and J. Gumbley; Norton, Bailey, Hines, Moore and Roach.

**Wolves:** Hayes; Brooks and Parfitt; Satchwell, A. W. Brooks and Crabtree; Lee, Swain, Francis, Richards and Treherne.

There was a crowd of over 2,000 for the Birmingham Senior Cup first round tie against Wolverhampton Wanderers Reserves at The Newdegate. Dunn and Pearce were injured at Rugby, so Bailey played at inside-right and Hines was down to play at right-half. Hines was late arriving and Nuneaton played with ten men for the first 15 minutes, and kicked towards the Burgage.

Wolves attacked strongly from the kick-off and scored in the first minute, when Richards headed in Traherne's cross. Lines then punched away and Roach gained possession. The ball was played forward to Pat Moore, who was shoved off the ball, but still managed to get in a shot, which went into the

side netting. Bailey wanted too much time on the ball and was dispossessed. Wolves broke again and Richards scored a simple goal to make the score 2-0.

Hines then appeared to make the numbers up to full strength. Roach was caught offside, but shortly afterwards Bartlett gained possession and passed to Pat Moore. Keeper Hayes ran out and fell on the ball, and Moore tried to hook it out from underneath him, but Hayes finally got rid of the ball. Bartlett then shot wide, while at the other end Lines saved well from Richards. Swain shot wide and Lee shot over as Wolves continued to press. Nuneaton then got upfield, but Hayes ran out to clear, while at the other end Barratt kicked out for a corner. Lines then won applause for a brilliant save from Lee, but Wolves resumed the attack and Francis found the net to make the score 3-0.

Norton then put in a good run and cross, but Hayes fell on the ball as Moore closed in and pushed it round the post. Roach took the corner from which Moore shot over. Roach got away again, but Hayes again saved at the expense of another corner, which Norton put in beautifully and Moore headed just wide.

Moore fired wide from a free-kick following handball before Bartlett set Dunkley away, who passed to Moore, but he shot wide. At the half-time whistle Wolves led 3-0.

Francis missed badly with only Lines to beat at the start of the second half, after which Roach carried the ball to the other end and centred well, but Hayes ran out and cleared. Wolves attacked again and Hines and Barratt made a mess of things, with Barratt putting the ball against his own bar, from where it dropped down and into the net to make the score 4-0.

Norton made a thrilling run before passing to Moore, who shot wide. Hayes had to run out to charge down a ball from Dunkley. Barratt then stopped a rush from the visitors and Lines picked up from Francis and kicked away. Dunkley, Moore and Bailey exchanged passes, but the move broke down and the ball was volleyed to the other end. Norton put in a fine individual effort and won a corner, from which Moore put wide. Moore then put wide from Dunkley's centre, while a little later Moore brought Hayes to his knees with a fine shot.

Barratt committed a foul in the area and a penalty was awarded, from which Francis made no mistake and gave the visitors a 5-0 lead. Nuneaton then won a couple of free kicks and Bartlett kicked over the bar from the second one. Lines defended well at the other end and several long shots sailed over the bar. Norton was charged off the ball when going well while Francis headed wide from a corner and Lines saved well from the same player. Pat Moore created an opening, but it came to nothing.

Wolves continued to have the best of the game and Lines was called upon frequently. Roach crossed for Dunkley, who forced Hayes to save at the expense of a corner, while Bartlett gave a corner away at the other end. Roach and Dunkley



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attacked Norton's fine cross, but the latter put the ball over the touchline. Just before the end Lines saved brilliantly, while at the other end Dunkley's play created a chance for Moore, who shot over. With little time left Francis went through and beat Lines to make it 6-0, which was the final score.

## Nuneaton Town v Cradley Heath St Luke's 20-09-1913

**Nuneaton:** Lines; W. Gumbley and Barratt; Taylor, Reg Allen and J. Gumbley; Norton, Bailey, Moore, Dunkley and Roach.

**Cradley:** Tatton; Wall and Glaze; Neale, Bowen and Hackett; Richardson, Kendrick, Pugh, Glithero and Freeman.

Nuneaton were plagued by injuries for the visit of Cradley Heath to the Newdegate, but fully 3,000 people were in attendance. Town lost Dunn, Pearce and Bartlett to injury, with Taylor, who had appeared in the trial matches, local lad Bailey and Reg Allen, who had previously represented Town, but was now with Coventry City. The weather was perfect and the turf in top condition.

Pat Moore was caught offside before Lines had to catch and throw away a long shot from Kendrick. A short time later Gumbley headed toward his own goal, but Lines was alert. Barratt made a fine clearance to ease the pressure. Dunkley then set Roach free, but he was dispossessed. Dunkley's cross found Norton who returned the ball into the area, where Roach put the ball wide. Norton tricked a defender and crossed to Bailey, whose pass found Moore, who finished off a great move by scoring with a great shot, making the score 1-0 to Town.

Tatton was forced to save from Norton and the ball was returned into the Cradley area where Moore failed to control. Moore then sent Dunkley clear, but he shot over the bar. Cradley attacked briefly before Norton again broke away and passed to Moore, who shot weakly at Tatton. Nuneaton were well in control at this point with Norton, Bailey and Moore featuring in Town's attacks, while Allen and Taylor were applauded for prompting the forwards. Roach put in a terrific shot, which Tatton just cleared and a minute later Dunkley put in a stinging drive, which Tatton saved.

Lines was forced to kick away when Cradley attacked and Moore's pass, intended for Roach, was intercepted and cleared downfield where Freeman put yards over. Pugh followed suit shortly after. Moore then put in a fine individual effort, going through a crowd of players, but his shot was saved by Tatton. Glitheroe put wide for Cradley when well placed. Bailey then got Norton away and the winger crossed to Roach, who flashed the ball across the goalmouth and Glaze put out for a corner. Just before half-time Cradley broke away through Pugh, who took the ball into the area and rolled the ball into the net, making the half-time score 1-1.

Dunkley fired just wide straight after the break before Barratt cleared for Town. Roach gained possession and centred to Moore, but he was hustled off the ball and it was cleared to

Pugh, who shot over. Town then had a lucky escape when Pugh had a clear run at goal, but Lines ran out to meet him and the shot rolled just wide. Glitheroe shot over before Nuneaton attacked and Norton dropped the ball into the area, where a melee ensued. Norton again centred and once again Cradley were under pressure. Roach got in a difficult centre which found Norton, but Tatton defended well.

Cradley had two narrow escapes from consecutive corners as Town took control of the game. Allen's accurate shot looked as if it was in the net, but Tatton cleared and the game continued despite Pat Moore's appeals. However, Town were soon rewarded when Roach crossed to Bailey, who scored a lovely goal to make the score 2-1, amid much excitement. The game then became very fast and play went from end to end. Norton shot over, but within a few minutes Reg Allen initiated a fine move which ended when Pat Moore shot home from fully 30 yards, a truly brilliant effort which made the score 3-1 to Town.

Allen then went round a defender, but Tatton saved, before Dunkley set the forwards away through Norton, and Bailey shot over with the goal at his mercy. Lines then cleared downfield to Norton, whose shot dipped onto the bar and dropped down, where it was cleared by Tatton. The Cradley keeper then saved well from a ruck of players and shortly after Pat Moore grazed the crossbar. Lines then saved a long shot before putting Norton away on a fine solo run, which ended when Tatton cleared. A corner to Town was well placed by Roach and the ball was headed about, before landing at the feet of Norton, who shot into the net, putting Nuneaton 4-1 up. Dunkley inspired another attack involving Roach, but from a breakaway Richardson cut Nuneaton's lead and although Moore went close right at the end, the final result was 4-2.

## Famous Goalkeeper to Play for Nuneaton

Great interest will be centred on tomorrow's match against Redditch when L. Gordon Owen, the famous Welsh international goalkeeper will play for Nuneaton. During the last two seasons he has represented Wales in every amateur international. Mr. Owen is engaged in the scholastic profession at Coventry.

## Nuneaton Town v Redditch

04-10-1913

**Nuneaton:** L. Gordon Owen; W. Gumbley and Barratt; Dunn, Dunkley and J. Gumbley; Norton, Paul, Wells, Allen and Roach.

**Redditch:** Ward; Bowker and Woodley; Cashmore, Hampton and Cleaver; Dwyer, Darby, Taylor, Morrell and Pointon.

There was a history of keen rivalry between Nuneaton Town and Redditch and their visit to the Newdegate always attracted a good crowd. This game proved no exception and 3-4,000 people were present to welcome the Needle-men.

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Bailey had been selected in place of Hines, but had to cry off at the last minute, and local lad Ernie Paul, who had been playing with a Coton junior side was drafted in.

Dunn and his men were given a rousing cheer as they stepped out onto the pitch, with Gordon Owen being heartily cheered. The early action saw Dunkley swing the ball out to Norton, whose centre was put behind by home centre-forward Wells. The same player headed over from another Norton cross shortly after. The visitors then broke and tricky winger Morrell found Darby, who shot over the bar from a good position. A mistake from Will Gumbley almost let the visitors in, but Gordon Owen came to the rescue. Dunn also prevented a goal following a mis-kick from Barratt. Jack Gumbley found Roach, who made progress and centred to Norton, who put his shot wide.

Norton shot over the bar before Redditch went close again with Morrell shooting wide from close in. Roach went on a run, which ended with him testing Ward with a fine shot. A corner ensued, but it came to nothing. Gordon Owen made two brilliant saves from Taylor and Morrell before Nuneaton set up a prolonged raid on the Redditch goal. Allen's progress was halted by a defender at the expense of a corner. Roach placed the ball well and Dunkley headed the ball past Ward to make the score 1-0 to Nuneaton, with the crowd cheering heartily.

An attack from Redditch was driven back before Wells almost scored on two occasions. However, the centre-forward's efforts were rewarded then Norton got away and centred to the aforementioned, who put in the second goal. Moments later Town increased their lead further, when Dunkley punted the ball upfield and Woolley completely missed his kick. Paul darted past the back, seized on to the ball and scored with the coolness of a veteran. Towards the close of the first half the crowd were sent wild with delight by the brilliance of Nuneaton's forwards. Wells especially being a star, as he received the ball just over the half-way line and beat all the opposition before scoring with ease. At the interval the score was 4-0 to Nuneaton.

After the break, Nuneaton won an early corner from which Redditch had a narrow escape. Jack Gumbley shot over the bar following another corner, while Wells was close with a fine individual effort. A brief Redditch attack was cleared and Nuneaton maintained the pressure and just failed to score on several occasions. Roach then received the ball from Allen, but his cross was cleared. Paul received and showed great skill as he dribbled finely past several opponents before beating Ward with a good shot, Ward making no attempt to save and putting the score at 5-0.

Nuneaton were now outplaying Redditch and repeatedly toyed with the ball. Nuneaton extended their lead further when Emmin Dunn simply ran through the Redditch defence and scored with a low shot into the far corner to make the score 6-0. Allen and Gumbley both went close, as the crowd, like

Oliver Twist, asked for more, and Wells obliged, tricking all opposition with ease and scoring the seventh goal, for which he received quite an ovation. Shortly afterwards Allen passed delightfully to Roach and the winger scored the eighth goal. At the final whistle Town were 8-0 winners.

## Bournville v Nuneaton Town

11-10-1913

**Bournville: Willmott; Penny and Langwell; Price, Rainbow and Wood; Hipkiss, Rodway, Weate, Crabtree and Newall.**

**Nuneaton: Lines; W. Gumbley and Barratt; Dunn, Dunkley and J. Gumbley; Norton, Pall, Wells, Allen and Roach.**

Nuneaton travelled to Bournville to face the cocoa boys. The ground, a model of a football enclosure was extremely slippery and players had difficulty in keeping their feet on the greasy surface.

The first half was played in drizzle, but some good football was produced despite the conditions. Paul passed to Norton, but the winger was dispossessed by Langwell, as he was about to centre. Weate and Rodway then made progress for the home team but Jack Gumbley put in a fine tackle. Allen then passed out to Roach, who was too slow to react. Town's left wing then made a good run, and Roach's centre caused some anxiety in the home defence until Penny managed to clear.

Hipkiss missed an easy chance for Bournville before the home side had a corner cleared, and then a bad decision by the referee robbed Nuneaton of an almost certain goal. Allen worked his way past two opponents and was challenged by a third, whose challenge was beaten off, leaving Allen with just the keeper to beat, only to be penalised for a foul. A centre by Norton was cleared, while at the other end Lines saved from Weate. Allen then sent Roach clear with a fine ground pass, but the winger again lost the ball. A mis-kick by Barratt looked dangerous, but Will Gumbley rushed across to clear.

Good work from Wells and Allen caused Willmott to save from the latter. Will Gumbley mis-kicked and Crabtree had a good chance, but put wide. Bournville defended well from a Nuneaton free-kick before Lines made a good save from Crabtree. Jack Gumbley then had bad luck from Dunn's centre and then some good passing work ended with Dunn putting the ball wide. Wells also put wide following some intricate passing from Nuneaton. Roach received another good pass, but again was slow to react and Penny cleared. The Bournville goal had a narrow escape after Norton was able to centre on several occasions without result. At the other end Newall put a shot into the side netting and Weate shot over. Paul was making his way to goal when the half-time whistle sounded with the score 0-0.

The second half started with a centre from Roach which Dunn met with terrific force, his shot just skimming the crossbar. Nuneaton's goal came under threat when Newell centred, but Will Gumbley eventually cleared. Great work from the Nuneaton forwards saw Paul test Willmott and Dunkley shoot

## Nuneaton Town 1894-1919 Part 2



just wide. Bournville then attacked and Barratt rushed forward to tackle and the referee awarded a penalty for alleged hand ball, with Barratt claiming that the ball hit his knee. Weate took the kick and Lines saved. Shortly after Weate hit the crossbar.

Allen made a great run but Wells was caught offside and Dunkley put in a poor effort from a free-kick. Good combination play from Nuneaton came to nothing before the home right developed an attack and Rodway got in a centre that shot along the ground and found Crabtree, who standing unmarked had no difficulty in scoring, making the score 1-0 to Bournville. The home side mounted another attack, but Nuneaton pushed hard for an equaliser and Allen and Wells made several unproductive runs, while Paul tested Willmott with a fine individual effort. Langwell and Penny repeatedly broke up Nuneaton attacks and when the final whistle sounded, the home side had won 1-0.

### Nuneaton Town v Cannock Town 18-10-1913

**Nuneaton:** Lines; W. Gumbley and Barratt; Dunn, Dunkley and J. Gumbley; Norton, Paul, Wells, Reg Allen and Roach.

**Cannock:** Armstrong; Moore and Dawson; Stanley, Harrison and Ridgeway; Cooper, Doggart, Cope, Henshall and Hale.

Beautiful weather favoured the visit to the Newdegate Arms of Cannock Town, who had been performing quite poorly. Despite the quality of the opposition a crowd of 3,000 had assembled for the game.

Emmin Dunn lost the toss and Nuneaton were set to play towards the Burgage. Town had the better of the opening exchanges, but Lines was the first to be tested when Cooper put in a shot from long range. Norton shot powerfully at Armstrong, with Dunkley and Dunn also working the goalkeeper, who comfortably dealt with the shots. Will Gumbley set Allen away, with the inside man passing to Roach, who took the ball out of play. Some midfield play followed but Norton got away and centred to Wells, whose header was just the wrong side of the post. Norton continued to impress and Wells and Allen both narrowly missed before Will Gumbley stopped a rush by the visitors and Emmin Dunn dribbled upfield and passed to Norton, whose shot hit the side netting.

Moore nearly put through his own goal following a header from Allen and a minute later Dunkley headed just over. Armstrong saved a fine shot from Norton before Dunkley shot an inch over the bar from thirty yards, which won applause from the crowd. The visitors mounted an attack that was cleared by Barratt in the nick of time, while at the other end, Paul wanted too much time when in a good position, and lost out on a good chance. Wells sent in a shot that Armstrong saved, but Nuneaton kept up the bombardment and excitement mounted when the goalkeeper in saving from Norton ran out and could not get back as the ball was returned. A Cannock player stopped the ball with his hand and a penalty resulted. Barratt took the kick and shot straight

into Armstrong's hands. The keeper booted right upfield and with Barratt stranded a goal looked likely, but Lines ran out and saved in fine style.

Nuneaton attacked again and did everything but score, with Armstrong being kept busy. Barratt cleared from a free-kick for handball against Nuneaton and Paul then passed out to Norton, who bored his way in towards goal, but Armstrong flung himself at the ball and brought off a good save. A shot from Roach then flashed across the bar and out of play, which was followed by some good football between Norton and Paul that came to nothing. Dunn and Dunkley were keeping the forwards supplied with passes, but Cannock keeper Armstrong could not be beaten. One shot brought a cry of "goal!" from the crowd, but it went just the wrong side of the post. Just on half-time the Cannock goal survived a terrific onslaught, but even with the keeper stranded and players on the line, the ball refused to go into the net and at the whistle it was 0-0.

At the start of the second half Will Gumbley broke up a Cannock attack before Roach was given possession and centred the ball across the goalmouth, but Paul over-ran the ball when it just needed to be put into the net. Jack Gumbley had a tussle with Cooper and came out best, and Roach again centred, but Armstrong kicked away. However, Norton centred again and Allen safely steered into the net to give Town a 1-0 lead. Nuneaton maintained their attack and Paul shot over from a good position and Armstrong saved from Allen. Jack Gumbley hit the crossbar and the ball bounced over the top.

A corner to Town was well placed and Norton grazed the bar with a shot that looked to be going in. Jack Gumbley cleared at the other end and from the corner Town broke away, with Wells running clear from the half way line. He could have walked the ball in, but shot weakly and Armstrong saved. After Cannock had a brief attack, Norton went on an electrifying run, but watched in disbelief as Paul missed an open goal. Following a foul against Cannock Dunn passed out to Norton, who crossed to Paul, who again missed a great chance by putting over. Paul made amends a few minutes later when he scored a good goal with a finely judged shot to make the score 2-0 to Town.

A brief stoppage following an injury to a Cannock player was followed by a resumption of Town's onslaught on the Cannock goal. The visitors had a brief visit to the other end, but Nuneaton soon initiated another fierce attack and the Cannock goal underwent many lucky escapes. Armstrong saved from Norton, then from Paul and Norton again. The game became quite dull and unexciting because of the one sided nature of the play. Armstrong saved repeatedly and one stop from Norton received applause from the crowd.

Lines had to save twice in quick succession before Nuneaton broke again. Excellent play from Dunkley resulted in Paul finding the net to make the score 3-0, which it how it stayed up until the final whistle.



## Atherstone Town v Nuneaton Town 25-10-1913

**Atherstone:** Groves; T. Hargrave and A. Hargrave; A. Harper, F. Payne and F. Hargrave; Mandley, Beston, Gorman, Goode and Preston.

**Nuneaton:** Lines; W. Gumbley and Barratt; Dunn, Dunkley and J. Gumbley; Norton, Paul, Wells, Allen and Wade.

The football loving people of Nuneaton decamped en-masse to the neighbouring town of Atherstone. Trains, brakes and cycles made their way to the Sheepy Road ground and long before the kick-off crowds of people were wending their way towards the football ground with bells, rattles and war-cry being much in evidence. There were around 2,500 in the ground when Emmin Dunn led the Nuneaton players onto the field.

Dunn won the toss and elected to play towards the Sheepy Road end. Dunn dispossessed Preston at the onset and passed to Jack Gumbley, whose pass found Wade. The outside-left beat both Harper and Tom Hargrave, and got within six yards of Groves, but Wade passed when he had the chance to shoot and A. Hargrave cleared. Atherstone raced away on the left, but Will Gumbley cleared. Wade got away and his centre was handled by a defender, but Nuneaton appeals for a penalty were ignored by the referee. A good run from Wade resulted in a corner, which was cleared by Harper. Just after Norton received the ball from Dunn and went off on a run. His centre flashed across the area, but a Nuneaton player was offside.

Goode and Preston were then involved in an impressive inter-passing movement, but Dunn robbed Preston with a fine tackle. Barratt cleared following an Atherstone attack, but the home side kept up the pressure and Preston put in some good work, but his final effort went wide of the post. Norton and Paul got away for Nuneaton, but A. Hargrave dashed in to clear. Lines then made a save following a corner, while at the other end Fred Payne conceded a corner, Norton's cross grazing an upright. Paul missed a good chance and a free-kick to Nuneaton saw Groves save from Jack Gumbley.

Gorman spoiled an Atherstone attack by fouling Will Gumbley. Groves easily dealt with a long shot from Paul, while at the other end Lines received applause for a great save from Preston. Wade then crossed but T. Hargrave cleared and when Preston and Goode moved forward it needed a combined effort from Dunn and Will Gumbley to clear the danger. Groves saved efforts from Wells and Allen while Gorman shot wide at the other end. Wade finished weakly from Norton's cross

Goode shot over when well placed, as did Paul at the other end. Dunn's back pass took Will Gumbley unawares and Goode nipped between the Nuneaton defenders and put in a great shot which brought a marvellous save from Lines. Dunkley got the ball forward to Allen, who passed to Wells, but A. Hargrave cleared. Paul made a solo dash and

beat several opponents, but was brought down by Payne, however, Dunkley put the ball wide from the free-kick. A free kick against Emmin Dunn was cleared and the Atherstone goal had a narrow escape following good play from Wells and Wade.

Gorman's pass found Mandley, who forced Lines to save, while a great run from Norton and Paul came to nothing. Goode shot over the bar for the "Adders", while from their next attack Will Gumbley cleared in style. Norton put in another great run and centre which T. Hargrave cleared, while at the other end Barratt nipped in and robbed Beston, but dallied on the ball and Mandley took the ball off his toes. Atherstone were now well on top and the visitors goal had a very narrow escape. Atherstone looked like scoring coming up to the break, but good defence kept them at bay. Norton shot wide in a rare attack and Goode shot wide for "Adders", while Lines made another great save. At the interval the game was goalless.

The noise from the crowd at the start of the second half was deafening and the first action of the second period saw Dunkley handle, which put "Adders" on the offensive, although Barratt cleared Preston's centre. Beston found Mandley but he was tackled by Will Gumbley. Dunn booted away from Harper's long throw and shortly after Beston shot wide of the posts. Mandley was seeing plenty of the ball, but Will Gumbley had the measure of him. Preston won a corner from which Goode shot hard, but Lines made a good save. Two more fruitless corners were won by Atherstone before Goode shot over the bar. So far Atherstone were enjoying more of the play but the pressure on Nuneaton was relieved by a free kick, which was put wide.

Jack Gumbley stemmed several rushes from Atherstone's forwards before Wells passed to Norton, who was dispossessed in the far corner. Goode missed a good chance following a free kick for offside against Nuneaton, while Barratt, Will Gumbley and Dunkley all defended well in turn. Dunn then dispossessed Preston and passed forward to Paul, but A. Hargrave brought the attack to a halt. Handball against Dunkley put Atherstone on the offensive again, but Nuneaton's defence again came out on top. Harper shot over the bar from a free-kick after Mandley was tripped just outside the penalty area.

Following a foul by Fred Payne, Dunkley dropped the ball into the area and an exciting scrimmage ensued, but the home side eventually got the ball clear. Wells and Paul then changed places in Nuneaton's attack before the ball found its way out to Wells just inside the Atherstone half and he tricked Payne and passed to Norton whose goal was a masterpiece of skill and judgement, to give Nuneaton a 1-0 lead.

Town held on to their lead up until the final whistle, but their display was described as being 'well below par', with particular criticism of the inside forwards, who both had their worst games of the season so far.



## Halesowen v Nuneaton Town 01-11-1913

**Halesowen:** Hartland; Williams and White; Keeling, Evans and Jones; Williams, Thorneycroft, Manton, Jones and Hayes.

**Nuneaton:** Lines; W. Gumbley and Barratt; Dunn, Dunkley and Whitehouse; Norton, Paul, J. Wade, Wells and A. E. Wade.

Nuneaton travelled to face Halesowen, who were struggling for form. The match began in sensational circumstances with Nuneaton going two goals up in the first six minutes, through the brothers Wade. Outside-left A. E. Wade headed in Norton's cross to make it 1-0 to the visitors before Norton found new centre-forward J. Wade, who raced through with the ball and appeared to be going wide, but in full flight he shot obliquely across the goal and into the far corner of the net, while the Halesowen defender looked on.

A breakaway by Halesowen was seen off before Wells treated the crowd to an exhibition of clever dribbling, once running through the opposition and forcing Hartland into a good save. Wells and J. Wade then combined in a fantastic movement, which saw Hartland beaten for a third time with a beautiful daisy-cutter from Wells, the small group of Nuneaton supporters cheering loudly.

At this point Nuneaton were toying with the opposition, who rarely troubled the visiting defence. Thorneycroft did break through on one occasion and put in a terrific shot, but Lines pulled off a great save. J. Wade headed just over and Paul made a good break, but he was overwhelmed by strength of numbers. Wade and Wells then showed, with a shot from Wells troubling Hartland.

Halesowen then awoke from their slumber and forced Nuneaton back on the defensive and Dunn had to come to the rescue after Jones had beaten both backs, saving a what looked like being a certain goal. Halesowen went close on several occasions before a sustained attack down the right saw the ball shot past Lines. The referee, though, had already blown for a penalty against Barratt. Thorneycroft easily beat George Lines to make the score 3-1. Halesowen looked to build on their success and played some good football belying their lowly status.

The Town defence was under constant pressure and it came as no surprise when Halesowen scored again, Thorneycroft putting in a fast, hard ground shot that found its way into the far corner of the net. Urged on by their supporters Halesowen continued to put Nuneaton to the test, but the visitors' defence held firm, and at the end of a thrilling 45 minutes Town were leading 3-2.

In stark contrast to the latter stages of the first, Nuneaton taking control of the game for the entire second period. Hartland saved in good style time and again with Norton's runs sparkling with brilliance, while A. E. Wade also put in many effective runs and centres. Many easy chances were missed with Wells' shot cannoning off defenders on several occasions.

Wells was eventually rewarded when he pounced on Wade's centre and put in a shot that struck the rigging just under the bar, giving Hartland no chance. Dunn also put in a glorious shot, which Hartland saved brilliantly.

Dunkley also tried his luck, as did J. Wade, whose run ended when he was baulked by Williams. Halesowen did not have a shot to speak of for the rest of the game and the final whistle saw Nuneaton run out 4-2 winners.

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### GREAT ATTRACTION

NEWDEGATE ARMS GROUND,  
NUNEATON

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8th

## BLOXWICH STROLLERS

v.

### NUNEATON TOWN

KICK-OFF 3-15 p.m.

Train leaves Atherstone at 3-10

RETURN FARE 8d.

Motor-bus leaves Bedworth at 2pm

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## Nuneaton Town v Bloxwich Strollers 08-11-1913

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Field and Barratt; W. Gumbley, Dunkley and Whitehouse; Norton, Dunn, J. Wade, Wells and A. Wade.

**Bloxwich:** Hill; Davis and Thomas; Grocutt, Langford and Nickless, Richardson, Davies, Newbrook, Shingler and Henworth.

Once famous opponents of Aston Villa and West Bromwich Albion in the olden days of Midland cup fighting, Bloxwich Strollers have not featured in junior football until they were elected to the Birmingham Combination at the last AGM. there was a large crowd to welcome the "new arrivals" and though there had been heavy rain throughout the morning, it was fine by the afternoon.

Nuneaton showed several changes with Harry Field coming back after a long absence, Emmin Dunn moved to inside right and Will Gumbley moved into the half-back line to accommodate Field at back. When Emmin Dunn led his team on to the Field there were loud cheers, especially for Field on his return to the side.

Town played toward the station in the first half and looked dangerous early on as Thomas let in Norton, who shot into the side netting. Richardson and Davies combined well for the visitors, but Newbrook failed to take advantage of a good centre. Lines cleared and J. Wade headed wide from Norton's centre. Nuneaton had most of the possession and Wade went close and just after got caught offside.

# Nuneaton Town 1894-1919 Part 2



Norton breasted the ball down and Dunn gained possession, tricked an opponent and got the ball out to J. Wade, who then found Wells. The centre-forward took the ball right into the area and steered it into the net to give Nuneaton a 1-0 lead. Two minutes later, Nuneaton scored again, Wells finishing off a fine individual effort to make it 2-0. Wells then put over a centre to J. Wade, but Hill gathered the ball and threw away.

Bloxwich paid a brief visit to the other end, where Lines kicked down field, but Nuneaton were caught offside, as they were in their next attack when Norton and Dunn combined well. Dunn then shot over the bar following good play by Dunkley. Bloxwich then forced two fruitless corners, but returned to the attack, and although the linesman appealed for hands, the referee allowed the man to go on and the ball found Newbrooke who scored with Lines off his line, making the score 2-1. A shot from Will Gumbley was dealt with by Hill. Field and Barratt both drove for goal, and the Bloxwich defence came under pressure. Richardson then broke away for the visitors, but shot wide. When half-time arrived the score was 2-1 to Nuneaton

Norton put in a brilliant run and centre, but Wells failed to steer the ball into the net. Dunn was getting through on his own when he was brought down, the referee ignoring shouts for a penalty. Just after Norton was also brought down and the referee spoke to Nickless. The free-kick was cleared. Wells flashed the ball across the goal to Norton, who brought a great save from Hill. Norton was then temporarily disabled by Nickless, and though he soon resumed, he was bowled over again by the same player. The referee spoke to the player again, and a Bloxwich committee man entered the field and reprimanded Nickless.

Lines defended well following a Bloxwich attack and Will Gumbley released Dunn, but Norton ran the ball out from Dunn's pass. Harry Field then stopped a Richardson breakaway and Dunkley and Gumbley were prominent in their defensive work. Dunkley set Dunn on the move and Norton, who forced a corner. Norton dropped the ball on the goal-line and the leather was forced into the net by a crowd of Town players to make the score 3-1.

Lines made a brilliant save from Langford's long shot. J. Wade missed two easy chances for Town, before Norton put in a thrilling run and beat the left back, but the other back ran over to clear. Dunn then missed badly before the final whistle was sounded with the home team winning 3-1.

## **Bilston United v Nuneaton Town 15-11-1913**

**Bilston: Irwin; Thradney and Nicholls; Evans, Whittingham and Harrison; Langford, Burden, Pritchard, Smart and Lowe.**

**Nuneaton: Lines; Field and Barratt; W. Gumbley, Dunkley and J. Gumbley; Norton, Dunn, Tighe, Wells and Whitehouse.**

Nuneaton had won seven of their eight matches by the time they travelled to face Bilston United. The first half of

the match produced some very poor football during which Bilston made no attempt to play football, but booted the ball, with no accuracy in a kick-and-rush style that upset Nuneaton, who seldom got going. The continuous manner in which Nuneaton's forwards, with the exception of Norton, were dispossessed, put a lot of strain on the defence, where Barratt wavered under pressure. Harry Field, though was up to his usual standard, as was Lines, who was in great form.

Joe Norton was the only member of Town's quintette who was dangerous, too dangerous for the Bilston crowd, who called for offside every time he got the ball. If he had only taken the ball a little close to goal, he would have won the match on his own. Irwin in the Bilston goal saved several fine shots and Norton also hit the side netting. It was one of Norton's centres that brought about Nuneaton's goal, when following a skirmish in front of goal, Harrison handled in the penalty area. Barratt took the kick, which Irwin saved, but could not clear and Barratt, following up simply put the ball into the net to give Nuneaton a 1-0 lead, which was the score when the half time whistle sounded five minutes later.

The second half saw Nuneaton up their game and they played in a more businesslike fashion with Norton, Dunn and Wells performing well. Despite this, Bilston scored the only goal of the second half when Lines saved a good shot and kicked away, but the ball was returned and Burden hit an almighty shot, which Lines attempted to save, but the ball found its way into the net to level the scores at 1-1. The home team nearly scored again when Pritchard put in a great shot for 16 yards out. The ball whizzed towards the opposite side of the goal to where Lines was positioned and the crowd yelled "goal!", but the keeper moved like a rocket and caught the ball one-handed. The power behind the ball was exceptional and Lines had to juggle with it momentarily before kicking clear. The crowd gasped in astonishment, but quickly cheered Lines for his fine save. The final whistle saw Town hold on to draw 1-1.

## **Nuneaton Town v Stafford Rangers**

**22-11-1913**

**Nuneaton: Lines; Field and Barratt; Dunn, Dunkley and Bartlett; Norton, Pearce, Jarvis, Wells and Clarkson.**

**Stafford: Parkes; Duckers and Lycett; Riley, Taylor and Wilson; Wal Blunt, Dudley, W. Blunt, Hammond and Prince.**

The visit of Stafford Rangers to The Newdegate had been eagerly anticipated, with the visitors being unbeaten. Will Gumbley, Tighe and Whitehouse were left out of the team, with Dunn going back into the half-back line and Harold Pearce being recalled after his injury at Rugby. Jarvis from Coventry City, who had scored 11 goals in ten matches was secured and Clarkson, a Junior International, was signed as outside left. Jack Gumbley sent a last minute medical certificate ruling him out of the game and Bartlett went on the wing. There were about 2,000 in the ground when the players came onto the field, but well over 4,000 gathered during the game.

Nuneaton started well with Clarkson finding Wells, whose



shot was caught by Parkes, who threw clear of the goal. An exciting melee followed and Parkes was penalised for carrying. Joe Norton took the free and dropped the ball in front of goal where Duckers handled and a penalty was awarded. Dunkley shot straight at Parkes, who tipped the ball onto the bar.

The visitors got over the half-way line, but Bartlett won the ball and passed to Dunkley, who sent Norton away. Dunn followed up but Wells was given offside. Barratt let in Blunt, who shot over the bar before Nuneaton got away in a line and Jarvis backheeled to Dunn, who passed on to Norton. The winger dropped it at the foot of Pearce who forced Parkes to save at the expense of a corner.

Stafford went close from a corner, but Lines tipped over, while Bartlett set the forwards going, with Norton and Pearce going in close before Pearce was given offside. Dunn tricked his way forward and passed out to Norton, who dropped the ball at the feet of Pearce, the inside man made no mistake in placing the ball into the net, giving Nuneaton a 1-0 lead, for which they received loud cheers.

Parkes was called on to save from Pearce, while later Norton shot over the bar. Stafford played a spoiling game by playing one at the back, but Town still attacked and good play involving Norton and Pearce ended with the latter creating a fine opening for Jarvis who beat Pearce with some ease to make the score 2-0.

Play became quite uninteresting and was confined to midfield for some time before Lines saved a long shot from Prince. Dunkley passed to Clarkson, who was offside, but Town were still pressing when the half-time whistle sounded with Town winning 2-0.

Stafford got close at the start of the second half, but Barratt cleared, and just after Dunkley stopped Blunt from shooting and Town returned to the attack. A free-kick to Stafford put them in a good position, but Norton got possession and ran almost the length of the field, causing Parkes to run out and kick away. Duckers dropped the ball in Town's area where Barratt almost put through his own goal, but Lines saved. Stafford returned to the attack and after some play in midfield Prince scored with an oblique shot that deceived Lines to make the score 2-1.

Pearce tested Parkes in the Stafford goal, while Jarvis and Wells combined well to put pressure on the Stafford defence and Norton flashed the ball past the upright. Clarkson struck the crossbar with a magnificent shot that bounced over, winning applause from the crowd. A thick fog began to envelope the field and the light became bad. Clarkson put in another fine shot, which Lycett diverted. Town continued to press and fine work by Dunn enabled Clarkson to shoot into Parkes hands.

Clarkson was forced to leave the field with an injury and Dunn was also struggling. Stafford put a shot over the bar, while at

the other end Wells took the ball on the run and sent a shot past the post. A long shot from Dunn went wide and Wells picked up the ball from a throw-in and took the ball well upfield, but was brought down just outside the penalty area. Dunkley took the free-kick, but the packed goalmouth stopped the ball going in. Wells again got clear, and it looked like with he or Jarvis would score, but Parkes threw himself at the ball and saved. With only a couple of minutes to go the excitement became intense. "Keep 'em out Town" yelled the crowd, which they did and at the final whistle Town had won 2-1.

## Joe Norton Transferred to Manchester United

Joe Norton, Nuneaton's speedy outside-right has been transferred to Manchester United, where he will understudy the famous Billy Meredith, possibly the greatest outside-right of all time. Norton has been one of Town's most consistent and brilliant forwards and for some weeks past representatives of many of the leading clubs in the country have been watching him play.

Director J. Bentley and manager Livingstone visited Nuneaton Friday afternoon last and completed the transfer. Norton being present at the time. The transfer fee is stated to be £175, and the agreement provides that Manchester United shall play Nuneaton Town a benefit match. Norton received the sum of £10 for signing - the maximum amount allowed by the Football Association.

The club were reluctant to part with their star player, but it was thought wrong to stand in his way, especially as he had been unemployed for several months.

## Aston Villa Secure Two Nuneaton Town Players

Harry Wells (inside-forward) and Walter Dunkley (centre-half) have been transferred to the famous Aston Villa Football Club. The players have been transferred for £100 each, plus a clause that should be players be successful another £100 per player will become due.

As with Joe Norton, both players had been out of work for some considerable time.

## Bournbrook v Nuneaton Town

29-11-1913

**Bournbrook:** Saunders; Mortiboys and T. Greaves; Whichello, Ellis and Allso; Wolfindale, Hanson, Kimberley, Homes and A. Greaves.

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Field and Barratt; Dunn, Dunkley and Bartlett; Norton, Pearce, Jarvis, Wells and Clarkson.

Nuneaton travelled to top of the league Bournbrook, who had a two point lead over second-placed Town, with the visitors having two games in hand. Over 50 supporters travelled with the team, to witness Joe Norton's final appearance in Nuneaton colours, following his transfer to Manchester United.



Town were the first to attack and forced a corner, which was cleared. Saunders was called on to save from Wells. Bournbrook raced to the other end where Lines was forced to pick up and throw away before Jarvis broke and Saunders had to save at the expense of a corner. Lines saved brilliantly at the other end, while Field drove back the home side. Jarvis and Pearce started a good movement that ended with Norton centring, but Wells shot wide, and when the ball was cleared Clarkson put over the top.

Pearce went close, while Field repelled an attack at the other end and Jarvis looked like going through, but the state of the ground was against him. Clarkson got away and put in a good shot and following another attack Saunders saved from Dunn. Dunkley then put in a terrific drive, but Saunders pulled off a magnificent save. Town were having all the game and after Jarvis shot wide, Field put in a volley from the half-way line, which Saunders had to save.

Norton put in a good centre which Jarvis failed to convert while close to the interval Town won a free-kick, but Dunn put the ball over the bar and at the break it was 0-0.

Bournbrook attacked at the start of the second half, with both Ellis and Kimberley shooting wide. An attack through Dunn and Norton was pushed back by the home side before Lines had to save brilliantly following a Bournbrook attack. Field cleared from under the bar for a corner which was cleared to Norton, who was penalised for offside. Jarvis broke clear down the centre and a home player handled on the edge of the area. Dunkley placed the free-kick well, but it rolled wide. A Nuneaton attack then ended with Clarkson putting the ball into the side netting.

At the other end Lines saved magnificently, throwing himself full length and turning a shot round the post for a corner. Norton had to retire injured before a Bournbrook attack was halted by an offside decision. Norton then returned and raced down the wing, but he was robbed. Lines then saved before Norton again got down the right and Saunders saved his shot with some difficulty. Lines again saved well following a melee in front of the Nuneaton goal and later pulled off a magnificent clearance from Ellis' effort.

The play was concentrated around the Nuneaton goal for a while, but then Clarkson was sent away with a clear field. He outpaced the defence and swung the ball over to Pearce who gathered the ball on the run and let fly, giving Nuneaton a 1-0 lead and leaving Saunders to pick the ball out of the net. The Nuneaton supporters yelled themselves hoarse. Only five minutes remained and a win for the 'blue and whites' looked certain, but two minutes later Bournbrook equalised when Wolfindale shot from the wing and Lines waited to collect, but Barratt ran across to help, but only succeeded in putting the ball in his own net to make the score 1-1. The crowd cheered wildly and the remaining couple of minutes were played out with much excitement.

## Transfer Target

Nuneaton are making strenuous efforts to fill the vacancies in their team brought about by the transfers of Joe Norton, Harry Wells and Walter Dunkley. Last weekend Nuneaton completed arrangements with Cradley Heath St Lukes for the transfer of Bowen, their crack centre-half. The player has long been regarded as a major prospect and has been a mainstay of the Cradley side, being the team captain. Bowen stands over 6ft tall and was only 20-years-old last June. The transfer fee paid by Nuneaton was £30.

