



Nuneaton's Footballing Heritage

# Nuneaton Borough 1958-1970 – Part 2

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## Signs Pro For Nottingham Forest



Leonard Harris, a seventeen-year-old Borough FC player, has signed professional forms for Notts Forest.

Harris who has been at Manor Park for the past two seasons, was spotted by Mr Fred Badham, Borough FC general manager, while playing for Nuneaton Schools against a German side. He signed him for Borough when he left Alderman Smith High School.

A wing-half, Harris captained the Borough A and Featherstone Cup sides last season. His father, Mr John Harris, played for Stockingford Old Scholars. Leonard, who lives at 60, Whitehouse Crescent, has five sisters.

## Players Decline Terms

John Lovatt, Borough's centre-half cum centre-forward has declined the terms offered him by the club and has instead signed for Worcester City. Clive Hopkin has also declined terms and Roger Thompson has not yet re-signed.

## Transfer News

Mr Dudley Kernick, Borough team manager, is hoping to sign this weekend, a 21-year-old utility forward who has had experience with two League clubs. He is also in touch with two other forwards, and expects to sign a goalkeeper, who he considers to be one of the best in the Southern League.

Mr Kernick, who says that in all probability Roger Thompson will now re-sign for the club, has made arrangements for Third Lanark, the Scottish League club, to visit Manor Park on August 6 for a pre-season friendly game, while he hopes that either Doncaster Rovers or Crystal Palace will also play a pre-season game at Manor Park. This may be an evening game.

Borough have been drawn at home to Lockheed, the Midland League side, in the Senior Cup. Last season Lockheed put Borough out of the FA Cup.



## Sizeable Fee For Alan Carter

Borough left-winger Alan Carter, has been transferred to Worcester City at what Mr Dudley Kernick, the Borough team manager, describes as a "sizeable fee."

Mr Kernick feels that he has adequate cover for Carter.

## Borough's New Signings To Face Third Lanark

With the exception of Roger Hope, the player signed from Kidderminster, Borough team manager Dudley Kernick, will put out all his new signings for the visit to Manor Park of Third Lanark, the Scottish League side.

This will be the first of four pre-season trial games which Mr Kernick has arranged so that supporters can assess the strength of the team against good opposition.

He has also arranged these games because four of the first five fixtures are away from home. Borough visit Hillingdon in the opening game of the season. Then they play Worcester City away in the Floodlit League, and are at home to Cambridge United in a League match, away to Hereford in the Southern League Cup, and then away to Atherstone Town in the FA Cup.

Borough's team for tomorrow will include Mr Kernick's latest signing, Paul Cutler, from Crystal Palace. Cutler, who is only 20, joined the Second Division club on leaving school, and signed professional forms when he was 17. He played 14 first team games last season, alternating between outside-left and centre-forward.

Fourteen players have been named for the game against Third Lanark and they are: Fred Crump (Tonbridge), Alan Jones, Roger Thompson, Ian Wilson (Dundee), Colin Davis (Lockheed), Johnny Watts, Peter Bryan (Oldham), Malcolm Allen, Norman Ashe, Billy Hails, Tony Richards (Port Vale), Tom Crawley (Worcester City), Paul Cutler (Crystal Palace) and Mick Fowkes.

Third Lanark have named the following players: Russell, Connell, Bailie, May, Little, Harvey, Mackay, Henderson, Stewart, Fyffe, Kilgannon, Kannaird, McLanglain. New players in the Third Lanark side are Colin Bailie (Rangers), Harvey (Partick) and Stewart (Aberdeen).

It is understood that a number of Division One scouts will be watching Bobby Russell (goalkeeper), George Fyffe and Jim Kilgannon.

On Tuesday, Tamworth, West Midlands League champions, will visit Manor Park. On Thursday next the visitors will be Birmingham City; whilst next Saturday, Stevenage will be making their first visit to Manor Park.



**Borough's team photo, taken before Tuesday's game against Tamworth at Manor Park. Back row (left to right): Norman Ashe, Paul Cutler, Tony Richards, Colin Davis, Malcolm Allen, Ian Wilson, Tom Crawley. Front row: Alan Jones, Roger Thompson, Peter Bryan, Fred Crump, Johnny Watts, Billy Hails.**

Photo: Nuneaton Observer



**Tony Richards, one of the Nuneaton Borough strikers, puts in a crashing shot that the Stevenage goalkeeper manages to save with a spectacular dive.**

Photo: Nuneaton Observer

## 1966-67

### Hillingdon Borough v Nuneaton Borough 20-08-1966

**Borough (from): Crump, Thompson, Jones, Wilson, Davies, Watson, Allen, Ashe, Hails, Richards, Crawley, Cutler, Hope.**

Borough made the journey to Middlesex to face Hillingdon Borough in the Southern League Premier Division.

After their unconvincing form in the pre-season trial games, Borough pleasantly surprised their supporters by winning their opening game of the season proper. But a word of warning, Hillingdon, promoted from Division One last season, are not a good side and are likely to find the Premier Division tough going.

Played in a heat wave, this was not a particularly inspiring game. Nor was it likely to be. Sustained ball chasing in such conditions was impossible, and it was not the least surprising that at times the game should have been played at walking pace. There can be little doubt that the better side won. Borough just about had the edge on their opponents.

It was goal by Tony Richards in the 71st minute that gave Borough the points. During a move carried out at walking pace, Borough had the Hillingdon defence in a daze as the ball was passed from man to man. And when the ball ran out to Billy Hails, standing out on the left, he promptly returned it across goal. Tom Crawley went up for the ball and failed to connect, but when it reached Richards, the Borough leader rose to nod it well out of goalkeeper Cakebread's reach.

It was fitting that Richards should have got that deciding goal, for in the 25th minute, during a period when Borough played some of their best football, the visitors' leader had headed a cross from the right against the post with goalkeeper Cakebread in no position to save. Shortly after Borough went close again when a move involving nearly all the forwards had the Hillingdon defence all at sea. It was sheer bad luck when Tom Crawley's finishing shot scraped past the wrong side of the post.