## Nuneaton Town v Hednesford Town 06-12-1913

**Nuneaton:** Hilditch; Field and W. Gumbley; Dunn, Dunkley and Bartlett; Bailey, Pearce, Jarvis, Wells and Clarkson.

**Hednesford:** Madeley; Reaney and Corbett; Grey, Owen and Humphries; Field, Nock, Griffiths, Cumberlidge and James.

The home game against Hednesford was played on a heavy ground with conditions slippery underfoot and with rain falling throughout the match.

Emmin Dunn won the toss and elected to attack the Burgage with the wind behind them. The early action saw Dunkley stop a Hednesford rush and Dunn set Bailey going, but Reaney kicked clear. Tricky work by Clarkson resulted in Nuneaton gaining a corner, from which Dunn shot over. Dunn gained applause for his defensive work as Hednesford pushed forward, following which he got the ball up to Bailey, who in turn passed to Pearce who flashed a shot past the far upright. Clarkson followed suit a minute later.

Field, Dunn and Dunkley combined to repel an attack from the visitors, and Bartlett got the ball up to Wells, who forced the goalkeeper into a save. Cumberlidge then looked like getting through for the visitors, but Field cleared in the nick of time. A good passing move by Town's forwards ended when Bailey put in an accurate centre for which Jarvis headed narrowly wide. Hednesford then mounted an attack, but Hilditch was not troubled. Pearce shot over the bar before Dunkley secured the ball and passed to Wells, who put in a good shot which Madeley saved.

Bailey won a corner which was dropped into the goal-mouth, but it was scrambled away before the visitors broke away through Field, who centred to Nock, who put the visitors 1-0 up, giving Hilditch no chance. A long shot from Jarvis was cleared by Madeley before Dunn put in a superb shot from the touchline, which was brilliantly saved by Madeley. A minute later the keeper saved from Clarkson and then dealt magnificently with a shot from Pearce. Hednesford's goal underwent a number of close escapes.

Town's Field was temporarily laid out before Cumberlidge shot



# Nuneaton Town 1894-1919 Part 2



wide for the visitors, while at the other end Bartlett sent in a long drive that Reaney diverted with his head. A passing bout by Bartlett, Clarkson and Jarvis ended in the latter heading wide. A hard shot from Dunn forced Madeley to step right back into the net to save and the crowd behind the goal clamoured for a goal, but the referee ignored the appeals. The interval arrived shortly after and Hednesford went in 1-0 up.

Nuneaton started the second half on the offensive and following a melee, a shot from Bailey struck the bottom of the upright. Dunkley passed up to Clarkson, whose centre found Wells, who shot wide from a good position. Play then became very dull with the ball being out of a play a lot, but a free kick to Town got them forward, but Reaney kicked away. Madeley dealt with shots from Bartlett and Pearce and then a corner led to some excitement, the ball being around the goal-mouth for some time. Hednesford's Field grazed the bar with a shot and a free-kick against them relieved the pressure. From a Nuneaton free-kick Bartlett dropped the ball right into the goalmouth, but Bailey headed straight into Madeley's hands.

Jarvis put in a fine shot that hit the bar and bounced over, and continuing to press, Bailey was brought down on the edge of the area, and taking the free-kick himself, rattled the ball into the side netting. Hilditch was called upon and threw away and when Nuneaton attacked again Madeley defended well. Another period of dull play followed which was interrupted by Field putting a free-kick wide of the posts. In the last few minutes, Hednesford pressed and Field failed to dispossess James, who rounded him and sent the ball right across to Field. Gumbley tried to intercept, but the ball went to Griffiths, who shot hard and the ball went into the net to give Hednesford a 2-0 lead, which was quickly followed by the final whistle to signal the end of the game.

Merrick got in a shot for the home team, but again Lines was in control and made a comfortable save. Rovers' forwards severely tested Field and Barratt, while Bridgewater had to retire with a knee injury, but resumed later, playing up front. Lockley tricked Barratt and centred to Merrick, who put a great shot just wide of the post. A free-kick to Nuneaton eased the pressure and Bailey put in a shot, which was well saved by Moore. Pearce put a shot wide as Nuneaton had all the play up to the interval, but at the half-time whistle the score was 0-0.

At the start of the second half Jarvis headed into Moore's hands and Bailey also forced a save from the keeper. Slade then made a last ditch tackle to halt Nuneaton's attack, while Bowen put the ball out to Bailey, who shot wide. Pearce put a weak shot in that Moore saved easily. Bromsgrove's forward then mounted an attack, forcing Field and Barratt to defend stubbornly. Bailey then broke and centred to Jarvis who put in a hard shot, but Moore made a great save. Bartlett dispossessed Lockley and passed to Bailey who forced Moore to save. Miller worked an opening at the other end for Kent, who hit the upright with a good shot.

Lockley made a great run, but Barratt put in a fine tackle before a combined attack by the home forwards saw Bromsgrove take the lead, with Merrick shooting into the net, and putting the home side into a 1-0 lead, which resulted in much enthusiasm from the home supporters. Bromsgrove's lead proved short-lived as Nuneaton equalised almost immediately through Jarvis, who made the score 1-1. The game appeared to be destined for a draw, but with three minutes remaining, Best got away on the left and passed to Kent, who beat Lines from close quarters. At the final whistle Bromsgrove had won 2-1.

## Bromsgrove Rovers v Nuneaton Town 13-12-1913

**Bromsgrove:** Moore; Slade and Bridgewater; C. Nicholls, Miller and A. Nicholls; Lockley, Merrick, Kent, Houghton and Best.

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Field and Barratt; W. Gumbley, Bowen and Bartlett; Bailey, Pearce, Jarvis, Hunt and Clarkson.

## Nuneaton Town v Bromsgrove Rovers 20-12-1913

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Field and Barratt; Dunn, Bowen and Bartlett; Richardson, Pearce, Jarvis, Allen and Clarkson.

Nuneaton had two new faces in their team when they travelled to face Bromsgrove Rovers. Bowen, a recent signing from Cradley Heath and Hunt, from Bedworth Town. Referee Mr. J. A. Green did not show up, and so former Bromsgrove player Mr. Stiles took charge of the game.

The game opened with Lines having to handle from Lockley, while Hunt was caught offside for the visitors. Field kicked clear following a run by Best, while at the other end Jarvis put in a good attempt, and a little later Clarkson shot over. Bailey then put in a good effort, but Bromsgrove keeper Moore tipped the ball over the bar. Moore saved easily from a weak Clarkson effort before Best broke for the home team and having beat Will Gumbley, he forced Lines to make a good save.

The decline in Nuneaton's fortunes was having an adverse affect on the gates compared to the early part of the season, and the attendance was way down for the visit of Bromsgrove Rovers the the Newdegate Arms ground, perhaps because of the early kick-off. New players were again tried, with the ex-Cradley player Richardson coming in, Hunt being replaced by Reg Allen and Emmin Dunn resuming at right-half in place of Will Gumbley.

Town pressed forward early on and Richardson forced a corner, which was superbly place and resulted in a shot hitting the post. Following a brief Bromsgrove attack, Jarvis got away and passed to Pearce, who was dispossessed when in a good position. Dunn placed a free-kick well, but Moore saved comfortably. Jarvis shot wide from Richardson's centre and Bromsgrove broke away with Merrick showing up well. Field and Barratt warded off the attack, and at the other end



Clarkson shot weakly. Best made a break for the Nuneaton goal, but Dunn took the ball off him and fed Jarvis, who shot over the bar.

Rovers put strong pressure on Nuneaton and Kent looked certain to score, but Lines saved brilliantly at the expense of a corner. The home side retaliated and Clarkson picked up a long swinging pass from Richardson and put the ball into the side netting. Merrick then got close for the visitors, but put the ball wide as Rovers continued to press for some time, but Barratt and Field defended well. Allen almost got through on his own, while Jarvis shot high over the bar.

Nuneaton then took the lead following some clever play between Dunn and Richardson, which led to Allen heading into the net, giving Nuneaton a 1-0 lead. The crowd showed their appreciation for a well-worked goal. Bromsgrove nearly equalised shortly after when Lines ran out and saved from Merrick, the keeper saving from Houghton a minute later. At the other end Bowen tested Moore from Richardson's corner. A good run by Merrick was stopped for offside against Kent and Pearce tried a run for the home side, but was hustled off the ball. The ball broke to Dunn, however, and his drive was well saved by Moore. The home side had a period of exciting attack, but the whistle blew for half-time with Town 1-0 up.

Nuneaton started the second half strongly and Allen made a good attempt, but Pearce was offside. Bartlett almost deceived Moore with a good shot and the goalkeeper then hooked a Clarkson effort clear. Pearce was then brought down on the edge of the area, but the free kick came to nothing. Field retired injured for a spell, during which Allen broke away on his own, but Moore came out and diverted the ball out of danger. Field returned to the fray. Merrick came out top in a duel with Bartlett and tested Lines with a great shot.

Play then became very scrappy, with little to enthuse over with an offside spoiling a Bromsgrove attack and Lines saving from Best. A good run by Pearce and Richardson ended with Moore saving well. At the other end Lines saved a hard shot from Miller and Houghton put the ball wide when in front of an open goal. Merrick then equalised with a magnificent long shot which went into the net, beyond Lines' reach, to make the scores level at 1-1.

Jarvis brought a save from Moore while Dunn and Allen exchanged places. The visiting defence came under pressure, but Town's front men were not convincing in their shooting and Moore was safe in the visitors goal. As the match went on it seemed as though Bromsgrove would concede, especially when a penalty was awarded. A yell of frustration went up from the crowd as Barratt missed the target altogether with a shocking attempt. Town pressed for a short time, but at the final whistle the game was all square at 1-1. It was a game Nuneaton probably deserved to win, but the forwards were to blame for their lack of finishing and for failing to combine together. The game was kick-and-rush in nature. The outstanding player on the field was Merrick of Bromsgrove.

## Nuneaton Town v Bilston United

26-12-1913

**Nuneaton: Lines; Field and Barratt; Dunn, Bowen and Bartlett; Richardson, Paul, Moore, Ralphs.**

The football loving public of Nuneaton were well catered for over the Christmas period with games against Bilston United and Bournbrook, both at the Newdegate Arms.

Two new players selected for the Bilston game did not show, and so a reserve team player - Paul, and an unknown and untried player - Ralphs, were brought into the side. The fact that Clarkson and Pearce were not asked to turn up is to be regretted, as it is often the case that new players do not show.

The game itself opened with Pat Moore making a rush upfield, where he sent the ball across the goalmouth. A Bilston defender knocked the ball down with his hand and Moore himself took the kick, which was easily scored. Bilston equalised after half-an-hour when Smart beat both Dunn and Field and gave Lines no chance, which meant at the interval the teams were on level terms at 1-1.

In the second half Ralphs put Nuneaton into a 2-1 lead after Irwin had made a great save from Pat Moore. With the home team keeping the visitors out, with only a few minutes left, a home win looked on the cards. However, Bilston were awarded a penalty when Barratt handled, and Pritchard made no mistake with his shot. When the final whistle sounded the scores were level at 2-2.

## Nuneaton Town v Bournbrook

27-12-1913

Town made three changes for the following day's game against Bournbrook, with Pearce and Clarkson coming back into the side, and Lewis playing outside-right instead of Richardson.

It was soon evident that the game would be of a more entertaining character than the day previous. The play of the forwards showing a distinct improvement. With the advantage of the wind, Nuneaton attacked again and again with shots from both Dunn and Bowen striking the crossbar, while Pat Moore and Ralphs shot narrowly wide. Although Bournbrook got to the other end occasionally, Town dominated the game with Saunders having to save time and again.

Pearce looked like going all the way at one stage, but was deliberately tripped by Allsop and badly injured his shoulder and had to retire, leaving Town to play up to the interval with ten men, the scoresheet being blank.

Pearce returned after the break, but had to play out on the wing and it was evident that he was suffering and in some pain. Bournbrook had the best of things for a while, but Nuneaton settled down and after forcing several corners, Pearce put in a lovely centre which Lewis converted with a lovely shot that gave Saunders no chance, making the score 1-0. The visitors were stung by this reverse and were not over particular about their methods. Good play by Pat Moore resulted in another



goal for the home side. The centre-forward ran through the defence and gave the ball out to Pearce, who returned the ball into the area where Moore's shot struck an upright. Lewis was following up, however, and scored a great goal to make the score 2-0 to the home side.

It wasn't long before Nuneaton were 3-0 up as Moore again burst through the visitors defence, where Ralphs put the ball into the net. Pat Moore nearly scored again immediately after, when he latched on to a centre by Pearce. The crowd were whipped up to a high level of excitement and Clarkson had hard luck when his shot grazed the upright. Another goal soon followed when Lewis manouevred the ball and passed to Moore, who dodged the backs and ran in close, his final effort ending in a fine goal, putting Town 4-0 up. Pearce was obliged to give up his plucky attempt to continue, but Town were still attacking when the final whistle sounded and the game ended 4-0 to Town.

## Hednesford v Nuneaton Town

01-01-1914

**Nuneaton: Lines; Field and Barratt; Mann, Bowen and Bartlett; Pearce, Paul, P. Moore, Ralphs and Clarkson.**

New Year's Day 1914 saw Nuneaton travel to the Cross Keys to face Hednesford, who were pushing for the Championship. Having lost the home game 2-0, hopes of a Town victory were not high. Emmin Dunn was absent through illness and in at right-half came Mann, a young player given a trial. Lewis was unavailable, so Paul was given a recall, while Pearce was tried at outside-right. Hednesford were at full strength.

The ground was in fair condition, given recent weather, but the surface was hard and treacherous. There was a large crowd and the opening exchanges raised them to a pitch of excitement. Both ends were visited in a fast opening to the game and Nock was first to score, beating Lines with a great shot after some good play, making the score 1-0.

Hednesford tried hard to improve on the score, but Town's defence stood firm. Nuneaton then moved onto the attack, with Pat Moore scoring a wonderful goal, fastening on to the ball in midfield, he bored his way through several defenders, swerved into position and crashed in a glorious shot while on the run. The ball hit the rigging with tremendous force, and it was a brilliant goal to equalise the scores at 1-1. Both defences reigned supreme for the rest of the half and when the whistle sounded it was still 1-1.

Hednesford had more play in the second half, but Lines, Field and Barratt were brilliant in defence. Lines saved shots from all angles. The home side didn't have everything their own way, however, and the "blue and whites" tried hard to get the lead. Pat Moore was outstanding, and he received great support from Bowen. Hednesford learned the lesson from Moore's first goal and he was quickly tackled thereafter. The game was fairly even up until the final whistle with the score being 1-1 at the end.

## New Players Signed

Nuneaton Town have signed Thorneycroft, from Halesowen Town. He has been Halesowen's star forward this year and scored two against Town when they met earlier in the season. Halesowen's finances will benefit greatly from the transfer.

Town have also made a bid to bring 17-year-old prospect Crisp to the club. He has turned out for Aston Villa Reserves, Leicester Fosse and Walsall, but doesn't want to commit to full-time football.

A new outside-left, Nock, has also been secured from Birmingham Works football. He is a clever and dangerous wing player.

## Stafford Rangers v Nuneaton Town

10-01-1914

**Stafford: Parker; Duckers and Lycett; Taylor, Dudley and Riley; Walter Blunt, Owen, William Blunt, Lamplugh and Prince.**

**Nuneaton: Lines; Field and Barratt; Dunn, Bowen and Bartlett; Lewis, Thorneycroft, Moore, Ralphs and Nock.**

Nuneaton travelled to Stafford Rangers for a top four battle. Stafford would go top if they won and a Nuneaton success would keep them in the running for the title. A large crowd had assembled for the much-anticipated game and Nuneaton had two new signings, Thorneycroft from Halesowen and Nock from Birmingham junior football. Lewis was at outside-right. Stafford were at full strength.

The opening exchanges were fairly even, but Stafford got down the left and Prince put the ball behind. Walter Blunt then shot over from a good position. Lewis made a good run and cross for the visitors, Pat Moore took the ball on the run and shot just over. Lewis won possession and with Thorneycroft, put in some good work resulting Moore receiving the ball right in front of goal, but he was hustled off the ball. Lines saved at the expense of a corner, from which the ball was put over the top before good work on Nuneaton's right again put them in a promising position and Moore grazed a post. Bartlett shot wide from long range and following a goal-kick Field put out.

Bowen cleared from a Stafford corner, but Walter Blunt picked up and shot yards over. Town's forwards then looked dangerous, but Thorneycroft was caught offside. Nuneaton were playing well at this stage and when Moore punted the ball forward it fell to Ralphs, who tipped the ball to Nock. The winger centred across the goalmouth to Lewis who made no mistake to give Town a 1-0 lead. Stafford were stung by their reverse and attacked desperately, but their shooting was off target. However, Lines made a save from Owen and Field stemmed a dangerous rush by Stafford's forwards.

Parker made a good save from Ralphs before the whole of Nuneaton's front line touched the ball in a movement that presented Thorneycroft with an opening, but he hesitated

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and the chance was lost. At the other end Lines punched away from a corner and Bowen set the forwards going and Lewis got away, but he passed and an offside decision was called. Stafford put several shots over the bar and Lines was called on to deal with others, but eventually Town again took the ball to the other end, where Parker pulled off a magnificent save from Pat Moore. Another excursion to the other end save Nock test Parker and Bowen shooting over. After a period of midfield play the whistle sounded for half-time with the score 1-0 to Nuneaton.

Pat Moore got away from the restart, but Stafford employed offside tactics and Nuneaton were caught. Stafford won a free-kick close in which looked dangerous, but Lines made a good save. Nock, Moore and Ralphs got away, but offside was given before Parker was called on to save from Lewis. Prince put behind from a Stafford corner and Lines caught a long, huge drive from Duckers. Stafford then grabbed an equaliser when they got away on the left and Prince put the ball across to Blunt, who beat Lines with a fast, low shot to make the scores 1-1. Terrific cheering heralded this success.

Town were caught offside on two occasions, but Pat Moore bored his way through on the left and centred, but Lycett got in the way. Dunn set Lewis away and the winger caused Lewis to save. A Stafford corner was cleared and Bartlett set Moore off. The centre man transferred to Nock, but he was bundled over the line. The same player was then caught offside.

Owen shot wide for Stafford and Lines saved magnificently at close range while on the ground, from William Blunt. Lines again saved well. Dunn set his wing men going, but Lewis was again offside. A foul against Thorneycroft put the home side in a good position, but it was successfully defended. Nuneaton were caught offside again, before Pat Moore bored his way through the defence, but finished by placing wide. A fog descended over the pitch and the play became difficult for supporters to follow.

Towards the end of the game Stafford got up the pitch and following a free kick Dudley scored amongst much excitement, putting Stafford 2-1 into the lead. Within two minutes Stafford scored again through Owen who made the score 3-1, which was the final score when the whistle sounded for full-time.

## Nuneaton Town v Halesowen 17-01-1914

**Nuneaton: Lines; Field and Barratt; Bartlett, Bowen and Gumbley; Fowler, Thorneycroft, Moore, Ralphs and Nock.**

Nuneaton, struggling to form themselves, came up against Halesowen Town, struggling in the lower reaches of the Combination. There was a middling crowd of around 1,500 at the Newdegate. Emmin Dunn was indisposed, so Harry Field captained the side.

Good work from Thorneycroft enabled Pat Moore to score Nuneaton's first goal. The inside-right tried hard to work an opening for himself, but finding it impossible he gently

touched the ball to Moore, who was waiting and drove the ball hard and fast along the ground and into the far corner of the net to make the score 1-0 to Nuneaton. Hartland touched the ball, but could not turn it round the post. This was all the scoring in the first half.

Nuneaton's second goal was scored when Thorneycroft and Pat Moore took the ball upfield and the centre-forward fastened onto an oblique pass from Thorneycroft. Moore dashed off in the direction of the corner flag, before twisting himself around and crashed in a terrific shot which flew into the top corner of the net, with Hartland standing by wondering what had happened. Moore received enthusiastic cheers and the goal was said to be one of the finest ever scored on the Newdegate.

Town's third goal was scored by Nock, who followed up as Hartland was preparing to pick up from a shot and gently lifted the ball over the keeper's head and into the net to put the home side 3-0 up. Halesowen's consolation goal came about after Williams, who had been injured earlier in the match received the ball and made ground and crossed a perfect centre to Cooksey, who met the ball and beat Lines with some ease. The game ended 3-1 in Nuneaton's favour.

## Bloxwich Strollers v Nuneaton Town 24-01-1914

**Bloxwich: Hill; J. Davies and Crutchley; Mills, Langford and Nickless; Richardson, H. Davies, Rowley, Shingler and Henworth.**  
**Nuneaton: Lines; Field and Barratt; Dunn, Bartlett and Gumbley; Marshall, Thorneycroft, Jarvis, Ralphs and Nock.**

Going into the away match against Bloxwich Strollers, Nuneaton were undergoing a difficult time on the pitch, where ordinary displays were attracting criticism in the press and the attendances at The Newdegate were half what they were at the start of the season.

The first action of the match saw Dunn set Marshall away, with the winger's cross causing Bloxwich some problems. A mistake by Barratt almost let in the home side, with Lines saving the situation. Nock put in a good long shot which Hill saved, while at the other end Field was cheered for his tackle on Shingler. Hill ran out of his goal to clear from Jarvis before Nuneaton were unlucky with shots from all inside forwards and Bartlett rebounding off defenders. Marshall went on a good run, but was bowled over and dispossessed. Town cleared from a well-placed Richardson free-kick before Davies worked himself into a good position and put in a great shot, but Lines saved.

Thorneycroft, Jarvis and Marshall took part in a good passing movement and Marshall had a good chance, but he hesitated with only Hill to beat and was dispossessed as he was about to shoot. Marshall then won a corner which resulted in some pressure, but Bartlett put the ball over the bar. Lines saved from Richardson before Barratt mis-kicked and let in Shingler, but Dunn cleared up. Ralphs and Nock combined



well, but nothing came of it and the interval arrived with the game goalless.

Bloxwich started well in the second half and Rowley had a good opportunity from about six yards, but put wide. Lines had to run out to clear from Richardson. Nock's shot was cleared by Hill and Bloxwich returned to the attack and gave Town's defence a very uncomfortable time. The home forwards then swept downfield in a line and the ball went out to Harold Davies, who crashed the ball past Lines to make the score 1-0 to the home side.

Jarvis brought Hill to his knees with a ground shot before Gumbley robbed Richardson and set the forwards running. Dunn and Field then made crucial clearances to save their goal, while at the other end Bartlett tried a shot that missed the mark. A combined rush by Strollers won them a second goal. Barratt and Lines went to kick away together, but Davies managed to steer the ball into the net to make it 2-0.

Thorneycroft had a great chance of reducing the lead, but was not quick enough. Nuneaton had the best of matters towards the close, but never looked like scoring. Although Bartlett his one hard and true, but it hit a defender and was cleared. At the final whistle Bloxwich had won 2-0.

## Press Criticism

"Looking back over the seasons, I fail to recollect a match in which the Nuneaton forwards played so feeble a game as they did last Saturday against Bloxwich Strollers. Their display was puerile in the extreme, and play was inefficient in the extreme, and hopelessly ineffective. They moved about like five old-age pensioners. If there is one thing more than another characteristic of modern football it is speed, but if one were to judge the Nuneaton forwards on that assumption it would only be said that they are too ancient - they ought to have played in the eighties.

"It was positively disgusting to watch the slow, cumbersome methods of the inside men. While they were deciding what to do a Bloxwich player would nip in and do the thing he wanted..."

## Nuneaton Town v Tamworth Castle 31-01-1914

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Field and Barratt; Dunn, Bowen and Gumbley; Pearce, Allen, Thorneycroft, Bartlett and Nock.

**Tamworth:** Knight; Dale and Gibbs; Wale, Titterton and Clements; Mason, Robbins, Bennett, Gorman and Wright.

About 2,000 people were at the Newdegate for the Atherstone Nursing Cup semi-final against Tamworth Castle when Emmin Dunn and ex-Nuneaton captain Leslie Dale led their teams out for the match. Jarvis and Ralphs were dropped following the Bloxwich match, while Marshall was ineligible.

Bowen resumed at centre-half and Bartlett went to inside-left. Thorneycroft moved to centre-forward and Reg Allen returned to the team after a long absence, and Harold Pearce also made a return.

Nuneaton kicked towards the Burgage and Castle had the benefit of a strong wind. Thorneycroft kicked off and following good play down the right wing, a centre by Pearce found Gumbley who shot over the bar. Thorneycroft was then caught offside. Tamworth had a brief attack and Bartlett passed out to Pearce, who was again offside. Thorneycroft then found Pearce, who shot behind before a movement between Dunn, Allen and Bartlett ended in the latter putting the ball shockingly wide.

Tamworth attacked and Mason's cross was headed over by Wright, who was standing under the bar. Nuneaton were quickly up the other end and Nock won a corner. The winger dropped the ball in and Allen scored with a well-judged effort, making the score 1-0 with 15 minutes gone. Bartlett got Nock on the move twice in quick succession but Dale relieved the pressure. Town worked the crowd up to a great state of excitement with a persistent attack, with the ball dodging about in front of goal in bewildering fashion. Eventually, Nuneaton got a second when Dunn's corner was put into the net by Thorneycroft to make the score 2-0.

Straight from the kick-off Nock got away again, following a pass from Bartlett. The winger dropped the ball in nicely and Pearce scored again, making the score 3-0. The Town continued to have the better of matters and Bartlett followed a fine individual effort by scoring the fourth. Thorneycroft put the ball at the feet of Nock who stood in front of the post, but unaccountably missed the target. Allen was responsible for some clever play and as a result Gumbley was able to score, making it 5-0. Nuneaton attacked continually, but no more goals were scored and at half-time the score was 5-0.

Nuneaton attacked at the start of the second half and Allen worked his way through, but his shot hit a defender and went over. Dunn placed the corner well, but it was cleared. Bartlett later almost rushed Knight into the net with the ball, but a free kick was given for impeding. Bartlett had another individual effort that was well saved by Knight. Bartlett shot into the keeper's hands, while at the other end, Tamworth put the ball in the net, but it was disallowed for offside. Knight was being kept busy by Nuneaton's forwards and Bartlett missed with just the keeper to beat. He could have walked the ball in, but chose to shoot and hit the post.

Nock tested Knight with a hard shot and the keeper cleared more shots from Allen, Dunn and Thorneycroft. Gorman's shot for Tamworth almost hit the corner flag, while at the other end Bartlett shot over. Dunn passed out to Pearce who put across a good centre, which Nock fired at Knight. Another lengthy Town attack saw Thorneycroft put in a fine shot and brilliant work by Dunn raised the crowd's enthusiasm and the Town captain crashed in a great shot which Knight saved. When Bartlett

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shot a cry of “goal!” went up, but Knight miraculously saved. Nuneaton pressed up until the final whistle but couldn’t score again and the final score was 5-0.

## Willenhall Pickwick v Nuneaton 31-01-1914

**Willenhall: Henworth; Archer and Cox; Wootton, Wickham and Silvers; Lowe, Mason, Lally, Pritchard and Smith.**

**Nuneaton: Lines; Field and Barratt; Dunn, Bowen and Gumbley; Marshall, Allen, Thorneycroft, Bartlett and Nock.**

Nuneaton travelled to Willenhall Pickwick with the knowledge that they had never beaten the home side on their Portobello ground.

Bowen opened the action for Nuneaton with a long range shot that lacked the power to beat Henworth. Smith attacked for Willenhall and his centre was good, but Mason handled and the move ended. Henworth cleared with ease from Nock’s effort. Smith raised the hopes of the home supporters with two runs and crosses, which were dealt with by Lines and Barratt, who headed clear. Dunn relieved the pressure but the ball was returned and Wootton shot over. Clever play by Allen got Marshall on the move and he went round Silvers and Cox and gave Thorneycroft a chance, but he wanted too much time.

A great tackle by field broke up a Pickwick attack before Marshall made another good run and cross that came to nothing. Marshall was then badly fouled and Dunn took the free-kick, but Willenhall cleared. Bartlett, Thorneycroft and Nock were involved in a passing movement that ended with a centre by Nock, but it was cleared by Henworth. Barratt stopped a Willenhall rush before Lally broke through, but his shot was saved by Lines. Marshall ran and centred, but the forwards made nothing of it, and just after, Lines made a fine save, but he was beaten from close range by Lally, who put the ball in the net to put the home side 1-0 up.

Immediately after the kick-off Pickwick swarmed forward again and Lines brought off a brilliant save. Thorneycroft tried to create an opening, but his pass went astray. Marshall put a cross behind goal, as did Smith at the other end. Thorneycroft raced between the backs and put in a shot, which Henworth saved with difficulty. Pritchard shot straight into Lines hands from close in before Lally received a pass up the centre and made no mistake in beating Lines, to put the home side 2-0 ahead.

Allen was robbed when he tried to break through, but later he gave Marshall a splendid pass which he made a mess of. Lines saved from Lally, while at the other end Thorneycroft tested Henworth, who saved at the expense of a corner, which came to nothing. Allen shot wide before Dunn made a good clearance and Nock and Thorneycroft combined, with the latter shooting over the bar. Field made a great headed clearance to prevent a certain goal, while at the other end Marshall swung across two good centres to no avail. Bowen failed to intercept a pass to Lally, who brought a save from

Lines, which was the last action of the first half, Willenhall being 2-0 up.

At the start of the second half Willenhall forced a fruitless corner before Bartlett and Nock combined with the latter putting in a good cross that Cox cleared. Mason then handled but the visitors made nothing of the free-kick, but later Field sent in a long shot, which Henworth saved with some difficulty. Nuneaton cut Willenhall’s lead when Allen made a good forward pass to Thorneycroft who beat the keeper with a good shot to make the score 2-1. Henworth collided with the post in trying to save, but resumed immediately.

Lally tried to break through, but the Town defence crowded him out and then Dunn made a fine tackle to stop Smith. Barratt cleared in style when under pressure and Marshall got away, but his centre was put wide by Bartlett. Field cleared Lowe’s centre at the other end. Allen missed a good chance to equalise when he failed to collect Nock’s pass, while Marshall put a shot into the side netting. Thorneycroft also missed a good chance from Allen’s pass. Bartlett struck the upright with a hard drive and the ball bounced out to Allen, but he stumbled as he tried to shoot. He recovered, but Henworth saved easily. Field stopped Mason in full flight before a penalty was conceded by Barratt, who fouled Lally. The penalty kick was put wide by Wootton.

Nuneaton attacked with renewed energy and Henworth was called on to save from Thorneycroft and Nock. Gumbley made a brilliant run and crossed to Allen, whose shot went just wide of the post, while Bartlett also went close. Lines made a series of saves at the other end and then Henworth made a good clearance from Thorneycroft. Nuneaton attacked desperately towards the end and did everything but score and the final whistle saw Willenhall win the match by 2-1.

## Nuneaton Town v Birmingham Trams 14-02-1914

**Nuneaton: Lines; Field and Barratt; Dunn, Bowen and Gumbley; Marshall, Allen, Thorneycroft, Bartlett and Nock.**

**Trams: Tustin; Lippett and Pritchard; McCourty, Goode and Vann; Regan, Sheppard, Massey, Bowen and Baker.**

Birmingham Trams arrived at The Newdegate on a good run of form, having won a good few matches. There was a crowd of about 2,000 there for the visit of the Tramwaymen. Nuneaton fielded the same side that had face Willenhall Pickwick the previous week.

The first action saw Thorneycroft gain possession and pass out to Marshall, who failed to keep the ball in play. Good play by Allen led to Marshall swinging the ball right across and Bartlett headed to Nock, who put his shot into the side netting. Allen and Marshall created a chance for Bartlett, whose shot was luckily saved by Tustin. The visitors were pulled up by two clearances from Lines and an offside, while Thorneycroft shot just over for Town. A Trams attack was cleared and at the other end Thorneycroft put in a



## Redditch v Nuneaton Town

21-02-1914

**Redditch:** Ward; Hillman and Bills; Bowker, Hampton and Cleaver; Dolphin, Darby, Ogden, Morrell and Spriggs.

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Field and Barratt; Dunn, Bowen and Gumbley; Marshall, Pearce, Thorneycroft, Newbrook and Nock.

magnificent shot from which Tustin made a magnificent save at the expense of a corner, which Marshall put behind.

Nock won a corner and Tustin saved in some style and later Nock beat Pritchard and crossed to Marshall, whose control let him down. Trams broke and Lines cleared the ball from in a ruck of players, while at the other end Allen bore in on goal, but his shot hit a defender and bounced out. Bartlett picked up the ball and banged into the net, but the goal was disallowed for offside. It was a bad decision and the crowd showed their disapproval. Just after, Marshall got down the wing and rounded Lippett before flashing a centre across the goalmouth, where the ball was kicked out for a corner. Bartlett got through a little later and put in a shot, but Tustin diverted and Bowen put in an effort following a throw-in, but Tustin again cleared.

Bartlett shot into the net following a Town free-kick, but the whistle had already gone for a previous infringement and the goal was disallowed. Just before the break Dunn sent Marshall clear and the winger centred, but Allen hung back and the chance was gone. When the whistle sounded for half-time the score was 0-0.

Immediately after the break Trams got forward, but Barratt cleared and Bowen set Allen going and the ball went to Marshall who flashed the ball behind the net. Bartlett then missed an opening following Dunn's pass. A good passing movement between Gumbley, Bartlett, Allen and Marshall ended with the latter player putting in a fine effort, which went just behind. At the other end Barratt conceded a corner which was got away. Tustin was called upon to save from Thorneycroft before Bowen stemmed a dangerous rush from the visitors, while Thorneycroft headed over from a corner. Lines then saved from Sheppard and Nuneaton raced away, Gumbley shooting into the side netting.

Following good play by Dunn, the ball hovered around the Trams' goal where several players got in shots, one that hit the bar with Tustin out of his goal. Ultimately Thorneycroft steered the ball into the net to give the home side a 1-0 lead. The crowd cheered enthusiastically, roused by several near misses and a goal for Town. Field cleared when Trams attacked again, while Nock was unlucky to see his shot hit the base of the post and bounce out. A nice move by Bartlett and Allen, created an opening for Nock, who made no mistake, giving Town a 2-0 lead.

The visitors attacked desperately, but were driven back and Nock won applause for clever play on the wing, but Bartlett kicked out. Tustin picked up following Bowen's shot before Bartlett missed a good opportunity. Marshall forced Tustin to push round the post from his shot before Trams attacked and Lines was forced to kick away. The ball was returned, however, and Regan passed out to Sheppard, who scored with a shot beyond the reach of Lines. The final incident of the match saw Tustin punch away Marshall's flag kick and the final whistle saw Nuneaton win by 2-1.

Nuneaton travelled to Needle Town to face Redditch United, in what amounted to a very stiff proposition. Although Town gave the home side a severe drubbing at The Newdegate, this was a very different side to that day. There was great interest in the game and 2,500 people were in attendance and there was a good reception as the captains led out their teams. Nuneaton showed just one change with Newbrook (previously with Bloxwich) replacing Bartlett, who was ill.

Cleaver, the ex-Derby, Preston and Watford player, beat Dunn in the toss and Town were set to play uphill and into the sun. Redditch almost scored from their first attack, but had to be satisfied with a corner, from which nothing accrued. Town's defence looked shaky early on, whereas the Redditch forwards looked to be in good form. Bowen was applauded for good work before Dolphin got away for Redditch, but put the ball wide. Tricky play by Morrall nearly ended in disaster for Town, with Lines coming to the rescue. Hillman set Redditch on the attack and Spriggs put the ball over the top from a good position.

Town spoiled a promising move by being caught offside before more good play from Redditch resulted in Field having to clear. Darby had a good chance for the home side, but Barratt hustled him and took the sting out of his shot. Town then pressed and Thorneycroft put in a good effort that was saved by Ward in the Redditch goal. Nock broke through and scored, but the goal was disallowed for a handball against Nock, despite protests from Town. Lines was tested but cleared well and Town went for goal in a body, and Ward was forced to come out to save in a ruck of players.

Nuneaton were unlucky in not scoring at this time, but their persistency was rewarded when Marshall got the better of Bills and centred for Newbrook to score a fine goal and give the visitors a 1-0 lead. Redditch were stung by this setback and mounted an attack in which Gumbley gave away a free-kick. Darby scored a goal for Redditch from right on the goal line with a magnificent screw shot, making the scores level at 1-1. Following another Redditch attack the crowd yelled "goal!", but Lines made a superb save. Bowen then robbed Bowker.

Bowker found Ogden, who was in an offside position, but was allowed to run through and score an easy goal to make the score 2-1 to Redditch. The home side's forwards were in irresistible form, but Town's half-back stuck to them, with Bowen and Dunn playing well. Morrall then had another chance after some good work between himself and Spriggs, but he put the ball wide. After continuous pressure on the Town goal Nock tried to get away, but was checked and



## Nuneaton Town v Bournville

28-02-1914

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Field and Barratt; Dunn, Bowen and Gumbley; Marshall, Thorneycroft, Newbrooke, Bartlett and Nock.

**Bournville:** Wimots; Penny and Langwell; Price, Rainbow and Dixon; Preece, Jenkins, Crabtree, Rodway and Newall.

Pearce was unlucky with some good work. Town, however, were far from convincing and the home defence were rarely troubled. Dolphin went down the right and sent in a fine swerving shot, but Lines cleared well.

Dolphin came again and Gumbley did well to avert danger, by giving a corner, which was well-placed and Ogden headed home to give Redditch a 3-1 lead. After the third goal, Town adopted the one back game and Redditch were caught offside continually. Dolphin shot outside when well-placed and Gumbley conceded another corner, but Ogden put yards over this time. Spriggs then extended Redditch's lead to 4-1, netting with a fast ground shot following Dolphin's corner. Town's defence was cracking up, but they managed to keep the home forwards at bay, but Dolphin again got away and centred across goal, where all the forwards missed the ball. The half-time whistle saw Redditch 4-1 ahead.

Nuneaton had the advantage of wind and slope in the second half and made some efforts to reduce the lead, but the home defence were playing like lions. Town stuck with the one back game, but their forwards seemed to gain little from it. Thorneycroft was working hard and he and Bowen worked well before Redditch broke again when Dolphin and Morrell both made efforts to score. Dunn checked the home forwards and set his own forwards moving following some tricky play, but Marshall made a hash of things, when he had a good chance of centring.

Pearce was fouled, but nothing came of the free-kick. At this stage Town had the measure of the home forwards, but their own front men did little with the service they received, with most ball put forward coming straight back. Town forwards rushed upfield, but the shooting was terribly weak. Field broke up a Redditch attack but they came again and Barratt had to clear to relieve the pressure. Thorneycroft got away but spoiled a good attack by jumping, but just after forced Ward into a good save. Ward was in action again straight after when Bowen powered a shot in, which Ward was forced to clear. Pearce beat Cleaver and Hillman missed by a couple of inches, while at the other end Lines made a good save from Dolphin's free kick, and followed it up with another fine save a moment later.

Ward was penalised eight yards out for carrying the ball, and the free kick hit Ward's head and ricocheted on to the bar. When the ball bounced back, the following shot also hit the bar. At the other end Lines clawed a shot out from under the bar. Gumbley had a shot at the other end, and Thorneycroft went close, but Ward dealt with it. Dolphin then ran half the length of the field, but shot into Lines' hands. Darby had only Lines to beat, but the keeper took the ball off his toes. Ogden also went through, but nothing resulted and although Nuneaton were still pressing at the end the final score was 4-1 to Redditch. The home side were worthy winners, but Town's forwards missed many chances and the game could have been very different if they had taken advantage of them.

Nuneaton entertained Bournville at The Newdegate with an air of resignation prevailing about the prospects for the rest of the season. The Cocoa Boys were in middling form and Nuneaton welcomed back Bartlett who had been ill the previous week. Dunn won the toss and elected to kick towards the Burgage.

Nock forced a corner early on, which was well-placed and Thorneycroft tested Willmott in the Bournville goal. Gumbley then broke up an attack and set Bartlett going, but Penny dashed in and cleared the danger. Bowen found Marshall, who rounded Langwell and dropped in a perfect centre and Newcombe tried to rush through, but it came out to Dunn who shot over amid cries of "Oh!" Blown then shot wide. Thorneycroft played out to Marshall and the winger put the ball across the goalmouth, but no-one was on hand and the ball ran out of play close to the corner flag. Barratt failed to stop a Bournville attack and Field was forced to concede a corner. Lines dealt with the corner and Marshall got forward, but put the ball behind.

Rodway posed Dunn some problems at the other end and a corner was won, but nothing accrued. Crabtree sent in a fast ground shot that Lines judged well and saved. A Town attack through Marshall saw Thorneycroft miss from a good centre. A minute later there was a yell of expectation as Nock presented Bartlett with an open goal, but he lifted the ball over the bar. Bartlett then missed again before redeeming himself by scoring a lovely goal, giving Willmott no chance and putting the home side 1-0 up.

Willmott was being kept fairly busy and Marshall twice put behind and Newbrooke had bad luck with a terrific shot that hit the upright and bounced out. Newbrooke picked up the loose ball, but Bournville's defence had recovered. Rodway broke away for the visitors and Barratt rushed across and bowled him over. The game was stopped and re-started with a throw-up from which Nuneaton again got forward. Nock played out to Marshall who put wide and a magnificent shot by Gumbley was tipped over by Willmott. Marshall shot behind from the corner, and at half-time the home side were leading 1-0.

After the break Bartlett looked like going through, but was dispossessed before Thorneycroft went close, but Willmott picked up and threw away. Nock let the ball get away from him and a good chance was gone, before Bartlett stuck a post with a shot that looked destined for the net. The game entered a quiet period before Barratt conceded a corner, which came to nothing, while at the other end Willmott was cheered for a fantastic save from Nock during an onslaught on the





Bournville goal. Gumbley went through all the opposition, but three Nuneaton forwards failed to seize on the opening. Thorneycroft headed over from a corner and later Gumbley set the forwards going and a long cross from Marshall went over to Nock who screwed the ball into the far corner, making it 2-0.

Lines saved well on two occasions and Barratt relieved the pressure with a huge kick. Marshall forced a corner and Wilmott was forced to rush out and rescue the ball from a ruck of players. Bournville spent some time in the Nuneaton half and were at last rewarded when Preece found the net to make the score 2-1. The visitors almost equalised when Lines ran out to catch the ball, but dropped it again and the ball was put wide of the goal. Willmott was called on to make two saves in quick succession before Thorneycroft was brought down just outside the penalty area and Dunn shot wide from the free-kick. In the last couple of minutes Lines made a brilliant save, but the game ended in a victory for the home side by 2-1.

## Cradley Heath v Nuneaton Town

07-03-1914

The away match at Cradley Heath resulted in a great deal of controversy involving the competence or otherwise of the referee. Cradley's first goal resulted after a huge kick upfield from the Cradley area and when the backs and half-backs moved out, Willetts stood by the post with only Lines to beat. His shot hit the net and to the surprise of the Cradley players the referee allowed the goal.

The second Cradley goal was equally glaringly offside. Willett again the scorer. The Cradley forwards moved along and Moule was going through in likely style, but when challenged he whipped the ball forward to Willetts, who again shot past Lines to make the score 2-0 to Cradley. The third goal, a good one was shot home by Kendrick with terrific force, and at the interval Cradley led by 3-0. The home side's fourth goal was scored well into the second half, with a good build up leading up to it, but a final mistake was made by the forwards, which should have led to the goal being disallowed. One of the home forwards passed forward to Willett, as Field raced up to make a tackle, meaning that the Cradley inside-left was in an offside position. He put the ball into the net and that goal was also allowed to count.

One of Nuneaton's goals was a beauty, but the second had a slice of luck about it. Soon after the second half started Gumbley and Bartlett swapped places and 'Smiling Jack' signalled his appearance in the forward line by beating three men and scoring with a great shot. The second goal was scored a few minutes from the end, through Thorneycroft who touched the ball through the centre and raced after it. Tatton ran out to save but Thorneycroft managed to put the ball into the open goal. Just prior to Nuneaton's second goal Cradley had a goal disallowed for offside and the crowd booed! At the end of 90 minutes Cradley had secured a 4-2 win. Although the home side's win was rather fortunate, they thoroughly deserved it for their superior football.

## Nuneaton Town v Tamworth Castle

14-03-1914

**Nuneaton: Lines; Field and Bartlett; E. Dunn, Bowen and J. Gumbley; Pearce, Allen, Thorneycroft, W. Dunn and Nock.**

**Tamworth: Knight; Gibbs and Bennett; Wale, Titterton and Grady; Mason, Robbins, Dale, Wright and Chetwynd.**

For the match against Tamworth Castle at the Newdegate, weather conditions were abysmal, which kept the crowd down to a modest 800 or so. The rain set in about 3pm and continued throughout the match. Nuneaton made several changes with Pearch and Allen returning to the right-hand side of the forward line, while at inside left a trial was given to Walter Dunn, brother of Emmin. Billy Barratt was dropped and his place at full-back was taken by Bartlett. Castle featured ex-Town captain Leslie Dale at centre-forward.

Castle were the first to show, missing an open goal in the first few minutes, Chetwynd being completely unmarked with just Lines to beat. A passing movement between Gumbley, Allen and Thorneycroft ended with the latter shooting over the bar. Lines then kicked away under pressure from Dale and the ball went to Chetwynd, who shot wide from another good chance. Dale went close with a good shot.

Walter Dunn shot over from a good position, and shot over again just after following Bowen's pass. Nock then forced Knight to handle before Tamworth attacked strongly, but Lines and Field showed good form. Nock brought a good save from and Thorneycroft went close after Allen and Pearce had worked an opening. Mason showed up well for the visitors with several fine dribbles and centres. From one of them Castle came close. Field then put in a long shot that went close while at the other end Robbins' shot was well saved by Lines. Knight had to save from Thorneycroft at the other end, while Nuneaton's goal came under severe pressure just after, but the defence showed up well. At half time the score was 0-0.

Some of the spectators abandoned the field at the start of the second half as the rain was falling fast and it was bitterly cold. Chetwynd got down the left and swung over to Mason, who shot high over the bar. Walter Dunn showed promise in another move, but it came to nothing. Lines saved from Dale and Mason again featured well, but Gumbley marked him well. Bowen set Town on the attack, but the forwards were quite ineffective and didn't look like scoring.

Knight saved from Allen and Pearce was dispossessed by Grady before Castle exerted some pressure on the home goal. Dale was going through and about to shoot, when he was robbed by Field, who saved what looked like a certain goal. Nuneaton's half-backs started to get the ball up to their forwards, but they constantly lost possession. Walter Dunn attempted to break through, but lacked support. Nuneaton began to get on top and with any kind of shooting ability would have scored. Knight came under pressure, but Town's shots lacked any real sting, with one attempt by Bowen going yards wide.



Allen and Pearce tried to make progress, but it didn't come to anything. Walter Dunn passed to Nock, who ran forward and centred, but the ball was cleared. Tamworth broke away and Dale nearly snatched victory with a great shot. Nuneaton then pressed continuously until the end, but their forwards were poor in front of goal and both crowd and players were heartily glad when the referee blew his whistle for time, with the score standing at 0-0.

## Cannock Town v Nuneaton Town 21-03-1914

**Cannock:** Armstrong; Moore and Wilkes; Stanley, Gray and Ridgway; Harrison, Kingston, Ribble, F. Crowe and G. Crowe.

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Field and Barratt; Bartlett, Bowen and Gumbley; Bailey, E. Dunn, Jarvis, W. Dunn and Key.

Nuneaton travelled to Cannock Town, with no-one confident of Nuneaton returning with both of the points. However, if Nuneaton's form was bad, Cannock's was worse, as they hadn't won a game all season.

The Town side showed many changes in the forward line with only Walter Dunn retaining his place. Gathercole who was selected at centre-forward was unavailable, so Jarvis led the line. Emmin Dunn was moved back to inside-right, while Key and Bailey were the wings. Bartlett moved into the half-backs in Emmin Dunn's place and Barratt again partnered Field because new full back Bradshaw didn't turn up.

Nuneaton went straight onto the attack and Bailey got in a good centre, which was cleared. Jarvis tried to get away down the centre, but Wilkes cleared well and G. Crowe threatened danger on the Cannock left, but was checked by Bowen. Bartlett then broke up another move and passed to Emmin Dunn, who shot wide. Cannock had the first real chance when G. Crowe shot wide when well placed. Lines had to handle a shot from Ribble, before Bowen started a move that ended with Moore charging down Jarvis' drive. Bowen was again prominent and Emmin Dunn put in a great shot which was saved by Armstrong. Gray then put the home team on the attack and G. Crowe had another chance, but his shot was saved by Lines.

Key and Walter Dunn combined well up the left, but Stanley cleared, but the ball was returned and Key put in a good centre, from which Jarvis shot strongly at goal. Armstrong save, but before he could get it away, Key rushed up and put the ball into the net to give Nuneaton a 1-0 lead. Cannock got forward from the kick-off and Lines had to clear from F. Crowe. Cannock now attacked incessantly and after Lines had saved from Ribble, Harrison hit the post with a great shot. Ribble had another chance from a centre by Harrison, but Field robbed him in front of the goal.

Barratt cleared well for Nuneaton, but moments later Harrison seized on a weak clearance and worked his way in, shooting wide when well placed. Towards the interval Town exerted some pressure and both Bowen and Bartlett fired

in long shots which Armstrong dealt with. At the half-time whistle Nuneaton led by 1-0.

After the break a period of fairly even play ensued, but Cannock pushed upfield and F. Crowe beat Lines, but the goal was disallowed for offside. Field broke up some clever play by the Crowe brothers before the Town goal came under prolonged attack. The defence held firm, however, and Lines did not have to save. F. Crowe shot wide from Harrison's centre and Ribble tried to burst down the centre, but Bowen pulled him up and passed to Jarvis who set the forwards going, with Walter Dunn shooting over. Cannock returned to the attack and good play by Stanley and Gray led to Ribble being presented with a good chance, from which he beat Lines with a great shot to make the scores 1-1.

Cannock buoyed by their success made endless attacks on the Town goal, but the visitors' defence held firm. After lengthy pressure, Town eventually got back into the game and Key made progress down the left and forced a corner, from which Emmin Dunn beat Armstrong to put Nuneaton back into the lead, 2-1, which was the score when the final whistle sounded

## NUNEATON TOWN'S AMAZING VICTORY.

ATHERSTONE TOWN BEATEN BY FOUR TO NONE

NUNEATON'S BRILLIANT FORWARDS.

GATHERCOLE SCORES ALL FOUR GOALS

A RICHLY DESERVED TRIUMPH.

"ADDERS" PLUCKY TO THE LAST.

## Nuneaton Town v Atherstone Town 28-03-1914

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Field and Barratt; Bartlett, Bowen and Gumbley; Bailey, E. Dunn, Gathercole, W. Dunn and Key.

Nuneaton made one change from the team that played at Cannock Town the previous week, with Jarvis standing down in favour of Gathercole. The ground was in superb condition and the sun was out after a stormy week. Fifteen minutes before kick-off there were around 1,500 supporters in the ground, but shortly after the start of the game this had swelled to 4,000. Atherstone had a large following and Nuneaton Town Band enlivened the pre-match wait.

Tom Hargrave won the toss and elected to play toward the



Burgage. Nuneaton immediately attacked the Atherstone goal, but Key ran the ball out. A free-kick to Nuneaton just outside the penalty area came to nothing, Gathercole shooting wide. Barratt cleared when Atherstone attacked, while at the other end Gathercole passed out to Key, only for Tom Hargrave to intercept and clear. Payne looked like going through for "Adders", and after making a fine opening he passed to Stanton who only had Lines to beat. Just as he was about to shoot Gumbley bundled him over, saving a certain goal. Dunn tried a shot, but Groves saved before Gathercole put wide from a good position. Groves then had to handle half-a-dozen shots in a few minutes as Nuneaton piled on the pressure. "Adders" then carried the ball back to the Nuneaton end but the ball went out for a goal-kick.

Clever play by Walter Dunn ended in his brother sending in a beautiful shot, but Groves made a great save at the expense of a corner, which came to nothing. Really good play on Nuneaton's right ended in success when Emmin Dunn swung the ball across and Walter Dunn shot goalwards, but the ball was cleared as far as Gathercole, who fastened onto it in a flash and scored a great goal to put the home side 1-0 up. This success was loudly cheered by the Town crowd. Goode was presented with the chance of a lifetime following a corner, but from right under the bar, he shot yards over the top. Bartlett tested Groves with a beauty and Bailey followed up with a shot from the wing, which forced Groves into a good save.

After good midfield play by Bowen, Atherstone came back and Stanton shot over the bar. Emmin Dunn and Bailey then carried play to the other end and the outside-right bored his way into the area and passed to Emmin Dunn, who stood almost on the goal-line with only Groves to beat but failed to find the target. Mandley got in a centre and Arnold shot powerfully into Lines' hands. No further goals were scored and the half-time whistle saw Nuneaton lead by 1-0.

After the break, Goode failed from a good opening, the ball rolling along the goal-line and going out. Emmin Dunn's back-heel took Bailey by surprise and the chance was lost, but returning to the attack, Key centred well and Gathercole met the ball neatly and shot past Groves into the net to make the home team's lead 2-0. This goal was the signal for an outburst of enthusiasm from Nuneaton supporters.

Play became exciting in midfield and a free-kick to Atherstone placed them well, but Barratt booted clear. Another strong attack ended with Key putting behind the goal, with the crowd yelling "goal!" Groves saved well from Bowen while at the other end Payne put a long shot over the bar. Gathercole and Key broke forward and exchanged places as they ran, with Gathercole putting in a centre which Tom Hargrave cleared. Gathercole, Bailey and Emmin Dunn took the ball into the Atherstone half, but Bailey was easily robbed by Cooper. Goode tried to break through for the visitors but was hustled off the ball by Gumbley. The ball went across to Payne, who volleyed over from long range.

Key put out after Bowen had put him forward before Lines saved from Goode. Walter Dunn won possession and passed out to Key who rounded his man and centred perfectly to Emmin Dunn. The "Wizard" could have scored himself, but passed to Gathercole, who beat Groves with a great shot to make the score 3-0. The Nuneaton crowd grew wildly enthusiastic at this success. Nuneaton were now toying with the visitors and Gathercole and Emmin Dunn got clear, but Tom Hargrave got across and bundled Dunn off the ball. An Atherstone rush was checked by a glorious tackle from Field and a little later Goode shot over. Emmin Dunn worked his way right round Bailey and centred finely for Key to head wide.

Groves made a great save from Gathercole and Key was whistled offside. Still pegging away, Nuneaton were rewarded with a fourth goal, when Gathercole scored with a magnificent shot to make the score 4-0. Gathercole was overwhelmed with congratulations from his colleagues. The Nuneaton supporters, meanwhile, surpassed themselves in their enthusiasm and called for "the old five". It looked as if the home team were going to respond to the request as they swarmed around Groves, who saved in good style from Walter Dunn. Bartlett narrowly missed with shot that grazed the bar. Goode and Emmin Dunn collided just before time and the latter had to leave the field. The final minutes revolved around Groves' goal, but at the final whistle Nuneaton had won by 4-0.

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## NUNEATON HOSPITAL CUP

### Grand Semi-Final

SATURDAY, APRIL 4th

NEWDEGATE ARMS GROUND

# ATHERSTONE

v.

# NUNEATON TOWN

KICK-OFF 3-30 p.m.

Ordinary train leaves Atherstone at 3.15. A special train will be run from Atherstone.  
For times etc., see handbills.

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**Nuneaton Town v Atherstone Town**

**04-04-1914**

**Nuneaton: Lines; Field and Barratt; Bartlett, Bowen and Gumbley; Bailey, E. Dunn, Gathercole, W. Dunn and Key.**

**Atherstone: Cooke; Littlewood and T. Hargrave; F. Hargrave, Payne and Goode; Mandley, Lee, Stanton, Hill and Preston.**

Interest for the Nuneaton Hospital Cup semi-final was not as great as for the previous week's league match, but 3,500 people were in present. The biggest effect on the gate, was that there were estimated to be only half the support



from Atherstone following the previous week's 4-0 defeat. "Adders" made five changes to their side, but as expected, Nuneaton were unchanged.

Tom Hargrave won the toss for Atherstone and elected to play towards the station. Nuneaton attacked from the kick-off when Bailey centred and Key intercepted, but Littlewood diverted the ball away. At the other end Lee headed into the goalmouth, but Lines saved. Atherstone keeper Cooke saved twice in a couple of seconds, but Nuneaton continued to attack and Bowen found Emmin Dunn, who played the ball round Tom Hargrave for Bailey to run onto. Gathercole picked up and worked an opening, and put the ball into the net to give Nuneaton an early 1-0 lead. The goal aroused a great deal of enthusiasm amongst the Nuneaton supporters.

Atherstone tried to hit back but Lines kicked away before Tom Hargrave checked a Nuneaton attack down the right, but after some midfield play the home side won a throw-in by the corner flag. Emmin Dunn received the ball from the throw and put in a great shot that hit the far upright and rebounded into the net to put Nuneaton 2-0 up in the first ten minutes. Nuneaton continued to attack, with Emmin Dunn initiating many good movements. After another few minutes, Walter Dunn added another goal. The ball came in from the right and Dunn nipped between Payne and Littlewood and shot home to make the score 3-0. The excitement was intense at this stage and continued when Nuneaton almost scored again from a corner. Fred Payne intercepted Gathercole and Emmin Dunn and set the Atherstone right wing moving, but Mandley put his cross out of play. Hill shot over the bar before Stanton fouled Barratt, who injured his back. Barratt still suffering from the effects of his injury mis-cleared and the ball found its way to Lee who shot past Lines to make the score 3-1. Nuneaton then attacked down the left and Walter Dunn put the ball out to Key, who centred. The ball went to Emmin Dunn, who promptly shot past Cooke to make the score 4-1 to the home side.

Stanton put in a good shot for the visitors, which Lines tipped over. Bowen found Emmin Dunn who put the ball over to Key. The winger looked certain to score, but put the ball wide of the goal. Walter Dunn shot over the bar from Barratt's pass as the game became concentrated in midfield before the half-time whistle, when the score was 4-1.

After the break Nuneaton pressed forward again, but "Adders" hit back with Preston and Hill both shooting over. Bowen went close for Nuneaton with a shot from distance, while the visitors went close from a free-kick from Tom Hargrave, which was cleared. Emmin Dunn and Bailey engineered an opening for Bartlett, who shot narrowly wide, while a break by Atherstone resulted in Lines making a good save. Bartlett forced Cooke to save and good play by Emmin Dunn and Bailey ended with the latter shooting over. Tom Hargrave robbed Bailey and set his forwards on the attack, but they were driven back. Bailey centred to Walter Dunn, who missed an open goal.

Two offside decisions went against Nuneaton before Bailey rolled the ball along the Atherstone crossbar. The visitors had another lucky escape a minute later when Walter Dunn put in a hard shot, but Cooke scooped the ball away. Gathercole met the rebound, but put the ball wide. Atherstone won a couple of corners that came to nothing before Mandley was bowled over by Jack Gumbley. The winger spoke to the half-back and the referee spoke to the winger. The free-kick proved fruitless. Gathercole made a great individual effort in the closing minutes, threading his way past several opponents, but was dispossessed just as he was about to shoot. The final action saw Cooke save from Key and Gathercole, while Stanton shot over at the other end. At the final whistle Nuneaton were 4-1 winners.

## Tamworth Castle v Nuneaton Town

10-04-1914

Nuneaton's visit to Tamworth Castle on Good Friday attracted a good holiday crowd of 2,000. Tamworth won the toss and scored within 15 minutes of the start, Morris finding the net following a melee from a corner. The home side had the advantage of the wind in the first half and attacked continuously. Lines, however, was in great form in the Nuneaton goal and brought off some thrilling saves.

Lines was finally beaten again, this time by Wright, but Gathercole hit back for Town and at the half-time whistle the score was 2-1 to the home side.

Nuneaton started strongly in the second half and Gathercole made the score 2-2 when he headed past Knight. Tamworth's keeper was later penalised for handling outside his territory. From the free-kick the ball bounced off Tamworth right-half Wale and into the net. At the final whistle Nuneaton had won the match 3-2.

## Nuneaton Town v Renton

11-04-1914

**Nuneaton: Lines; Hodgkiss and Barratt; Bartlett, Webb and Gumbley; Bailey, Bellfield, Jarvis, Gathercole and Key.**

On the Saturday, Town faced the famous Scottish amateur club Renton, who were on tour. Nuneaton rested several players owing to the upcoming Atherstone Nursing Cup final and Hodgkiss, Webb, Bellfield and Jarvis took the place of Field, Bowen, Emmin Dunn and Walter Dunn respectively.

Renton received a hearty welcome from the crowd. They played good, attractive football and their footwork was some of the cleverest ever seen at The Newdegate with the short passing game being played to perfection. Notwithstanding all this Nuneaton won 3-1 and deserved their win on the general run of play. The first half was goalless, but not long after the break Jarvis scored for Town. Gathercole added another shortly after, while Renton mounted a strong attack which resulted in inside-left Gallagher shooting hard. The ball cannoned off Gumbley and into the net.



Nuneaton put on a third goal when good work by Jarvis resulted in Bellfield scoring. Renton were awarded a penalty for handball, and much amusement was caused when the penalty taker tried to mesmerise Lines, but eventually booted the ball closer to the corner flag than the goal.

## Nuneaton Town v Hinckley United 13-04-1914

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Field and Barratt; Bartlett, Bowen and Gumbley; Bailey, E. Dunn, Moore, W. Dunn and Key.

**Hinckley:** Barnard; Tams and King; Warburton, Osbourne and Phipps; Stringer, Whitehouse, Bailey, Moore and Tompkins.

The Atherstone Nursing Cup Final between Nuneaton Town and Hinckley United took place on Easter Monday morning at Sheepy Road, Atherstone. There was much conjecture as to the size of the crowd, with estimates between 5,000 and 10,000. The gate receipts though, tend to reflect a gate of 5,000+, but either way, it was the largest crowd ever recorded for a football match in Atherstone. Animation prevailed with blue and white and red and white favours in abundance; bugles, trumpets, rattles and toy drums made much merriment; the shouts of the rivals made even the most stolid become enthusiastic - in fact, Easter Monday 1914 will long be remembered as a most pleasurable experience by all those who went to see Nuneaton lift the Atherstone Cup.

Nuneaton had only one change, with Pat Moore coming in for Gathercole. Hinckley had no less than four ex-Nuneaton forwards in their line-up.

Emmin Dunn beat King for possession early on and keeper Barnard ran out and missed his kick, but the ball was eventually scrambled away. The "Tin Hatters" were playing typical cup tie football, and at last Tompkins put in a great shot, which Lines only partially saved and "Muzzer" Moore ran in to score, giving Hinckley a 1-0 lead. Nuneaton got into their stride and several corners were forced. Pat Moore made a bad miss, but worked an opening for Key, who made no mistake in finding the net, making the score 1-1.

Everyone by now was excited and the noise from the crowd was deafening. The next action saw Barnard make a great save from Emmin Dunn and the keeper again won applause for his save from Bowen. Emmin Dunn then bungled a good chance, when he got all the way through with just the keeper to beat, but shot wide. Nuneaton had got the measure of their opponents and eventually went into the lead when Bailey put the ball to Pat Moore, who stood unmarked as he put the ball into the net, giving Town a 2-1 lead, which was the score at half-time.

Walter Dunn almost extended Nuneaton's lead straight after the break, but Barnard made a remarkable save, while at the other end Lines emulated his counterpart's effort when saving from Stringer. Gumbley missed a good chance for Town, but Hinckley were taking more control of the game and it seemed only a matter of time before they equalised, which they did, following a corner. Tompkins took the flag kick

and it appeared to sail straight into the net without anyone else touching it and the referee awarded a goal, levelling the scores at 2-2.

Hinckley scored again following a corner, but this time the goal was disallowed for an infringement. "Muzzer" missed an open goal, ballooning the ball over from three yards out. Pat Moore was hustled off the ball as he was about to shoot, with Nuneaton having escaped with a lucky 2-2 draw, and a replay.

## Birmingham Trams v Nuneaton Town 18-04-1914

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Field and Barratt; E. Dunn, Bartlett, and J. Gumbley; Bailey, Moore, Gathercole, W. Dunn and Key.

The final game of the 1913-14 Birmingham Combination season saw Nuneaton travel to Birmingham Trams. Bowen was injured in the Hinckley match and was unable to play. Trams needed to win to avoid having to apply for re-election. The proceeds of the gate were going to charity and a large crowd assembled at Trams' new Golden Hillock Road.

The first action saw Bartlett put a long pass out to Bailey, but he was dispossessed by Pritchard. Gumbley cleared from a Trams attack and Key got away on the left. Key's centre caused some problems in the Trams' defence, with the ball hovering around their goal for some moments, before Field shot wide. Edwards passed out to Baker who put in a good centre, but Gumbley cleared. Trams won a corner which was headed clear by Emmin Dunn, but the ball dropped to Vann, who scored with a low drive to put the home team 1-0 up.

Gathercole and Pat Moore looked likely scorers when Town attacked, but Moore shot wide from close range. Edwards broke through at the other end, but shot wide with only Lines to beat. Gathercole then found Key who centred right across to Bailey, who passed to Pat Moore, who shot into the side netting. Nuneaton were on top at this stage and an equaliser looked likely. Key started a move by careering down the wing and centring to Pat Moore who passed on to Gathercole. The centre-forward smashed a terrific shot past Tustin and the scores were level at 1-1.

Field cleared from Reagan's centre before Nuneaton forced a fruitless corner. Trams then won two successive corners, a melee resulting from the second. Lines punched away but the ball came back and Sheppard scored, giving Trams a 2-1 lead.

Harry Field was injured during the scrimmage and had to leave the field. Trams tried to take advantage, but Barratt defended well. Emmin Dunn checked Baker and got the forwards moving, but the attack was thwarted by Pritchard. Field came back on and Nuneaton swarmed up in attack, but were driven back and Reagan headed over after a Trams attack. Tustin made a fine save for Trams before Walter Dunn found Gathercole, whose shot skimmed the bar.

Nuneaton played some good football, with some great

# Nuneaton Town 1894-1919 Part 2



## Nuneaton Town v Hinckley United

25-04-1914

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Field and Barratt; Bartlett, Webb and Gumbley; Bailey, E. Dunn, Gathercole, W. Dunn and Key.

**Hinckley:** Barnard; Tams and King; Warburton, Osbourne and Phipps; Bailey, Stringer, Whitehouse, Moore and Tompkins.

passing, however they could not finish and Tustin cleared and at the other end Lines saved from Goode. Another Key centre was kicked away and Walter Dunn shot wide, while at the other end Barratt executed some superb tackling to keep the home side at bay. At the break Trams led 2-1.

Field was unable to resume after the break and Emmin Dunn put his brother Walter at full-back and played with four forwards. Bailey made a good centre, which was guided on by Gathercole to Key, who was charged over the line. Trams forced a corner, but a great header by Walter Dunn cleared the danger. Lines saved from Reagan and another fruitless corner resulted. A free-kick got Town forward and Moore passed to Gathercole, who shot just wide. Lines made a wonderful save from Reagan, whilst Walter Dunn accomplished a great clearance to relieve pressure on the Nuneaton goal.

Baker got away for Trams and put in a good centre, but Sheppard missed a good chance when well placed. Trams continued to press and Barratt was robbed by Reagan in attempting to clear. This began a sustained attack and Lines was called on to save several times. During a melee Walter Dunn was struck in the face and forced to retire, reducing Nuneaton to nine men, and leaving them with no alternative but to play the one back game. Moore was caught offside and midfield play ensued for some time. Walter Dunn returned to the field, but he was clearly dazed and was placed back in the forward line.

Key made a good run and centre which Pritchard cleared and later Gathercole passed out to Key who ran forward and shot, but Tustin saved well. Emmin Dunn then prevented a certain goal with a good clearance before Baker shot over the bar for Trams. Bartlett found Bailey with a long pass and the winger was going for goal when he was tripped. The home defence conceded a corner from the free-kick and Nuneaton looked dangerous, but Pat Moore fired over the top.

With only a few minutes remaining Nuneaton were trying for a draw, but Reagan broke away and centred for Sheppard to run in and score to make the score 3-1. Immediately after a big kick put Baker in possession, who looked to be offside, but he ran on to score into the far corner, making the score 4-1 to Trams. Emmin Dunn went close with two long range shots and Gathercole put in a good attempt from Bailey's centre and at the final whistle Trams had won the game 4-1.



Nuneaton had finished their Birmingham Combination season in disastrous fashion, having had a brilliant start to the season, however, a fourth place finish is no disgrace and the players deserve credit.

Nuneaton Town captain Emmin Dunn

The replayed Atherstone Nursing Cup tie took place at Sheepy Road, Atherstone, and the game began in sensational style. Warburton won the toss and set Nuneaton to play towards the Gipsy Road end. Gathercole kicked off and passed to Emmin Dunn, who in turn passed to Bartlett. The latter passed on to Gathercole who centred for Emmin Dunn to head back to Gathercole, who scored with a brilliant shot, giving Town a 1-0 lead without a Hinckley player having touched the ball.

Barratt cleared for Town, but "Muzzer" returned the ball to Stringer who tried to find Tompkins, but Field diverted the ball. Tams miskicked and let in Town down the left and the ball was sent over to Bailey, who let the ball go out of play. A Town corner was well placed by Bailey and Gathercole headed goalwards, but Barnard saved. The danger was not averted though, and Gathercole shot again, but Barnard was in control. Hinckley's Bailey tried a shot, which Lines caught and threw away, while another cross from the same player went begging. Bartlett set Walter Dunn free, but he lost the ball. In a Nuneaton attack, Webb put a good pass out to Bailey, who dropped the ball in front of goal. Gathercole tried to get through, but a free-kick was awarded for impeding the keeper.

Nuneaton pressed and Bailey sent out to Key, who returned to Emmin Dunn. Everyone expected a goal, but the Nuneaton captain missed when well placed. Barnard picked up and cleared from another Bailey centre, while play was centred in front of the stand for a while, with a succession of throw-ins. "Muzzer" then had the ball in the net for Hinckley, but handball was given against him. At the other end Walter Dunn shot wide before Emmin Dunn passed to Bailey, who returned to Emmin Dunn, who although being hampered, back-heeled to Gathercole, who took a couple of paces forward and shot into the net, to give Town a 2-0 lead. The move and the goal received hearty applause from Nuneaton supporters.

Hinckley were attacking desperately after going two down and play was confined for a time in Nuneaton's half. Field prevented Moore and Tompkins from getting in shots before good passing from Emmin Dunn and Gathercole carried play to the other end, with Gathercole shooting wide through a crowd of players. Gumbley kicked away from Moore as Hinckley retaliated, but the ball was returned and Moore headed wide. Hinckley were then rewarded for their efforts when Lines saved and Gumbley put a weak clearance straight to the feet of Whitehouse, whose shot was just out of the reach of Lines to cut the deficit down to 2-1.

Barnard was forced to save following a Nuneaton attack while Warburton set the Hinckley forwards going and Bartlett conceded a corner, which Tompkins placed well and Lines



cleared. Another corner was won by Hinckley, which Emmin Dunn headed clear, but still the “Tin Hatters” pressed. Dunn relieved the pressure and got to the other end by means of a pass from Bailey, but Tams cleared. Whitehouse was caught offside for Hinckley and Moore shot wide from long range, but when half-time arrived, Nuneaton were winning 2-1.

The opening of the second half, was almost a repeat of the first, as Emmin Dunn worked a fine opening for Gathercole, who hit the post. A little later Walter Dunn shot just wide following a free-kick to Nuneaton for handball. Despite having the early second half pressure, Nuneaton conceded an equaliser when Tompkins centred for Whitehouse who shot past Lines and into the net to make the score 2-2. Now on level terms, Hinckley played enthusiastically and booted the ball about in typical cup tie fashion. Moore shot wide before Barnard was forced to save a header from Emmin Dunn.

Good play by Bailey ended in Walter Dunn shooting wide, while Lines was again called upon to save from Tompkins, before Harry Field was injured and had to be taken off. Bartlett went to full-back and Emmin Dunn to right-half.

Hinckley won a fruitless corner and play was concentrated in midfield. When Field came back on he was limping badly and Town had to re-organise again, Bartlett going centre-half and Webb to the right-wing. The change worked well and almost yielded an immediate success, when a Nuneaton corner hit the crossbar and went over. Following a melee in front of United’s goal, play was transferred to the other end where a great shot from “Muzzer” Moore was well saved by Lines. The Nuneaton goalkeeper then won the cheers of the crowd, running out to dispossess Tompkins at the crucial moment.

Gathercole headed over from Bailey’s cross and Walter Dunn shot over from close range. Hinckley pressed strongly but Barratt cleared before Gumbley started a move, tricking a couple of opponents before passing to Key, the winger making further ground before centring to Gathercole, who screwed the ball into the net with a wonderful shot, putting Nuneaton 3-2 into the lead. The Nuneaton players hugged each other in delight as the Nuneaton supporters celebrated wildly. As the players walked back to the centre Barnard ran out and protested that the ball had gone through the side netting, but the referee checked the netting and awarded the goal.

Hinckley were clearly stung and strove to draw level. Lines was forced to save from a corner, which was followed by a melee from a Hinckley free-kick, but Lines emerged with the ball. With only a minute or so to go the matter was put beyond all doubt when Nuneaton scored a fourth goal. Gathercole met a centre from the right with his head and steered the ball past Barnard to put Nuneaton 4-2 into the lead. Gathercole had to be extricated from the net following the goal and the end arrived shortly afterwards.

Mr J. E. Compton-Bracebridge presented the cup to Emmin Dunn, the Nuneaton captain. The former gentleman

congratulated the teams on the game they had played. Emmin Dunn, in receiving the trophy, said he thought Hinckley were unlucky not to win on Easter Monday, but all the same he was glad they didn’t.

## COVENTRY’S UNDESERVED SUCCESS

### NUNEATON BEATEN BY A FLUKY GOAL.

### NUNEATON’S BRILLIANT LEFT AND SPASMODIC RIGHT.

### GOOD CROWD WITNESS MODERATE FINAL.

#### Nuneaton Town v Coventry City Reserves 27-04-1914

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Bradshaw and Barratt; Hodkins, Bartlett and Gumbley; Bailey, E. Dunn, Gathercole, W. Dunn and Key.

**Coventry:** Jacques; Robinson and Laurence; Jackson, Ropsswill and Craig; Hall, Bennett, Goulden, Cramp and Goss.

Nuneaton met Coventry City Reserves in the final of the Nuneaton Hospital Cup on the Newdegate Arms ground on Monday evening. There was a very large crowd present.

Nuneaton pressed from the kick-off and Coventry goalkeeper Jacques had to field a long shot before Coventry worked the ball down to Tosswill, who shot over the bar. Emmin Dunn passed the ball to Key, who beat Jackson and centred for Gathercole to shoot over the bar. Tosswill put in a long shot, and although Lines appeared to be in position, the ball swerved and went into the net to give Coventry a 1-0 lead.

A combined movement between the Town forwards saw Key centre all the way across to Bailey, who was dispossessed. Robinson was then penalised for a foul on Walter Dunn, but nothing materialised from the free-kick. Gumbley found Key, who forced Jacques to save, before Goss and Cramp pushed forward for City and forced a corner. Another good passing movement by Nuneaton’s forwards called Jacques into action again. Barratt stemmed an attack by the visitors and Craig shot wide when well placed. Bailey got in a good centre for Town and Emmin Dunn narrowly missed getting through.

Gumbley and Walter Dunn put in some clever work and Key centred to Gathercole, who shot hard. The crowd shouted “goal!”, but the ball struck the side netting. After another passing movement, Gumbley worked his way through and put in a good shot, the ball just skimming the upright.



Gumbley, Emmin Dunn and Gathercole were prominent in another raid, but nothing transpired. Coventry's goal had a narrow escape following a Nuneaton corner and fine play by Gathercole and the two Dunns gave Key possession, but his centre went outside.

A great manouvre by Emmin Dunn created a chance for Bailey, but he shot wide. Another good passing movement by Nuneaton resulted in Key just missing and Jacques made two saves from Bailey and from Key. Walter Dunn and Key made a clever run, which came to nothing and Nuneaton attacked right up to the interval which saw Coventry leading 1-0.

Coventry scored an offside 'goal' straight from the kick-off, while Gumbley rescued a situation close to his own goal and Coventry forced a corner which was well placed by Hall, but Bennett shot wide. Tosswill fouled Gathercole and the free-kick led to another, followed by a sustained attack from the home team, but Coventry's defence held firm. Emmin Dunn found Bailey with a good pass, which the latter failed to take advantage of and after good play by Walter Dunn, Bailey shot narrowly wide. Nuneaton pressed strongly for some time, but Coventry's defence held firm.

Hall shot over following a Coventry breakaway before a nice move between Key and Walter Dunn put Gathercole in possession and the centre-forward passed to Emmin Dunn who put in a great shot that was saved by Jacques. The Coventry keeper was called on again, but made another save and then Gathercole tried to break through, but was foiled.

Coventry won a corner and Nuneaton's goal had a narrow escape, with Lines making a fortunate clearance from Goss. Play became very even, but uninteresting before Jacques had to save a long shot from Barratt and Gumbley hit an upright with a fine shot. Nuneaton tried desperately hard to equalise, but failed and the final score was 1-0 in Coventry's favour.

## Birmingham Combination 1913-14

Redditch	30	22	2	6	105	46	46
Stafford Rangers	30	19	6	5	85	48	44
Hednesford Town	30	17	8	5	64	30	42
Bournbrook	30	15	6	9	57	39	36
Nuneaton Town	30	15	6	9	61	43	36
Willenhall Pickwick	30	15	6	9	61	52	36
Bilston United	30	15	5	10	63	43	35
Bloxwich Strollers	30	15	1	14	65	73	31
Tamworth Castle	30	11	8	11	60	61	30
Birmingham Trams	30	10	7	13	51	49	27
Cradley Heath	30	12	3	15	62	65	27
Bournville Athletic	30	9	8	13	46	56	26
Atherstone Town	30	11	4	15	56	70	26
Bromsgrove Rovers	30	11	3	16	43	61	25
Halesowen	30	2	4	24	29	107	8
Cannock Town	30	1	3	26	44	110	5

## Application to Join Birmingham League

The directorate and committee of Nuneaton Town FC have unanimously decided to make another application for admission to the Birmingham and District League

This will be the fourth time of application, but there is thought to be more chance of success, as the two retiring sides - Willenhall Swifts and Wellington Town - are not amongst the strongest opponents.

Nuneaton officials are optimistic about their chances, and their disappointment will be very great if the club is once again refused the association with the "select".

## Players Signed/Re-Signed

Following the loss of Emmin Dunn to Wolverhampton Wanderers and J. Bowen to West Bromwich Albion, the management of Nuneaton Town has been quietly building up a team for next season, and from the list of players signed it seems probable that a good side will be got together. The old players whose services have been secured are as follows: G. Lines, H. Field, W. Barratt, J. Gumbley, F. Gathercole and J. Key.

One of the foremost names, which will cause rejoicing among Nuneaton supporters, is that of Walter Dunkley, who will return to Nuneaton's ranks after a spell with Aston Villa. Town have also secured the services of three clever fowards in Morrell, a Junior International from Redditch. Freddie Dolphin returns to the club despite offers from League clubs and should fill the outside-right position. The third forward is Merrick from Bromsgrove Rovers, who has also played for Walsall. Bromsgrove asked Town for £50 for his transfer last season, which was thought too much.

Other signings include Wichello from Bournbrook, E. Durran from Leamington Town, who formerly played for well known London amateur club Shepherd's Bush.

## Nuneaton United

A new football club has been formed in Nuneaton for next season, who will be known as Nuneaton United. they will play at the Newdegate rent free and have made an application to become members of the Coventry and North Warwickshire League. Their headquarters will be at the Granby Head and the club's players will register for Nuneaton Town at Birmingham Combination or Birmingham League standard, whichever is applicable. Thus, the new club will act as a "feeder" to the premier organisation.





## Rugby Town EC Extra Preliminary

Nuneaton Town were drawn against Rugby in the English Cup for the second year running, and although there was no chance of any of the teams below Southern League level reaching the final at Crystal Palace, wild enthusiasm is aroused for every junior team.

There was an excellent crowd and the stand that had been left up after the Agricultural Show was well patronised.

There was one change in Town's team from the one that faced Willenhall, with Key being unable to get away and Roach taking his place.