Luck was with the home side on those two occasions, but the biggest stroke of good fortune went to Borough. During one home attack, not long after Borough had taken the lead, left-half Moore unleashed a terrific shot which crashed against the far post with Fred Crump yards away.

On the few occasions when Hillingdon looked like getting through, goalkeeper Fred Crump was invariably in the right spot at the right time. He excelled in cutting out crosses, catching the ball cleanly or punching well clear. But his best save was when Goodall closed in and shot for the far corner of the net. Crump dived smartly to smother the ball as it was sizzling across goal towards the far post.

The attack did reasonably well without being anywhere near impressive. I can foresee Richards and Tom Crawley receiving close attention as in this game. Nevertheless they both have the ability to snatch goals. There lies their danger to opponents.

### Worcester City v Nuneaton Borough 22-08-1966

**Worcester: Black, Brack, Peck, Johnson, Madley, McEwan, Deeley, McCready, Carter, Hodgkisson, Hooper.**

**Borough: Burton, Jones, Wilson, Allen, Watts, Davis, Ashe, Hails, Richards, Crawley, Cutler.**

Borough made the journey to play Worcester City in a Midland Floodlit Cup game.

Alan Carter, Borough's leading goalscorer last season, hit a fine hat-trick at Worcester on Monday night to help send Nuneaton tumbling to defeat in their first Floodlit Cup game. Carter, who left Manor Park for Worcester in the close season, had a field day against his former colleagues. Worcester's other three goals came from former Walsall player Ken Hodgkisson, who took his tally to five in two games.

Borough have never won at Worcester in their Southern League history and the home side made sure of holding their record when they ran up a two-goal lead in the first 14 minutes. Norman Ashe made it 2-1 five minutes before half-

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time, then Worcester took advantage of some bad defensive mistakes in the second-half to romp home.

Mick Burton, making his first appearance in the Borough goal, could not have had a harder debut. He was at fault with a couple of the goals, but the defenders in front of him were far from steady. Borough missed enough chances to have had a share of the spoils and Tommy Crawley had what looked a perfectly good goal disallowed in the second half.

Nuneaton's second goal was scored from the penalty spot by Tony Richards after he had been pushed in the back by Worcester centre-half Madley. Worcester's goal came from Carter (10 mins., 62 mins., and 74 mins.), Hodgkisson (14 mins., 45 mins. and 37 mins.), Borough from Norman Ashe in the 40th minute and Tony Richards (penalty) three minutes after half-time.

## Nuneaton Borough v Cambridge United 27-08-1966

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Wilson, Davis, Watts, Allen, Ashe, Hails, Richards, Cutler, Crawley. **Sub:** Bryan.

**Cambridge:** Slack, Toon, Poole, Scurr, Baker, Graham, Fairchild, Maughan, Fahy, O'Neill, Hobbs. **Sub:** Finch.

Borough welcomed Cambridge United to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.



**Norman Ashe fails to connect with a cross from Cutler, and Cambridge United goalkeeper Slack, punches clear.** Photo: Nuneaton Observer

It was goalkeeper's day on Saturday – a day when the two keepers, Fred Crump for Borough and Rodney Slack for Cambridge, thrilled the crowd with some truly great saves. Better goalkeeping than this has not been seen on the ground for some time. That only three goals were scored was entirely due to the fine work of the two goalkeepers.

Time and again Crump came to Borough's rescue when Cambridge threatened. He was supreme in the air; any ball anywhere near him was his. It was an almost faultless display. Slack did not have quite so much work as Crump, yet some of the situations he had to cope with were far more ticklish, and he brought off the save of the match when, while falling

backwards into the net, he managed to reach and push over the bar a great Tony Richards header which seemed to have "goal" written all over it.

He also did well to save a fine drive by Norman Ashe, who raced past three opponents before shooting, and also a hard shot by Paul Cutler. Ashe and Alan O'Neill, the Cambridge inside-left, were both in sparkling form.

Borough's opening goal saw Tony Richards head against a post for Paul Cutler to seize upon the rebound and slam the ball into the net via the underside of the bar. Cambridge equalised with a controversial penalty, when a Baker header, which seemed to have Crump beaten, popped up and came into contact with Alan Jones' hand. The referee awarded a penalty and O'Neill gave Crump no chance from the spot. The crowd howled in protest at the award of the penalty, but they were pacified ten minutes later when Borough too were awarded a penalty.

Norman Ashe was dashing across the penalty area when he was sent sprawling by Jackie Scurr. Tony Richards' penalty shot was pushed by Slack against the underside of the crossbar from which it bounded into the net to give Borough what proved to be the winning goal.

Borough thus brought their total of Southern League points to four from their first two games – much their best start for some seasons. Dudley Kernick's men have not as yet fully settled down, but they are beginning to look a quite useful side. They did well to win this hard, gruelling game. Tony Richards' work in the air should gain him many goals.

## Hereford United v Nuneaton Borough 31-08-1966

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Wilson, Davis, Watts, Allen, Ashe, Hope, Richards, Cutler, Crawley.

Borough made the journey to Edgar Street to play a Southern League Cup first round first leg tie.

History repeated itself at Hereford on Wednesday night, when for the second successive year Nuneaton held Hereford United to a draw in the Southern League Cup. And once again it was a missed penalty by Ray Daniel which enabled the Borough to go into Monday's second leg on level terms.

Nuneaton's close season signing Tom Crawley, who scored both Worcester City's goals in their 2-1 victory over Hereford last season, scored both the goals for Borough. The game provided plenty of thrills for the 4,546 spectators.

After only three minutes Tony Richards created an opening for Tom Crawley with a perfect centre from the right, and the winger, with only goalkeeper Peter Isaac to beat, neatly put the ball under his diving body. Hereford equalised almost immediately when Derrick scored after four minutes and the home side then took the lead through John Charles, who netted after 53 minutes. Crawley grabbed an equaliser for Borough after 67 minutes, when he took advantage of Hereford's failure to clear their lines.

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Just a minute later, Nuneaton had a lucky let-off when a hotly disputed penalty kick, conceded by Allen, was slipped past the wrong side of the goal by Ray Daniel.