Moore kicked off and Nuneaton away quickly, Norton putting the ball wide. Barratt then cleared and Gumbley gained possession, passing to Norton, who found Roach, but the winger failed to control and the move broke down.

Seven minutes from the start, Rugby opened the scoring when Lines saved from Varnish and Barratt headed the ball to the feet of Camwell, who shot home to give Rugby an early 1-0 lead.

Nuneaton countered and Dunkley found Roach who centred for Pat Moore, who just missed the ball. Lines was then called on, but booted clear where Dunkley was robbed by Cox. Rugby attacked again and won a couple of corners, which were fruitless.

Town were finding it difficult to handle Rugby's aggressive style, but Norton broke away and found Pearce, who passed to Moore and his shot just missed. Gumbley then just missed. Play was confined to midfield, but Gumbley got the ball to Norton, who made his way upfield, where Luckman charged the ball down with his hand, but the referee was too far away.

After a period of boring play Pearce was given possession and worked his way through, giving the ball to Moore, who scored with a lovely shot from 15 yards to make the score 1-1. Norton was caught offside before Roach tested Atkins, and Gumbley shot wide. Norton broke away and centred to

Bartlett, whose shot hit the bar. Pearce and Dunkley attacked the ball as it rebounded and Dunkley steered the ball home to make the score 2-1.

Bartlett put wide for Nuneaton before Lines was forced to punch away from Tomlinson. Roach then picked up the ball and forced Atkins to save at full stretch. Pearce forced the ball back in and Roach shot again, but it went wide. At half-time Nuneaton led 2-1.

Straight after the break Nuneaton increased their lead to 3-1 after Dunkley went all the way through and shot into the far corner. Tomlinson reduced the lead straight after when he headed past Lines from Bailey's centre.

Then Norton's cross was headed home by Dunkley to make the score 4-2. Two minutes later, Dunkley scored again from Roach's centre to make it 5-2. Dunkley again went close and then brought Atkins to his knees with a powerful shot. Dunkley was then in a tussle with two Rugby players and was brought down, but kept possession and passed to Moore, who made it 6-2.

One - two - three - four - five - SIX yelled the Nuneaton supporters and the yelling continued as Dunkley broke away again, but his shot hit an upright. Pearce forced a corner and Atkins punched Norton's kick away.

Dunkley then beat three opponents and passed to Moore, who shot over. Norton got Dunkley in again and his shot was hard and true into the net, but he was given offside. Lines had to punch away at the other end. Dunn then got injured and left the field, but came back on, albeit as a passenger.

Lines tipped an effort from Varnish round the post and just before the final whistle Humphries' shot was saved by Lines. At the final whistle Nuneaton had won 6-2.

## Wednesbury Old Athletic EC PR

Town slipped out of the English Cup, going down 3-2 to Wednesbury in a match they could have easily won.

Although Wednesbury had many good chances of scoring, poor shooting let them down. By contrast, Nuneaton had few clear cut chances, but the quality of their shots saw them go close time and again. Adding to Town's downfall was the fact that two of the goals were gifted with keeper Cheadle badly fumbling the first goal and letting in a soft second goal, which he should have saved. The keeper had no chance with the third which was blasted home from six yards out.

The above was in marked contrast to Nuneaton's goals, both of which were the outcome of fine combination play, with the second goal resulting from the most brilliant display of football during the whole game. Allen received the ball in his own half and passed to Norton, who placed back to Allen, who again found Norton, who again returned the ball. This move was repeated once more, leaving the Wednesbury players standing. Norton finally put in a brilliant centre which Wells headed past Hobdale. Even the home crowd applauded the move.

All five goals were scored in the first half, during which there was little to thrill with Wednesbury content to punt the ball upfield in hope that the defence would make a mistake.

The second half saw Nuneaton have the majority of the play, but keeper Cheadle did have to make several good saves. The really great keeping, though, was at the other end, where Hobdale saved his side time and again. It was unbelievable how the keeper saved two shots from Reg Allen and another from Wells.

The last 15 minutes of the game saw Nuneaton at their best, with the wing men being plied with passes, from which they swung in good crosses that just failed to yield the desired outcome.

Wells tested Hobdale with a great shot that the keeper saved in style, with Norton and Roach also putting in good efforts. Dunn, Dunkley and

Gumbley also entered the fray, but their bombardment was repelled by the vigilant and lively Hobdale.

In the closing stages Reg Allen was heroic, threading his way through the now reinforced Wednesbury defence, beating more than one defender, and when it appeared that he had lost the ball, he regained possession and crashed in a shot that looked a goal all the way before Hobdale darted across his line and saved the ball just inside the post. The force of the shot was too much for the keeper and he fell forward onto the ball and Nuneaton players charged forward,

while the Wednesbury players go to their keeper's rescue, and Hobdale eventually clears the ball.

Dunkley suffered bad luck from a free kick, just outside the penalty area. The ex-Rugby man hit the free-kick with tremendous force, but the ball hit Goldie's forehead on the way and took him down, stunned.

Nuneaton's goal also had one or two narrow escapes, with Adams shooting wildly over the bar with only Cheadle to beat. The final fifteen minutes of the game had provided more thrills and excitement than the other 75 minutes put together.

Nuneaton possibly deserved another goal, as the Wednesbury fans were all too ready to admit, but at the end of the game Nuneaton were out of the English Cup, having lost 3-2.

Despite going out, Nuneaton had put up a good fight and Town's half-backs Dunn, Dunkley and Gumbley were outstanding. Up front Allen and Wells had performed well, but it was a matter of regret that Nuneaton did not have Pat Moore available, as his goalscoring talents may have been enough to earn a replay at least. The backs also performed well with Will Gumbley being outstanding.



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Photo - Bradford Stockingford

## Nuneaton Town FC 1913-14

At Rear: Tommy Hilditch. -----, Billy Holmes, J. Bailey, Joe Smith, ??? Pearce, Pat Moore, W. A. Thompson (Secretary)  
Players (back): Emmin Dunn, William Gumbley, Walter Dunkley, Gordon Owen, Billy Barratt, Jack Gumbley  
Players (front): Joe Norton, Ernie Paul, Harry Wells, Reg Allen, J. Roach

# Nuneaton Town 1894-1919 Part 2



## 1913

09.06	Willenhall Pickwick	H	BC	3-1	Moore 2, Barratt (p)
09.13	Rugby Town	A	FAC EP	6-2	Dunkley 4, Moore 2
09.15	Wolves Reserves	H	BSC 1	0-6	
09.20	Cradley Heath	H	BC	4-2	Moore 2, Bailey, Norton
09.27	Wednesbury Old Athletic	A	FAC PR	2-3	Wells, Hines
10.04	Redditch United	H	BC	8-0	Wells 2, Paul 2, Dunn, Dunkley, Roach
10.11	Bournville Athletic	A	BC	0-1	
10.18	Cannock Town	H	BC	3-0	Paul 2, Allen
10.25	Atherstone Town	A	BC	1-0	Norton
11.01	Halesowen	A	BC	4-2	Wells 2, A.Wade, J.Wade
11.08	Bloxwich Strollers	H	BC	3-1	Wells 2, J.Wade
11.15	Bilston United	A	BC	1-1	Barratt
11.22	Stafford Rangers	H	BC	2-1	Pearce, Jarvis
11.29	Bournbrook	A	BC	1-1	Pearce
12.06	Hednesford Town	H	BC	0-2	
12.13	Bromsgrove Rovers	A	BC	1-2	Jarvis
12.20	Bromsgrove Rovers	H	BC	1-1	Allen
12.26	Bilston United	H	BC	2-2	Moore (p), Ralphs
12.27	Bournbrook	H	BC	4-0	Lewis 2, Moore, Ralphs

## 1914

01.01	Hednesford Town	A	BC	1-1	Moore
01.10	Stafford Rangers	A	BC	1-3	Lewis
01.17	Halesowen	H	BC	3-1	Moore 2, Nock
01.24	Bloxwich Strollers	A	BC	0-2	
01.31	Tamworth Castle	H	ANC SF	5-0	Gumbley, Pearce, Allen, Thorneycroft, Bartlett
02.07	Willenhall Pickwick	A	BC	1-2	Thorneycroft
02.14	Birmingham Trams	H	BC	2-1	Thorneycroft, Nock
02.21	Redditch United	A	BC	1-4	Newbrook
02.28	Bournville Athletic	H	BC	2-1	Bartlett, Nock
03.07	Cradley Heath	A	BC	2-4	Thorneycroft, Gumbley
03.14	Tamworth Castle	H	BC	0-0	
03.21	Cannock Town	A	BC	2-1	E.Dunn, Key
03.28	Atherstone Town	H	BC	4-0	Gathercole 4
04.04	Atherstone Town	H	NHC SF	4-1	E.Dunn, Gathercole, W.Dunn
04.10	Tamworth Castle	A	BC	3-2	Gathercole 2, o.g.(Wale)
04.11	Renton F.C.(Scottish Amateurs)	H	Friendly	3-1	Bellfield, Jarvis, Gathercole
04.13	Hinckley United	N*	ANC F	2-2	Moore, Key
04.18	Birmingham Trams	A	BC	1-4	Gathercole
04.25	Hinckley United	N*	ANC Fr	4-2	Gathercole 4
04.27	Coventry City Reserves	H	NHC F	0-1	

Key: BC=Birmingham Combination, FAC=F.A.Cup, BSC=Birmingham Senior Cup, ANC=Atherstone Nursing Cup, NHC=Nuneaton Hospital Cup

\* April 13th and 25th ANC Final and Replay played at Sheepy Road, Atherstone



## New Signing

Nuneaton Town FC has secured another fine player in the person of Tompkins, who last season played so brilliantly for Hinckley United at outside-left. The new winger is only 19 years of age and is very fast and tricky. The Nuneaton management has had a hard struggle to secure the services of Tompkins. Both Manchester United and Bury were anxious to secure him, but business reasons weighed considerably in the young player's ultimate decision to play for Nuneaton. Many smaller clubs, including Atherstone Town made Tompkins good offers. We understand Nuneaton Town have given Hinckley a handsome sum in recognition of Tompkins' signature.

## Disappointed! Nuneaton Town Again Fail

The clubs and officials comprising the Birmingham and District League evidently form a close and impenetrable fellowship, for Nuneaton Town was refused member for the fourth time at the annual meeting held on Thursday evening at Birmingham. There was a full attendance of delegates.

Willenhall Swifts and Wellington Town were the retiring clubs, and for the two vacancies thus created there were as many as seven applications: Nuneaton Town, Wellington Town, Willenhall Swifts, Hednesford, Burslem Port Vale, Swansea and Oswestry. Representatives of each club attended and addressed the meeting. The voting resulted as follows:-

Wellington Town 16, Willenhall Swifts 15, Nuneaton Town 7, Hednesford 4, Oswestry 0, Swansea 0, Burslem Port Vale 0.

## Death of Mr. Reginald Stanley J.P.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Reginald Stanley, which took place at Bexhill-on-Sea, on Saturday last. Mr. Stanley had been in failing health for several years, and the end was not unexpected. He was 76 years of age. His wife Marie Octavie, predeceased him by some 15½ years.

The prosperous and progressive Nuneaton of today owes much to the initiative and enterprise of the head of the great firm of Stanley Brothers, the earlier chapters of whose life are crowded with adventure and romance.

Born in Hayle, Cornwall, and educated at the High School, Glasgow, in 1857 young Reginald Stanley left home to seek his fortune in what was then the "Wild" West of America, outside even the fringe of civilisation...

## Peace or War

Sir E. Grey, in the House of Commons yesterday, regretted he could not say that the European situation was less grave than Wednesday. Austria had commenced war against Serbia, and Russia had ordered a partial mobilisation. This had not led to corresponding steps by other Powers. His Majesty's Government continued to pursue one object - that of preserving European peace and keeping in touch with other Powers. So far there had been no difficulty with the other Powers, though joint diplomatic action had not been possible.

## Volunteers Wanted

In a time of great national danger such as the present there are always a number of patriotic able-bodied men who are willing and anxious to take up arms in defence of their country's honour. With a view of giving any such Nuneaton men an opportunity of serving their country, we have been asked to state that the Nuneaton Sub-Unit of the Legion of Frontiersmen has several vacancies. Ex-irregular soldiers and ex-Army and Navy men are particularly wanted. The Legion is commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel D. P. Driscoll, D.S.O., who in the Boer War led the famous "Driscoll's Scouts." Full particulars and forms of application may be obtained from Frontiersman J. A. Potton, Clifton Villa, Dugdale Street, Nuneaton, who is the organising secretary for the district.

## Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Nuneaton Town Football Co., Ltd., was held on Friday evening last, at the Newdegate Arms Hotel. Mr. G. R. Biggs (chairman of directors) presided over a fair attendance of shareholders.

Mr. G. R. Clay (chartered accountant) reported a net profit of £112 16s. 5d. The chairman said the expenses of the club had been a little heavier than in previous years. In the coming season they would require increased support from the public. The war would undoubtedly cause a diminution in the gates, and this might become serious. However, if the team proved to be a winning one, he thought the public would rally round them. They needed the best of support or they would not be able to keep a clean sheet. One or two transfer fees next season would come as a great help to the club.

Mr Clay pointed out that if the club had not received the transfer fees the position would not have been a strong one...



## Season 1914-1915

### Cannock Town v Nuneaton Town 05-09-1914

**Cannock:** Rostance; Moore and Ellis; Hadley, Dunn and Miller; Harrison, F. Crowe, Stanton, Wilkinson and Taylor.

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Field and Barratt; Bartlett, Dunkley and Gumbley; Dolphin, Merrick, W. Dunn, Morrell and Tompkins.

The opening game of the 1914-15 season saw Nuneaton travel to Cannock Town, the previous season's wooden spoonists. That was now in the past, however, and Cannock had assembled a better side for the coming season.

The early action saw a bad miss by Merrick, who had an open goal from a Tompkins centre. Nuneaton attacked for a long period, but a breakaway from Cannock ended in a close call for the visitors, when Wilkinson met a centre from Harrison and hit the far post with Lines well beaten. At the other end Merrick hit the net support with a great shot and a little later Bartlett sent Merrick clear, who crashed in a great shot that grazed the bar. Morrel tested Rostance with a hard shot and Dolphin shot over the bar. Barrett cleared with a huge kick, but when the ball came back there was a misunderstanding between Barratt and Field, and Wilkingson nipped in, trapped the ball and put it past Lines and into the net, as the keeper came out, giving Cannock a 1-0 lead.

Nuneaton came back following their reverse and clever play by Gumbley, Tompkins and Morrell, ended in the latter firing in a shot, which Rostance pulled down from under the bar. A follow-up shot from Dolphin went wide. Dunn broke through, but Rostance dispossessed him and when the whistle sounded for half-time, Cannock led 1-0.

Morrell went all the way through at the start of the second half, but Rostance saved his shot in style, conceding a corner, which was headed over by Dunn. Rostance then cleared from Merrick, while at the other end Lines saved from Wilkinson at the expense of a corner, and later saved a header from Crowe. Field conceded a corner, which was cleared and Lines kicked clear where Morrell and Merrick had a clear field, but Rostance came out and although he dropped the ball, it was eventually cleared. Merrick shot wide, while at the other end Cannock forced three successive corners, which were all cleared. Bartlett then swung the ball over to Morrell, who ran down and centred, but none of Town's inside men were able to convert the chance.

Barratt kicked away under pressure and Dunkley, Merrick and Dolphin exchanged passes, but Dolphin's shot dropped on top of the net. Town then had a miraculous escape when the ball hit both upright and crossbar, but Cannock could not force the ball through. Eventually, though, a penalty was awarded against Bartlett, but Lines made a fantastic save from Crowe's kick. At the other end Tompkins centred well to Merrick, but he shot weakly, before Dunn was given a great chance, being about six yards out with only Rostance to beat, but he shot just wide. Dunkley tried hard to get through, but

Rostance came out and cleared and a moment later Morrell and Dunkley went for goal together, but the former's shot was weak. Rostance was tested several times in the last few minutes but the final whistle arrived and the home side had won the match 1-0.

Match reports on the English Cup games against Tamworth Castle and Darlaston appear on later pages.

### Notable Thought of the Week

"Fathers and mothers must sacrifice their children; wives and sisters must sacrifice their husbands and brothers. They had far better sacrifice their dear ones than be in the position of the poor people in Belgium - innocent victims of the horrible brutalities of the Germans." Mr W. Johnson, M.P., at Nuneaton, on Monday night.

### Stafford Rangers v Nuneaton Town 19-09-1914

**Stafford:** Mulholland; Duckers and Greaves; Whichello, Taylor and Riley; Wal Blunt, Johnson, Prince, Dudley and Willetts.

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Field and Barratt; Bartlett, Dunkley and Gumbley; Dolphin, Merrick, Mitchell, Morrell and Tompkins.

Town travelled to Stafford Rangers, a team that had never been beaten on their own ground in a Birmingham Combination fixture. There was a good turnout, with the ropes being lined all around the ground. Nuneaton were unchanged from the team that faced Tamworth Castle.

Stafford were first to attack when Dudley had a good shot charged down. Dunkley won the ball and set Dolphin going, but Greaves cleared. Wal Blunt broke down the right for Rangers, but Barratt put the ball out, but from the throw-in, Taylor put in a low drive which Lines allowed to slip through his grasp, and although Lines succeeded in clearing the ball away, a goal was awarded on appeal from Stafford, giving the home side an early 1-0 advantage.

Dunkley passed to Merrick, who moved the ball on to Dolphin, with the latter shooting across the goal and out for a goal-kick. Willetts tested Lines before the home goal had a narrow escape when Merrick got through and centred. Mulholland failed to gather, but Duckers cleared in the nick of time. Blunt shot weakly when well placed and Lines cleared a long shot from Blunt. Stafford were well on top at this stage and Lines had to save from Dudley and Johnson.

Duckers cleared from a free-kick before Dolphin was fouled, the same player shooting just over from the free-kick. Willetts had a clean run on goal, but Barratt bowled him over and cleared for a throw-in. Dolphin then went on a run and beat Greaves, but Duckers headed clear. Merrick and Morrell combined well, but Dolphin was caught offside. Merrick broke for Town and created a good chance for Dolphin, but his shot was charged down by Duckers.

Barratt cleared well and Mitchell, Tompkins and Morrell



worked their way forward, with Morrell giving Mulholland a real handful. Merrick was caught offside after being played in by Mitchell before Stafford got away and Blunt's cross was not picked up by the forwards. Barratt headed clear from Willetts' cross, while at the other end Gumbley combined well with Morrell, who found Tompkins. Duckers and Taylor collided in conceding a corner and Duckers had to retire. Two corners from Tompkins were cleared before Bartlett found Gumbley and went through, and though he had a shot charged down, he went on and beat Mulholland with a good shot to level the scores at 1-1.

Mulholland cleared from Tompkins' cross before Stafford pressed forward and Prince shot hard from Willetts' centre, but Lines saved well - as he did from Johnson's shot straight after. Blunt got away for Stafford and centred, but Lines ran out to clear and Prince was hurt in the collision. When the half-time whistle sounded the two teams were level at 1-1.

Duckers did not re-appear after the break, forcing Stafford to reorganise. Prince shot across the goal and then shot again, but Lines cleared at the expense of a corner. Field found Mitchell, who was offside and Willetts forced a corner at the other end, which was cleared. Duckers returned to the pitch, but was limping badly. Greaves' back-pass to Mulholland resulted in a chase between the keeper and Morrell, with the Town winger just beaten to the ball. Tompkins raced down the wing and forced a corner after which Field put out to Dolphin, who centred well, but the cross went begging. Town continued to press, but Duckers cut out and cleared Mitchell's pass.

Stafford employed the one-back game and Nuneaton were caught offside several times. Willetts' centre was cleared by Barratt as the game continued at a fast pace. Tompkins got over a good centre, but Mulholland took the ball off Merrick's head. Lines cleared from Johnson and pulled off a good save from Winchello moments later. Town hit back and Mitchell put a long ball out to Tompkins, who made a strong run and crossed to Mitchell, who shot wide. Gumbley's shot was charged down before Morrell and Tompkins combined well, which ended with Field shooting wide.

Blunt got Stafford moving and Duckers got in a shot, which resulted in Stafford claiming a goal, but appeal was dismissed. Dolphin won a corner after being put away by Dunkley, which at the other end Lines saved well. Gumbley's centre was cleared by Dudley before Merrick tested Mulholland with a drive, which was punched into the air and cleared by Dudley. Good work on the left saw Morrell cross to Merrick, whose shot was charged down, but Mitchell picked up the loose ball and shot into the corner of the net to give Town a 2-1 lead.

Gumbley tried hard to get through and his pass found Mitchell, whose first-time shot was saved by Mulholland and seconds later Tompkins and Gumbley combined and the centre found Mitchell, who passed to Merrick, who shot over. Dunkley checked a Stafford attack and Bartlett stepped in to halt another Stafford rush. Morrell had a good shot

well saved and Mitchell also put in a beauty. Bartlett played exceptionally well in the closing stages when the home side pressed hard. Lines saved from Prince at the expense of a corner, from which Prince again shot, but Bartlett headed out, saving a certain goal, but conceding another corner which Bartlett also cleared.

The final action of the match saw Field boot out to Morrell, who passed out to Tompkins. The winger took the ball to the line and centred to Dolphin, who shot into the net as the full-time whistle sounded with no goal being awarded and the final score being 2-1 to Nuneaton.

## Nuneaton Town v Birmingham Trams 03-10-1914

**Nuneaton: Lines; Field and Barratt; Bartlett, Dunkley and J. Gumbley; Dolphin, Merrick, Mitchell, Morrell and Tompkins.**

**Trams: Morgan; Lippett and Pritchard; McCourty, Handley and Harper; Regan, Sheppard, Atkins, Houghton and Peplow.**

Birmingham Trams accepted a financial inducement from Nuneaton to transfer the away Combination game to The Newdegate and play it as a Birmingham Senior Cup tie instead. The previous season's attendance would have been 3,000 for this game, but the great war had an effect on the gate, which was around 1,500. It was estimated that two-thirds of the men who had gone to serve in the war were football enthusiasts.

Trams had the best of the early play and Town's goal had a narrow escape when Lines's failed to gather cleanly and the ball slipped just wide of the post. Barratt relieved further pressure before Town attacked through Dolphin, who centred, but Lippett cleared. Morgan saved well from Gumbley and Dolphin got in several good centres and from one of them Dunkley put the ball wide. Lines threw away at the other end Mitchell found Tompkins, who shot just wide. Morrell put in a weak shot when well placed, while later Merrick wanted too much time on the ball. Sheppard put in a fine effort for Trams, but Lines was alert to the danger.

A great centre from Dolphin went begging before the visitors got away and Sheppard grazed the bar. Tricky work by Morrell, Tompkins and Mitchell got Town close, but Handley relieved the pressure with a huge kick. Morrell raced down the wing and put in a great shot, which Morgan dropped and was lucky to get clear. An exciting period of play in front of Trams' goal resulted in a fruitless corner. Town continued to press, but could not score and following a brief Trams' attack Barratt cleared and Pritchard conceded a corner which was cleared. Mitchell and Morrell both volleyed over the bar. Morrell had a great shot saved by Morgan, but at the half-time whistle the game was tied at 0-0.

Morrell got forward at the start of the second half, but Tompkins let his pass run out. Morgan cleared at the expense of a corner, from which Dolphin landed the ball on top of the net. Merrick and Dolphin broke from the half-way line, but Merrick's shot was charged down by Morgan. Field kicked

# Nuneaton Town 1894-1919 Part 2



the ball towards his own goal in attempting a clearance and Barratt and Regan raced to pick up the ball, with the latter getting their first and putting the ball into the net to give the visitors a 1-0 lead.

A couple of minutes later Town equalised when Morgan conceded a corner and Tompkins' flag kick was slotted home by Merrick to make the score 1-1. Town pressed again straight after and Morgan punched away three times in quick succession, eventually giving another corner, which Tompkins again dropped in, but although a melee followed, the ball could not be forced into the net. Morrell shot yards wide from a good position. Town then won another corner and Tompkins again dropped it on the spot and Merrick headed the ball into the net, giving Town a 2-1 lead.

Nuneaton further increased their lead when Tompkins was again prominent, centring nicely to Merrick who shot into the corner of the net, completing his hat-trick and making the score 3-1. At this stage, Mitchell received treatment for 10 minutes, having incurred an eye injury. Nuneaton continued to press in Mitchell's absence, and when he returned, good play by Morrell and Tompkins resulted in Mitchell scoring again to make the score 4-1. Field retired hurt for a time, but returned just in time to stem a Trams' attack, while at the other end Town won two corners. Morgan made a good save from Tompkins and also stopped good shot from Field and Bartlett, as Nuneaton pressed right up until the final whistle with the game ending in a 4-1 win to the home side.

## Nuneaton Town v Hinckley United 10-10-1914

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Field and Barratt; Bartlett, Dunkley and J. Gumbley; Dolphin, Merrick, Mitchell, Morrell and Tompkins.

**Hinckley:** Perkins; Foster and King; Warburton, Osborne and Holford; Brooks, Morley, Sheldon, Moore and Douce.

There was a crowd of around 2,000 for the visit of Hinckley United with the away side bringing a good following, who made themselves heard to good effect. It was an ideal afternoon for football.

Town were first to attack, but a foul against Mitchell brought the move to an end and Hinckley retaliated with a shot from "Muzzer" Moore, which went wide. Tompkins put behind a centre following a pass from Gumbley, while at the other end Field broke up play when Hinckley attacked through Osborne. Good play between Dolphin, Merrick and Bartlett ended with a shot over the bar. King cleared the ball for Hinckley and found Brookes, who passed to Morley, but Gumbley put the ball out. From the throw-in Osborne shot over the bar. Town won a free-kick just outside the penalty area, which was cleared and Hinckley's attack saw Sheldon and Moore both beaten by Field in the area. Mitchell forced a corner which was got away, while a free-kick against Field ended with Osborne shooting wide.

Morrell shot over following a pass from Tompkins before clever play by Town's forwards resulted in Morrell heading goalwards,

where Perkins punched away. Tompkins centred again and Morrell shot for the far corner, but the ball hit Merrick and went to Dolphin, whose centre was cleared by Warburton for a fruitless corner. Merrick shot wide and Osborne cleared a pass from Dolphin, and at the other end Town's full backs missed the ball, but Douce finished weakly. Barratt conceded a corner when Moore got close, but Mitchell cleared. Mitchell shot wide from a few yards out and Merrick got close, forcing Foster to concede a corner. The corner was well placed, but cleared back out to Dolphin who centred again and Dunkley headed against the bar. Merrick picked up the rebound and shot into the net to make the score 1-0 to Town.

Perkins cleared Dolphins cross and then Merrick had a chance, but wanted too much time and the ball was cleared. Mitchell found Merrick who passed to Dolphin, whose centre was put out by Warburton for a corner, which was cleared. Barratt shone when Hinckley attacked, while Tompkins and Morrell forced a corner, which was quickly followed by another, which Tompkins centred accurately, but Hinckley's goal escaped. Barratt cleared when Hinckley pressed, and Morley shot over. At the other end Perkins ran out and Foster had to kick behind to save his goal. Dolphin placed the flag kick well and Morrell headed just over.

Dolphin beat King once again, but his centre came to nothing. Osborne intercepted and passed to Brooks, but Gumbley cleared. Tompkins received a pass from Morrell and centred well before the same player put just wide. Holford intercepted Barratt's pass, but Town regained possession and King conceded a corner. Tompkins placed well, but Gumbley's shot went across the goal and out for a goal-kick. Dunkley played the ball forward and Morrell headed over Foster and King where Merrick secured possession and though defenders tried to push him off the ball, he retained possession and placed into the corner of the net to make it 2-0 to Town.

Hinckley tried to hit back and Moore centred, but the ball went across goal and out of play. Merrick passed up to Dolphin, whose shot was headed away by Foster, preventing a certain goal before the half-time whistle was sounded with Nuneaton winning 2-0.

At the start of the second half Dolphin headed over the Merrick, who raced through, but King hampered him and he took the ball out. Morley passed out to Brooks and the ball hit Barratt and went out for a fruitless corner. At the other end Bartlett placed well and Perkins missed the ball, but Tompkins' shot was charged down. Mitchell passed up to Morrell who raced through, but King took the ball off his toe. Gumbley cleared well for Town and Tompkins got away and centred, with Foster being laid out by the cross. A Hinckley free-kick went straight to Gumbley who put the ball forward. King missed the ball and Mitchell raced through and left Perkins helpless with a good shot to make the score 3-0. Hinckley hit back and following a breakaway, Douce put in a shot which Lines misjudged and helped into the net to make the score 3-1.



Douce attacked again, but Field beat him easily before Dunkley stopped Morley, but from a throw-in Sheldon tested Lines with a good shot, which the keeper cleared. At the other end Perkins fumbled a shot from Morrell, but got the ball away eventually. Hinckley made a good break which resulted in Barratt conceding a corner, which was got away. Merrick gave to Mitchell who sent out to Dolphin, whose shot was cleared by Perkins. More good play from Town saw Morrell pass to Tompkins, who put in a good centre which found Bartlett. The latter returned the ball into the area, but it came back out to him and he steadied himself before shooting into the net to make the score 4-1 to Nuneaton.

Play had hardly settled down again before Town went 5-1 up. Tompkins again put in a fine centre and Merrick fell over in his eagerness to score, but the ball found Morrell who shot into the corner of the net to make it 5-1 to Town. Hinckley hit back and Bartlett robbed Sheldon before Morley had a good opening, but he shot over. Dunkley then shot wide from Tompkins' corner before Merrick got through and shot. The ball went all the way across goal to Tompkins, who returned to Merrick, who shot wildly over the top. At the other end Morley shot wide before Town attacked again and Perkins cleared and Morley shot just over the bar.

Good play from Bartlett, Mitchell and Morrell won a corner for Town, from which Mitchell headed just wide. Tompkins placed a good cross, but King cleared to Dunkley, who put the ball wide. Dunkley then found Morrell, who passed to Gumbley, who put in a good shot that Perkins put over. Gumbley shone again in another good run, but the ball went out for a goal-kick. Hinckley then countered and Moore got in a centre and Morley had the simple task of putting the ball into the net to make the score 5-2.

Tompkins crossed to Mitchell, who placed the ball well, but Perkins was able to scoop the ball up and clear. Brooks got away for Hinckley, but Dunkley cleared and Moore headed into Lines' hands soon after. Nuneaton then got very sloppy and Brooks got away and put upfield where Sheldon secured and centred to Morley, who scored easily to make the score 5-3. A minute or two later Brooks again got away and centred and Moore made the score 5-4, with the whistle for full-time coming immediately afterwards.

## **Cradley Heath St. Lukes v Nuneaton Town 17-10-1914**

**Cradley: Tatton; Evans and Kendrick; Hackett, Parkes and Tudor; Thomas, Boxley, Moule, Thorneycroft, and Gardner.**

**Nuneaton: Lines; Field and Barratt; Bartlett, Dunkley and J. Gumbley; Dolphin, Merrick, Mitchell, Morrell and Tompkins.**

Nuneaton travelled to Cradley Heath St Luke's in the knowledge that it was not a happy hunting ground for them. Cradley had beaten Redditch 8-0 the previous week, and were in good form. The home side included Thorneycroft, who had represented Nuneaton the previous season, at inside-left. There were about 500 in attendance.

Mitchell kicked off and clever play got them to close quarters where Merrick had an opening, but Parkes robbed him. Barratt set Mitchell away and a corner was forced by Gumbley, which was got away. Field cleared Gardner's centre before Cradley won a fruitless corner from Moule's shot. Bartlett passed to Dolphin who centred, but the ball was cleared and at the other end Gardner got away following Moule's pass, but shot just wide. Cradley pressed again, but fine headers from Field and Barratt averted disaster.

Cradley attacked again and Hackett centred to Thorneycroft, who beat Lines with a brilliant shot to put the home side 1-0 up. Town got forward, but Dolphin put the ball wide and from the goal-kick Gardener ran down and won a corner, which came to nothing. Tompkins and Dolphin centred in turn, and Mitchell tested Tatton with a first-time shot. Cradley continued to dictate play and Field and Barratt were kept busy. Lines cleared long shots from Thomas and Tudor and Barratt cleared again. Parkes cleared when Town attacked, but the visitors came again and Morrell shot over.

Dunkley and Gumbley worked well, with the latter putting the ball forward, but Mitchell was caught offside. Merrick then tested Tatton with a dropping shot and just after, Merrick put a beauty into Tatton's hands. At the other end Field checked Gardner and Barratt halted another Cradley attack. Town then conceded a free-kick, which Evans put forward and a bad mistake by the backs enabled Boxley, who had an open goal, to beat Lines with a cross-shot to make the score 2-0. The game had hardly been restarted before another free-kick against Nuneaton was placed in to Moule, who fired in a hot shot that Lines saved on the ground. Boxley fastened onto Lines' clearance and shot into the empty net to make the score 3-0. There was no mistaking Cradley's superiority and Barratt cleared from the goalmouth. Dunkley found Mitchell, who transferred the ball to Morrell, who forced a corner which Tompkins placed behind. A free-kick to Nuneaton was well-placed by Field, but Tatton cleared.

Dunkley's clearance upfield was picked up by Merrick, who beat three men, but his final shot went over. Dolphin then worked his way forward and centred to Morrell, who shot over the bar. Bartlett put in a long shot that went wide before Barratt stopped Thomas in full flight. Morrell got the ball well upfield where Dolphin shot very wide before Mitchell tested Tatton following Morrell's pass. When the half-time whistle sounded the score was 3-0 to Cradley.

Town started the second half with Mitchell at centre-half and Bartlett at centre-forward. They got upfield straight after the break and Dunkley put in a good cross that Morrell headed over. Merrick had a great shot charged down seconds later and Dolphin put the ball behind. Gardner got away and Town's goal had a narrow escape following his cross, with Gumbley clearing. Mitchell then fired over the bar from Merrick's pass. Bartlett took a pass from Dolphin and put the ball into the centre where Dunkley headed to Merrick, who





shot, but the ball hit a full-back and rebounded to Morrell who scored easily to make the score 3-1.

Cradley attacked again and Field cleared and Dunkley burst right through the centre, but fouled and the move broke down. Dolphin centred just out of Dunkley's reach, before Merrick worked his way through, but his pass to Dunkley was kicked away. At the other end Gumbley saved at the expense of a corner, which was cleared, and when Moule got through, Barratt cleared. Merrick's effort was blocked following Dolphin's centre. Barratt cleared well following a rush and at the other end Evans kicked clear.

Tudor shot into Lines' hands before Cradley were twice caught offside. Gardner then got away, but Barratt checked him and Bartlett finished the clearance. Tompkins centred and Parkes tried a first-time shot which went just wide. Cradley came again and Mitchell gave a corner which was cleared. Dunkley was caught offside, while at the other end Lines saved from Moule and Thorneycroft shot wide. Boxley shot yards over the bar and Lines saved from Thomas' centre. Morrell got Dolphin away and he put in a perfect centre, Dunkley tried to force his way through and Dolphin shot over and almost open goal.

Town got forward again and Dunkley ballooned over from close in, while Bartlett cleared from Thomas at the other end. Dunkley placed the ball well upfield and Morrell raced through, but his shot went just over. Tudor shot wide for the home side and then good work by Dunkley, Morrell and Tompkins ended in the latter's centre being cleared by Tatton. Dolphin made a fine run, but Tatton cleared. A moment later Mitchell passed to Dunkley, who found Dolphin. The winger worked his way right through, but shot wildly across and wide. Barratt found Dolphin who forced a corner, which was well-placed, but cleared by Hackett. Dunkley got hurt and went out to right wing. Lines cleared a centre from Thomas and then Tompkins centred for Morrell to shoot, with Tatton saving on his knees. Town were still attacking when the final whistle signalled a 3-1 win for Cradley.

## Nuneaton Town v Atherstone Town 24-10-1914

**Nuneaton: Lines; Field and Barratt; Bartlett, Dunkley and J. Gumbley; Dolphin, Merrick, Mitchell, Morrell and Tompkins.**

**Atherstone: A. Nicholls; T. Hargrave and A. Hargrave; C. Nicholls, Evans and Goode; Mandley, Miles, Stanton, Day and Glitheroe.**

With almost 2,000 supporters of both Atherstone and Nuneaton fighting in the great war, the shadow of events in France and at sea overshadowed this match. However, for almost two hours local football enthusiasts were able to forget about events elsewhere. The weather was appalling and rain fell heavily all through Friday night and into Saturday. Atherstone were top of the league and had won five of the six matches they had played.

Tom Hargrave won the toss and elected to kick towards the Burgage end. Stanton broke through in the first minute, but

handled. Atherstone still attacked and Day passed out to Stanton who put the ball out to Mandley, who shot behind. Nuneaton retaliated and Merrick ran through, but Evans forced him wide. Dolphin got away, but A. Hargrave tripped him and Mitchell put wide from the free-kick. Glitheroe got away but was checked by Field, before Morrell swung a long pass out to Tompkins, but it went out. A. Hargrave cleared from Dolphin's well-placed corner before Merrick got the ball out to Dolphin, whose centre was missed by Merrick.

Atherstone attacked but Day handled before Merrick headed out to Dolphin, who beat three men, but centred behind. Mandley received a long pass, but centred behind and Mitchell headed to Merrick, who in turn passed to Dolphin. The ball came back to Dunkley, who hit the inside of the upright with a terrific shot and Tom Hargrave cleared. Nuneaton were well on top and from another Dolphin centre several shots were charged down. Tompkins forced a corner off Tom Hargrave, which was cleared. Morrell put a long shot into Nicholls' hands, while at the other end Barratt cleared well when Miles got away, with a huge kick upfield. Mitchell shot wide. Dolphin put behind before Lines cleared just as Stanton dashed in. Mitchell headed over at the other end.

Dolphin centred again and Merrick's powerful shot was charged down. Gumbley had to clear at the other end following good play between Glitheroe and Day. Dolphin got down the flank and beat A. Hargrave before centring for Merrick who shot very hard and Nicholls punched over the top. So far, Atherstone had barely been in the picture and Morrell shot wide with another terrific shot. Evans miskicked for the visitors and Dolphin got through and centred, but Tompkins missed a good chance. Bartlett checked Glitheroe when he attempted to break and A. Hargrave cleared following a Nuneaton attack.

Field beat Glitheroe on the touchline and Barratt cleared following Field's back pass. Clever play by Miles and Mandley gave Stanton a chance, but he was offside. Mandley got forward again just after and centred, but Lines ran out to clear. At the other end Morrell took a pass from Gumbley and tested Nicholls who cleared easily, as he did a moment later from Mitchell. Miles passed to Mandley, who centred and Field miskicked, but Goode put wide. Stanton then fouled Dunkley and from the free-kick the ball went to Morrell, who passed on to Mitchell, who then found Merrick. The inside-right's great shot beat A. Nicholls, the ball going into the far corner of the net to give the home side a 1-0 lead.

"Adders" got forward on the left, but Glitheroe was beaten by Field. Nuneaton continued to press and Nicholls saved well from Merrick. Day found Glitheroe and Lines was forced to save from his centre. Mandley robbed Morrell in midfield, but his pass forward was cleared by Barratt. The play was concentrated in midfield before the half-time whistle which came with Nuneaton winning 1-0.

Day took up the centre-forward position for Atherstone in the



second half, with Stanton moving to inside-left. Merrick tried to get Dolphin away, but A. Hargrave put the ball out of play. Tom Hargrave stopped Tompkins in the corner, but Morrell ran up and seized the ball and centred. Dolphin returned and Merrick put just over the bar. Bartlett then put forward and A. Hargrave mistimed the ball and Dolphin centred to Morrell, who beat Nicholls with a great ground shot to put the home side 2-0 ahead. Atherstone's Miles and Day exhibited some clever play and got all the way upfield, but a good chance was spoiled when Mandley centred behind, with all the forwards up.

Dolphin headed forward from A. Nicholls clearance and Merrick got over a lovely centre, but Tompkins was forced off the ball and could only shoot wide. Mitchell tried a long shot and the ball hit the bar with A. Nicholls beaten. Merrick then beat A. Hargrave, but could only put wide. Tompkins centred and Morrell put in a good shot which Nicholls tipped over the bar. Following the corner Gumbley's shot was charged down and then Dunkley tried to force the ball through a sea of legs. The ball eventually went to Dolphin who put in a low shot, which A. Nicholls saved at the expense of a corner. Dolphin put in a well-placed corner and Merrick headed into the net to give Nuneaton a 3-0 lead. Nuneaton supporters were delighted and cheered wildly.