Nuneaton played some attractive football, and in the closing 15 minutes kept Hereford at full stretch. They looked the side most likely to get the winner, but the Hereford defence held out. Monday's return match promises to have all the ingredients of a real thriller.

## Nuneaton Borough v Hereford United 05-09-1966

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Wilson, Allen, Watts, Bryan, Ashe, Cutler, Richards, Hope, Crawley. **Sub:** Hails.

**Hereford:** Isaac, Vale, Griffiths, McCall, Daniel, McIntosh, Burbeck, Rodgerson, Charles, Derrick, Holliday. **Sub:** Neville

Borough welcomed Hereford United to Manor Park for a Southern League Cup first round second leg tie.

A great goal two minutes from time by Tom Crawley saved Borough from defeat on Monday night. When the Borough forward levelled the scores at 2-2 with a brilliant header from a long floating centre by Paul Cutler, the crowd of 3,710 – the biggest for some time – gave a great cheer. Indeed both teams received an ovation as they left the pitch. No team better deserved to live to fight another day than Borough. They were at least the equals of this very good Hereford side.

Albert Derrick headed Hereford into the lead from a McIntosh cross in the eighth minute. Norman Ashe levelled the scores in the 17th minute when he shot through after Roger Griffiths had saved on the line from a header by Tom Crawley. It was in the 31st minute that John Charles gave Hereford a quite unexpected lead. It looked as though the Hereford leader was trying to head the ball inside to Derrick, but the ball bounced across goal and entered the far corner of the net.

This rather fortunate goal came at a time when Borough were really giving the Hereford defence some stick. On two or three occasions the Hereford goal went very close to capitulating, but Charles' goal rather put Borough out of their stride. They lacked nothing in determination and threw everything into attack. But in their eagerness to get an equaliser they lost some of their earlier poise, and many a final pass went astray.

For most of the second half they were on the attack and headers by Tony Richards and Crawley went close. Indeed on one occasion, during a terrific scramble in front of the Hereford goal, the ball was forced into the net, but the goal was disallowed for an infringement. Hereford were by no means idle and gave the Borough defence some anxious moments. Indeed, with 20 minutes left to play, Charles had a great chance of virtually settling the issue with what should have been a third Hereford goal.

He got right through a spreadeagled Borough defence but with only the goalkeeper to beat he allowed Fred Crump to leave his goal and dispossess him somewhere near the edge of the penalty area. This was a bad miss. Hereford managed

to hang on to their lead until Borough's persistence was rewarded by Crawley's goal two minutes from the end.

This was a rousing game – one of the best seen on the ground for some time. It was full of action, full of incident, and there was enough good football to keep the crowd on their toes until the very last kick. Games like this will certainly bring the lost legions back to Manor Park.

## Nuneaton Borough v Lockheed 20-08-1966

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Wilson, Allen, Watts, Bryan, Hails, Ashe, Richards, Sweeney, Crawley.

Borough welcomed Lockheed to Manor Park for a Birmingham Senior Cup first round tie.

Borough had no great difficulty in dismissing Midland League Lockheed from the Birmingham Senior Cup. The home side went into the lead in the first minute when Billy Hails got clean through only to be fouled by goalkeeper Crosby in the penalty area. Tony Richards scored from the spot.

After 20 minutes Tom Crawley made it 2-0 with a powerful drive, but almost immediately Tommy Morrow reduced the lead with an equally fine shot.

Tony Richards made the issue safe after 53 minutes by heading through after good work by Crawley and Ashe.

## Nuneaton Borough v Cheltenham Town 10-09-1966

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Thompson, Allen, Watts, Bryan, Hails, Ashe, Richards, Cutler, Crawley. **Sub:** Sweeney.

**Cheltenham:** Meeson, Thorndale, Radford, Carson, Etheridge, Ferns, Burford, Hudd, Horlick, Holder, Thorn. **Sub:** Green.

Borough welcomed Cheltenham Town to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division fixture.

It took an own goal by Cheltenham player-manager, Bob Etheridge, in the sixtieth minute to put Borough on the victory trail. In trying to clear a Paul Cutler cross, the Cheltenham centre-half put the ball past his own goalkeeper. This was a tragedy for Etheridge, who was probably the game's outstanding player.

After Norman Ashe had shot over the top of an empty net, goalkeeper Meeson was only seriously troubled by shots from the same player and Tony Richards during the first half. Apart from these two efforts and another by Malcolm Allen in the second session, Borough seldom looked like getting a goal – until Etheridge obliged.

Ten minutes from the end Tony Richards settled the issue with a second goal, shooting through after a Tom Crawley centre had caused confusion in the Cheltenham goalmouth.

Cheltenham were the better of two mediocre sides in the first half, and what little good football there was, they were responsible for most of it. Not until that own goal did they look like losing, even if they did not appear likely winners.

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Although both Fred Crump and Dave Meeson pulled off a few good saves, this was a game in which neither goalkeeper was over-burdened with work. A number of offside decisions early on seemed to put Borough out of their stride, but they should not be made responsible for all that went wrong in this game.

## Nuneaton Borough v Worcester City 12-09-1966

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Wilson, Allen, Watts, Bryan, Ashe, Sweeney, Richards, Crawley, Hope. **Sub:** Cutler.

**Worcester:** Collins, Wood, Peck, Mullen, Madley, Bassett, McCready, Lovatt, Carter, Hodgisson, Hooper. **Sub:** McEwan.

Borough welcomed Worcester City to Manor Park for a Midland Floodlit Cup encounter.

After giving a convincing first-half performance, Borough fell away markedly after the change of ends and a Jack Lovatt goal near the end gave the visitors victory and the double. Though Borough had the edge in the first-half and deservedly led 2-1 at half-time, there can really be little doubt that in the end Worcester were worthy winners.

As Borough fell away after the interval, City gradually came into the picture, and taking control of midfield gave the Borough defence many anxious moments. The wonder is that Worcester's winner was delayed until just before the final whistle. It was ironical that two former Borough players, Lovatt and Carter, should have played so big a part in Borough's defeat. The former got City's first and third goals and Carter the second.