Mandley got the ball down to Miles, but Gumbley fouled him and Lines saved from Evans' free-kick. Gumbley put a long shot wide before Mitchell was caught offside in front of goal. Glitherhoe was easily beaten by Field and the ball was put upfield where Dolphin tried a shot, which went across goal and out of play. Clever play between Merrick and Dolphin resulted in Merrick hitting the side netting. The same two players were involved again, before Morrell headed into Nicholls' hands. A. Hargrave cleared from Tompkins centre, but the ball came back and Tompkins centred again. A. Hargrave tried to clear, but the ball went to Mitchell, who scored with a great shot to make the score 4-0 to the home side.

Nuneaton were all over Atherstone and Tompkins put two centres behind before the whole front line combined to set up Merrick, who shot over. Dunkley stopped Mandley following A. Hargrave's pass while at the other end Morrell shot into Nicholls' hands. Glitherhoe got forward and centred, and Lines saved when Stanton looked likely to score. Day shot wide for the visitors before play shifted to the other end where Tompkins put the ball across and Mitchell passed to Merrick, who was offside. Morrell, as a result of brilliant play was able to race through with several "Adders" in pursuit, but A. Hargrave just kicked away, with Morrell receiving loud cheers from the Nuneaton crowd.

Dolphin won the ball and smashed a shot against the juncture of the bar and Tom Hargrave kicked away on the line from Mitchell. Mandley put behind for Atherstone before Bartlett put forward to Dolphin, whose shot was cleared by A. Nicholls. A moment later the keeper saved from Merrick

and a long shot from Morrell went just over. The remainder of the game was played in the Atherstone half and at the final whistle Nuneaton were the winners, 4-0.

## **Bloxwich Strollers v Nuneaton Town 31-10-1914**

**Bloxwich: Hill; J. Davies and Crutchley; Dawes, Moore and Thompson; Richardson, H. Davies, Green, Holmes and Henworth.**

**Nuneaton: Lines; Field and Barratt; Bartlett, Dunkley and J. Gumbley; Dolphin, Merrick, Mitchell, Morrell and Tompkins.**

Nuneaton travelled to the Black Country to face tough opponents in the form of Bloxwich Strollers. The home side had beaten Hinckley United 5-0 the previous week.

Field lost the toss and Mitchell kicked off. The ball went straight to Bartlett who passed to Dolphin, but the winger was robbed. Dunkley found Dolphin who put in a good centre to Mitchell. The centre-forward tested Hill, but his shot was punched out to Tompkins, who headed it back in and the ball was kept out at the expense of a corner, followed by another before the ball was cleared. Field broke up a Bloxwich attack and passed to Merrick, who was offside. Good football in the corner from Gumbley, Morrell and Tompkins ended in a centre from Morrell being cleared.

Richardson and Davies attacked at the other end and Lines was forced to save from the latter. Tompkins put in two good crosses but J. Davies kicked clear. Holmes then shot woefully wide. Lines made a good save from Davies before Henworth broke away, but Bartlett checked his run. Tompkins kicked the ball into Hill's hands from Dolphin's centre before Lines saved from Holmes and Green shot over the bar. Mitchell then passed forward to Morrell, but J. Davies kicked clear. Later Morrell passed up to Tompkins, who centred to Mitchell, who was bowled over as he attempted to break through. Nuneaton then won a penalty when J. Davies handled inside the area. Dunkley took the kick and scored easily to give the visitors a 1-0 lead.

Bloxwich got away from a throw-in, and Barratt miskicked, conceding a corner. Another corner followed but was cleared. Another brilliant move by Nuneaton followed and Bartlett scored with a long shot that hit the inside of the post before going in to make the score 2-0 to Town. Bloxwich had another narrow escape when Tompkins centre went close, while at the other end Field saved Nuneaton and following a mistake by Barratt almost proved costly. Morrell shot wide following good play by Mitchell, and then the visitors hit back and Davies shot wide following a run by Richardson. Morrell put a shot wide before Nuneaton were caught offside on several occasions. A good chance fell to Henworth, but Town's defence stood firm. Davies then put wide for Bloxwich before the half-time whistle sounded with Nuneaton leading 2-0.

A Bloxwich rush brought Lines into action early in the second half and then Richardson broke clear, but shot wide under pressure from Barratt. Morrell missed a good chance before Bloxwich won a series of corners, but the danger was eventually cleared. Lines kicked away before a period

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of midfield play took place. Eventually Green tried to break but Field checked him. Tompkins and Morrell caused the Bloxwich defence some problems, but nothing transpired. Hill ran out and cleared a combined Nuneaton attack before Lines saved brilliantly from Richardson. Dolphin put across a beautiful centre, but Hill handled well.

Henworth forced a corner that Dunkley headed clear, but the ball was returned and Holmes shot wide. Green also shot wide just after. Bartlett and Merrick figured in another attack and Hill had to save from the latter. A good move from Nuneaton's forwards saw Dolphin have a shot charged down before Hill made a fantastic save from Morrell. Dunkley headed over from a corner before Dolphin beat several men before being dispossessed. Field shot into Hill's hands from a free-kick and Dunkley was responsible for some brilliant work, while Dolphin got across some telling centres, one of which Morrell headed wide.

Lines made a great save from Holes and for a few minutes Bloxwich dominated and Lines cleared brilliantly from Davies. Tompkins forced a corner following a good run, but the ball was got away. Gumbley conceded a foul just outside the penalty area, but Barratt cleared. Morrell and Tompkins attacked on the left, the former have bad luck. In the closing stages Nuneaton tried to increase their lead, but to no avail and the game ended with Nuneaton 2-0 winners.

## Nuneaton Town v Bromsgrove Rovers 07-11-1914

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Field and Barratt; Bartlett, Dunkley and J. Gumbley; Dolphin, Merrick, Stokes, Morrell and Tompkins.

**Bromsgrove:** Mason; Chare and Burnett; Stachwell, Miller and Grizzel; Crane, Brown, Brodrick, Kent, and Kilner.

Second from bottom Bromsgrove Rovers visited The Newdegate with a side packed with local teenagers with little or no experience of Birmingham Combination football. Harry Field won the toss for the first time this season and Broderick started the game for the visitors.

Early on Merrick received the ball and passed to Dolphin who put in a good centre that Mason saved. Bromsgrove broke away and Barratt missed his kick and Broderick latched on to the ball. Lines ran out to meet him and the centre-forward shot wide of an open goal. Good passing by Merrick and Dolphin ended with the latter being dispossessed. Barratt cleared a Bromsgrove attack and Broderick had a good chance, but fouled and lost it. Morrell put the ball out to Dolphin, but the attack was cleared. Morrell and Tompkins indulged in a passing movement, but the ball went wide.

Bromsgrove attacked, but were pushed back and at the other end Tompkins got across a centre that was charged down. He picked up the loose ball and passed to Morrell, whose centre found Dolphin who shot wide. Merrick shot wide when well placed before Kent came to the fore for Bromsgrove and instigated several attacks. Morrell found Tompkins who put across a good centre to Stokes, who failed to take advantage.

Kilner tricked Bartlett, but Barratt tidied up before Dolphin got away, but centred behind. Rovers got away on the right and Crane sent over a good centre, which Brown met and scored to give the visitors a 1-0 lead.

Mason made a good clearance from Morrell's brilliant shot, and the keeper then saved a tame effort from Stokes. Field cleared in style from a Bromsgrove attack, before Stokes was fouled and Dunkley took the free-kick, which cannoned off an opponent and was cleared after a scrimmage. Tompkins and Morrell combined well, with the former putting over the bar. Brown shot wide for Bromsgrove, while later Merrick headed over from Tompkins good centre. Kent put an effort wide after some good play, and Lines just saved, before Tompkins again got in a good centre and Merrick crashed a shot against the crossbar. Merrick headed just wide from Tompkins' centre following good play from Morrell.

Morrell passed to Dolphin, who gave a sharp forward pass to Stokes. The centre-forward failed to control the ball, but Morrell dashed up and cleverly shot through to equalise the scores at 1-1. Broderick scored a second for Bromsgrove following a break away, after Lines had only partially cleared, to give the visitors a 2-1 lead. Lines almost let a shot from Ken through. Bromsgrove pressed right up until the half-time whistle when they led 2-1.

Dolphin broke straight after half-time, but Chare headed clear. Bromsgrove attacked again, but Dolphin broke and centred, but Gumbley ran the ball out. Dolphin shot wildly following Morrell's pass, while at the other end Brown shot wide from a good position. Merrick was trying to get a header in when he was unfairly charged in the area and a penalty was awarded from which Dunkley scored easily to make the score 2-2. A few minutes later Nuneaton took the lead when Dolphin and Stokes had changed places and Dolphin immediately picked up a loose ball in midfield and scored with a brilliant long shot, the ball hitting the inside a post before going into the net, making the score 3-2 to Town.

Bromsgrove got away and almost scored, but Lines tipped the ball on to the crossbar and the ball went over for a corner, which was cleared. Mason saved well from Dolphin before Lines nearly let Bromsgrove in, the ball going just wide. Dolphin just grazed the bar from a free-kick after Dunkley was fouled, while good play between Morrell, Gumbley and Tompkins came to nothing. The home goal had a narrow escape, while a little later Lines had to run out to kick clear. Dolphin missed with a good effort and Bartlett put wide from a centre by Stokes. Bartlett's weak kick let in Bromsgrove, but Field cleared brilliantly. Stokes put in a fine centre and Merrick was left with only the keeper to beat, but shot straight at Mason. Kent headed wide from a Bromsgrove corner, but although the visitors pressed strongly towards the end, they could not find an equaliser and the game ended 3-2 to Nuneaton.



## Bournbrook v Nuneaton Town

14-11-1914

**Bournbrook:** Wilmott; Castle and F. Greaves; Moseley, Ellis and Williamson; Tysall, Wolfendale, Mortiboys, Tickle and A. Greaves.

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Field and Barratt; Bartlett, Dunkley and J. Gumbley; Dolphin, Merrick, Mitchell, Morrell and Tompkins.

Town travelled to Oak Tree Lane, the home of Bournbrook. Many teams have found the “Bourns” too much for them on their own patch with the narrowness of the pitch mitigating against a passing game. There was a poor ground, and the weather was fine but cold.

The game opened with a good bout of passing between Dunkley, Mitchell, Morrell and Tompkins, which resulted in the latter forcing a corner off Castle. The corner was cleared by Williamson. Mortiboys passed to A. Greaves, who ran on and centred, but Dunkley headed away and Barratt kicked downfield. Tompkins got away and centred and Dunkley had a shot charged down. Dolphin then centred all the way over to Gumbley who passed to Morrell, who beat Wilmott with a good shot to give the visitors a 1-0 lead. Tysall got away for Bournbrook and centred, but Bartlett beat Greaves and passed up to Merrick, who passed to Dolphin, who raced away and tested Wilmott, who scraped the shot away.

Good play from Dunkley and Gumbley resulted in Merrick shooting, but Wilmott cleared. Town forced a corner and though well placed by Dolphin, it was cleared. Castle and Greaves defended well when Town attacked, while Dunkley passed to Merrick, but his shot was cleared by Wilmott. Tompkins worked cleverly and passed to Morrell, who centred, and Mitchell headed down into the corner, but Wilmott saved. Gumbley forced a corner that was cleared and then Field dropped in a long one, that produced another corner, which was well placed by Dolphin, and Dolphin headed goalwards, but Greaves headed out from under the bar.

Wilmott punched over a terrific shot from Dolphin and play became concentrated in the Bournbrook half, with Morrell putting in a shot that Wilmott kicked away. Tysall had a chance to run clear, but Barratt cleared well, twice in succession. Tickle headed out to A. Greaves, who centred and Mortiboys came through, but Lines ran out and stopped his shot and Wolfendale shot over an almost open goal. Town attacked again and following good work on the left, Mitchell shot about a yard wide. F. Greaves cleared well a moment later, but Tompkins returned and put in a great shot, with Wilmott saving by the post. Barratt bowled over Mortiboys when he was going through and then from a throw-in by Bartlett, Dolphin shot nearly from the bye-line, Wilmott helping the ball into the net to make the score 2-0 to Town.

Merrick, Mitchell and Dolphin combined well, but the latter put over the bar. Mitchell then ran through and passed to Morrell, but he shot very wide and then Merrick was caught offside. Dunkley cleared the ball well forward, but it was returned to Bartlett, who sent in a long shot which Wilmott

kicked away and just after Morrell shot wide from Dolphin's centre. Gumbley passed to Morrell, who centred, but Merrick was forced to shoot wide. Town forced a corner which Tompkins placed well and Merrick, Morrell and Dunkley all tried shots, but could not get through, while at the other end Greaves centred well but Barratt kicked away. Field cleared a Bournbrook attack, but they returned and a free-kick was well placed by Moseley, which Field headed down, but Mortiboys secured and beat Lines with a ground shot into the corner of the net to make it 2-1, which was the score when the half-time whistle was sounded.

Field charged down Wolfendale's shot at the expense of a fruitless corner. Tysall sent in a good cross, but Field kicked clear before Mitchell sent a long pass out to Dolphin, but a free-kick relieved the pressure. From Tysall's pass, Tickle shot well over, before Town won a free-kick following good work by Morrell, which resulted in Tompkins getting in a great pass, but it came to nothing. A. Greaves passed out to Tickle, who tried a long shot which went over the bar and Mitchell got through at the other end and passed to Dolphin, who passed to Morrell. The latter found Tompkins, who centred, but Castle kicked away and a foul against Gumbley eased the pressure.

Tickle tried a back-header from F. Greaves' free-kick, but Mortiboys was offside. Merrick got through and passed to Dolphin, who put across and Tompkins tried to force the ball through, but Wilmott cleared. Merrick shot weakly from a good opening while Morrell shot over the bar just after. Gumbley tested Wilmott from a free-kick after Morrell had been fouled. Barratt headed away a Bournbrook free-kick and Morrell passed to Tompkins, who raced away and beat his man twice, before sending a good shot into the corner of the net to give Town a 3-1 lead.

Lines saved Tysall's hard shot from the wing and Field kicked away. Town were under pressure for a while and Barratt and Field defended well. However, Tysall worked his way across from the wing and shot hard. Lines saved, but the ball rolled over the line to make the score 3-2 to Town. The visitors came again and Mitchell put out to Tompkins, who ran and centred but the ball was got away. At the other end Tysall put in a lovely shot which Lines saved and Mitchell again sent Tompkins away and he ran down and burst the side net with a rattling shot.

Tompkins was again fed by Morrell, and he worked his way through and passed, but Dunkley and Morrell were hampered by the referee. Lines saved from Tysall's centre. Greaves handled at the other end, but Bartlett's free-kick was cleared. Morrell tried a ground shot which Greaves headed over to save a certain goal and from the corner Gumbley shot well over. Morrell worked his way through but stepped on the ball, preventing what looked a certain goal. Merrick missed an open goal from Morrell's centre, which was the last action and after 90 minutes Town had won the match 3-2.



## Nuneaton Town v Willenhall Pickwick 21-11-1914

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Field and Barratt; Bartlett, Dunkley and J. Gumbley; Dolphin, Merrick, Mitchell, Morrell and Tompkins.

**Willenhall:** Yarrall; Archer and Edge; Wootton, Corbett and Grout; Birchley, Stanniard, Lally, Turner and Rogers.

The Birmingham Senior Cup match on November 21st 1914 was not played to completion, as Willenhall Pickwick experienced travel problems on the railway and did not arrive for the game until 3-25. With ten minutes to go, and Nuneaton leading 1-0, the referee halted the match because of the light.

## Tamworth Castle v Nuneaton Town 05-12-1914

**Tamworth:** Maddox; Gibbs and Peasnall; Mason, Greenway and Baidon; Atkins, Monde, Thompson, Higgs and Everitt.

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Field and Barratt; Bartlett, Dunkley and J. Gumbley; Dolphin, Merrick, Mitchell, Morrell and Tompkins.

Town travelled to Tamworth Castle in confident mood, as the home side were struggling in the league. A strong wind was blowing down the ground, and Harry Field lost the toss, giving the advantage in the first half of kicking with the wind. Ex-Nuneaton captain Dale was missing from the home team, as he had emigrated to Ireland, where he had found employment.

Tamworth rushed down from the kick-off and scored in the first minute, and encouraged by their early success, they adopted a strong, confident game, swinging the ball about with no pretence to scientific football. Tompkins equalised for Town, but Castle then scored two goals in a minute to go in 3-1 up at half-time.

When the second half started the sun, which had been a factor in the first half, had gone in and the Tamworth team were not inconvenienced in sighting the ball, as were Nuneaton in the opening half. Nuneaton then had much more of the play, even though Castle scored again early in the second half to put them 4-1 up. Dolphin reduced the lead to 4-2 and then Nuneaton were awarded a penalty. Dunkley's penalty was struck firmly, but hit the post and bounced out for a goal-kick. Nuneaton pressed hard, but to no avail and the game ended with a 4-2 win to Tamworth.

The referee's performance came under scrutiny, with the official being very lax in his role, and on one occasion Merrick and Maddox almost came to blows. A shot from Dunkley looked to be going just under the bar, but Maddox tipped the ball over as Merrick rushed in and charged him over. Merrick was walking away when the Tamworth keeper, Maddox, rushed after him and struck him. Fortunately the blow was warded off by a home player, but Merrick made an effort to get at the keeper and an ugly scene followed. The referee cautioned neither player and to make matters worse, awarded a goal-kick.

## Bilston United v Nuneaton Town 12-12-1914

**Bilston:** Allen; I. Nicholls and J. Nicholls; Evans, Whittingham and Harrison; Merrington, Powell, Pridmore, King and Phillips.

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Field and Barratt; Bartlett, Dunkley and J. Gumbley; Dolphin, Merrick, Reader, Morrell and Tompkins.

Nuneaton travelled to Bilston, knowing that they had picked up many points in their travels to Proud's Lane. The committee had decided to make a change in the forward line and a young local lad, George Reader, who had been doing well with Nuneaton United and had also scored a plethora of goals for Nuneaton Grammar School, was called in to replace Mitchell. Bilston were at full strength and there was only a small crowd in attendance.

Bilston started the game with only nine men and Dolphin ran down to the visitors' goal early on, but J. Nicholls cleared. The next moment Merrick headed into Allen's hands before Morrell sent Tompkins away, with the winger winning a corner from which Bartlett shot a foot wide. I. Nicholls cleared well and Bilston forced a fruitless corner and Whittingham shot over from a free-kick against Bartlett. Bilston had two players arrive, putting them up to full strength, and Pridmore won the ball in front of goal and beat Lines with a good shot to put the home side 1-0 up. Reader looked to have a good chance from a free-kick, but J. Nicholls recovered and kicked away.

Morrell and Tompkins combined well, and J. Nicholls kicked away from in front of goal. Field cleared well and Morrell passed to Dolphin, but the ball went out. Bilston had another run and Powell centred, but King shot over an open goal. Tompkins got forward and centred, but the ball was sent out to Merrington, who got away. Field came across and dispossessed him before a free to Town was returned by Harrison. Barratt put well down the pitch to Reader, who put a long pass out to Dolphin, but Allen ran yards out of his goal to clear. Merrington centred to King, who shot yards wide, while Barratt placed a free-kick that Allen cleared with difficulty. Dolphin received a pass from Merrick and forced a corner, which was cleared by Whittingham. Bilston then mounted a fierce attack and Pridmore was fouled, but shot behind from the free-kick.

Powell shot well, but Lines fell on the ball and offside halted Bilston. Reader headed out to Tompkins who forced a corner that came to nothing, before Bilston forced Gumbley to concede a corner that was headed over. Pridmore forced Lines to pull his shot down from under the bar before Tompkins got away and centred for Merrick, who headed wide. Morrell headed out to Reader who put in a good shot that forced Allen into a save at the foot of the post and then saved from Tompkins from close range. Allen cleared from Tompkins' centre, while at the other end Barratt defended well. Merrick then got clean through and put in a good shot from long range, but the ball went into the side netting and at the whistle Nuneaton trailed by 1-0.



Reader re-started the game and Nuneaton kept up an almost continuous attack, during which Merrick beat several players, before losing the ball. A fine effort from Reader deserved better, after he tricked three players and forced Allen to scrape the ball away. After the early exchanges Bilston got back on top and Pridmore headed over Phillips' centre. Morrell then fed Tompkins, but I. Nicholls intervened and cleared the danger. J. Nicholls cleared Morrell's centre and Merrington raced up the right and centred for Pridmore, who had an open goal, but Lines made a good save. Barratt cleared and then Phillips hit the side netting.

Field conceded a corner, which was not got away and Lines handled safely from Whittingham. Merrick and Reader passed well, and fed Morrell, but I. Nicholls cleared and Tompkins then hit the side netting. Dolphins' centre was put wide of an almost open goal by Morrell and shortly after Dunkley shot wide from a free-kick. Dolphin crossed another good centre which I. Nicholls cleared from in front of goal and Bartlett returned the ball into the goalmouth, where Allen cleared through a ruck of players. Bartlett put a free-kick wide before Gumbley put in a long shot, which Allen easily cleared. Whittingham shot wide from a free-kick and Reader passed to Tompkins, but I. Nicholls intercepted and cleared.

Reader was playing well in the centre and passed to Merrick who shot yards wide from long range. Tompkins centred twice in succession, but the backs cleared and J. Nicholls conceded a corner which was cleared. Merrick passed to Reader from a throw-in and Reader put in a good shot that Allen gathered and cleared. The game then changed dramatically and Merrington tried a shot from the touchline, and Lines kicked away, but Kind secured and shot, with the ball hitting the upright and going into the net to give the home side a 2-0 advantage.

Phillips forced a corner that Whittingham shot over and J. Nicholls had a run and shot that went wide. Dolphin got down the pitch but Merrick was caught offside before Merrington passed to Powell, whose shot was well saved by Lines. The final whistle sounded moments later and Bilston were the winners by 2-0.

## Nuneaton Town v Redditch

19-12-1914

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Field and Barratt; Mitchell, Dunkley and J. Gumbley; Dolphin, Merrick, Reader, Morrell and Tompkins.

**Redditch:** Hartland; Hillman and Bills; Bowker, Hampton and Simons; Hadley, Cleaver, Glaze, Spiers and Franks.

Having lost two consecutive matches, Nuneaton entertained their old enemies from Redditch, who arrived at The Newdegate with a great reputation. They were the previous season's champions and headed the league before the match. Nuneaton had one change, Mitchell displacing Bartlett.

Redditch were the first to show with Cleaver and Hadley getting away, but Barratt kicked into touch. Hillman just

managed to stop Dolphin before Morrell passed out to Tompkins, who put in a good centre that Merrick headed and Hartland brought off a good save. Merrick struck the upright with a terrific shot and the ball went out to Dolphin, who centred for Tompkins to shoot over. Good work by Dunkley ended in a scrimmage in the goalmouth before Redditch got to the other end and Lines was hurt in saving. The ball was put into the Nuneaton net, but the referee penalised the visitors for impeding the keeper. Lines had to leave the field and Barratt took over in goal.

Morrell and Tompkins put in some good work and a centre from the latter was nicely trapped by Reader, who could not get a shot in. Franks made a run on the left that came to nothing before Barratt saved a shot from Cleaver. Morrell made a brilliant run, but shot past the post and at the other end Glaze shot over the bar. Reader made a beautiful run and passed to Merrick, who had an open goal, but shot over. Redditch won a free-kick and Bills shot, but Barratt tipped the ball over and the corner was cleared. Gumbley was now playing left-back, Dolphin right half and Mitchell left half, leaving Nuneaton with only four forwards.

Morrell put the ball out to Tompkins, who centred behind his forwards and some amusement was given to the crowd when Barratt kicked away a high shot. Lines returned with his head bandaged and the team resumed their positions. Merrick centred and Field put a good effort just wide. Dunkley had to leave the field and Harry Field moved to centre-half and Dolphin to right back. Nuneaton attacked strongly and had hard luck in not scoring. Mitchell tried to get down the right, but was bowled over.

Barratt and Gumbley checked a rush by the visitors' right, and a sharp forward pass by Morrell to Tompkins was intercepted by Hillman. Dunkley returned at outside right and Glaze shot very wide before Dolphin cleared on two occasions. Dunkley tested Hartland with a ground shot and after good defensive work by Gumbley, Lines made a brilliant save from Bowker.

Reader tricked Hampton and passed to Tompkins, but the winger was caught offside, raising ironic cheers from the crowd. Dunkley received a good pass, but shot wide before Nuneaton scored a thrilling goal. Reader passed to the crippled Dunkley and the latter centred to Morrell, who dashed forward and scored a brilliant goal to give the home side a 1-0 lead. A minute later great work by Reader nearly brought another goal, when he ran through the centre and gave Merrick a beautiful pass. Merrick shot but Hillman saved. Reader dashed up and just grazed the post with his shot. Midfield play followed and at half time Nuneaton were winning by 1-0.

Nuneaton attacked strongly at the start of the second period and Dunkley centred over the bar before Mitchell put in a long shot that Hartland fumbled. An exciting scrimmage occurred and the visitors' goal had a lucky escape. Dolphin made two good clearances and Nuneaton attacked again as Merrick passed to Dunkley, who centred and Mitchell grazed an

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upright. Redditch began to press and the Nuneaton goal had a narrow escape, Lines making a fine save from Cleaver. Reader then missed with a good shot before Merrick and Dunkley combined, with Mitchell shooting wide. Dolphin tested Hartland, who saved with difficulty and Dunkley put in a good centre to Reader, who had an open goal, but couldn't gather the ball.

Nuneaton combined well to force a corner, which was well placed and Morrell put in some clever work. The ball went to Merrick who headed past Hartland to put Nuneaton 2-0 up. Tompkins received a great pass from Morrell and centred, which resulted in the visitors' goal having a close call. Morrell grazed the upright before the Redditch forwards got through, but Lines made a good clearance. Merrick put in some good work and Field shot just wide before Morrell gave Tompkins a clear pass and the winger shot into the corner of the net, but the referee disallowed the goal for offside. Lines then made another great save.

Reader was giving some great passes, but could not get a run through. Nuneaton were doing all the pressing and forced a fruitless corner. A foul was given to Redditch and they pressed very strongly, but Nuneaton held firm. The visitors, however, persevered and a cross by Hadley resulted in a goal by Glaze to make the score 2-1. Redditch began to press in desperate fashion and Lines had to run out to clear and the ball was brought away by Morrell, who smashed in a brilliant shot, but Hartland saved and Hillman cleared just as Tompkins was about to shoot. Redditch pressed again, and a foul throw put them in a dangerous position, but Hadley shot wide. Both sides attacked in turn, but no further scoring took place and at the final whistle Nuneaton were 2-1 victors.

## Nuneaton Town v Bournbrook 25-12-1914

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Butler and Barratt; Dunkley, Mitchell and J. Gumbley; Dolphin, Merrick, Reader, Morrell and Hanson.

**Bournbrook:** Whitehurst; Mortiboys and F. Greaves; Padmore, Wolfendale and Williamson; Tysall, Osborne, Lee, Cheadle and I. Greaves.

Bournbrook travelled to Nuneaton on Christmas morning to fulfill their Birmingham Combination fixture at The Newdegate Arms ground. Tamworth Castle were unable to play the scheduled fixture, so Bournbrook stepped in. The weather was good, but the pitch was frostbound and not ideal for good football.

Harry Field did not make an appearance and was replaced by Butler, with Mitchell going to centre-half with Dunkley to his right. Hanson replaced Tompkins. George Lines' head was still bandaged following his injury against Redditch.

The opening stages of the match were very quiet and twenty minutes had gone before the first real action saw Reader run half the length of the field before passing to Dolphin, who put in a great shot, but Whitehurst tipped the ball over the bar for

a fruitless corner. Lee got through for the visitors and looked certain to score, but Gumbley cleared. Hanson hit the bar, while Dolphin's pass found Dunkley who centred for Reader. The centre-forward's shot ended up at the feet of Morrell, who missed an open goal, putting the ball wide. Nuneaton attacked again and Wolfendale fell and handled the ball in the area, conceding a penalty, from which Dunkley gave the keeper no chance. Hanson got through for the visitors and had a golden opportunity, but put the ball all the way across goal. The half-time whistle saw Town lead 1-0.

Bournbrook played with ten men for most of the first half as Tysall was carried off injured, but he resumed after the break. Dolphin shot wide at the start of the second half, and just after put in a good centre, which Whitehurst pulled down from under the bar, and Reader put in a shot that went wide. Reader then ran right through and Whitehurst pushed away his shot. The ball came out to Morrell, whose shot from close in, went all the way across the goal, with Whitehurst still on the ground.

Butler charged down a shot from Cheadle, and then Mitchell cleared when Bournbrook's forward had an open goal. Cheadle then took a pass from Greaves and gave Lines no chance with a good shot that levelled the scores at 1-1. Morrell tested Whitehurst from the touchline, while both Dolphin and Hanson shot wide at each end. The final whistle signalled the end of 90 minutes and a 1-1 draw.

## Nuneaton Town v Coventry City 28-12-1914

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Field and Barratt; Dunkley, Mitchell and J. Gumbley; Butler, Merrick, Reader, Morrell and Tompkins.

**Coventry:** Blake; Shields and Barnacle; Allen, Craig and Oxenham; Alderson, Lewes, Dobson, Enwright and Turner.

Town met Coventry City at The Newdegate on Monday afternoon in the semi-final of the Nuneaton Hospital Cup in front of one of the largest crowds of the season. Coventry's side included six first team players and Nuneaton were handicapped by the absence of Dolphin, who had work commitments. Nuneaton were otherwise at full strength with Field and Tompkins coming back into the side.

Butler forced a corner, which was placed behind and after Field cleared a Coventry attack, Gumbley and Morrell combined, with the latter shooting into the side netting. Reader was caught offside before Butler sent across several crosses, but the visitors backs were safe. Merrick then broke through and looked a certain scorer, but shot over the bar. Nuneaton's forwards made several good attempts, but were kept at bay. Coventry attacked through Craig and Dobson, but Field made a good clearance. Coventry, though, returned and Dobson centred to Enwright, who headed past Lines to give Coventry a 1-0 lead.

Morrell and Tompkins made a brilliant run, with the former passing to Reader, whose shot was cleared by Blake. A



scrimmage ensued, but Nuneaton were penalised for impeding. Coventry mounted an assault on Nuneaton's goal and Lines had to save several times, one clearance from Enwright being especially good. Nuneaton's defence held firm following a tussle in the goalmouth before Alderson beat Barratt and centred for Enwright to again head past Lines to make it 2-0. Turner then centred to Lowe, who made it 3-0. Blake saved from Tompkins' centre and Craig hit the post with a good shot before Dobson shot over. Lines was cheered for two great clearances from Dobson and Turner.

Some good play from Morrell saw him pass to Tompkins, who centred well, but Barnacle was fouled. Nuneaton re-arranged their team with Mitchell going centre-forward, Reader outside-right, Butler right-half and Dunkley centre-half. This did not improve matters and Lines had to make another good stop. Reader got in a good centre that was cleared, before Merrick missed a good chance, shooting across the goalmouth. Morrell made a brilliant individual effort, forcing Blake to save and Mitchell shot wide from long range.

Morrell gave Reader a chance following a free-kick, but Blake made a great save. Merrick shot weakly from a good position and a good cross from Tompkins nearly brought a goal, but Blake again saved well. Merrick was dispossessed before the half-time whistle came with Coventry 3-0 up at the break.

Coventry scored again straight after the break, with Dobson putting the ball into the net after Lines had saved. Alderson centred wide, while Mitchell found Morrell, who raced through and brought a save from Blake. Lines cleared from Lowes, while at the other end Morrell found Tompkins, who made progress forward, but Merrick was offside. Coventry won a fruitless corner and Blake pulled off another save, this time from Morrell. Coventry scored an offside 'goal', before Morrell passed out to Reader, who put in a good centre but Mitchell and Tompkins missed the ball. Nuneaton forced a corner, but Blake again saved, following good work by Gumbley and Tompkins.

Merrick's shot was charged down before Blake saved from another Nuneaton corner. Reader and Merrick combined well with Merrick scoring Nuneaton's first goal to make the score 4-1. Blake then had to save again, while at the other end Lines made a brilliant save from Turner. Field tested Blake, but Anderson got away and centred for Dobson to head past Lines to put Coventry 5-1 ahead, even though Lines partially saved.

A Coventry corner was cleared before Blake made a great save from Morrell. Lines kicked away following good work by Dobson and Morrell again got through, but shot wide. Nuneaton continued to press, but Coventry's defence was too good for them. Blake saved from both Tompkins and Morrell while Gumbley tried to break through, but was overwhelmed.

A Nuneaton corner came to nothing, while good work by Field in defence resulted in Mitchell passing out to Tompkins, who hesitated and the chance was lost. Dobson headed over from a centre by Alderson, before the game became centred on

midfield play. At the final whistle Coventry had progressed to the final against Hinckley United.

## Nuneaton Town v Willenhall Pickwick 29-12-1914

**Nuneaton: Lines; Field and Barratt; Mitchell, Dunkley and J. Gumbley; Butler, Merrick, Reader, Morrell and Tompkins.**

**Willenhall: Yarnall; Archer and Edge; Mason, Corbett and Grout; Turner, Binckley, Lally, Richards and Rogers.**

The Newdegate Arms was several inches deep in snow on the morning of the replayed Birmingham Senior Cup tie against Willenhall Pickwick. Workmen had swept the snow away from the touchlines, enabling the match to go ahead. Nuneaton had been leading in the original tie, which was abandoned due to the fact that Willenhall arrived late and the light did not permit the match to be played to a finish.

There were only about a hundred spectators when the match kicked off. The first action saw Yarnall have to run out and kick away before Merrick went on a good solo run, but shot wide. The visitors got away on the right and Turner centred to Lally, who was tackled and the ball cleared. Lines kicked away from Lally's effort and a minute later the keeper made another save from the same player. Lally then tricked Field and Barratt, but put his shot wide. Butler's centre found Tompkins, whose shot was saved by Yarnall.

The efforts of the players to plough through the snow caused some amusement in the crowd, with the ball constantly stopping unexpectedly. Butler forced a corner, which was cleared to Dunkley, whose shot beat Yarnall all the way to put the home side 1-0 ahead. Yarnall saved well from Morrell's shot, while at the other end Lines saved from Turner. Morrell received cheers from the crowd for his brilliant individual effort, which forced Yarnall into a great save. Mason had to save two difficult shots from Mason and Lally.

Tompkins shot wide following Reader's pass before more brilliant work from Morrell set Tompkins away, who won a corner. The ball came out to Field, who put in a terrific shot, which Yarnall saved. The keeper saved from Morrell and then from a free-kick Morrell headed the ball to Reader who, having an open goal, shot into the net to put Town 2-0 up. Morrell was again responsible for some brilliant play, and he centred to Reader, whose shot went through Yarnall's hands and into the net to give Nuneaton a 3-0 lead.

Morrell ran the length of the field and shot just wide, while at the other end Lines saved from Corbett. Gumbley put in a good run and shot before Tompkins put in a good run down the left before centring to Reader, who scored again, but was ruled offside. Morrell had another brilliant effort saved by Yarnall and Gumbley dribbled close in and passed to Reader who shot at Yarnall, who saved, but Butler ran in to make the score 4-0 to Town, which was the score at the half-time whistle.

Nuneaton resumed with Mitchell, who was injured. Butler's centre missed narrowly, before Barratt and Gumbley had





good efforts. Yarnall pulled off a great save from Merrick and later made a great clearance from Morrell at the expense of a fruitless corner. Mitchell came back on and Nuneaton continued to press as Yarnall cleared a long shot from Mitchell. Lally looked dangerous for the visitors, but was overwhelmed by force of numbers. Yarnall made another fine save from Reader, while Merrick tricked several men and beat Yarnall with a good shot to make the score 5-0.

Lines saved a free-kick after Lally was brought down on the edge of the area, while at the other end Yarnall saved several times from Reader and Dunkley. Reader then completed his hat-trick to make the score 6-0, following a scrimmage.

Archer was cautioned for rough play before Merrick ran all the way through the Picks' defence to score the seventh goal for the home side. Yarnall made a great save from Reader, while Lines saved a shot from Rogers, but was charged over and Willenhall appealed for a goal. After inspecting the spot in which the incident took place, the referee awarded a goal. Nuneaton toyed with the opposition for the rest of the game, with Morrell being the star player, and the crowd repeatedly cheered him, willing him to score. Reader hit the post from a Tompkins corner and Morrell shot just over and then put one into the side netting. After 90 minutes Town were 7-1 winners.

## Willenhall Pickwick v Nuneaton Town 02-01-1915

**Willenhall: Yarnall; Archer and Edge; Willings, Corbett and Grout; Binckley, Mason, Lally, Turner and Rodgers.**

**Nuneaton: Lines; Field and Barratt; Bartlett, Dunkley and J. Gumbley; Dolphin, Merrick, Reader, Morrell and Tompkins.**

Nuneaton had never beaten Willenhall Pickwick on their own ground, having taken a solitary point from all their visits, plus the home side were unbeaten at home during the current season. There was a poor crowd in attendance and the ground was soddened, with bright sunshine straight down the ground.

Field lost the toss and Nuneaton had to face the sun and wind. The first action saw Merrick pass to Reader, who went through with Morrell, but Archer cleared. Rogers got away for the home side and centred, where Lines pulled the ball down from under the bar, and Lally shot wide. Morrell sent a long pass out to Tompkins, whose shot forced Yarnall to concede a corner, which was cleared, while a Town free-kick was put wide. Tompkins was fouled by Archer and Gumbley placed the free-kick well, and Dolphin passed to Merrick, who centred to Reader, who was unmarked and scored easily to put the visitors 1-0 up.

Field fouled Rogers as he tried to get forward, but the same player put the free-kick wide, as did a long shot from Grout. Bartlett sent Dolphin away, but Merrick put the ball out. A free to Picks was well placed by Edge, but Bartlett rushed in and checked Turner, who had an open goal. Field completed the clearance. Mason shot yards over a minute later, while at the other end Dolphin and Merrick combined well and the latter

centred to Tompkins, who put the ball back in, but Reader was offside. Dolphin picked up a long clearance and centred to Merrick, who shot weakly in front of an open goal, and Yarnall cleared with some ease. Field and Barratt both halted Willenhall attacks, and a long shot from Archer went behind.

Town's goal underwent a severe bombardment, with Lines eventually conceding a corner, from which Mason fouled to halt the danger. Lally got through, but Barratt stopped him and Field cleared another attack, while Gumbley also showed up well in defence. Reader tried to get forward, but Edge and Yarnall cleared in turn. Dolphin got away and centred, but Merrick robbed Reader of an open goal by intercepting the pass, and Willings cleared. Bartlett checked Rogers' run and Lines made a good save when Corbett shot strongly, followed a minute later by another save from Binckley.

Yarnall cleared a long shot from Dolphin before a free-kick to Picks gave them a chance, but the ball went out for a goal-kick. Corbett shot very wide in another attack, while at the other end Reader passed to Dolphin, who ran half the length of the field, but Edge just caught him and conceded a corner, which was cleared. Dolphin made another run and Reader passed to Morrell, who shot into Yarnall's hands. A moment later Yarnall cleared from Merrick before the half-time whistle sounded with Nuneaton leading 1-0.

Morrell cleared from Binckley before Reader passed to Dolphin, who ran up and centred. Reader tried a first-time shot, but Yarnall cleared and Dolphin and Binckley were caught offside in turn. Barratt cleared well and when Lally broke clear Field stopped him and cleared. Moments later Town's goal underwent another bombardment, with Field charging Lally over in front of goal and Lines saving a great shot from Grout. Barratt cleared, but Lally returned and Mason shot over. Lines saved from Rogers following a corner, while Dunkley mistimed the ball and Lally got clear, but Field cleared strongly. Rogers shot over from long range, while a free-kick was well placed by Edge, but Lines saved well.

Merrick's long pass to Dolphin was misplaced and Archer ran down and put in a long shot that Lines saved well on his knees. Binckley's cross was cleared by Bartlett, while Archer beat Reader in a good tussle. Picks attacked and Lines ran out, Turner shot at the open goal, but Field charged his shot down. Yarnall ran out and gave Merrick a chance, but he shot wide of an open goal, and Yarnall again cleared. Tompkins centred to Merrick, whose drive was charged down by Edge, preventing a certain goal. Lally put wide when well placed, while Binckley forced a corner from which Lines punched clear from Lally and a great shot from Edge was diverted over the bar by Bartlett.

Town's defence was in magnificent form and all Willenhall's attacks were beaten back. Tompkins centred well, but Yarnall cleared and Reader then had an open goal, but Edge pulled him back, and Archer cleared, with Town's appeal for a penalty being ignored. Dunkley put a long shot just wide,



while Dunkley's shot was charged down following a free-kick. Gumbley then found Tompkins, who centred, but Yarnall saved well from Merrick. Dolphin got through and tricked Edge and shot from long range, but Yarnall cleared. Town got away in a line and Reader forced Archer to misplace the ball which was picked up by Tompkins, who shot wide from an easy opening.

Picks made a desperate final rally, but Bartlett cleared in style and set the forwards going, but Edge kicked out to stop Dolphin. Yarnall cleared again before moments later the final whistle sounded with Nuneaton having won 1-0.

## Dunkley Enlists

Nuneaton supporters will hear with mixed feelings that popular centre-half Walter Dunkley has enlisted in the King's Royal Rifles and is now training at Portsmouth. He is the fourth regular player to have enlisted since the beginning of the war, the others being Jack Key, Frank Gathercole, William Dunn and now Dunkley. May they soon return to the fold again, and play many more games for the Town.

## Nuneaton Town v Hednesford Town 09-01-1915

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Field and Barratt; Bartlett, Merrick and J. Gumbley; Dolphin, Humphries, Reader, Morrell and Tompkins.

**Hednesford:** Madeley; Reaney and Greaves; Gray, Howen and Parkes; Field, Humphries, Henshall, James and Eabry.

Nuneaton faced Hednesford Town at The Newdegate for a place in the semi-finals of the Birmingham Senior Cup. Nuneaton were without Dunkley, who had enlisted, and Mitchell, who was injured. Merrick moved to centre-half and Humphries of Rugby Town came in at inside-right. There was a good crowd at the start of the game, which improved as the game went on, probably due to the early start.

Field won the toss and Town started the game with nine men, as Lines and Gumbley were absent. Barratt went in goal, but Lines came on almost immediately. The first action saw Reader test Madeley with a good shot which the keeper fumbled before clearing. Barratt cleared when James got through, before Hednesford's Field shot over. Gumbley then appeared putting Town up to full strength, and they got forward with Dolphin, who centred for Humphries, who hesitated and Greaves was able to kick away. Madeley ran out and cleared twice from Nuneaton attacks and a free-kick against Morrell broke down Town's attack. Merrick then put the ball well forward where Reader and Humphries went through, but Reader was offside. A long shot by Merrick went wide, before Field cleared to Gumbley, who put Tompkins through, with the winger testing Madeley with a good shot.

Dolphin put an effort just over, before Tompkins got away and centred, but Greaves cleared. Hednesford's Field got away but Gumbley beat him and dribbled through to beat

Madeley with a great shot from 30 yards to put the home side 1-0 up. Tompkins took a pass from Morrell and centred, where Reaney conceded a corner. Humphries worked well in the area, but Greaves got the ball away. Humphries then shot wide from a free-kick, while Tompkins got away and centred, but Madeley caught and cleared. Dolphin put a free-kick all the way across goal and out, and Tompkins put in another good centre, which Howen got away.

Eabry got forward and Barratt miskicked, with the ball going to Howen whose shot was punched away by Lines, while he was on the ground. Reader got forward and passed to Morrell, who passed out to Dolphin. The latter raced inside and brought Madeley to his knees with a fine shot, which went for a corner that was cleared. Good work from Morrell saw Dolphin win another corner, from which Morrell shot into Madeley's hands. Reaney cleared a Town attack and Eabry got away, but Field checked his run. Gumbley cleared from an Eabry cross, and Barratt cleared again the next moment. Morrell put the ball up to Humphries, who tried a shot from the goal line, but Madeley cleared and then cleared again from Merrick's free-kick.

Morrell passed back to Gumbley, whose centre found Humphries who shot into the net, just under the bar to give Nuneaton a 2-0 lead with Madeley well beaten. Reaney cleared from Reader and Gray stopped a run by Tompkins and Morrell. Field got away and centred to Henshall, who headed goalwards, but Lines made a good save and cleared another centre from Hednesford's Field a moment later. Town again pushed forward and Morrell centred for Reader to head just wide. Dolphin could not pick up on a pass by Reader, but Morrell tested Madeley with a long shot, which he cleared with ease. The half-time whistle arrived with Nuneaton winning by 2-0.

Both teams resumed the second half a man short, but both players were soon back. Field cleared cleverly from a combined Hednesford attack and Barratt kicked away from Howen. Lines saved from Henshall and Field again cleared well before Morrell passed out to Tompkins, who was caught offside. Reaney charged down a shot from Morrell, which found its way to Reader, who passed to Bartlett and he fired in a hard shot that Madeley cleared with difficulty. Field conceded a corner which Morrell cleared, while at the other end Tompkins centred, but Madeley cleared well. Barratt kicked away from Hednesford's Field and a free-kick was cleared to Humphries, who passed to Dolphin, who was fouled.

Dolphin won the ball and flashed a centre across, but Morrell's shot was charged down and the goalkeeper kicked away from Humphries. Madeley made a great save from Morrell before Tompkins rounded Reaney, but Greaves kicked away. Merrick's pass found Dolphin, but Reaney cleared, before the game became very tame, although Lines made a good save from Henshall from close range. Reader broke, but Greaves fouled him, with the free-kick coming to nothing,

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and Merrick put a long shot wide just after. Madeley made a fine stop from Merrick and Tompkins went clear following Humphries' pass, but Madeley punched away.

Hednesford made a surprise breakaway and getting close in, Henshall was given possession and beat Lines with a good shot to make the score 2-1. Tompkins got away from the kick-off and centred to Humphries, who only had Madeley to beat, but he was beaten by Greaves and lost a fine opening. The final whistle went just after with Nuneaton having progressed to the semi-final by 2-1.

## **Bromsgrove Rovers v Nuneaton Town 16-01-1915**

**Bromsgrove: Mason; Timmins and Bridgwater; Hobday, Juggins and Satchwell; Fryer, Bourne, Brodrick, Burnett and Crane.**

**Nuneaton: Lines; Field and Barratt; Butler, Mitchell and J. Gumbley; Dolphin, Humphries, Reader, Morrell and Tompkins.**

Bromsgrove Rovers had given Nuneaton a scare in the game at The Newdegate, so a tough match looked to be in prospect for the reverse fixture. Town made several changes with Merrick and Bartlett being unavailable.

From the kick-off Morrell passed out to Tompkins, who forced a corner from which Humphries headed over and a minute later he nearly broke through on the right. Bromsgrove broke and Field slipped, but Fryer shot wide, while Gumbley grazed the bar at the other end. Barratt cleared and Nuneaton were given a free-kick, which Dolphin sent to Tompkins, who centred to Humphries, whose shot was saved by keeper Mason. The keeper saved again from Dolphin just after, while just after Bourne put over the bar at the other end.

Bromsgrove cleared a Nuneaton attack and Mason made a good save from Mitchell and also saved from Reader. Burnett kicked high over the bar for Bromsgrove, after which Gumbley gave a foul, but Barratt kicked clear. Mason saved from Reader and a Nuneaton corner was cleared before a minute later Reader opened the scoring, with the ball going just inside the post to make the score 1-0 to the visitors. Lines made a good save from Hobday and Burnett just missed with a good shot. Barratt then conceded a corner that was cleared and Town's forwards were caught offside on more than one occasion.

Lines had to save from Broderick before Bromsgrove forced a corner, but the ball was put behind. Mason punched away a good shot to Reader who put the ball past him into the net, but offside was given. It was a bad decision by the referee and the Nuneaton players protested in vain. Bourne scored an equaliser for Bromsgrove to make the score 1-1, which was the score when the half-time whistle sounded.

Reader re-started the game and Nuneaton pressed forward, where Humphries shot yards wide. Mason saved from Morrell, while at the other end Lines saved from Broderick before Reader passed out to Dolphin, who ran through and scored a good goal to make the score 2-1 to the away side. Tompkins'

shot brought a save from Mason and then Morrell scored Nuneaton's third goal following weak defensive work by the home side, putting Nuneaton 3-1 up. Mason then saved from Mitchell at the expense of a fruitless corner, while later Nuneaton's forwards were caught offside on several occasions.

Barratt conceded a foul which came to nothing, but shortly after Crane reduced the arrears following Fryer's centre, to make the score 3-2 to Town. Reader had a good chance but was tackled and Morrell shot over from long range. Mason made a good save from Humphries' header, while at the other end Lines saved twice when Bromsgrove threatened. Mason then saved from Dolphin as Nuneaton continued to attack and twice had the ball in the net, both being offside. Butler tried a long shot which slipped through Mason's hands and into the net to make the score 4-2. Mason atoned for his mistake by pulling off two marvellous saves from Mitchell and Morrell.

Rovers attacked but were fended off by Field before Nuneaton began to attack continuously and pinned the home side in their own half. Morell and Gumbley were both responsible for some good football and Mason had to make a great save to keep out Morrell. Gumbley tricked several defenders and scored a brilliant goal, with the ball going into the far corner of the net, making the score 5-2 to Nuneaton. Reader shot over from Tompkins' centre and Mason made a great save from Mitchell, while fine play by Morrell resulted in Humphries making it 6-2. A minute later Reader scored again to put the score at 7-2. Although Nuneaton attacked strongly, no further scoring took place and at the final whistle the away side had triumphed by 7.2.

## **Nuneaton Town v Bloxwich Strollers 23-01-1915**

**Nuneaton: Lines; Field and Barratt; Merrick, Mitchell and J. Gumbley; Dolphin, Humphries, Reader, Morrell and Tompkins.**

**Bloxwich: Hill; Nicholls and Crutchley; Higgins, Watson and Holmes; Ingram, Davies, Bishop, Henworth and Crowe.**

Nuneaton's game at The Newdegate against Bloxwich Strollers saw a new departure, with soldiers in uniform being admitted at half-price. This made a big difference at the gate and there was something of the old look about the crowd.

Field won the toss and Dolphin forced a corner off Watson in the first minute, from which Reader headed over. From a goal-kick, Davies went clear for Bloxwich, but he shot very wide as Lines came out to meet him. Watson kicked away a shot by Merrick, which followed good play by Tompkins and Morrell. The latter found Mitchell, who put in a long shot which Hill cleared. Mitchell's mis-kick gave Bishop a chance, but he shot wide from in front of an open goal. Dolphin should have scored from Tompkins' centre, but he failed to hook the ball into an open goal and Holmes cleared.

Barratt cleared off the goal-line from a corner and Morrell conceded another from which Bishop headed on to the top of the net. Barratt stopped Crowe's run before Nuneaton won a free-kick which Merrick centred to Morrell, who headed



goalwards and Hill saved. Field returned the ball and Tompkins put wide before Mitchell, Reader and Humphries worked well and Nicholls conceded a corner, which was poorly placed and Davies tricked Gumbley and passed to Ingram who put in a low shot to give Bloxwich a 1-0 lead. Watson then put a long shot wide of the target.

Reader got the ball out to Tompkins, who put in a good centre and Merrick put the ball out to Morrell, who worked through and beat Hill with a ground shot to make the score 1-1. A moment later Reader went through, but was forced over as he shot and Hill was able to clear. Reader then made a fine opening for Morrell, but the winger was offside. Merrick tested Hill with a long shot, which the keeper cleared, while at the other end Lines cleared from Henworth. Reader tricked Nicholas and passed out to Dolphin, who had a clear opening, but he shot wide from close in.

Merrick put in an excellent centre, and shots resulted from Morrell, Humphries and Reader, which were all charged down before the ball broke to Field, who centred, but Hill kicked away from Tompkins. A bombardment was halted when Crutchley was winded in stopping a terrific shot from Dolphin. Merrick put in a good shot and Reader forced Hill to take the ball over the line for a corner, which was well placed by Dolphin and Tompkins rushed in and headed into the net to make the score 2-1. Bloxwich attacked and Henworth shot over while at the other end Crutchley cleared. Reader sent Dolphin away, but Crutchley put the ball out before Humphries passed to Morrell and Hill was forced to concede a corner in saving the shot. Davies shot wide for the visitors and at the interval Nuneaton were 2-1 up.

Merrick and Dolphin combined well with Hill eventually cleared after fumbling Dolphin's shot. Hill saved well from Mitchell while at the other end Lines cleared and then saved a shot from Henworth. Reader and Dolphin missed Tompkins' cross as it shot across the goalmouth, but moments later Reader won possession and beat Hill with a long shot to make the score 3-1 to Town. Morrell put a powerful shot into the keeper's hands, which Hill cleared and then cleared again from Dolphin's centre. Morrell hit the upright, while Humphries hit the keeper, who knew nothing about it and conceded a corner which was cleared. Reader hit the bar and headed the rebound over the top and just later Dolphin raced away and shot. Hill pushed the ball out to Reader, who shot a foot wide of an empty net. Town were constantly on the attack and Tompkins raced away and centred to Morrell, whose shot was deflected over for a fruitless corner.

Morrell passed out to Dolphin, who shot into the goalmouth where Hill pushed the ball out to Gumbley, who tricked his way into the area and passed to Morrell, and the ball was returned back to Gumbley, who put in a great cross-shot which left Hill helpless as it shot into the net, making the score 4-1. Ingram got forward for the visitors and Field headed away, but Ingram got in a shot which flew over.

Bloxwich had a good spell and Lines made a great save, when surrounded by opponents. Morrell got away and tested Hill before Bloxwich won a corner, which Mitchell cleared. Reader ran through, but was charged over and the next minute Hill saved four or five shots in succession, with Nicholas eventually clearing the danger. Mitchell shot wide and Tompkins won a corner which was followed by a shot from Gumbley, that won another. Town got close again and Tompkins and Morrell both got in centres that were cleared. Town were still in the visitors' half when the whistle sounded for full time with Nuneaton running out 4-1 winners.

## Atherstone Town v Nuneaton Town 30-01-1915

**Atherstone:** A. Nicholls; C. Nicholls and T. Hargrave; F. Hargrave, Evans and Jones; A. Gumbley, Payne, Day, Hunt and Chamberlain.

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Field and Barratt; Bartlett, Mitchell and J. Gumbley; Dolphin, Merrick, Reader, Morrell and Tompkins..

Nuneaton travelled to Sheepy Road to face second in the table Atherstone Town. "Adders" were unbeaten at home, while Nuneaton's games in hand, if won, would see them go to the top of the table. There were 3-4,000 people on the ground when the referee's whistle summoned the captains for the toss, which Tom Hargrave won and elected to play with the strong sun behind them.

Arthur Gumbley took the ball forward for Atherstone and centred for Fred Hargrave, whose shot was fell on by Lines. Day, Payne and Hunt rushed in and a hot tussle ensued, with all players being on the ground together, but Lines retained and eventually a free-kick was awarded against Atherstone. Tom Hargrave returned the ball as Atherstone attacked again, but Field cleared. Chris Nicholls checked Reader, but Field put the ball back in and A. Nicholls cleared. Bartlett centred and Chris Nicholls again cleared. Hunt worked his way forward and passed to Chamberlain, but Bartlett got in the way and Mitchell eventually got the ball up to Morrell, who shot yards wide. Payne passed out to Chamberlain who put the ball across the goal and out for a goal-kick.

Dolphin got away but Tom Hargrave checked him and put "Adders" back on the offensive and Fred Hargrave put in a centre for Hunt, who headed over. Morrell passed to Reader who in turn passed to Merrick, and he ran all the way through, but shot wide. Bartlett earned applause for stopping an Atherstone attack down the left, and Morrell got away, but fouled Chris Nicholls. Tompkins centred to Mitchell, whose shot was charged down and Atherstone broke forward, but Field cleared after which Morrell, Reader and Dolphin combined well and Merrick put a good shot across goal and out. Hunt and Chamberlain got forward, but the former shot wide before Reader broke down the centre, but Tom Hargrave fouled and the free-kick came to nothing. Hunt shot over following a pass from Payne and Chris Nicholls stopped a Nuneaton attack and Tompkins shot wide just after. Keeper A. Nicholls stopped and cleared a long shot from Mitchell,



while Gumbley and Morrell worked an opening for Tompkins who shot high and wide. Payne got through for “Adders” but Barratt cleared and Reader went through in style, but handled and from the free-kick Hunt also handled.

Jones stopped Dolphin and Tom Hargrave checked Merrick as he tried to break. Mitchell tried a long shot, which went wide before Fred Hargrave started an attack and Barratt miskicked, but the ball was forced out off Chamberlain. Dolphin found Morrell who passed to Tompkins and he returned to Morrell, who put in a great shot that was saved by A. Nicholls at the expense of a corner. Tompkins placed the kick well and Bartlett shot, but A. Nicholls caught and cleared. A sortie by Day and Paynes saw Lines run out and kicked away, but Atherstone came back and Evans put in a great shot that Lines punched away and Day shot wide.

Arthur Gumbley received the ball from a free-kick and kicked upfield, where Field miskicked, but Lines ran out and took the ball off Day's toe. Jones stopped Dolphin at the expense of a corner from which Bartlett shot strongly, but Evans charged down and centred from Tompkins and Dolphin were cleared. Fine inter-passing on the left by Jack Gumbley, Tompkins and Morrell resulted in a centre from Jack Gumbley which was straight in front of goal and Mitchell had the easy task of heading into the goal, giving Nuneaton a 1-0 lead. Atherstone came back strongly and Field did well to clear, but Hunt returned and put in a great high shot that Lines hooked out from under the bar.

Atherstone continued to press and the ball was centred, where Barratt and Field seemed all at sea, as to which one of them should clear and Day ran in and beat Lines with a rasping shot from way out to make the score 1-1 within two minutes of Nuneaton scoring. More Atherstone pressure saw Payne shoot yards over before Jack Gumbley put the visitors on the attack and Morrell headed wide from Tompkins' centre while at the other end Lines ran out to clear from Day before a free-kick to Nuneaton gave Merrick a good chance, but he shot across and out. Jack Gumbley passed well to Tompkins and he shot from close in with A. Nicholls saving finely at the expense of a corner. Arthur Gumbley got down the right and centred and shots by Hunt and Chamberlain were charged down before Barratt cleared. Chris Nicholls stopped Tompkins and Gumbley in style, while A. Nicholls cleared a long shot and the half-time whistle arrived with the scores being tied at 1-1.

A. Nicholls had to clear a long shot straight after the break and Dolphin got the ball into the centre where Merrick was presented with a good chance, but shot across so hard that Tompkins could not prevent the ball from going out of play. Day won the ball in midfield and got Arthur Gumbley away, who shot into Lines' hands. Dolphin was caught offside and Chris Nicholls stopped Tompkins and the next moment miskicked the ball to Reader whose pass found Merrick, who had an open goal, but he hesitated and Jones charged down

his shot and A. Nicholls saved finely from a cluster of players in the goalmouth.

Barratt checked Payne and Day, while Merrick sent Dolphin away who centred, but there was too much pace on the ball and Tompkins couldn't collect in front of an open goal. Chris Nicholls badly fouled Morrell and Jack Gumbley put in a good shot from the free-kick. Field and Barratt halted an Atherstone attack before Jack Gumbley passed to Tompkins, who was offside. Chamberlain forced a corner off Field, but it was badly placed and Tom Hargrave got Atherstone away again and Field miskicked and Bartlett cleared. Mitchell and Field combined to stop Day and Dolphin got away following Mitchell's pass and Reader forced Nicholls to concede a corner, which resulted in Dolphin getting offside.

Hunt worked his way downfield, but Field cleared with an overhead kick and Barratt stopped Payne after a good run. Jack Gumbley got the ball up to Reader, who had a good chance, but he fell and A. Nicholls cleared. Jack Gumbley was brought down as he tried to get through, while at the other end Arthur Gumbley centred and a melee followed in the Town box, with Line making a good save from Day. Barratt then cleared from Chamberlain's return and just later Tompkins ran down the other end and centred, but the ball was cleared upfield where Day was caught offside. Tompkins got in close again, but A. Nicholls kicked away and Payne went through, only to be pulled up by Barratt. Atherstone pressed for a time without getting close and eventually Nuneaton got away again and Merrick got through, hotly pursued by Tom Hargrave and a corner resulted. Dolphin passed on to Bartlett, who in turn found Merrick who placed a surprise cross shot into the corner of the net to give Nuneaton a 2-1 lead.

Nuneaton conceded a free-kick from the kick-off, but Barratt cleared and Jack Gumbley created a chance for Reader, but Chris Nicholls badly fouled him when he had a clear run on goal. Dolphin put in a terrific shot from the free-kick with A. Nicholls saving on his knees, with the ball eventually being put over. Nicholls handled another long shot well and just after Tompkins got down the wing and crossed to Merrick who put a tame shot wide of the post. Hunt was stopped by Barratt when Atherstone got down the line before Payne and Arthur Gumbley got down the line and the latter crossed for Hunt to head wide. Jack Gumbley cleared from his brother, but Dolphin was offside from his pass. Tom Hargrave conceded a fruitless corner in clearing from Reader, while at the other end Barratt cleared following an Atherstone free-kick.

Jack Gumbley shot wide before Payne had a run following a free-kick, but the ball went out, while another Nuneaton attack saw Bartlett force a corner off Jones. Dolphin placed the flag-kick well and Mitchell shot wide. Payne again tried to get forward, but Barratt was too good for him, and Barratt's clearance got up to Reader who put the ball out to Tompkins, whose centre was kicked away by Jones, saving a certain goal. Bartlett stopped Hunt and Chamberlain while



Dolphin got away into a clear field, but A. Nicholls diverted his shot and Evans put the ball out for a corner. Reader and Dolphin again attacked, but Reader fouled keeper A. Nicholls and conceded a free-kick. Field kicked clear when pressed by Hunt, and shortly after the final whistle sounded with Nuneaton winning 2-1.

## Nuneaton Town v Cradley Heath St. Luke's 06-02-1915

**Nuneaton: Lines; Field and Barratt; Bartlett, Mitchell and J. Gumbley; Dolphin, Merrick, Reader, Morrell and Tompkins.**

**Cradley: Tatton; Evans and Green; Trowmans, Parkes and Hackett; Smith, Borley, Robbins, Kendrick and Gardner.**

There was a great deal of interest in the visit of Cradley Heath St Luke's with both the home side and visitors challenging for the championship along with league leaders Redditch. Unfortunately the weather was wretched and rain fell relentlessly around kick-off time. There was a poor crowd for the kick-off, but the attendance grew throughout the match and was eventually well above average.

Field lost the toss and Town defended the Bond End. Morrell got Tompkins away from the kick-off and a corner was won, which was well placed, but Merrick put in a tame shot and Hackett cleared. Barratt conceded a fruitless corner at the other end. Merrick and Reader combined to get Dolphin away and when his centre was cleared, the ball fell to Mitchell, who put wide with a long shot. Lines saved from a Robbins' free-kick and a moment later had to save again and Parkes sent a long shot wide. Merrick got Reader through, but Evans cleared and Green kicked away when Bartlett put the ball forward. Tatton saved a long shot from Reader before Town got close again and Mitchell had a shot charged down, and Evans cleared from a Tompkins corner.

Good play from Gumbley took Town close again and Tatton had to save from Morrell, while Field gained possession in midfield and put in a long shot which went behind. Bartlett picked the ball up from a goal-kick and passed to Merrick who centred really well and the ball went to Morrell, who had the simple task of placing the ball in the net, with Tatton on the ground, to give Town a 1-0 lead. Morrell then got the ball out to Dolphin who forced a corner, which Mitchell headed over. Barratt cleared well when Cradley attacked and Gumbley put in a good centre that Merrick headed over.

Merrick passed to Reader who went through alone and shot, with Tatton saving in style with the rebound just going out of Reader's reach. Tompkins shot weakly before Cradley got forward and forced a corner which Lines cleared, while Reader got through, but his long pass to Dolphin was cleared by Tatton. Field beat Gardner and cleared again a moment later. Green made a lucky clearance from Merrick and Reader, and Robbins got the ball up to Boxley who forced a corner off Gumbley, which Merrick got away.

Merrick got the ball out to Dolphin, who put in a great centre,

but Tompkins headed high over the top. Barratt cleared to Morrell, who put in a good centre, and although Tatton caught the ball, he fell and released it, but no-one could take advantage. Field cleared a Cradley attack after Bartlett had checked Gardner. Tatton cleared twice from long shots and just after Mitchell and Morrell combined to give Merrick an almost open goal, but he shot straight into Tatton's hands and the keeper kicked clear. Field and Barratt cleared in turn while Tompkins got away into an almost clear field, but centred behind.

Robbins worked his way through but Field dispossessed him before Morrell, Reader and Merrick combined well and Tatton scraped away Merrick's shot with Evans nearly putting through his own goal, recovered and kicked clear. Gardner got away but Barratt stopped him and Trowmans conceded a free-kick from which Merrick shot just over. Gumbley passed back to Lines, who cleared, and then fell on Boxley's shot and eventually throwing away. Field kicked off the line before having to clear again just after from a ruck of players near goal. Cradley's goal then underwent a remarkable escape as several shots were charged down, and eventually Tompkins put behind. Morrell won the ball and gave Dolphin a good opening, but he centred instead of shooting and the ball went out. Bartlett then found Dolphin, who centred to Morrell, who passed to Merrick, but he lost the ball when working for position. Gardner got away following Kendrick's pass, but Field overtook him and cleared as the half-time whistle sounded with Nuneaton leading 1-0.

Immediately after the break, Dolphin got away and won a corner. He placed well and Morrell headed against the crossbar, but the ball went to Merrick who put the ball in the net, with the ball travelling like a shot from a gun to make the score 2-0. Cradley got away and Parkes put wide, and Barratt slipped and Field conceded a corner. Line put the ball over from the corner and Gardner put the second one wide. Gumbley put the ball through and Evans missed it, allowing Tompkins to race away and centre, but Green kicked away as far as Dolphin, who put the ball back in to Reader, who forced Tatton to save, but Tompkins rushed in and scored to make the score 3-0 to Nuneaton.

Gardner put in a good centre which Lines punched away and Reader put the ball out to Merrick, but he was offside. Barratt cleared from Boxley, while later Barratt missed the ball and Field kicked away. Morrell received a pass from Mitchell, but shot wide and again getting down the left, Morrell received from a throw-in and hit the side netting. Reader then tested Tatton twice with hard shots and from the second the Cradley goal underwent a miraculous escape with Green clearing off the line and Morrell heading wide from the corner. At the other end Barratt completely missed the ball and Smith raced away and centred to Robbins, who beat Lines with a good shot into the corner of the net to make the score 3-1.

Evans fought off a Nuneaton attack before Smith forced a



corner and Bartlett hooked over his own bar from Gardner's shot. Morrell hit the post at the other end with Tatton well beaten and from the rebound the ball went to Tompkins and he made no mistake to give Town a 4-1 lead. Boxley shot into Lines' hands with the goal at his mercy, while Morrell passed to Dolphin, who passed to Merrick, but he was offside. Morrell then raced through but shot too early and Tatton conceded a fruitless corner. Cradley mounted a couple of attacks with Kendrick and Boxley shooting wide in quick succession.

Morrell and Reader worked through and Morrell put in a good shot, which Tatton pushing the ball behind, but the referee awarding a goal-kick. Town were all over Cradley and Morrell was unlucky as Tatton kicked away in the nick of time when Morrell had an open goal. However, Bartlett, Dolphin and Merrick passed and re-passed before Dolphin centred for Morrell to hook the ball into the net to make it 5-1 to Town. Dolphin then forced a corner and Merrick hit the post from the flag-kick and Green stopped Dolphin when close in. Another corner followed and the ball went back to Gumbley, who placed over to Dolphin who flashed a fine shot into the corner of the net to make it 6-1. Lines saved a great shot from Boxley at the expense of a corner which was cleared. Town got away again, but Evans checked the attack and Field intervened when Cradley got forward. The final minutes were fought out in midfield and at the whistle Nuneaton had won 6-1.

## Nuneaton Town v Birmingham City 08-02-1915

**Nuneaton Town:** Lines; Field and Barratt; Merrick, Mitchell and Gumbley; Dolphin, Humphries, Reader, Morrell and Tompkins.

**Birmingham:** Hauser; Gardner and Stanton; Bumphrey, McClure and Edwards; Ballantyne, W. Smith, Hall, Walker and Reed.

Nuneaton had broken new ground, being the first Combination club to ever reach the semi-finals of the Birmingham Senior Cup, which included the cream of the District League. Their opponents Birmingham City Reserves were a quality outfit and had scored a prolific amount of goals in their games so far, and everyone predicted a heavy defeat for Town, with Birmingham's team including nine players who regularly turned out for the first team.

There was a poor attendance of about 300 for the Monday afternoon game, but the number grew throughout and it was about 1,000 by half-time. There was a fine muster of soldiers present and the "Khaki Ring" was very much in evidence. The ground was in a sodden condition with lying water in some places. The early action saw Mitchell dispossess Smith and pass out to Morrell, who passed on to Dolphin and he fired in a great shot which Hauser saved at the expense of a corner. Morrell secured possession from the corner and shot powerfully into Hauser's hands, with the goalkeeper clearing well. Gardner cleared from a Nuneaton free-kick and Birmingham got down the other end and Merrick got the ball away to Reader who was offside.

Merrick prevented a corner and sent upfield to Reader, whose

pass found Morrell, and he fed Dolphin who won a corner off Stanton. The corner was cleared and Reed got away and centred to Hall, who shot wide. Stanton cleared from Dolphin, while Gumbley got down the right and passed to Tompkins, but the ball went out. Lines had to save a long shot before making a great save from Walker's effort. Dolphin put the ball well forward and Hauser came well out and floundered in a pool of water, but he got the ball away. Hall then passed out to Ballantyne, but Barratt beat him. Mitchell put a good pass upfield, but Hauser again cleared. Good play by Birmingham took them close to the goal, and Hall hit the post with smashing shot. Good play by Merrick enabled Tompkins to centre twice, but Humphries stood offside with an open goal. Barratt checked Ballantyne again before Mitchell headed upfield and Reader made a good chance for Dolphin, but Hauser ran out and baulked him.

Town exhibited some good play and Hauser was lucky in diverting Morrell's shot for a corner. Bumphrey put in a good centre that Field cleared and Ballantyne got clean through and centred well, giving Reed a good chance, but Mitchell came to the rescue, conceding a corner. Hauser then saved well from Dolphin and Morrell missed an almost open goal by shooting over. Reed forced Field to concede a corner, from which Lines pulled off a good save and Morrell cleared a second corner. Lines then had to save from Walker and Hall before Edwards shot woefully wide. Dolphin's shot caused Hauser to concede a corner before Walker and Reed raced down the line for the visitors and forced Gumbley to clear over his own bar. A minute later Walker hit the inside of the upright with a fine shot and Smith put wide of an open goal from three yards out.

Tompkins received and put in a good centre, but Hauser cleared and then cleared again from a long shot, but Town's forwards were lacking in letting him clear whilst on the floor. Bumphrey hit the side netting with a long shot before Field blocked a shot by Hall and Gumbley worked the ball upfield, but Hauser ran out to clear. Town's goal then underwent a siege and Lines made a great save while Reed put in a shot which hit a bunch of legs and Lines kicked away. McClure tried a long shot that Field charged down and the former was taken off injured. Reed centred into the side netting and Dolphin got away, but was given offside. McClure returned and Mitchell got away another centre from Reed. Lines stopped a long shot, and from a pass by Humphries, Dolphin raced up, but Hauser just came out and beat him. Reader failed to gather Tompkins' centre and a fine run was made by Walker, but Barratt checked him and Gumbley got the ball away and when the whistle sounded for half-time, there was no score.

The first attack of note in the second period saw McClure put a feeble effort wide from Reed's centre. Bumphrey got the ball clear following a Dolphin centre from a free-kick and moments later Mitchell found Dolphin, who centred for Morrell to shoot wide from close in. McClure left the field again, leaving Birmingham with ten men, and Humphries passed to Dolphin,

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but Morrell was unable to control his centre when just two yards out. Field halted Reed and placed a long shot behind before Dolphin again put in a fine centre and Gardner took the ball off Morrell's head in front of goal. Reed got clear, but was held up by the mud and Field booted into touch.

Hall missed an open goal from Ballantyne's centre, while Tompkins got away, but Hauser ran out to clear and at the other end Ballantyne got in another good centre, and Hall ran in to beat Lines to give Birmingham a 1-0 lead. Barratt ran over and stopped Reed before Reader put the ball into the goalmouth and Morrell kicked the ball out of Hauser's hands, but it went wide of an open goal. Field ran through, but Humphries took the ball off his own man's toe and shot yards wide. Humphries put a fine ball out to Dolphin, who ran on and centred for Morrell to put wide. From a free-kick Dolphin tricked Stanton and passed to Humphries, who shot hard for goal and beat Hauser and Morrell ran in to put the ball in the net to level the scores at 1-1.

Stanton cleared after Dolphin's run, while Field beat the left wing and Barratt cleared from Smith before Ballantyne's centre was cleared by Field. Bumphrey passed well to Hall, who raced through, but Lines caught his shot and cleared by throwing away. Morrell worked his way downfield and centred, and when the ball came back to him he put the ball over to Dolphin, whose shot was cleared off the line by Gardner. Merrick worked his way through and centred, but Tompkins' shot was charged down a couple of yards from goal and a melee followed the corner, but Stanton cleared. Lines fumbled a shot from Reed, but managed to throw away and Humphries and Dolphin worked well and fed Dolphin who ran through and shot clean across goal, too fast for Morrell to head in. A free kick was got away by Mitchell and Morrell and Tompkins got away and centred, with Edwards conceding a corner that was well-placed to Gumbley who shot a yard wide.

After a run by Reed, Humphries passed on to Dolphin who ran in and shot, and Hauser dropped the ball behind him. The full-time whistle blew just after with the game being drawn 1-1.

## Nuneaton Town v Birmingham City 13-02-1915

**Birmingham:** Hauser; Gardner and Jones; Edwards, Hall and Bumphrey; Ballantyne, W. Smith, Walker, Reed and Eyre.

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Field and Barratt; Bartlett, Mitchell and Butler; Dolphin, Merrick, Reader, Morrell and Gumbley.

Conditions for the match were miserable with rain falling for the entire game and the ground was slippery and little better than a quagmire in places. There were several changes to both teams from the first game. By way of a compliment to Nuneaton there was a crowd of about 3,000.

The early action saw Morrell and Merrick provide a chance for Reader, who shot wide before Eyres forced a corner and from the kick Lines pulled off a brilliant save, while at the other end Hauser ran out and cleared. A great run by Eyre,

who tricked Bartlett and centred ended with Lines punching away, but after more pressure a corner was forced and Ballantyne placed beautifully and Walker headed into the net to make the score 1-0 with just six minutes gone. Merrick was robbed when close in and another corner to Birmingham was cleared before the home side attacked again and Field badly miskicked in front of goal and Reed had little difficulty in scoring a second goal to put Birmingham 2-0 up.

Nuneaton improved and won a corner which Dolphin placed well and Bartlett tested Hauser with a terrific shot. Birmingham won a couple of corners and W. Smith forced yet another corner before Lines saved from the scrimmage that followed. Dolphin put in some good work on the wing and he found Reader who had a chance, but was dispossessed, while Morrell put in a great effort. Birmingham were playing some great football and from Ballantyne's centre Eyre scored a third goal, with Nuneaton defenders being handicapped by the state of the ground. Gumbley and Butler swapped positions, while Merrick and Morrell forced a corner which was easily cleared and Eyre made a run half the length of the pitch before being hustled off the ball. W. Smith put the ball over the bar before Reader passed to Dolphin, who ran in and tested Hauser.

The Nuneaton goal had a narrow escape moments later, the ball being rushed through while Lines was out of his goal. Morrell then had an open goal from Merrick's pass, but didn't trap the ball and Reader also missed a good chance. The crowd roared at the frequent duels between Bartlett and Eyre, and from one of these, Bartlett gave away a foul that W. Smith put over the bar. The half-time whistle saw Birmingham with a comfortable 3-0 lead.

Reed shot over from a free-kick 20 yards out before Nuneaton had the chance of a lifetime when Hauser ran out to meet Dolphin and the ball was put across an empty goal and no-one was able to pick up the ball. Lines made a great save from a powerful shot, while Nuneaton continued to press and Hauser ran out and cleared. Barratt gave Birmingham a corner, which was put wide, but the home side were having to work hard to prevent Nuneaton scoring. Morrell was fouled, but Mitchell put wide before Barratt won applause for a great tackle. Mitchell put wide from distance and Ballantyne put in a brilliant first time shot from close in, but Lines tipped over the bar. Birmingham got back on top, but Dolphin hit the side netting from Dolphin's pass and Lines made a save before W. Smith shot wide. Lines kicked away from Walker and Reader had a good chance, following good work by Merrick, but missed.

Lines saved a rasping shot from Hall before Merrick tricked several men and centred across the goal-mouth where Morrell dashed up and shot past Hauser to make the score 3-1. At the other end W. Smith shot wildly over the bar and Nuneaton showed their worth in defence as Birmingham's attacks were dealt with comfortably. The game ended with play being pretty even, but at the final whistle the home side had progressed to the final by 3-1.





## Nuneaton Town v Cannock Town 20-02-1915

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Field and Barratt; Bartlett, Mitchell and Gumbley; Dolphin, Merrick, Brodrick, Morrell and Tompkins.

**Cannock:** Rostance, Brentsall and Linnell; Crowe, Hadley and Ridgway, Richardson, Fowler, Richards, Wilkinson and Treadwell.

Nuneaton Town entertained Cannock in the Combination and it was a great day for football with a better than average crowd including many khaki-clad warriors. Harry Field lost the toss and Nuneaton were set to defend the Bond End, facing the sun. Nuneaton started strongly and Merrick's pass to Dolphin enabled the winger to centre and Morrell tried to head into goal, but would have done better to allow the ball to run to Tompkins.

Merrick broke through and put his shot shockingly wide, in front of an open goal, and then repeated the exercise a bit later. Play transferred to the other end where Lines had to deal with several shots, with Richardson going close. Broderick made a thrilling run and shot hard at Rostance, who saved well. Barratt pushed back a Cannock break and the ball went out to Dolphin, who tricked Linnell and swung in a cross, that Morrell missed, but Tompkins rushed in and flashed the ball into the net to put Nuneaton 1-0 up. Five minutes later, Nuneaton doubled their lead, with the same combination, Tompkins again shooting home from Dolphin's cross.

Tompkins ran almost the length of the pitch and evaded all opposition before centring for Merrick to shoot. Rostance partially saved, but could not clear, and Merrick netted to make the score 3-0. Mitchell slipped when well placed and Morrell gathered the ball, put shot wide of the post just before the half-time whistle sounded with the score standing at 3-0 to Nuneaton.

Nuneaton pressed at the start of the second half and Merrick went close before Dolphin dropped in an accurate centre, but Rostance ran out to clear. Gumbley put a shot yards past the post following good work by Tompkins and Morrell, while Mitchell tried a long shot, which Rostance held with difficulty, and although he dropped the ball, no forward was close. Richardson won a corner, which Morrell kicked into touch, while at the other end Dolphin forced a corner, which he rolled across the crossbar and fell back into play. Lines had to save at full length, while Rostance drew hearty applause for making successive saves from Field, Broderick, Gumbley and Tompkins. Nuneaton's pressure was rewarded, though, when Bartlett scored with a great shot to make the score 4-0.

Morrell missed badly following Tompkins pass, and Merrick netted just after, but it was disallowed. Rostance pushed a brilliant shot from Tompkins round the post for a fruitless corner. Another corner was accurately placed by Dolphin and Morrell looked sure to score, but Rostance cleared after the ball had struck the inside of the post. Several corners fell to Nuneaton, but Rostance could not be beaten, although Tompkins put in a fine shot that grazed the post. Morrell shot

straight at Rostance from a few yards out and then Gumbley did the same. Rostance had to leave the field just before the end and received a hearty round of applause for a magnificent performance. The game resolved itself into a constant attack on the Cannock goal, but no further scoring took place and the final whistle arrived with Nuneaton having won 4-0.

## Nuneaton Town v Tamworth Castle 27-02-1915

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Field and Barratt; Bartlett, Mitchell and Gumbley; Dolphin, Merrick, Reader, Morrell and Tompkins.

**Tamworth Castle:** Sprawson; Pearsall and Gibbs; Dale, Greenaway and Baidon; Atkins, Thompson, Ronde, Higgs and Everitt.