Jack Lovatt shot Worcester into the lead after 12 minutes with a cross-shot following good work by Hodgisson and Hooper. Two minutes later Borough got a fine equaliser. Following a Watts' free-kick, Tom Crawley headed on to Tony Richards, who flung himself forward to head a grand goal. After 40 minutes, Borough went ahead when a shot from Norman Ashe which appeared to be going wide, was deflected into the net by Wood.

The second half went very much in favour of the visitors and it came as no surprise when, in the 63rd minute, a twice-taken Lovatt free-kick saw the ball land in front of the Borough goal. The defence failed to clear and the alert Alan Carter snapped up a chance to drive the ball past Crump. A minute from the end Jack Lovatt headed home a Hooper corner kick on the left.

This was a disappointing result from Borough's point of view, yet such set-backs as this one are bound to happen with such a heavy fixture list.

## Hereford United v Nuneaton Borough 14-09-1966

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Wilson, Davis, Watts, Bryan, Sweeney, Cutler, Richards, Allen, Crawley.

Borough made the journey to play Hereford United in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough are still joint leaders of the Premier Division as a result of their third draw with Hereford United inside a

fortnight. Borough were the better team on the night and played the more constructive football, but they were happy to settle for a point after receiving a battering in the closing stages. After equalising a first-half goal within four minutes, Borough forged ahead in the second half, and then fell back on the defensive.

Nuneaton were the more forceful side in the first 20 minutes, but it was Hereford who took the lead when Crump punched the ball clear to ex-England winger Eddie Holliday, who flashed it into the net. Within four minutes Paul Cutler equalised with a fine goal when he netted with a first-time shot from ten yards out. After the break, there was a lot of negative football until Gerald Sweeney was put clear by Crawley to notch the goal that gave Nuneaton the lead in the 71st minute, although his hard drive was helped into the net by Ray Daniel.

John Charles, who scored in both the previous games between the two clubs, had a goal disallowed, and hit an upright before finally levelling the scores. It came from a corner kick eight minutes from the end when Charles managed to outjump goalkeeper Fred Crump, who had previously been master in the air when any high balls came into the penalty area.

The Nuneaton defence was well marshalled by Johnny Watts, and once again gave an accomplished display, and were generally too swift and quick in the tackle for Hereford's liking. In attack Tony Richards was a troublesome leader, but Tom Crawley, normally a thorn in Hereford's side, did not have matters all his own way on this occasion.

## Nuneaton Borough v Hereford United 19-09-1966

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Thompson, Davis, Watts, Bryan, Ashe, Hails, Richards, Sweeney, Crawley. **Sub:** Wilson.

**Hereford:** Wallace, Vale, Griffiths, McCall, Neville, McIntosh, Jones, Rodgers, Charles, Derrick, Holliday.

Borough welcomed Hereford United to Manor Park for a Southern League Cup first round replay.



Hereford keeper Jock Wallace punches the ball clear during a goalmouth tussle on Monday night. Johnny Watts (left) and Tony Richards (right) go for the ball but Wallace has already cleared. Photo: Nuneaton Observer

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It took Borough 260 minutes to get the goal that disposed of Hereford United in the Southern League Cup after three thrill-packed games. This latest encounter kept the crowd in a state of tension throughout. It was a Tony Richards' goal ten minutes from time that finished off this Cup marathon.

The game looked to be heading for extra time with the scores tied at 2-2 and with only ten minutes to play. Then came the goal that put Borough ahead for the third time in this latest encounter. Even then the issue was by no means settled; indeed, it was not until the final whistle sounded that Borough's victory was assured.

Until the last 20 minutes Borough were slightly the better side, but after that, Hereford took advantage of Borough's tendency to concentrate on defence. The visitors kept up a steady pressure and more than once keeper Fred Crump caused consternation by leaving his goal to try to cut out high centres or corner kicks, sometimes failing to reach the ball or only partially clearing.

In the dying stages Hereford kept pumping high balls into the Borough goalmouth in an effort to find John Charles' head, yet it was Ian McIntosh who went nearest to saving the game for Hereford with a header that went just over the bar.

Borough went into the lead in the 13th minute when Ashe and Richards made an opening for Hails, whose shot appeared to strike a defender before entering the net. Hereford drew level five minutes later when an astute John Charles' pass found Derrick, who slammed the ball in from close range.

Three minutes before half-time, after Thompson had saved Borough by kicking off the goal-line, Ashe was sent away on the left and crossed the ball to the far post for Richards to wrong-foot keeper Wallace with a header to the far end of the net.

Hereford drew level in the 73rd minute following a McCall free-kick, Derrick put Ian McIntosh through to score his side's second goal. Then, 10 minutes from the end, came Borough's winner. Ian Wilson, who had come on as substitute for Sweeney, who went off injured in the 63rd minute, took a shot at goal from an Ashe cross and the ball ran across goal to Richards from where it went into the net near the far post.

From a football point of view this game was hardly up to the standard of the three previous encounters, but for sheer excitement it would take some beating.

## King's Lynn v Nuneaton Borough 21-09-1966

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Wilson, Bryan, Watts, Allen, Ashe, Davis, Crawley, Hails, Sweeney.

Borough made the journey to The Walks, home of King's Lynn for a Southern League Premier Division game.

A disputed penalty three minutes after the interval, netted by Lynn centre-forward Lindsay, started Nuneaton on the way to their first Southern League defeat of the season on Wednesday. The decision was a rather harsh one, Wilson being penalised for handling the ball which Lynn right winger Bacon chipped at him from close range.

However, Nuneaton had earlier survived a penalty award by the referee for a foul on Lindsay, who was charged in the back. After Nuneaton's protest, the referee, having consulted a linesman, gave the home side a free-kick just outside the 18 yard area.

It was an exciting game from start to finish and the crowd gave both teams a standing ovation as they left the field. Nuneaton opened in great style and took the lead in the ninth minute. From a Sweeney centre, Crawley headed against the foot of the post and Billy Hails, dashing in, neatly placed the ball past the diving goalkeeper.