Town, who due to their success in cup matches, were getting way behind with their league fixtures, faced Tamworth Castle in the Atherstone Nursing Cup semi-final at The Newdegate. There was a large crowd of about 3,000. New centre-forward Broderick was ineligible and Reader came back in. Leslie Dale put in an appearance for Tamworth, being home on holiday from his job in Ireland.

As always, Field lost the toss, and Reader set the ball in motion. Merrick put in a great cross, but no-one was on the end of it and Castle broke away, but Higgs shot wide. Dolphin shot yards wide, and following some end-to-end play Tamworth got well forward and won a corner, which was well taken and fell to Higgs, who scored with a good shot to give the visitors an early 1-0 advantage. Nuneaton hit back and Dolphin shot into the side netting, and the home side followed this up with a bombardment of the Tamworth goal, but Tamworth defended well. Gibbs cleared from a Tompkins cross. At the other end, Atkins skimmed the bar and Lines saved from Higgs. Nuneaton began to press and Tamworth's goal had a narrow escape as Field ran int, but was just baulked at the final moment. Reader passed out to Tompkins, who bore his way in and centred for Mitchell to send in a great shot, which Sprawson saved. The ball went to Dolphin who centred for Morrell, who scored with ease to equalise the score at 1-1.

Tamworth responded and launched two strong assaults on Town's goal including a great shot from the touch-line by Everitt that Lines saved brilliantly. A fantastic individual effort from Tompkins saw him receive the ball just over the half-way line, and he bore his way into the area and shot, but Sprawson saved and threw away, but the ball was returned and following a scrimmage, the ball went out to Dolphin, who forced another save from Sprawson, which fell loose and Tompkins dashed in and shot into the net to put Town 2-1 ahead.

Tompkins shot wide from Dolphin's centre and Gumbley shot very wide before Morrell broke following a pass from Gumbley and passed to Reader, who was bowled over, with no foul given. Tamworth defended a Nuneaton corner, while Baidon shot wide at the other end and Dolphin hit the side netting. Merrick shot over the bar before another combined effort went close and Morrell and Tompkins won applause

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for some great passing, but Dale cleared. Lines saved from Thompson and Tompkins was careering down the wing as the whistle went for half-time with the score at 2-1 to Town.

Ronde re-started and Everitt got away, but Mitchell cleared before Merrick shot wide from an awkward angle. Everitt again got forward, but Field defended. Tompkins was in good form and gave Tamworth's defence plenty of problems. A shot by Reader went close to the corner flag, while Everitt broke away and tested Lines and Bartlett shot wide at the other end. Greenaway shot over from a corner and Reader missed a good chance, as did Morrell moments later. Merrick then fired in a great shot that Sprawson saved, but Morrell ran in and scored a great goal to make the score 3-1.

Lines made a great save from Atkins before a great pass by Tompkins to Morrell saw the winger centre to Merrick, who seemed to have a certain goal, but Sprawson made a magnificent clearance. Tamworth got up the other end and Lines had to make several saves, while Barratt fouled Atkins just outside the penalty area, which caused some problems, but Field eventually kicked away. Everitt's centre almost brought a goal, while Tompkins and Morrell got forward for Town, but Tamworth came back again and Everitt tricked Field, but Barratt kicked away. Tamworth resorted the one-back game and Nuneaton's forwards were repeatedly offside, but Town eventually overcame this and exerted some pressure.

A thrilling passage of play saw Merrick put a pass out to Dolphin, who bore in on goal and crashed in a terrific shot that Sprawson saved in great style. Reader wanted too much time from a chance following a corner as Nuneaton's attacks became persistent with the Tamworth goal coming under bombardment. Sprawson was continually tested with Dolphin being especially prominent, and it was from his cross that Morrell picked up the ball and scored the fourth goal to put Town 4-1 up. Tamworth's goal had a narrow escape straight from the kick-off, with Merrick shooting just wide. It was only a momentary escape though, as Merrick centred for Reader, who scored with a good effort to make the score 5-1.

Reader failed to convert a Dolphin cross, while Merrick shot wide from a corner and Morrell grazed the post with a good drive. Morrell again went close and the game was dominated by the home side, right up until the final whistle, and Town were through to the final.

## Nuneaton Town v Stafford Rangers 06-03-1915

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Field and Barratt; Bartlett, Mitchell and Gumbley; Dolphin, Merrick, Broderick, Morrell and Tompkins.

**Stafford Rangers:** Parker; Duckers and Lycett; Riley, Chatman and Cartwright; Chattoe, Johnson, Godson, Medding and Blunt.

Stafford Rangers visited The Newdegate being one place above Nuneaton in the league table, and a win for either side would make them strong contenders for the league title. Town made one change with Broderick coming in for Reader

and Stafford were at full strength. Field lost the toss again and Stafford had the advantage of a strong wind which was blowing down the ground.

Town got forward from the kick-off and Duckers forced the ball out off Tompkins before Blunt and Medding got away for Stafford, with Chapman shooting wide from the centre. Some time later Tompkins got away and centred for Broderick, who headed yards wide. Morrell got Tompkins away and the winger crossed for Merrick to shoot wide. Lines saved from Chattoe and Field completed the clearance before Duckers kicked away a centre from Dolphin. Parker cleared well from Morrell and Duckers stopped a Nuneaton attack before fine work by Mitchell got Tompkins away, who centred for Dolphin to score with a left-foot shot, putting Town 1-0 ahead.

Morrell passed to Broderick, who put a good effort a foot wide, before Stafford attacked and Godson shot yards wide. Parker picked up and cleared from Morrell's shot and later Parker saved a good shot by Dolphin, pushing the effort around the post for a corner, which was cleared. Blunt got away down the left and a misunderstanding in the Town defence ended with Blunt scoring an easy goal to make the score 1-1. Town got back on the offensive and Morrell put in a good shot that Parker saved, while Chattoe shot wide at the other end and just after Stafford got away again with the ball reaching Godson, whose shot was saved by Lines, but Godson regained possession and beat Lines with his second shot to put Stafford 2-1 ahead.

Morrell got the ball up to Merrick who passed on to Dolphin and he tested Parker with a good shot. Merrick forced Duckers to concede a corner, which was cleared, before Lines had to run out to save from Johnson and Mitchell cleared. Broderick had a shot at an open goal, but Duckers kicked away. Cartwright took the ball off Merrick in front of goal, and Town maintained the pressure with Tompkins dropping in a good centre, which Merrick secured and went round Lycett, leaving Parker helpless with a good cross-shot to equalise the scores at 2-2. Lines ran out to clear from Godson and Bartlett kicked away from near goal. Broderick got the ball well forward to Morrell, who looked like going through, but was bowled over and Lycett cleared. At half-time the score was 2-2.

At the start of the second half Mitchell shot wide from Gumbley's cross and Dolphin got away and centred, but the ball was cleared back to Mitchell, who sent Dolphin away to shoot over the bar. Parker cleared a good shot from Gumbley and Bartlett kicked over following a pass from Merrick. Stafford attacked and Bartlett broke up the play and Barratt completed the clearance, while at the other end Parker saved from Morrell. Broderick shot wide from distance and a centre by Dolphin was cleared by Duckers to Merrick, who shot just wide. Tompkins then worked his way upfield and centred to Merrick, who easily beat Parker, giving Town a 3-2 lead. Dolphin shot just wide before Field cleared when Stafford burst through and Tompkins ran clear and centred to Merrick



who put in a powerful shot that Parker couldn't hold and Bartlett rushed in and put the ball in the net, making the score 4-2 to Town.

Gumbley robbed Chattoe and put in a good drive, which went just over the bar, while moment later Dolphin put in a pass to Merrick, who beat Parker with a great shot to extend Nuneaton's lead to 5-2. Morrell went through single handed, but just let the ball get too far away from him and Parker cleared. The same player shot wide on two occasions. Tompkins hooked the ball goalwards from Dolphin's centre, but Duckers cleared from under the bar. Dolphin crossed for Tompkins to head over, while Barratt tested Parker and Tompkin forced a corner, from which there were loud penalty appeals, that fell on deaf ears.

Merrick headed into Parker's hands from Tompkins' centre and Mitchell shot a yard wide with a good shot. Field and Barratt cleared the ball every time Stafford crossed half-way and Dolphin ran down and centred, but Lycett found touch with a huge clearance. Dolphin went off injured but Mitchell got in a centre from the right, which Broderick secured and beat Parker with a fine shot, putting Nuneaton 6-2 ahead. Parker had to clear from his own player, Cartwright, and a melee ensued and with Parker out of his goal Tompkins and Gumbley had shots charged down.

Bartlett twice cleared from in the goalmouth before Mitchell put in a good long shot, which Parker got clear with difficulty. Field tidied up when Barratt misjudged a centre, while Tompkins made another run, but the ball wouldn't go in, and when Dolphin had a shot charged down the final whistle sounded and Nuneaton were 6-2 winners.

## Hinckley United v Nuneaton Town 13-03-1915

**Hinckley United:** Perkins; King and Foster; Osborne, Warburton and Moore; Stringer, Morley, Stanton, Mounteney and Sheldon.

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Field and Barratt; Bartlett, Mitchell and Gumbley; Dolphin, Merrick, Broderick, Morrell and Tompkins.

Nuneaton visited the Holywell ground to face Hinckley United, who were a point ahead of Town in the table, but had played seven games more, but Nuneaton would be looking for at least a draw to keep leaders Redditch in their sights. Harry Field won the toss for a change and chose to play against the wind, with Hinckley defending the Workhouse end. The crowd was announced as a record for the ground.

The first action saw Moore concede a free-kick and Mitchell passed to Broderick, who fired into Perkins' hands. Merrick shot wide from Tompkins' centre, while Barratt cleared from Mounteney and King checked an attempt by Merrick, after which Mitchell passed to Tompkins, who raced away and centred to Merrick, who volleyed wide, missing a glorious opening. Morley headed into Lines' hands following a free-kick, while moments later Mounteney put in a long shot that bounced up and hit Lines on the shoulder, but Gumbley cleared. King halted Morrell and Stringer got away and centred

to Mounteney who passed on to Sheldon, whose shot was punched away by Lines and Barratt completed the clearance.

Bartlett tried to rush the ball into the net following a free-kick, but Perkins managed to get clear. At the other end Lines was forced to run out to clear from Stringer before Gumbley cleared a Hinckley corner and Broderick ran through alone, but Perkins kicked the ball off his toe a few yards from goal. Morrell shot over from a corner and Barratt stopped Sheldon, while Moore did likewise to Dolphin. Lines cleared easily from Stanton before Town won two free-kicks, one of which saw Merrick pass to Morrell, but Perkins again came out and took the ball off his toe. Foster kicked away when Town broke through, while Barratt cleared Stringer's centre.

Stanton got through on his own, but Lines blocked his shot and the ball was cleared, but moments later Stringer worked the ball out to Sheldon, who stood unmarked and gave Hinckley a 1-0 lead with a good shot into the corner of the net. Lines kicked away from Stanton, while Merrick found Dolphin who ran clear, but centred instead of shooting, with Perkins conceding a fruitless corner. Tompkins and Morrell combined well and Perkins made a fluky clearance. Morrell shot a foot wide from a Broderick pass while just after Tompkins went away and centred, but Perkins cleared and at half-time the score was 1-0 to Hinckley.

Broderick restarted and Town won an unproductive corner, before Lines cleared from Warburton and Tompkins passed to Morrell, who passed to Merrick, but he was offside. Mitchell sent Tompkins away again, but his centre went straight into Perkins' hands. Stanton and Morley broke, but Field beat them both, and although Town kept play in the Hinckley half they could not get near goal. Sheldon got away, but was easily beaten by Field, while Tompkins and Morrell combined, with the former crossing to Gumbley who wanted too much time. A moment later Morrell put in a terrific drive which Perkins put over, but hurt his arm in the process. The corner was well placed and Field put in a terrific shot that Foster charged down, but Broderick picked up the ball and shot into the net to make the scores level at 1-1, the equalising goal being greatly cheered.

Morrell and Broderick went through, but the latter shot weakly and Perkins saved, while Gumbley cleared from Sheldon and some pressure was put on the Hinckley goal, but offside relieved. Good passing by Tompkins, Morrell and Gumbley ended with Merrick shooting wide. Sheldon shot into Lines' hands, while King pulled Broderick up and then gave a corner in clearing Dolphin's centre. Perkins had to run out and clear from Merrick and then Tompkins ran through and put in a shot which beat Perkins, but Foster kicked off the line. Lines saved well from Morley, while Moore shot yards wide. Field passed to Morrell, who broke clean through, but Foster rescued the situation at the expense of a corner, from which Tompkins forced another, but this was cleared.

Gumbley won cheers for a great clearance, but midfield play



was in evidence for some time, until Tompkins got clear and centred behind, and moments later put a rasping drive just over the bar. Lines ran out to clear from Stanton and Barratt beat Mounteney in the penalty area and Lines again saved when Stanton and Morley ran through. A moment later Lines made a miraculous save from Mounteney, flinging himself across and saving a certain goal. Dolphin was caught offside before the final whistle sounded and the match ended 1-1.

## Nuneaton Town v Birmingham Trams 20-03-1915

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Field and Ingram; Bartlett, Mitchell and Gumbley; Dolphin, Merrick, Broderick, Morrell and Tompkins.

**Birmingham Trams:** Tustin; Edwards and Pritchard; McCourtney, Handley and Rathbone; Regan, Pountney, Peplow, Lea and Bowen.

Trams came to the Newdegate only two points worse off than the visitors, but having played a game more. The crowd reflected the importance of the game, although there were hardly any soldiers present. Ingram of Hinckley United took the place of the injured Barratt.

Town were facing the wind and the sun as Broderick kicked off, but Gumbley was immediately caught offside, while Lea attacked for Trams and gave Lines a difficult shot to deal with. Gumbley conceded a corner and Pountney headed into Lines' hands. Tompkins got away and centred to Broderick, but Edwards took the ball off his toe. Regan had a good run, but Bowen shot wide from a good position. Tustin ran out and kicked away when Broderick broke away, while Dolphin had a chance in front of an open goal, but the ball got away from him. Town's passing was erratic at this stage and play moved up to the home side's goal where Bowen shot over the bar. Peplow hit the side netting with a good shot before a tussle between Dolphin in Rathbone in the penalty area saw the latter fall on the ball, but penalty appeals went ignored.

Broderick ran through, but fell over the ball and Edwards cleared and Handley shot wide at the other end. Lea then ran through and tested Lines, who fell, but recovered and threw away, and then made another good save from Bowen. Tompkins ran through from Morrell's pass and got close in, where Edwards badly fouled him, but no foul was awarded. Dolphin crossed to Merrick, who had his shot charged down by Tustin, saving a certain goal. Gumbley shot wide from the corner and another good effort by Dolphin followed, Tustin saving his shot on his knees and luckily clearing the ball. Trams played some terrific football in midfield and good work by Lea and Peplow took them close, but Gumbley cleared. The same two players combined again shortly after and the latter shot wide. Bowen shot wide before Broderick beat Edwards and went through on an open goal, but Tustin came out and punched clear to Edwards who completed the clearance. Half-time arrived with there being no score.

Ingram kicked Bowen's centre away straight after half-time, but Peplow picked up the ball and shot yards over. Handley shot over when Regan forced a corner and Peplow got

through from Pountney's pass, but shot across goal and out. Merrick worked the ball well and passed to Dolphin, who raced away and centre and as Tustin came out to Merrick, Broderick put the ball into an empty net to give Town a 1-0 lead. Gumbley cleared from Peplow, saving an almost certain goal and Ingram kicked away from a good run by Lea. A Tompkins long shot forced Tustin into a fortunate save, and the visitors got away again, with Lines having to run out to clear Peplow's centre. Peplow got clear again, but Field fouled him and Lea shot very wide from the free-kick.

Field conceded a corner, which Bowen placed well and Handley hit the outside of the post with Lines on the other side of the goal. Tompkins forced a corner at the other end and Gumbley, Bartlett and Dolphin all had shots charged down before Merrick ballooned over. Lines saved from Rathbone and Pountney shot into the keeper's hands, who was called into action again, while Field also cleared. Dolphin ran down and passed to Merrick who put a good shot over the bar, while just after Broderick tested Tustin with a good shot. Bartlett centred finely on two occasions and Tustin saved with difficulty. Dolphin then centred and Tompkins shot into the net for a well-deserved goal.

Lines made a good save when Lea got through and Ingram conceded a corner which was cleared. Dolphin put in a great shot from the touchline which hit the side netting and repeated the performance straight after from Morrell's pass.

Bartlett tested Tustin with a long shot and Gumbley shot yards wide from a free-kick against McCourtney. Merrick shot across and out, while at the other end Lines handled two long shots. Morrell got Dolphin away, whose centre found Merrick, who shot wide of an open goal. The final whistle sounded straightaway and Nuneaton had won 2-0.

## Birmingham Trams v Nuneaton Town 27-03-1915

**Birmingham Trams:** Tustin; Edwards and Pritchard; McCourtney, Handley and Rathbone; Fieldson, Pountney, Peplow, Lea and Regan.

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Payne and Barratt; Bartlett, Mitchell and Gumbley; Dolphin, Merrick, Reader, Morrell and Tompkins.

It was thought that Nuneaton needed to avoid defeat on their visit to Birmingham Trams to stay in contention for the league title. There was one change to the Town side, with Reader coming back in and Trams were at full strength.

Nuneaton mounted the first attack, but Lea kicked downfield, and Mitchell intercepted but the ball went to Regan, who was dealt with by Payne. Edwards put a big kick up to Pountney, but Morrell nipped in and robbed him, only for Rathbone to get the ball out to Lea, who shot a lightning strike over the bar. Nuneaton forwards got into their stride and Dolphin received a long pass from Merrick, who wanted too much time and was robbed by Rathbone. Tompkins and Morrell got forward and Tustin conceded a fruitless corner, which was followed by another attempt that was intercepted by Regan and sent across to Fieldson, who shot from a good position,

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but Lines cleared. Trams pressed forward and Lea shot into the side netting, while the same player made another good effort, but Barratt dashed across and diverted the ball out for another fruitless corner.

Nuneaton's goal had two very narrow escapes, but the visitors were looking promising and Tompkins and Morrell broke away. Tustin cleared a very high shot from Tompkins before Dolphin went through and brought Tustin to his knees with a good shot. Rathbone fouled Dolphin on the edge of the area and Bartlett powered a kick into Tustin's hands. Nuneaton then made a combined effort with Reader, Merrick and Dolphin, but the latter's centre was cleared. Regan broke and set up Pountney, who put the ball into the net, but was offside. Dolphin and Merrick both shot in, and the ball coming out again to Dolphin, he put across to Tompkins, who was unmarked and scored an easy goal to give Town a 1-0 lead. Trams appealed strongly, but the goal was allowed. Nuneaton at this stage were far the better side and Tompkins and Dolphin caused the Trams defence much anxiety, while Peplow gave Lines some work to do, with a good shot. Just before the interval Merrick shot beautifully, before Dolphin sent in a magnificent shot that Tustin saved. The interval arrived with Town leading 1-0.

Tompkins centred twice straight after the interval, but both were cleared by the backs. Lea and Regan were dangerous for the home side and ten minutes after the restart Regan squared to Lea, who struck home the equaliser. A snowstorm came on and Trams' goal was put under strong pressure with Merrick and Morrell both putting in shots that went close. Merrick shot hard, as the snow continued to fall, and the ball ended up in the net, but the referee ruled that it had gone through the side netting, having burst the net. Nuneaton pressed hard, but the full time whistle sounded with the score 1-1.

## Hednesford Town v Nuneaton Town 02-04-1915

Nuneaton's visit to the Cross Keys to face Hednesford Town ended in a 3-2 defeat. Morrell and Bartlett scored Nuneaton's goals as they embarked on series of four matches in five days.

## Redditch United v Nuneaton Town 03-04-1915

It was a glorious victory! Never in the history of Nuneaton Town Football Club has such a momentous game been played than that between Nuneaton Town and Redditch last Saturday. The two teams were fighting for the Combination championship, and the match had all the elements of a cup final.

Redditch supporters were confident that victory would rest with their favourites, but before the game had been in progress ten minutes they became apprehensive of the ultimate result. At the outset Nuneaton outplayed Redditch, and though the latter fought desperately and evened matters up somewhat for the first half, one always felt that Nuneaton were the superior team.

The second half saw Redditch absolutely outplayed at every

point of the game. From the moment Nuneaton re-arranged their team they pressed continuously. Every player threw his whole energy into the fray. The football shown by Nuneaton was brilliant in the extreme. The passing was accurate and beautifully neat. There was not an interval when the "blue and whites" developed carelessness, or failed to play in methodical fashion. They carried out their movements with an amazing speed and cleverness. Towards the end Nuneaton simply toyed with their redoubtable opponents.

The Redditch players and supporters were manifestly surprised at the class of team possessed by Nuneaton. Many were heard to say that for many years past there had not been so strong and clever a side at Redditch. It is worthy of mention that the defeat was the first sustained by Redditch at home this season. It was also the first time Nuneaton had ever won at Redditch, although they had made several draws.

The whole of the Nuneaton team played magnificently and not a single player is open to justifiable criticism. Perhaps special mention must be made of Dunkley and Morrell, who were exceptionally brilliant. When Dunkley went centre-half, he figuratively speaking "put the Redditch forward line in his pocket." He dominated the inside trio with his masterful exposition. Morrell gave a thrilling exhibition, and was full of tricks. Both Bowker and Hillman were engaged in watching him.

Dolphin was in excellent trim, and Merrick played in his best form. The right wing maintained a constant pressure on the home goal. Mitchell played in superb style, and led the forward line with skill and judgment. Tompkins was a splendid winger, and his speed enabled him to leave the Redditch defenders standing. Gumbley played a brilliant game and tackled and passed with great success. He was cool and resourceful, and Bartlett completely subjected the Redditch left wing and performed in superb style.

Lines, Field and Barratt formed an almost impregnable defence. The former saved with skill and the full-backs were magnificent in both tackling and kicking.

One must pay tribute to the judgment of Captain Field in changing Dunkley and Mitchell. We hope he will have his reward by receiving the Combination shield on behalf of Nuneaton Town FC.

Nuneaton won 5-2 with goals from Morrell (2), Merrick (2) and Tompkins.

## Atherstone Town v Nuneaton Town 05-04-1915

Nuneaton visited to Sheepy Road on Easter Monday for the final of the Atherstone Nursing Cup against Atherstone Town. The weather was fine and there was a crowd of nearly 4,000, and the Nursing Cup Committee reaped the benefit.

Never in memory has there been such an Atherstone Nursing Cup final as the one played on Easter Monday. The game was an extraordinary one. From start to finish there was only one



team in the picture. Nuneaton Town beat Atherstone Town by six goals to nil. The score might easily have been 16.

An Atherstone friend to the writer that in all his many years' experience as a supporter of the "Adders", he had never seen them so utterly outplayed. One could indeed be the possessor of a remarkable imagination if one could picture a team being more overwhelmed than were Atherstone against Nuneaton. There was never a moment when the "Adders" showed the slightest semblance of making a good fight.

The game was too one-sided to be great as Nuneaton attacked for something like 80 out of the 90 minutes. It was simply a case of the Atherstone defence resisting a strong attack. Nuneaton were right on top of their form and quickly settled down into their favourite short passing game. The ball was sent from man to man with delightful accuracy, and the attacks were well conceived and carried out.

The Nuneaton half-backs easily subjected the Atherstone forwards. They held the master from the onset and were thus able to confine their energies to and assisting the forwards in attack. As the game wore on Nuneaton's superiority became more and more pronounced and towards the end they simply toyed with the "Adders". Surely Atherstone have never been so badly and completely humiliated.

Though Nuneaton only led by two goals at the interval, the score was not representative of the play. The lead might easily have been doubled. In the second half it was only a question of how many goals Nuneaton would score. The total was brought up to six. Atherstone supporters had to admit that such brilliant football as shown by Nuneaton had not been seen on the ground for many years.

The whole Nuneaton team played in tip-top form, Barratt, Dunkley, Gumbley, Dolphin and Morrell are worthy of special mention. Reader must be congratulated on scoring four goals. It was a fine feat for so young a player, and will doubtless give him encouragement. He played a cool yet dashing game.

For Atherstone, A. Nicholls, C. Nicholls And Tom Hargrave played well in defence, thought overwhelmed so many times. Fred Hargrave was the best half-back. The forwards need not be mentioned. The attack was ridiculously poor and feeble.

## Nuneaton Town v Hednesford Town 06-04-1915

Nuneaton supporters were disappointed with the display of their favourites against Hednesford at The Newdegate Arms on Easter Tuesday. The visitors were only able to field ten men, and with one of them being lame, it was generally supposed that Nuneaton would pile up the goal average. No such thing happened and the "blue and whites" only just managed to scrape through by a single goal.

In midfield Nuneaton were seen to good advantage and completely overshadowed their opponents. Hednesford were kept on the defensive from the commencement to the

finish of the game. For fully 80 out of the 90 minutes, play was confide to the precincts of the Hednesford goal. Goals were not forthcoming, however, and the many chances missed will probably be a cause of regret when the season closes.

The weak efforts of Nuneaton in front of goal angered the crowd. There were quite 20 easy chances missed, and the shooting was wretched in the extreme. There were not more than half-a-dozen good shots during the whole afternoon, and two of these were credited to Hednesford players. There was some protest against the goal scored by Mitchell, but the referee said after the match that there was absolutely no doubt about the goal being a genuine one.

One must congratulate the Hednesford defence on an exceptionally fine display. Madeley brought off many clever saves and both the back kicked well and tackled strongly.

The Nuneaton forwards can be excused somewhat on the ground that the match was their fourth in five days.

## Nuneaton Town v Bilston Town 10-04-1915

**Nuneaton: Lines; Field and Barratt; Bartlett, Mitchell and Gumbley; Dolphin, Merrick, Reader, Morrell and Tompkins.**

**Bilston: Allen; Dyke and Evans; Jones, Whittingham and Harrison; D. Skidmore, Powell, Hayward, R. Skidmore and Sheldon.**

Nuneaton faced a tricky game against Bilston United when they visited the Newdegate Arms. Town had lost 2-0 to the visitors earlier in the season. Sandy Sheldon of Liverpool was an interested spectator as Field lost the toss and Town had to face the sun.

Keeper Allen had to make an early clearance for Bilston and Tompkins sent Morrell away, but he put in a weak cross before Gumbley had to clear when Bilston's left wing got away. Morrell forced a corner which was cleared and Nuneaton put on pressure with Merrick just failing to reach the ball with an open goal. Barratt put a long shot wide and Merrick found Dolphin, who was bowled over, while at the other end Hayward shot wide. Reader got the ball out to Tompkins, whose cross cannoned off a defender and a centre by Dolphin went to Reader, who let it run to Morrell, but the winger failed to gather and the ball was cleared. Morrell shot wide a minute later.

Nuneaton were not imposing themselves on the game and the play was tame, with Bilston's defenders easily holding their own, their full backs stemming every attack. Reader missed an open goal following Tompkins' pass and Allen was brought to his knees following a shot from Dolphin. Good play from Merrick and Dolphin saw the former just miss with a cross-shot. Reader shot miserably wide and repeated the feat just after. Barratt's mis-kick put the Nuneaton goal in danger, but Lines punched away. Reader got the ball out to Tompkins, who centred for Reader to head goalwards, but Allen handled and cleared.

Reader put the ball over the bar before a fine combination by Nuneaton's forwards saw Tompkins cross go to waste.



Field made a great clearance and Hayward put wide, while Tompkins put in another glorious run and centre, but Allen dashed out and punched the ball away. D. Skidmore put wide for Bilston and R. Skidmore shot weakly just after. Bilston were now on top and Nuneaton's goal had a narrow escape when, following a throw-in, Whittingham put the ball over the bar. Another Dolphin centre went begging before Bilston attacked strongly and a centre by D. Skidmore gave Hayward a glorious chance six yards out, but Lines pulled off a marvellous save.

A Bilston corner was cleared and another Tompkins cross came to nothing. Nuneaton's passing was inaccurate with the ball more often than not going to a Bilston defender. Allen punched away from Merrick and Dolphin put in a great run and was bearing down on Bilston's goal, but had the ball taken off his toe. Bilston had a goal disallowed for offside and Dolphin got the ball forward to Merrick, who ran in and put in a great shot that hit the crossbar and rebounded out. Field put in a solo effort, but it came to nothing and shortly after the half-time whistle sounded with the scores at 0-0.

Merrick was fouled straight after the break and Nuneaton attacked from the free-kick, which resulted in Reader having a chance before Mitchell and Morrell attempted to score, but to no avail. Allen saved a long shot from Mitchell and Field was responsible for some good defensive work, while Dolphin received the ball from Reader, but his cross cannoned off a defender. Allen was brought to his knees following a long shot from Barratt before Bilston made an excursion into the Nuneaton half and Field had to pass back to Lines, who cleared upfield. Morrell's shot was cleared, while at the other end Lines had to run out to clear. Gumbley and Morrell made a joint effort to get through, but Evans ran across and kicked into touch. Bilston looked likely to score a certain goal, but Lines ran out and dispossessed Sheldon.

Dolphin and Reader swapped places and a centre by Gumbley was headed just over by Dolphin. Tompkins forced Allen into a save and moments later Tompkins hooked the ball over the bar. Field passed to Reader who tested Allen with a ground shot and a Nuneaton corner was cleared. The Bilston goal had half-a-dozen narrow escapes in as many minutes as Nuneaton finally imposed themselves on the game. Morrell hit the upright with Allen beaten, before a foul against Mitchell was just got away and the centre-half just grazed the upright. From a throw-in Mitchell sent the ball downfield and Evans missed his kick, giving Merrick plenty of time to take aim and score to put Nuneaton 1-0 up.

Bilston then attacked strongly, but a goal-kick relieved the pressure. Morrell passed to Tompkins, but his centre went all the way across goal and out, before Allen was forced to save from Gumbley. Tompkins was going through when Evans fouled and from the free-kick Barratt grazed the bar with a terrific drive. Merrick shot over from Tompkins' centre following Morrell's pass. Gumbley then made a brilliant run

through and passed forward to Merrick, who ran forward and shot into the net to put Nuneaton into a 2-0 lead.

Lines ran out and saved an awkward shot, while after more good play from Gumbley, the ball went to Morrell, who forced Allen to save at the expense of a corner. Morrell was then manouvring for position when a defender handled and Barratt again grazed the crossbar. Allen saved again following good play between Morrell and Tompkins before the whistle sounded for the end of the game and a 2-0 win for Nuneaton.

## Nuneaton Town v Willenhall Pickwick 17-04-1915

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Field and Barratt; Bartlett, Mitchell and Gumbley; Dolphin, Merrick, Payne, Morrell and Tompkins.

**Willenhall:** Yarnall; Archer and Edge; Wootton, Corbett and Grout; Rowley, Frances, Lahtam, Burton and Rogers.

It was thought that Town might have to win all three of their remaining home matches to be sure of the Birmingham Combination title, and Willenhall were the strongest of the remaining teams to be faced on The Newdegate Arms. Payne was brought in at centre-forward, but the team was otherwise unchanged. There was a fair crowd present to see Harry Field lose the toss.

Nuneaton were first to attack and Wootton kicked clear for the visitors while at the other end Lines was forced to run out and handle. Picks got away and Lines had to save again, while just after Rogers went close with a long shot. Barratt broke up a Picks' attack with some good defensive work, while Dolphin failed to beat Edge and moments later put the ball into the side netting. Merrick was robbed when well placed, while Yarnall had to save from a back-pass from Edge, who was under pressure from Merrick.

Corbett shot yards wide for Willenhall, but when Nuneaton attacked Willenhall were well in control. Picks had a good chance but Rogers centred too far back and Gumbley cleared. Nuneaton's goal had a narrow escape following a Lines' clearance that came straight back to Latham, who hit the upright from three yards out. Merrick and Dolphin combined well with the latter testing Yarnall whose clearance was somewhat fortunate. Corbett dribbled past several Nuneaton players and shot wide, while a little later Burton scored from a ruck of players, with Nuneaton appealing for offside, putting the visitors 1-0 ahead.

Yarnall saved a good shot by Dolphin, but Willenhall were by far the better side and threatened the Nuneaton goal on several occasions. Morrell hit the crossbar for Town, but no-one was following in and a good chance was lost. Two corners followed but both were cleared. Rowley tested Lines with a beauty and the keeper saved at the expense of a corner, which came to nothing. Gumbley dribbled forward and passed to Payne, who shot wide. Dolphin and Payne then got through, but Archer cleared at the expense of a corner. Willenhall's goal had a marvellous escape and Tompkins won

## Nuneaton Town 1894-1919 Part 2



another corner, which was cleared. Nuneaton pressed more strongly and Willenhall packed their goal, with ten men being in the penalty area. Merrick received the ball in midfield and passed to Payne who stepped over the ball and Morrell ran in and scored, giving Yarnall no chance and equalising the score at 1-1. A minute later the half-time whistle sounded.

Latham restarted for Willenhall, but Mitchell intercepted and passed to Merrick, who moved the ball on to Dolphin. The winger centred for Merrick, who was robbed by Edge. Payne spoiled several attacks by being too slow and a miskick by Mitchell allowed Willenhall to attack, while Barratt made several good clearances. Rogers fired over the bar, while at the other end Morrell shot over. Gumbley centred and Morrell tricked two men and shot, with the ball cannoning off a Willenhall defender for a corner, from which Merrick headed goalwards, but Yarnall made a great save.

Gumbley just grazed the crossbar with a great drive. Willenhall were given offside and Tompkins got in a good centre, from which Morell tested Yarnall, who made a good save. Willenhall surprisingly broke away and Burton scored after Nuneaton had been attacking for some time, giving the visitors a 2-1 lead. Morrell went close, while Mitchell and Payne swapped places and Morrell put a great pass out to Tompkins, who failed to get a cross in. Barratt pushed forward and just missed with a terrific shot, while Dolphin's centre was missed by the inside men. Morrell was going through when he was badly tripped and Barratt shot the free-kick over the bar. Morrell tricked several men and shot, but Yarnall saved.

During an exciting spell of Nuneaton attacking Payne headed goalwards and Morrell cleverly shot into the net to score the equaliser and make the score 2-2, amidst loud cheers. Morrell struck the side netting with a powerful shot before Lines had to run out and clear a breakaway. Willenhall then resorted to kicking out methods and the crowd became enraged. Yarnall saved a long shot from Merrick and Payne shot weakly wide before Tompkins centred and Mitchell scored a brilliant goal to give the home side the lead for the first time. The crowd went wild with delight and the referee had to warn some of the more excited off the pitch. Nuneaton pressed again and a centre from Field, who was now playing outside right, found Payne, who manouvred for position and struck a powerful shot against the crossbar. Immediately afterwards the whistle blew for full-time with Nuneaton having won 3-2.

### **Bournville Athletic v Nuneaton Town 24-04-1915**

**Bournville: Tyldesley; Mumford and Bowden; Price, Rainbow and Dixon; Hedges, Dilly, Francis, Crabtree and Newall.**

**Nuneaton: Lines; Field and Barratt; Bartlett, Mitchell and Gumbley; Dolphin, Merrick, Rees, Morrell and Tompkins.**

Town were expecting a tough game on their visit to the model village at Bournville. The previous week, the home side had beaten Redditch 2-1 and were in good form. The weather was

wet and miserable, which seriously affected the game, which was less than 500. Rees, a junior from Foleshill Albion came in at centre-forward for Nuneaton and Bournville were at full strength. Field lost the toss and Bournville kicked away from the Pavilion.

The home team were first to show and Field checked their first attack and they went very close just after, when Nuneaton's goal had a narrow escape. Merrick got the ball out Dolphin, who tested Tyldesley from the touch-line. Crabtree then raced through on goal, but Lines ran out to meet him and turned the ball round the post. Town's keeper then made several good saves in quick succession, being loudly cheered by the travelling supporters. Dilly and Francis both put in rasping shots that were got away. Morrell put a great ball out to Tompkins, who struck the crossbar before a miskick by Mumford enabled Tompkins to force a corner, which was cleared with difficulty.

Morrell gave away a foul and Bournville pressed as Field and Barratt cleared on several occasions. Dilly put a shot into the side netting, while Tompkins shot yards wide from a short-lived Nuneaton attack. Crabtree shot just wide before Nuneaton were awarded a free kick, which Gumbley passed out to Tompkins, whose centre was headed goalwards by Rees, but Tyldesley made a good save. Merrick shot just over the bar from close in, before Bournville raced away and Nuneaton's defence was hard-pressed, but Barratt took the ball off the toe of Francis when he looked to score. Field got injured and had to leave the pitch and Dolphin moved to right back, signalling his appearance with a good clearance.

Francis put in a stinging shot which missed by inches and a centre by Tompkins was just turned out by Mumford. A corner from Bartlett was cleared back out and the same player, who drove the ball back into the area, and Tyldesley made a good save. Morrell forced Tyldesley to save and Field came back on, playing on the right wing. Bournville forced a corner from which Rainbow scored, giving the home side a 1-0 lead. Tyldesley made two saves from Morrell before Merrick made a solo effort and passed to Tompkins, who forced Tyldesley into a save. Dilly just failed to get on the end of a Newell centre and Barratt again forced Tyldesley to save following a free-kick. At half-time the home side had a one goal lead.

Nuneaton resumed the second half with ten men, Barratt playing full-back alone. Lines made a great save from a cross-shot from Crabtree before Nuneaton made a rush and Dolphin put the ball into the side netting before Crabtree grazed the bar with a magnificent shot. Field returned yet again and went to right-half, while Bartlett went to full back. Nuneaton came more into the game and several attempts were made, with Tyldesley having to save one effort from Tompkins. Francis put an effort wide and Gumbley tried to get through, but was stopped by Mumford.

A fine passing movement by Nuneaton's forwards saw Dolphin crash in a great effort, which was put out for a corner, which





came to nothing. Hedges centred behind and Crabtree shot wide, but Nuneaton pressed again and Dolphin was badly fouled. Tyldesley was hard-pressed to keep out the free-kick. Nuneaton now went close on several occasions with Dolphin and Merrick going close. Morrell's shot was cleared at the expense of a corner, which was followed by another which was cleared. Tompkins then missed an easy chance from Merrick's centre and Dolphin forced Tyldesley to tip the ball over the bar.

Morrell trapped the ball and passed to Gumbley, whose pass found Rees who shot hard, but Tyldesley saved, but could not hold and Rees followed up and scored the equaliser, making the score 1-1. After this, Nuneaton pressed continuously and after a good combination by the forwards Rees got within an ace of scoring, but he was hustled off the ball. Gumbley and Morrell took the ball forward and the latter swung in a great cross that reached Dolphin, who was in a great position and bore in on goal, sending in a shot that Tyldesley saved at the expense of a corner, while at the other end Francis shot wide. Morrell was injured following a vicious charge by Price, but resumed after treatment. In the closing minutes Nuneaton pressed hard to bring about a victory and a fine bout of passing resulted in Gumbley being presented with a good chance, but the whistle blew for full-time, with the final score being 1-1.

## Nuneaton Town v Tamworth Castle 29-04-1915

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Bartlett and Barratt; Merrick, Mitchell and Gumbley; Dolphin, Reader, Rees, Morrell and Tompkins.

**Tamworth Castle:** Sprawson; Pearsall and Gibbs; Baildon, Greenway and Whitehead; Ronde, Atkins, Mercer, Higgs and Everitt.

Nuneaton met Tamworth Castle at the Newdegate Arms ground on Thursday evening, with summer-like weather, but the crowd at the commencement did not number more than 500. Field had not recovered from the injury he incurred at Bournville, so Reader came in at inside-right and Merrick and Bartlett moved to half-back and full-back respectively. Tamworth were late in arriving and the start was delayed by 20 minutes. Lines captained Town and lost the toss.

Town started in a lively manner and Rees passed to Reader, who passed to Dolphin. The latter ran upfield and returned to Reader who centred outside. Morrell got Tompkins away and the outside-left flashed a centre across goal, but Dolphin failed to gather, while just after Morrell tried to dribble his way through to no effect and Mitchell forced Sprawson to save. Nuneaton continued to press and Morrell put a tremendous shot wide of the post, while Tompkins forced a corner, but Sprawson saved. A Tamworth defender miskicked from a pass by Mitchell and Morrell picked up the loose ball and shot past Sprawson to give Nuneaton a 1-0 lead.