Borough held the upper hand for some time. Lynn's defence looked unsteady under pressure, but somehow they managed to keep their goal intact. Gradually the home side came into the picture, though Nuneaton's defence in depth gave them little chance of scoring.

Then, in the 29th minute, when Watts passed back, the ball was swooped upon by livewire leader Lindsay. He slid after the ball and just managed to force it under Crump as the keeper dived.

Nuneaton had a couple of escapes just before the interval, but always looked capable of pulling the game round. However, the penalty gave King's Lynn extra incentive and they had most of the play in the second half. They made the match virtually safe with a fine third goal after 63 minutes. The ball was passed out from defence along the left flank in a four-man move and finally was pushed right across field past a spreadeagled defence, for Bacon to crash the ball in on the run.

## Nuneaton Borough v Chelmsford 24-09-1966

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Wilson, Davis, Watts, Bryan, Ashe, Cutler, Richards, Allen, Crawley. **Sub:** Sweeney.

**Chelmsford:** Medlock, Costello, Docherty, Eades, Hopkins, Smith, Leggett, Butcher, Houghton, Shreeves, Dryden. **Sub:** Hinton.

Borough welcomed Chelmsford City to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division game.

Although Borough's attack was not at its best, the defence must shoulder most of the blame for the loss of this first Southern League home point. While fans were disappointed with Borough's performance, the fact is that it was a lively, spirited encounter which could have gone either way, as first one side then the other went in front only to be pegged back again.

This was a game in which the Borough defence was out of sorts and made many mistakes. In fact the wonder is that they conceded only three goals. Whenever Peter Leggett and Tony Butcher had the ball on the Chelmsford right wing, Borough were in trouble. Most of the home side's troubles came from the inability of the defence to contain this pair.

Borough went ahead in the 10th minute when, following a move by Norman Ashe and Paul Cutler, goalkeeper Medlock pushed out a Tom Crawley effort. Alan Jones, who had followed up, crossed the ball first time for Tony Richards to sidefoot the ball into the net.



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Chelmsford drew level three minutes later when one of many right wing raids saw Butcher centre for Bud Houghton to head through just inside the post. The home side went ahead again in the 26th minute when Tom Crawley ran in from the left to head home from an acute angle a perfect Tony Richards cross from the right. A minute before half-time a Leggett corner was headed by Ollie Hopkins to Tony Butcher, who headed the ball into the net to level the scores.

The second half was only three minutes old when City ran into the lead when Butcher was put clean through a wide open Borough defence to shoot through with his left foot.

It was in the 63rd minute that Norman Ashe got the sixth and final goal of the match to level the scores at 3-3. A Paul Cutler corner kick was headed by Crawley to the Borough right winger, who hooked the ball into the net.

## Bath City v Nuneaton Borough 26-09-1966

**Bath City:** Beel, Swift, Thresher, Whitehouse, McFarlane, B. Carter, Lofty, Ward, Denton, W. Carter, E. Ashe.

**Borough:** Crump, Thompson, Wilson, Davis, Watts, Bryan, Ashe (Sweeney), Cutler, Crawley, Hails, Hope.

Borough made the journey to Twerton Park, home of Bath City, for a Southern League Premier Division fixture.

Injury-hit Borough crashed to their heaviest Southern League defeat of the season on Monday night – and have now picked up only one point in their last three games. In that spell they have conceded nine goals. And, unless Dudley Kernick can tighten his defence, Borough are in for more defeats.

Bath were able to shoot at will. They opened up the Borough rearguard with ease, and were rewarded with three goals. Borough on the other hand, were but pale shadows of the team which drew with Chelmsford in a highly entertaining game.

Maybe it was the last-minute changes through injury which caused Nuneaton to play so unconvincingly. For only once did they ever look like scoring – and that was when Bath were already two goals up.

Tony Richards was out with an injured heel, Alan Jones had a knock on his shins, and Malcolm Allen went down with a throat infection. If that wasn't enough, Norman Ashe left the field in the 39th minute with a shin injury and Gerry Sweeney deputised for the rest of the match.

Even so, the Bath crowd of 2,378 expected more of a side which held third place in the Premier Division table. But Borough's passing was weak, and they failed to create openings. It was no wonder then that Bath had a comparatively easy win. They had the ball in the net on another occasion, but the referee had already blown for half-time before Denton shot past Crump.

It was Ward who gave Bath the lead in the seventh minute with a header from Lofty's cross. Then Carter made it 2-0 in the 26th minute, and Ward netted the third after 61 minutes following a goalmouth melee.

The City defence had an easy time containing the Borough forward line. Crawley was well held by centre-half McFarlane, and wingers Sweeney and Hope were given little scope by full-backs Swift and Thresher.

## Wellington Town v Nuneaton Borough 03-10-1966

**Wellington:** Knight, Whitehouse, Humble, Salt, Hair, Ray, Matthews, Hart, Bentley, Blackburn, Jagger.

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Wilson, Bryan, Watts, Allen, Ashe, Cutler, Richards (Crawley), Sweeney, Hope.

Borough made the journey to the Buck's Head to play Wellington Town in a Midland Floodlit Cup game.

Former Nuneaton player Brian Hart was one of the stars of Wellington's victory over his old club, but the man who stole the show with his performance was keeper Fred Crump. Crump set the standard he was to maintain throughout with three superb saves as the home side made a tear-away start, and it was largely due to his efforts that Borough almost forced a draw in a fighting finish that had the home side reeling.

Wellington took the initiative at the start and Crump saved in brilliant style from Bentley (twice) and Salt before the former beat him to put Wellington in front after 15 minutes. Nuneaton were not dismayed, however, and settled down to play their part in a fast and vigorous game which kept the crowd on its toes to the end.

Wellington had the better of the exchanges but Crump and a competent defence held them confidently until a minute before half-time when a tragic error by Watts gave Blackburn a gift goal. Watts made a mess of a back pass and Blackburn nipped in to score. Ashe and Hope were always threatening on the wings and it was an Ashe centre which led to Sweeney reducing the deficit after 51 minutes. The ball was nodded down by Cutler and Sweeney beat Knight confidently.

Jagger scored Wellington's third goal from the penalty spot after 64 minutes following a handling offence, but nine minutes later Tony Richards bobbed up to nod in Nuneaton's second goal. Richards went off with a leg injury to be replaced by Tom Crawley soon afterwards.

As Nuneaton made a last gasp attempt to force a draw, Roger Hope, on his own, five yards from goal, sent the ball tamely into Knight's hands. It was an expensive miss, for Nuneaton were given few chances after that.

## Nuneaton Borough v Hednesford 08-10-1966

**Borough:** Crump, Thompson, Jones, Davis, Watts, Bryan, Ashe, Sweeney, Cutler, Crawley, Hails.

**Hednesford:** Farnell, D. Davies, Ashton, Merrett, A. Davies, Platt, Wright, Horton, Wiggan, Neal, Bent.

Borough welcomed Hednesford to Manor Park for a Birmingham Senior Cup second round tie.

Just when it was beginning to look as though Borough were heading for a replay at Hednesford – a game they surely did



not want, having regard to their heavy fixture list – goal-grabber Tom Crawley stepped in to make a journey to the Cross Keys ground unnecessary.

Farnell saved one desperate situation by diving at Paul Cutler's feet when a goal seemed imminent, and was injured in doing so. Twice Crawley raced through to be stopped only yards from goal. The goalkeeper then had to deal with shots from the inside-left and Ashe – and then came a shattering attack which had the Hednesford defence in a complete whirl. How it did not produce a third goal nobody can say.

Following a move started by Colin Davis, Hails pushed the ball inside for Cutler to bang his shot against the bar. The ball appeared to rebound off the bar on to the goalkeeper and then against a post. Finally Crawley shot yards over the top of the goal. Borough's grandstand finish livened up a game which certainly needed pepping up.

After a very even first half in which Hednesford did not experience very great difficulty in matching the home side. Borough got on top in the second session and launched attack after attack without being able to produce goals, at least not until the last 15 minutes or so.

Borough went ahead after only five minutes after centre-half A. Davies had given away a corner in trying to clear an Ashe header and from the right-winger's flag kick, Billy Hails gained possession, transferred the ball from his left to his right foot, and then drove it into the far corner of the net.

Hednesford drew level after 25 minutes when Crump moved out to his right to deal with Neal, only for the ball to run loose across goal for Bent to score easily. All he had to do was to tap the ball into the net.

Borough's winner came 15 minutes from the end. A move developed on the right and then Norman Ashe sent across a high centre, goalkeeper Farnell punched the ball to Crawley who promptly headed into the net. It was just the sort of chance in which Crawley revels. This goal was the signal for a Borough onslaught on the Hednesford goal.

## **Burton Albion v Nuneaton Borough 12-10-1966**

**Burton:** Potter, Finney, Shepherd, Keating, Aston, Bale, Ruby, Carver, Round, Barker, Edwards. **Sub:** Tait.

**Borough:** Crump, Thompson, Wilson, Rumney, Watts, Allen, Ashe, Crawley, Sweeney, Hope, Hails. **Sub:** Davis.

Borough made the journey to Eton Park to play a Midland Floodlit Cup game.

Borough put on a repeat performance of their FA Cup success when they won by a single goal to record their first success in the competition. Though lacking the excitement and tenseness of the FA Cup encounter 12 days earlier, this game nevertheless produced some quite good football and a first class display of goalkeeping from Fred Crump.

The Borough goalkeeper made many fine saves, the most notable probably being when following a Stan Aston free-

kick and a pass by Stan Round, he dived at the feet of Richie Barker to bring off a most daring save. He also did well to put over the bar a header by Aston, who had gone upfield for a corner kick. Crump, who scarcely put a foot wrong the whole game through, had more work to do than Potter, the home goalkeeper, who also brought off some good saves.

The only goal of the match came in the 69th minute and was a good one. Tom Crawley had the ball somewhere in the region of the corner flag on the left and then passed inside to Malcolm Allen, who crossed a beauty in front of the Burton goal for Gerry Sweeney to race in and crack the ball into the roof of the net.

Borough's victory was all the more praiseworthy having regard to the fact that both Tony Richards and Paul Cutler were missing from the attack. Even so, the Borough forward line, which included Sweeney as leader and Hope at inside-left, put on a good show and gave Burton's defence plenty to think about.

The Burton goal had one particularly narrow escape when Norman Ashe came flying down the wing, cut inside, and then delivered a powerful low drive which was cleared off the goal-line. Potter also had to dive to take a hard drive by Roger Thompson. A most commendable display was given by George Rumney at right-half. Indeed the Borough half-back line of Rumney, Watts and Allen was the strongest part of the team.

It was most unfortunate that in the 74th minute Malcolm Allen should have to leave the field with an injury. His place was taken by substitute Colin Davis.

## **Testimonial For Borough Players**

Two Borough players, Malcolm Allen and Roger Thompson, are being given a testimonial this season.

Several events are being organised, the first of which is a match between TV's Brentwich United and the Midland All Stars XI at Manor Park on Sunday, October 30.

Players who have so far promised to appear include Ronnie Allen, Johnnie Nicholls, Stan Lynn, Peter McParland, Jimmy Dugdale, Johnny Dixon and Bill Baxter.

It is hoped to bring a First Division side to Manor Park towards the end of the season.

## **Nuneaton Borough v King's Lynn 17-10-1966**

**Borough:** Smith, Jones, Wilson, Rumney, Davis, Allen, Ashe, Cutler, Richards, Sweeney, Hope. **Sub:** Crawley.

**King's Lynn:** Coe, Chilleystone, Sharpe, D. Brookes, Porter, Wright, Banson, Davies, Lindsay, Laverick, McGuigan. **Sub:** J. Brookes.

Borough welcomed King's Lynn to Manor Park for a Southern League Cup second round tie.

In a thrill-packed game on Monday night, a crowd of 2,464 saw two of the quickest goals ever scored on the ground.

# Nuneaton Borough 1958-1970 – Part 2



Within two minutes of the kick-off each side had scored a goal. And in the last six minutes each side scored again – and King's Lynn very nearly got another when right winger Banson shot against the bar.