Morrell put in a good effort from Dolphin's centre and Sprawson saved before Reader shot yards wide. Sprawson kicked away from Dolphin and the keeper cleared again from a Barratt free-kick after Morrell had been tripped. Mercer shot

wide from Ronde's centre and Mitchell put wide from a long shot, while Lines ran out and handled a centre from Everitt. Rees just failed to convert Morrell's centre and just after Gumbley tested Sprawson with a ground shot. Rees forced Sprawson to tip his effort over the bar and again the keeper came to the rescue when Morrell put in a shot. Play was fairly even up to the interval when Nuneaton had a 1-0 lead.

Rees, Morrell and Dolphin had good attempts at the start of the second half, while another good chance went begging after good work on the left. Mitchell's handball brought the Nuneaton goal close to downfall, while Ronde put one into the side netting. Rees headed wide from a centre by Tompkins, who had been put clear by Morrell. Tamworth raced away following a Nuneaton corner and Lines rushed out to meet Atkins and miskicked, but Bartlett tidied up. A fast shot by Morrell just missed the target before Tamworth broke clear and scored in the last seconds of the game to make the final score 1-1.

## Nuneaton Town v Bournville Athletic 01-05-1915

**Nuneaton:** Lines; Bartlett and Barratt; Field, Mitchell and Gumbley; Dolphin, Merrick, Reader, Morrell and Tompkins.

**Bournville:** Tyldesley; Mumford and Bowden; Price, Rainbow and Dixon; Hedges, Dilly, Frances, Crabtree and Newall.

With the championship already won, Nuneaton entertained Bournville Athletic at the Newdegate Arms ground. The weather was spring-like and a large crowd had assembled. Bournville fielded the same side as the previous Saturday, while Field came back from injury, but took up a place in the half-back line, while Bartlett continued at full-back.

Field maintained a great tradition and lost the toss and Reader kicked off. Nuneaton were first to press, but Bournville mounted an attack, which Barratt cleared. Morrell won applause for a clever dribble, but Price tripped him and Barratt put in a great shot that Bowden headed away from under the bar. Reader broke away, but Mumford took the ball off his toe in front of goal while Merrick had a shot charged down and clever work by Morrell was spoilt by Dolphin's poor pass. Gumbley worked well, but when he passed to Dolphin, the latter lost the ball. Barratt cleared the ball up to Tompkins, who centred to Dolphin, who put the home side 1-0 up with a groundshot, Tyldesley being unsuspected by Rainbow.

Tompkins got clear and forced a corner, from which Gumbley put a scorcher just wide. Bartlett set the left going and Reader worked through, but his pass was charged down, while just after Dolphin's centre was cleared by Tyldesley. Reader and Dolphin combined to get the ball to Morrell, who beat two men and shot a foot wide. Frances and Dilly worked well for the visitors and Field conceded a corner from which Dixon headed wide. Mitchell's clearance fell to Reader who slung the ball out to Tompkins, but his centre was cut out by Mumford.

Dolphin dropped the ball into the area and Morrell, Merrick,



Reader and Tompkins all tried to get the ball through, but Rainbow kicked away. Frances put in a good shot, but Lines saved and kicked away and just after Merrick passed to Dolphin who shot for Tyldesley to make a lucky save. Bowden cleared a Town free-kick and after a Bournville attack, Harry Field put a long shot over the bar. Tyldesley punched away from Tompkins' cross and Dolphin shot strongly, with the keeper putting over the bar for a corner which was well placed by Tompkins and a bombardment of the visitors goal took place, during which Morrell and Mitchell had shots charged down. The half-time whistle arrived with Town winning 1-0.

Nuneaton pressed from the first whistle in the second half, but Barratt had to dispossess Hedges when Bournville broke away. Reader missed a chance from Morrell's pass and a minute later Tompkins centred for Merrick, who forced a corner, from which Merrick headed wide. At this stage there was much aimless passing before Barratt was knocked out, but soon recovered. Dolphin got away from Merrick's pass and centred back to the inside-right, who shot, but Tyldesley pushed the ball against the post and Tompkins ran in to shoot into the net and put Nuneaton 2-0 up. Frances scored for the visitors after a tangle in the Nuneaton area to make it 2-1 and a minute later Lines saved from Dilley. Field shot wide from Tompkins' centre before Bournville pressed strongly and the Nuneaton defence was a full strength.

Nuneaton attacked again and Merrick was fouled in the penalty area. Barratt took the kick, but put wide. The referee, however, ordered the kick to be retaken because Tyldesley had come off his line and Barratt made no mistake the second time to make the score 3-1. Morrell was then tripped as he went through and Barratt put the free-kick just wide. Gumbley won applause for a good clearance and a centre from the right enabled Morrell to flash a shot just wide.

Field dribbled the ball into the goalmouth and gave to Reader, who shot past Tyldesley to make the score 4-1, while just after Lines ran out and saved what seemed to be a certain goal. Dolphin grazed the crossbar at the other end, while just after the same player was boring his way in towards goal when he was tripped. Barratt beat Tyldesley with a beautiful shot to make the score 5-1. Several Bournville players had to be warned for rough play, especially towards Morrell, who was playing in great style. Just before the final whistle Hedges raced clear and centred for Crabtree, who shot past Lines to make the score at the final whistle, which came straight after, 5-2 to Nuneaton.

## Celebrating The Championship

After the match, the players and officials of Nuneaton's championship winning team assembled at Messrs. Yoxall's Ltd., cafe, in Abbey Street and fraternised round the festive board.

Mr G. R. Biggs (chairman) presided, and supporting him were Mr T. A. Hilditch, Mr Joe Smith (Nuneaton), Mr Smith (Bournville), Mr E. H. Spiers (secretary of the Birmingham

Combination), Messrs. W. A. Thompson (secretary), T. Mills (assistant secretary), J. Thomas, B. Carris, F. Carris, T. Jeffcoate. The players present were: Field, Lines, Barratt, Bartlett, Mitchell, Gumbley, Dolphin, Merrick, Reader, Morrell, Tompkins, and Butler.

Mr. G. R. Biggs, in a brief speech, proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr Smith for coming to Nuneaton to present the shield. Mr T. A. Hilditch seconded and remarked upon the fact that Nuneaton had won the championship for the second time.

Mr Smith said when eight years ago Nuneaton won the league, he expressed the hope that the club would continue to flourish and do well. It had done so. Nuneaton were striving to attain membership of the Birmingham and District League, and if they realised their ambition he hoped success and the championship would reward them, though the latter feat was difficult to accomplish. Since Nuneaton had been in the Combination they had shown their worth and were capable of a place in the Birmingham League (applause). He personally would be very sorry to see Nuneaton leave the Combination, but ambition was a good thing. However, the next season, whenever that might be, would still see Nuneaton in the Combination, as the Birmingham League had passed a resolution agreeing that the bottom clubs should keep their membership without re-election. Such a proceeding was quite right, as it was only a reward to those clubs which had struggled to keep their engagements in spite of difficulties. At any rate he felt sure that if Nuneaton did get into the Birmingham League they would be a credit to that organisation. Every club in the Combination respected Nuneaton (applause). After eulogising Mr Thompson, the speaker again congratulated the Nuneaton players on their success...

## Birmingham Combination 1914-15

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nuneaton Town	30	20	5	5	79	41	45
Redditch United	30	18	6	6	80	39	42
Cradley Heath St Lukes	30	16	5	9	73	45	37
Stafford Ranger	30	15	7	8	76	52	37
Hinckley United	30	14	8	8	74	57	36
Bloxwich Strollers	30	14	7	9	69	49	35
Hednesford Town	30	14	6	10	65	42	34
Birmingham Trams	30	13	8	9	63	44	34
Bilston United	30	15	2	13	59	43	32
Willenhall Pickwick	30	13	5	12	57	55	31
Atherstone Town	30	11	5	15	54	69	27
Bournville Athletic	30	8	9	13	57	67	25
Tamworth Castle	30	9	3	18	50	81	21
Cannock Town	30	10	1	19	34	80	21
Bournbrook	30	7	5	18	36	72	19
Bromsgrove Rovers	30	3	2	25	45	116	8



## Presentation of Shield at Nuneaton

At the conclusion of Saturday's game a large crowd swarmed round the grandstand and scenes of enthusiasm were witnessed when the Combination Shield was presented.

The chairman of the Nuneaton club (Mr G. R. Biggs) opened the proceedings by stating that Mr "Billy" Barratt, who had enlisted in the local Fortress Co. of Royal Engineers, wished to make a recruiting appeal.

Harratt, who was received with loud cheers, said: "Captain Cook wishes me to make an appeal for recruits and I have much pleasure in doing so. It is a good thing football is over, because we have a more serious job to tackle and whilst our fellow countrymen are fighting for us over in France every Englishman who can be spared ought to be making ready at home. I am trying to do my bit by joining the Fortress Company of Engineers, now being raised in Nuneaton, and I appeal to all eligible men to do the same. Every man who joins and lives at home gets 2s. a day for lodging and rations, in addition to his pay, and every man gets separation allowance. The men especially wanted are blacksmiths, carpenters, plumbers, bricklayers and masons. There are plenty of men of these trades in Nuneaton to form the Company twice over, and if only they will come forward quickly we shall soon have the Company complete and be ready to take our place in the service of our country. I hope all eligible men of these trades who have followed football during this season will follow me still, and join the Fortress Company at once."

of smaller clubs would be extremely busy, endeavouring to strengthen their team preparatory to the first match. The big organisations would have every arrangement complete. Everywhere would exist an atmosphere of excitement and anticipation. But the present year is not a normal one. Indeed, it is the most abnormal one in history. The great European War hangs like a shadow over everything, and of late weeks the shadow seems to have increased in darkness. The number of families bereaved in Great Britain numbers something like 100,000, and millions of homes are anxious because of absent loved ones. The time of their return seems to be farther off than ever. The growing pressure of the economic position is beginning to have a depressing effect on the populace, and altogether the outlook is more serious than any which the British nation has ever had to face.

Under such conditions the football question naturally forces itself to the front. Last season there were strong arguments advanced, both for and against the playing of football during war time. The devotees of football eventually won the day, and the season was finished, though its success is still a subject of doubt. With the growing seriousness of the national position, however, football played as ordinary is out of the question. The game carried out under normal arrangements is unthinkable. From a financial standpoint it would be ruinous; from a moral standpoint it is impossible. Long ago leading football authorities strongly discountenanced the idea of professional football. The "business" of football has been closed down. The question as to whether football should be played for the sake of the sport is entirely another matter...

## Elected to the Birmingham League

Nuneaton Town F.C. has been elected to membership of the Birmingham and District League. The fact was conveyed by telegram sent to the club by the league secretary. Later on a letter was sent confirming this information. The League held no meeting, and the election of a club to take the place of Aston Villa Reserves was carried out through the post. A circular was sent, containing the names of the applying clubs. A vote was made and the circular sent back to the league secretary. The number of votes recorded for Nuneaton is not yet known.

## Emmin Dunn Before Munitions Tribunal

### Former Town Captain's Smart Defence

There were no fewer than forty-seven cases down for hearing at Monday's sitting of the Coventry Munitions Tribunal. Among these was a complaint by White and Poppe, Ltd., alleging breaches of the regulation on the part of their workpeople, the majority of the allegations being that employees absented themselves without leave or refused to work overtime. The cases all arose out of the Christmas holidays, and amongst the men proceeded against was E. Dunn, driller, Hartlepool Road, former captain of Nuneaton Town F.C.

The case was dismissed without penalty, as he said he made a sacrifice on Boxing Day which entitled him to some consideration. He went to Wolverhampton to play in a charity match which realised £100. "If those who brought this case would do a little for charity it would be better than bringing me here," he said. He added that in the match he injured his ankle, tried to continue his work, but had to leave, and told the foreman his condition.

## NO FOOTBALL

If the present year had been a normal one, hundreds of thousands of men and youths, and also a fair number of ladies, would now be joyously looking forward to the opening of the football season on September 1st. The practice matches of the clubs would be in full swing, and the subject of conversation in mine, factory, workshop, and office would be the prospects of the different teams. Officials



## NEW LOCAL FOOTBALL COMBINATION

### Nuneaton United and Bedworth To Take Part

The formation of a Coventry and North Warwickshire League Combination, definitely decided upon at a meeting of football club secretaries held at Coventry, ensures the playing of attractive junior games in this district during the present season.

A strong competition has been arranged, and the teams which have agreed to take part are: Nuneaton United, Bedworth Town, Longford, Newdigate Colliery, Great Health, Foleshill Albions, Stoke Albions, and Bell Green Albions.

On account of the altered conditions under which the game is being played this year it is confidently expected, and has in fact already been shown in some directions, that the competing teams will be much stronger than in previous seasons. Six of the teams are first division clubs of the now suspended Coventry and North Warwickshire League, while Stoke Albions and Bell Green Albions have each been champions of the second division of that League.

The season will commence the first week in October, and the matches provided for in the Combination will extend into January. This will leave the last four months of the season open for the playing of cup games and the various local competitions are to be asked to commence their matches in the New Year. The clubs taking part in the new League have, with one exception, private grounds for their matches. The expenses both of clubs and the Combination are to be kept as low as possible, and it was impressed upon clubs that one-third of the net gate of all matches has to be forwarded to the Management Committee for distribution to charities.

### Should Cricket Be Played?

No matter where on goes at present they can hear a discussion as to whether the game should be played under the present conditions. The MCC are settling the question by sending out some very strong teams to meet the public school elevens, and I consider they are doing the thing that is right.

The Sportsman's Battalion are playing matches several times during the week, and they are including county men in their teams who have enlisted and given the benefit of their services to the country. We cannot all be soldiers, however patriotic we may be. There must be some workers, and how can they employ themselves better during their spare time than by playing the good old game of cricket? ...

## BIRMINGHAM AND DRINK RESTRICTIONS

### New Order for Midlands Area

The city of Birmingham, the greater part of the counties of Warwick and Worcester, and that portion of Staffordshire known as the Black Country, between the city and Wolverhampton, will very shortly be a "drink controlled area under the Board of Control." The order was officially issued last night, and it is anticipated that the new regulations will be published almost immediately.

In a supplement to the "London Gazette" it was stated that the new regulations shall apply to the respective areas defined and specified in the following schedule:-

#### The Midlands Area

- (1) The Midlands area, being the area comprising the cities of Birmingham, Coventry and Worcester; The county boroughs of Dudley, Smethwick, Walsall, West Bromwich and Wolverhampton; The boroughs of Nuneaton, Royal Leamington Spa, Stratford-on-Avon, Sutton Coldfield, and Warwick; and  
The petty sessional divisions of Alcester, Atherstone, Coleshill, Coventry, Henley-in-Arden, Kenilworth, Rugby (excepting the parish of Willoughby), Solihull, Stratford, and Snitterfield (excepting the parishes of Atherstone-on-Stour, Easington, and Whitchurch) and Warwick (excepting the parish of Chesterton and Kingston), in the county of Warwick...

...

#### "No Treating"

The terms of the "no-treating" order applying to London and other districts are as follows:-

No person may -

Sell or supply intoxicating liquor to any person in any licensed premises of club for consumption on the premises, unless the same is ordered and paid for by the person supplied.

Order or pay for or lend or advance money to pay for any intoxicating liquor wherewith any other person has been or is to be supplied for consumption on the premises.

Consume in any licensed premises or club intoxicating liquor which any other person has ordered or paid for or agreed to pay for or lent or advanced money to pay for.

A man may not buy drink in a public-house and take it to friends who are waiting outside, for the order declares that -

Consumption on the premises includes consumption in or on any highway, open ground, or railway station adjoining or near...



## FA Cup: Early Exit

On 12th September 1914, Nuneaton Town entertained Tamworth Castle in the Extra Preliminary Round of the FA Cup. Both clubs were members of the Birmingham Combination and both had lost their opening fixtures of the new season. Town had been beaten 1-0 away to Cannock Town, whilst the Castle went down 3-1 at Redditch.

Yet there was much anticipation about the cup-tie but the day itself turned out wet and reduced both the gate and the quality of the play.

The Nuneaton team was: Lines, Field, Barratt, Bartlett, Dunkley, Gumbley, Dolphin, Merrick, Mitchell, Morrell, Tompkin. Joe Mitchell was making his debut at centre-forward, having recently signed from Coventry City.

Tamworth were captained by former Nuneaton favourite Leslie Dale, who received a warm welcome from the Newdegate Arms crowd. The Town captain, Harry Field, lost the toss as usual and so Town played towards the railway station in the first half.

It soon became apparent that the players would struggle to control the ball. Nuneaton had the better opening, forcing two corners, one of which saw the keeper make a sharp save. Shortly afterwards wing-half Richard Bartlett hit the upright with a fearsome drive worthy of a goal.

Eventually the home pressure told when Mitchell netted on his debut with a fine shot. Although Tamworth responded with determination it remained 1-0 at the interval.

However, they were soon on level terms when a breakaway attack saw Bartlett deflect a shot into his own net. Thereafter it was constant Nuneaton pressure and Merrick, Morrell and Tompkin all came close but could not find a winning goal.

The general opinion seems to have been that Nuneaton played the wrong game for the conditions. They were

mostly small players who preferred a cultured style of play. As the game progressed the surface deteriorated, the leather ball got heavier, and the bigger Tamworth team should have had an advantage, though they were lucky to leave with a draw.

It was unfortunate that Bartlett conceded the goal as he had played well up until that moment, but his confidence drained. His left-half partner Jack Gumbley had a fine game, as did centre-half Walter Dunkley. It was indicative of the latter's reputation and stature that he was marked throughout by Leslie Dale - Tamworth's own centre-half. The Bartlett, Dunkley, Gumbley half back line was generally superb through the autumn of 1914.

The replay took place at Tamworth on the following Wednesday. There was one change to the Nuneaton eleven, Bartlett being unable to get time off work so that Buckler came in. Field lost the toss again and Mitchell kicked off into a strong wind.

The visitors made a positive start and Dale was soon in action clearing Tamworth lines. Mitchell and Morrell both went close before Percy Tompkin shot on target, only for the keeper to 'put the leather round the post'.

Eventually, clever inter-passing between Mitchell and Morrell resulted in a goal for the latter. Within minutes a Dunkley effort was charged down and rebounded to Mitchell who made it 2-0. However, almost immediately Lines failed to clear adequately and Tamworth pulled a goal back leaving it 2-1 at half time.

Nuneaton began the second half by displaying renewed determination. It was no great surprise therefore, when a through ball from Tompkin found Merrick whose shot went into the net via the inside of the far post. Dolphin then hit the woodwork before Dunkley, Mitchell and Merrick combined neatly for Merrick to make it 4-1 to Nuneaton. Near the end Dolphin picked up a loose ball in midfield and

ran half the length of the pitch before shooting into the corner of the net and seal a 5-1 passage to the next round. It could easily have been more.

The Observer reported: "The Town have now, in my opinion, the best team they have ever possessed, and should make things hum in the Combination."

The forwards were working together well, given that they were all new that season. In addition to Mitchell, Dolphin and Morrell had signed from Redditch, Merrick from Bromsgrove, and Tompkin from Hinckley United.

In the next round Nuneaton travelled to Darlaston, who had enquired about moving the fixture but, although they were offered "handsome terms", they declined the offer.

Nuneaton had a fine 2-1 win at Stafford Rangers which put them in good heart for the Cup. Bartlett was back and they took the field in front of a large crowd. Harry Field lost the toss, which saw Town play up a steep slope, against the wind, with the sun in their eyes.

Darlaston took the lead in the third minute of the game. Although the visitors responded with shots from Mitchell and Morrell, Darlaston were mostly on top and soon made it 2-0. Lines failed to hold a header giving the home centre-forward an easy chance. After that Town were "all at sea" and by half time were 4-0 down.

And, despite having the slope and the wind behind them, they conceded a soft goal just after the break leaving them with no way back. Mitchell and Morrell did score goals to reduce the arrears to 2-5, but Field gave away a penalty, and a further late goal made the score **Darlaston 7, Nuneaton 2**.

It had been a poor performance on a ground not suited to Nuneaton's classical style. The slope was so pronounced that the crossbar at the bottom end was lower than the goal line at the top of the pitch.

There was no need for Nuneaton  
Continued on next page ...

supporters to panic - this was an isolated result in a fine season. The reporter had been right in saying this was one of the best teams ever to represent Nuneaton Town..

As a matter of interest, Darlaston lost 3-5 at Brierley Hill Alliance in the next round. On the same day Hinckley went out 2-0 at Mansfield Mechanics. As Atherstone had lost at Bilston United in the previous round, there was no local representation left in that season's FA Cup.

The half back line of Richard Bartlett, Walter Dunkley and "Smiling" Jack Gumbley, played together 15 times in the autumn and early winter of 1914-15. Then Dunkley joined up and they only played together once more

on 2nd April 1915 v Hednesford Town - when Walter was home on leave for Easter. It was one of the best half-back lines ever to represent Nuneaton Town - perhaps only Green, Homer and Mann in the early 1920s had the beating of them.

Football came in for a lot of criticism for completing the 1914-15 season. The First World War had broken out in August and when the slaughter on the Western Front became apparent, questions were raised over the issue. It was realised, however, that the game could be used as an effective means of recruitment.

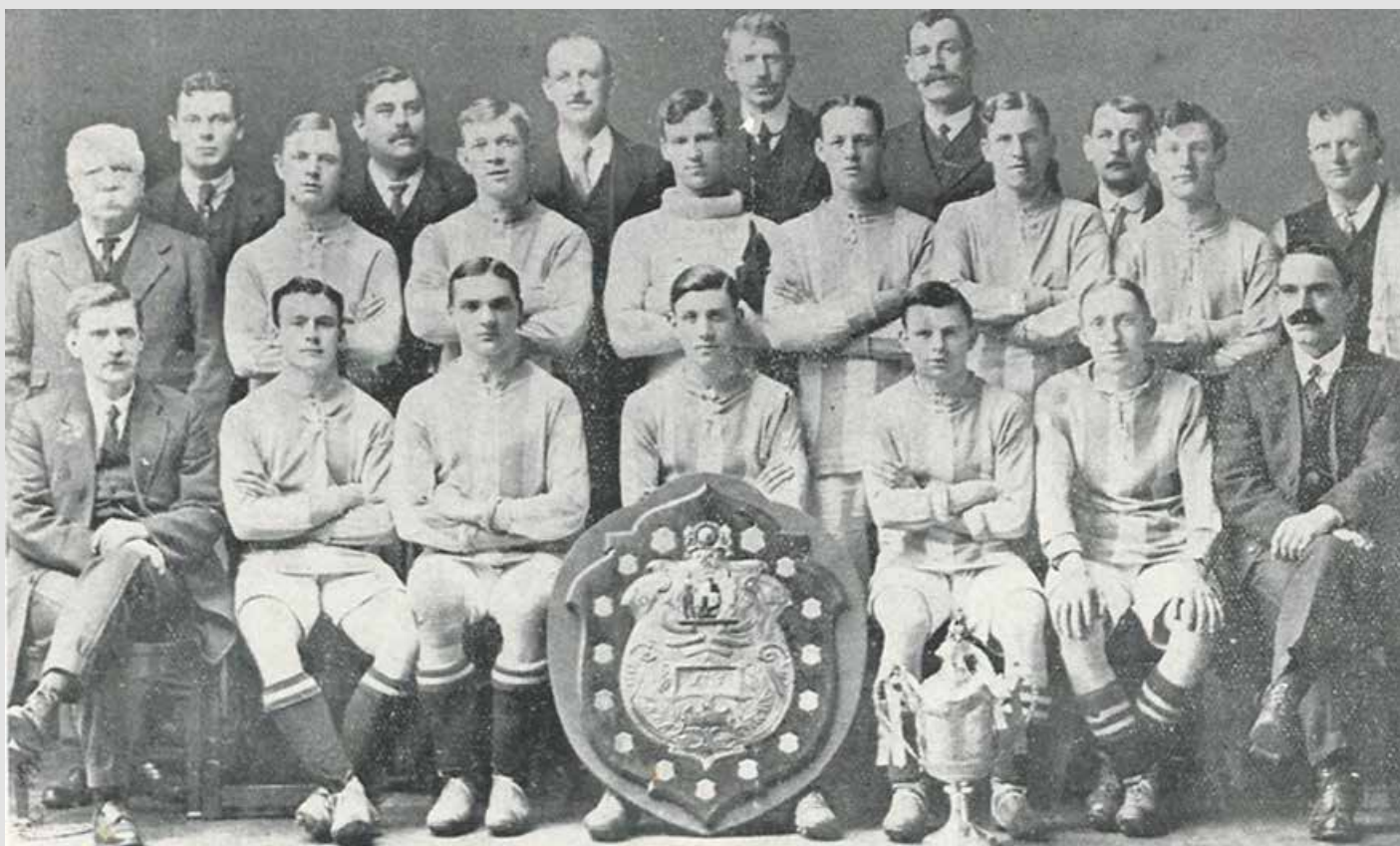
On May 1st, after Nuneaton Town had been presented with the Birmingham Combination shield, rousing speeches

were made encouraging players and spectators to enlist. This was in keeping with what was occurring at grounds all over the country at a time before conscription was introduced.

The final act of the 1914-15 English Cup competition took place at Old Trafford, the match being dubbed the 'Khaki Final' because of the number of uniformed spectators present.

Chelsea, who had finished second from bottom of the old First Division, were defeated 3-0 by sixth placed Sheffield United. It was not until the Armistice of 1919 that the cup was again put up for competition.

An edited version of an article by Robert Forryan



## Nuneaton Town 1914-15

### Birmingham Combination and Atherstone Nursing Cup Winners

Back row (left to right): Richard Bartlett, Harry Field (capt), George Lines, Billy Barratt, Joe Mitchell, Jack Gumbley  
Front row: Freddy Dolphin, Harry Merrick, George Reader, George Morrell, Percy Tompkins.

# Nuneaton Town 1894-1919 Part 2



## 1914

09.05	Cannock Town	A	BC	0-1	
09.12	Tamworth Castle	H	FAC EP	1-1	Mitchell
09.16	Tamworth Castle	A	FAC EPr	5-1	Merrick 2, Morrell, Mitchell, Dolphin
09.19	Stafford Rangers	A	BC	2-1	Gumbley, Mitchell
09.26	Darlaston	A	FAC PR	2-7	Morrell, Merrick
10.03	Birmingham Trams	H	BSC 1	4-1	Merrick 4
10.10	Hinckley United	H	BC	5-4	Merrick 2, Mitchell, Morrell, Bartlett
10.17	Cradley Heath St.Lukes	A	BC	1-3	Morrell
10.24	Atherstone Town	H	BC	4-0	Merrick 2, Mitchell, Morrell
10.31	Bloxwich Strollers	A	BC	2-0	Dunkley (p), Bartlett
11.07	Bromsgrove Rovers	H	BC	3-2	Dolphin, Morrell, Dunkley (p)
11.14	Bournbrook	A	BC	3-2	Dolphin, Tompkins, Morrell
11.21	Willenhall Pickwick	H	BSC 2	1-0*	Dolphin
12.05	Tamworth Castle	A	BC	2-4	Tompkins, Dolphin
12.12	Bilston United	A	BC	0-2	
12.19	Redditch United	H	BC	2-1	Morrell, Merrick
12.25	Bournbrook	H	BC	1-1	Dunkley (p)
12.28	Coventry City Reserves	H	NHC SF	1-5	Merrick
12.29	Willenhall Pickwick	H	BSC 2r	7-1	Reader 3, Merrick 2, Dunkley, Butler

## 1915

01.02	Willenhall Pickwick	A	BC	1-0	Reader
01.09	Hednesford Town	H	BSC 3	2-1	Gumbley, Humphries
01.16	Bromsgrove Rovers	A	BC	7-2	Reader 2, Dolphin, Morrell, Butler, Gumbley, Humphries
01.23	Bloxwich Strollers	H	BC	4-1	Morrell, Tompkins, Merrick, Dolphin
01.30	Atherstone Town	A	BC	2-1	Merrick 2
02.06	Cradley Heath St.Lukes	H	BC	6-1	Morrell 2, Tompkins 2, Merrick, Dolphin
02.08	Birmingham City Reserves	H	BSC SF	1-1	Morrell
02.13	Birmingham City Reserves	A	BSC SFr	1-3	Morrell
02.20	Cannock Town	H	BC	4-0	Tompkins 2, Merrick, Bartlett
02.27	Tamworth Castle	H	ANC SF	5-1	Morrell 3, Tompkins, Reader
03.06	Stafford Rangers	H	BC	6-2	Merrick 3, Dolphin, Broderick, Bartlett
03.13	Hinckley United	A	BC	1-1	Broderick
03.20	Birmingham Trams	H	BC	2-0	Broderick, Tompkins
03.27	Birmingham Trams	A	BC	1-1	Tompkins
04.02	Hednesford Town	A	BC	2-3	Morrell, Bartlett
04.03	Redditch United	A	BC	5-2	Morrell 2, Merrick 2, Tompkins
04.05	Atherstone Town	A	ANC F	6-0	Reader 4, Merrick, Mitchell
04.06	Hednesford Town	H	BC	1-0	Mitchell
04.10	Bilston Town	H	BC	2-0	Merrick 2
04.17	Willenhall Pickwick	H	BC	3-2	Morrell 2, Mitchell
04.24	Bournville Athletic	A	BC	1-1	Rees
04.29	Tamworth Castle	H	BC	1-1	Morrell
05.01	Bournville Athletic	H	BC	5-2	Barrett 2 (2p), Dolphin, Tompkins, Reader

Key: BC=Birmingham Combination, FAC=F.A.Cup, BSC=Birmingham Senior Cup, NHC=Nuneaton Hospital Cup, ANC=Atherstone Nursing Cup

\* Nov 21 abandoned after 80 mins

## George Reader



George Reader with the Birmingham Combination winners shield

George Reader made his debut for Nuneaton Town during the championship winning 1914-15 season, in a Birmingham Combination game against Bromsgrove Rovers. He went on to play 21 games and score 13 goals in that season.

Alongside his championship medal, George also picked up an Atherstone Nursing Cup winners medal, scoring four goals in the final at Sheepy Road against Atherstone Town.

He also made four appearances and scored three goals in 1919-20 before moving to Exeter where he attended St Luke's Teacher Training College, during which time he played one game for Exeter City.

During his brief spell with Exeter, George took part in a friendly match against Southampton, who were impressed enough to offer a fee of £50. He made three appearances in Division Three (South) during 1920-21 before moving on to Harland and Wolff for the 1921-22 season.

George then spent many years at Cowes Sports FC on the Isle of Wight,

travelling to matches on the loW ferry whilst working as a teacher in Southampton. On his retirement from playing in 1930 he took up refereeing local matches in Southampton.

Having achieved the status of Football League linesman during the period 1936-39 was elevated to League referee in 1939, but only officiated at three games due to the war.

During the War years George refereed two war cup finals as well as home internationals. Having retired from the Football League list in 1944, George then became a FIFA listed referee and went on to referee International matches across Europe.

Despite reservations about his age, George was then listed to represent British team of officials to travel to the 1950 World Cup in Brazil.

Unlike recent World Cup competitions, the winner was decided on a league basis and George was chosen to referee the opening game in which Brazil beat Mexico 4-0. He also took charge of Uruguay v Bolivia and Spain v Uruguay.

Because of the way the results panned out, the Uruguay v Brazil game turned out to be the decider, and George was again asked to take charge. Estimates of the crowd that day vary between 174,000 (FIFA official attendance) and 200,000.

On retiring from football after the World Cup Finals, George eventually returned to teaching and went on to become a headmaster.



George Reader at The Dell

He became a director and then chairman of Southampton FC from 1963 to 1978 and was in the Royal Box when Queen Elizabeth II presented Southampton captain Peter Rodrigues with the FA Cup in 1976, after their surprise win over Manchester United.



George Reader (far left) watches as Southampton captain Peter Rodrigues is presented with the FA Cup in 1976

George Reader was born in Nuneaton on November 22nd, 1896 and died in Southampton on July 13th 1978. He was an ex-pupil of King Edward Grammar School.



George Reader in his refereeing days



World Cup medal and official pass card



## The War Years (1914-1918)

When war was declared in 1914, it was thought that football might be suspended, but it was decided by the football authorities to complete the 1914-15 season.

This was not a universally popular decision, as a letter to The Times indicated: "We view with indignation and alarm the persistence of Association Football club in doing their best for the enemy... every club that employs a professional football player is bribing a much needed recruit to refrain from enlistment and every spectator who pays his gate money is contributing so much towards a German victory."

The football authorities, supported by the Government, were determined that the season would be completed. The games were viewed as ideal opportunities for recruiting able bodied men from the crowd and were also seen by some as a morale booster for those returning home on leave.

Indeed, in spite of football continuing after the outbreak, by Christmas of 1914 many supporters and players had signed up and gates fell significantly in the second half of the season.

During this period large groups of servicemen attended matches and became known as 'the khaki ring', no doubt proud to show off their uniforms without knowing what was to come. They were allowed in to games at half-price.

In April 1915 it was said that four players were serving their country, two were school teachers, seven involved in government work and there was one coal miner.

Also, by that same month, the local paper, The Observer, was carrying a front page call for the men of Nuneaton, Atherstone and Bedworth to enlist in the local fortress company of the new Fifth Army.

It was a craftsmen's company and the call was for tradesmen, ranging from blacksmith to engine drivers and the appeal got a good response.

There were letters from the lads in Khaki, proclaiming 'slackers should be sent to the trenches,' accompanied by photographs of patriotic Nuneaton men serving in the colours. On a more sombre note, a roll of honour gave the names of eighteen local men killed in action, a weekly total that would only get worse as the war continued.

Player Billy Barrett enlisted and after the final game of the season on May 1st he made a recruiting appeal on behalf of the Fortress Company of Engineers.

Later in the year it was reported that of the side that had started the 1914-15 season skipper George Lines, Harry Field, Freddy Dolphin, Harry Merrick, George Morrell and Percy Tomkins were all involved in government work.

Billy Barrett was a sapper, serving in the Royal Engineers, Richard Bartlett was a Quartermaster-Sergeant in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, Walter Dunkley was fighting in France with the King's Royal Rifles and William Dunn,

Emmin's brother, was in France with the Royal Warwickshire Regiment and had been wounded once. He did return safely though and played football again after the war.

Former Town player Frank Gathercole was also in France with the Warwicks (Territorials).

Field, Dunkley and Merrick played again for the club in 1919-20 and Billy Barrett signed for Leicester City.

Only one former or present Nuneaton Town player lost his life as far as we are aware — George 'Tubby' Warren.



## George 'Tubby' Warren

George was born in Burton on Trent and died in France on 16th May 1917.

Career: Rangemoor Albion; Aug 1898 Burton Swifts; 1899 Sheppey United; 1900 Hinckley Town; Dec 1903 Leicester Fosse; Sept 1904 Gresley Rovers; 1905 Hinckley United; 1906 Nuneaton Town; 1907 Coventry City; 1911 Willenhall Swifts; Oct 1911 Stockport County;

Dec 1911 Dudley; Jan 1912 Hinckley United; 1912 Nuneaton Town; Sept 1913 Hinckley United.

George had previously had two games in Division Two with Burton Swifts, a handful of outings in the Southern League at Sheppey, and a trio of Midland League seasons at Hinckley.

He later become quite a prolific stalwart for Coventry, where he picked up the nickname 'Tubby', and served in their final Birmingham League season, plus their first three terms in the Southern League.

George would eventually make a brief, three-game return to Second Division fare at Edgeley Park.

A former plumber, he enlisted with the Royal Army Service Corps in February 1917, and within three months was killed in WW1 action with the York & Lancaster Regiment, aged 36.

George made 33 apps for Nuneaton Town in 1906-07 and 23 apps and 14 goals in 1912-13.

His total for Coventry was 87 appearances and 40 goals.

## Football Suspended

From the end of the 1914-15 season the Great War took precedence over football, among many other things. In four years Nuneaton lost 675 men in combat up until November 1918.

There would be no football played by Nuneaton Town until the Armistice of 1919. During the war years, the Newdegate Arms Sports ground had passed into the hands of developers and Nuneaton had played their last game at that particular venue. It was time to move home - again.

## The Mayor's Support for Share Issue

I was pleased with the attendance and the tone of the Town's Meeting, convened by the Mayor in support of the Nuneaton Town Football Club. The Mayor gave the meeting a good send-off, and Councillor Reader, in a lucid speech, put the proposed scheme before the meeting. A good meeting is one thing, but the forthcoming financial support is what is needed to keep the Club going.

If local "sports," tradesmen, and the various employers of labour do not come forward and subscribe the requisite capital, Nuneaton must hid its head in shame for many years to come. Now, what are the facts? The Club has risen to a very important position in the football world after much hard work. Its admission to the Birmingham and District League is a distinguished honour to the town.

This League might be considered only second in importance to the three English Leagues, and the Club has to decide in the course of the next two or three weeks if it is going to play in the League matches. At present the Club has no playing ground, but Councillor Reader's scheme will meet the difficulty. This involved the purchase of land and buildings amounting to £4,000.

The acreage of the site is about 14, and it is proposed to sell five or six, together with the farm house and buildings known as the Wash Lane Farm, now in the

occupation of Mr. Fennell. It is necessary to raise at least £2,000 in 10s shares, without delay, in order to exercise the option upon the land. I would, therefore, impress upon my readers to come forward without delay and promise to take up shares.

Is it worthwhile attracting crowds of ten thousands to Nuneaton on Saturdays during the season? If so, let Nuneaton people rise to the occasion. I am afraid that the traders in Nuneaton are not alive or there would have been some tangible support at the meeting. I only "spotted" two tradesmen in the audience. Now then, Nuneaton, wake up, and roll in your applications for shares, to the "Observer" Office if you like.

Without unduly belabouring this project, let me explain that the Town Football Club is a limited liability company. Its paid up capital only amounts to a few hundred pounds and now the Directors propose to issue two to four thousand pounds in ten shilling shares. The security they offer is land which will grow in value year by year, but the dividend is limited to five per cent. It is not a money-making concern, but a project to encourage mainly sport.

Now I am right in saying that every lover of football in Nuneaton can afford at least a sovereign for two shares. Many can afford a good deal more. I hope I am not too pointed in asking the Directors of all the local works and collieries to take up a considerable portion of these shares. What is needed on the part of the Directors of the Football Company is a systematic canvas and interview with the whole of the residents.

## Present Position of the Ground Difficulty

The future of the Nuneaton Town Football Club is not yet assured and the officials state that they still have reasons for anxiety with regard to the ground scheme. Mr. James Moore (chairman), has, we understand, given the Club the offer of the Cock and Bear estate, which he had purchased. Until an adequate number of shares have been subscribed for, the committee do not feel justified in embarking upon the scheme. So far nearly £1,000 has been subscribed, and it is essential that another £500 should be forthcoming immediately if the club is to continue. Such is the view the club directors hold,

and they appeal to the public to make a strong financial effort during the next few days. Working men are especially asked to come along with their applications for two or more 10s shares, and the tradespeople are invited to assist the club ere it is too late.

### An Unthinkable Calamity

It will come as a shock to Nuneaton enthusiasts to know that the situation has been considered so serious that a letter has been sent to the Birmingham and District League, asking for an extension of the time allowed for withdrawal from the League. It is almost unthinkable that such a calamity should occur to football in Nuneaton - that the club should have to withdraw

from its present honourable position. But it certainly appears as though this is a probability unless the necessary financial assistance is forthcoming.

The Club has been allowed until April 11th to decide whether it will run in the Birmingham League next season, so that only a week is available for the question to be finally settled. In view of this fact we need offer no further comment, but leave the matter to the sporting spirit of Nuneaton's residents.

Applications for shares can be forwarded to the "Observer" Office, Bond Gate, Nuneaton; Mr J. Smith, Bull's Head, Abbey Street; Mr. W. A. Thompson, 24 Attleborough Road or to any of the club's officials.

# Acknowledgments

A great debt is owed to the dedicated people who spent many long hours researching library records, archives and county records to provide the information for this website and its e-books.

Credit is due to the late John T. Moore, who dedicated many long hours of research, as well as to Roderick Grubb, Robert Forryan, Scott Renshaw, Andy Pace, Brian Anderson, Paul Sawyer, Kevin Brown, Geoff Cooke, Michael Day, John Hobson, Dave Hall, and the man behind the inspiration for this project Mike Turner.

Others, too numerous to mention, have also contributed - their names may not be mentioned but their services and knowledge of both the football club and the town have been invaluable.



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