Only brilliant goalkeeping by Norman Coe, who made a whole series of thrilling saves, notably from shots by Paul Cutler and Norman Ashe and a great header from Tony Richards saved the visitors when Borough goals seemed almost certain.

The game opened in sensational fashion. Straight from the kick-off Tony Richards took a through ball and went ahead to shoot into the King's Lynn net. Right from the restart a cross from McGuigan on the King's Lynn left was put past his own goalkeeper by Ian Wilson. These two goals came almost before many in the crowd had settled down, and many late-comers missed both.

King's Lynn took the lead in the 84th minute with a neatly executed goal. A pin-point cross from David Brookes found an unmarked Bobby Laverick near the far post and the inside-left headed a perfect goal. It looked very much as though this goal would settle the issue, but with only three minutes to go, following a throw-in and free-kick on the right, the ball bounced across goal to Roger Hope, who shot into the net.

It was a very good game with both sides playing some most attractive football. On occasion the ball moved from end-to-end with such rapidity that things seemed to happen in a whirl. A special word of praise is due to the Alvechurch goalkeeper John Smith, who took Fred Crump's place in the Borough goal.

Considering Borough were short of five players who had played in the FA Cup tie at Macclesfield – Fred Crump, Roger Thompson, Johnny Watts, Tom Crawley and Billy Hails – Borough played well. So indeed did King's Lynn. Altogether it was a most satisfying, exciting game. The only pity is that a replay means yet another game has been added to Borough's already heavy programme.

## Lockheed v Nuneaton Borough 24-10-1966

**Borough: Crump, Thompson, Bryan, Davis, Watts, Rumney, Ashe, Cutler, Crawley, Sweeney, Hope.**

Borough made the journey to Leamington to take on Lockheed in a Midland Floodlit Cup game.

A grandstand finish by Lockheed which produced three goal in 13 minutes, two of them within the space of three minutes, sank Borough on Monday night. It was the inability of the Borough defence to contain Lockheed's onslaughts down the right wing at a most vital period in the game that led to the visitors' downfall.

Up to the last 15 minutes it was anybody's game and indeed the odds were slightly in favour of Borough, who, after having wiped out a two-goal lead by the home side, were having slightly the better of the exchanges. Then it was that a series of storming raids down the Lockheed right wing, mostly led by Sid Hall, had the visitors rocking and reeling.

Lockheed opened the scoring in the 34th minute when, following a fine move in which Hall, Cox and Salmon took part, the ball was sent across for Tommy Morrow to head a perfect goal which gave Crump no chance. Two minutes later Roger Thompson conceded a free kick, and Hall put the ball to the far post for Harold Cox to rush in and head the ball just inside the post.

Borough clawed a goal back at the start of the second half when Haines, the Lockheed centre-half put through his own goal when there seemed very little danger, and in the 65th minute Borough drew level when Crosby could only push out an effort from Norman Ashe and Sweeney was there to put the ball into the net.

Lockheed took the game with three late goals, the first of which came in the 77th minute when Benskin got away on the right and from almost off the goal-line pulled the ball back for Sid Hall to race in and bang the ball hard and low past a helpless Fred Crump to make the score 3-2. Eight minutes later Holmes found himself in the clear with only Crump to beat and as he was in the process of rounding the keeper, the latter did the only thing he could – that was to dive at Holmes' feet. This he did and in the process brought down the Lockheed leader inside the penalty area. A spot kick was inevitable and Hall made it 4-2 with a well-placed shot. Three minutes later Lockheed got their fifth and final goal when Ernie Ward crashed another shot into the Borough net.

### Borough Players Attracting Attention

A Birmingham sports paper reports that Cardiff City, Crystal Palace and Hull City are chasing Nuneaton Borough players.

Cardiff, says the newspaper are watching right back Alan Jones; Palace fancy former Dundee left-back Ian Wilson; while utility forward Paul Cutler is attracting attention from Hull City.

## King's Lynn v Nuneaton Borough 26-10-1966

**Borough: Crump, Jones, Wilson, Davis, Bryan, Rumney (Hails), Ashe, Allen, Sweeney, Cutler, Hope.**

Borough made the journey to King's Lynn on Wednesday to play a Southern League Cup second round replay.

Borough bowed out of the Southern League Cup following a dour tussle that went into extra-time. The game lacked the sparkle of the previous encounters between the two sides with the sequence of goals being the chief feature. Three times Borough went into the lead, but each time King's Lynn hit back, finally to clinch the match in extra time.

Norman Ashe, the liveliest of the Nuneaton forwards put Borough ahead with a fine opportunist goal after only four minutes. Lynn left-winger Banson, equalised five minutes later, and he repeated this act again in the first half after Ashe



had restored Borough's lead in the 22nd minute. Neither side was able to break clear in a rugged second half until Roger Hope raced through the Lynn defence to score with a low crisp drive after 78 minutes. Three minutes later Lynn drew level for the third time.

Brookes floated a free-kick on the right to the far side of the goal and Laverick flashed the ball into the roof of the net. In the closing minutes of normal time Borough might have won, for Hope shot wide after a Sweeney shot had rebounded from the goalkeeper.

The decider came when Crump was unable to properly clear a left-wing centre and Lynn skipper Wright was on hand to force the ball into the net.

Borough, who were without Watts, for whom Peter Bryan deputised, and Tom Crawley, brought on substitute Billy Hails after 45 minutes for Rumney, who sustained a groin injury.

## Romford v Nuneaton Borough 29-10-1966

**Romford:** Smith, Read, Taylor, Reed, White, Gibbs, Sanders, Aggio, Obeney, King, Barnett. **Sub:** Kelly.

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Wilson, Bryan, Watts, Allen, Ashe, Cutler, Richards, Crawley, Hails. **Sub:** Davis.

Borough made the journey to Romford to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough's hesitant and uncertain defence presented Romford with their easiest points of the season on Saturday. Nuneaton gave away three goals in the first 20 minutes and went on to slump to their heaviest defeat of the season.

Romford, made to look a great deal better than they really were by a poor display from the Borough outfit, gleefully accepted the chances they were given and outside-left Tom Barnett cashed in on Borough's mistakes to the full with a well-taken hat-trick.

Two of Romford's opening goals came from mistakes by Borough keeper Fred Crump. In the tenth minute he palmed away a high cross instead of hitting the ball hard first time and Aggio scored. And in the 20th minute he was out of position as King grabbed Romford's third goal. Earlier, in the third minute, the Nuneaton defence was caught on the hop by a right-wing cross from Sanders and Barnett had time to pick his spot before shooting past Crump.

A characteristic dash from Norman Ashe ten minutes from half-time carved out Borough's only goal. Ashe hit the ball hard at Romford keeper Smith who dropped it on the line and Tony Richards followed up to score.

This goal raised Borough's hopes for a spell and they managed to show a faint glimmer of their true form before Romford hit two goals in five minutes early in the second-half. Borough had neither the skill nor the confidence to fight their way back into a game that they had allowed to slip from their grasp in the first 20 minutes. Their confidence was shattered by Romford's three goal opening burst and things went from

bad to worse and Romford added three more goals to coast home to a comfortable win.

Barnett made it 4-1 in the 62nd minute and completed his hat-trick in the 67th with a tremendous 30-yard drive. Near the end Romford's inside-right Ray Aggio, the driving force and schemer behind the Essex side's attack, scored the sixth and final goal after juggling the ball past two defenders and easily beating Crump.

Romford's goal rush took Borough's goal against tally to 15 in the last three games – their worst spell since Dudley Kernick took over and they badly need a confidence booster with their FA Cup first round tie at Wealdstone in the offing.

## Nuneaton Borough v Halesowen Town 31-10-1966

**Borough:** Smith, Thompson, Wilson, Rumney, Watts, Allen, Ashe, Cutler, Richards, Hope, Crawley.

**Halesowen:** Spittle, Kimberley, Field, Crampton, Culwick, Taylor, Anderson, Cottrell, Bell, McGrath, Fulwood.

Borough welcomed Halesowen Town to Manor Park on Monday for a Birmingham Senior Cup third round tie.

Two goals in five minutes – one from Norman Ashe and one from Paul Cutler – put Borough into the semi-finals of the Birmingham Senior Cup after an uninspiring third round game. Both sides created and missed some good chances in the first-half and West Midland League side Halesowen more than held their own in a scrappy first 45 minutes.

Then in the 67th minute Norman Ashe shot Nuneaton into the lead with a left foot drive from just inside the 18-yard box after Cutler had set up the pass. Tommy Crawley almost increased Borough's lead three minutes later when he made a thrilling solo burst through the middle before shooting wide. But Paul Cutler made sure of the Manor Park side's place in the semi-finals in the 72nd minute when he cracked the ball home from 25 yards after good work by Tony Richards.

The game had really blossomed into life after a dull first-half and Halesowen centre-forward Bell kept his side in with a slim chance when he netted to make the score 2-1 after 75 minutes. Bell should have equalised a few minutes later when he shot hurriedly from a good position instead of bringing the ball under control and picking his spot.

Borough held on to their lead comfortably, despite some intelligent forward play by the Halesowen side. Nuneaton's defence was rarely at full stretch and amateur goalkeeper John Smith turned in a capable performance in his second game in Borough colours.

In the end Borough's all round professionalism proved more than a match for the energetic West Midland Leaguers.

It wasn't a particularly impressive win for the Manor Park outfit. But they now must have a great chance of bringing home at least one trophy this season. And it also provided some small consolation for their three dismal defeats in the last week.



## Nuneaton Borough v Wellington Town 05-11-1966

**Borough:** Crump, Thompson, Wilson, Davis, Watts, Allen, Ashe, Cutler, Richards, Crawley, Hails. **Sub:** Hope.

**Wellington:** Richards, Whitehouse, Newton, Hopkin, Clarke, Ray, Matthews, Hart, Bentley, Blackburn, Jagger. **Sub:** Goodall.

Borough welcomed Wellington Town to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division game.

Considering the slippery state of the pitch following heavy rain and the fact that rain pelted down for most of the second half, the football served up by both sides was such as to make the crowd forget the bitterly cold, and generally woeful conditions.

Whereas the Salopians biggest threat came from the free-scoring Jack Bentley, who had his best scoring efforts ably dealt with by goalkeeper Fred Crump, Borough brought their full forward armoury into play and always looked the more deadly in front of goal, even though one or two fairly straight-forward scoring chances slipped away.

Wellington were unfortunate in having two goals disallowed one by Alan Blackburn for a foul on the keeper and the other by Brian Hart for offside. And to add to Wellington's woe, immediately after these efforts were disallowed, Borough scored their third and fourth goals. Borough's defence did better than of late, but it does not necessarily follow that they were always on top of their game. In fact, they had to thank Crump for keeping the slate clean. He made several excellent saves.

Borough took the lead in the 21st minute when Crawley put Hails through, for the left winger to push the ball across to Cutler, who wasted no time in piloting the ball past a helpless Mick Richards in the Wellington goal. Goal number two came in the 35th minute. Wilson started the move from midfield and the ball travelled via Hails, Ashe and Crawley to Richards who banged the ball through to give Borough a 2-0 half-time lead.

It was in the 53rd minute that Borough increased their lead. Mick Richards pushed away a cross from the left and the ball eventually ran out to Norman Ashe, who slammed in a very hard left-foot drive. Richards pushed the ball on to the post and it went over the line before the keeper could scramble it away.

It was after Johnny Ray had seen a shot hit the face of the Borough bar that the home side scored their fourth goal in the 75th minute, when Paul Cutler slipped the ball through to Tony Richards, who shot hard and low into the Wellington net.

## Nuneaton Borough v Lockheed 07-11-1966

**Borough:** Crump, Thompson, Hope, Davis, Watts, Allen, Ashe, Cutler, Richards, Crawley, Hails. **Sub:** Wilson.

**Lockheed:** Crosby, Cox, Jones, Benskin, Clarke, Shorthose, Ward, Salmon, Holmes, Morrow, Hall. **Sub:** Richards.

Borough welcomed Lockheed to Manor Park for a Midland Floodlit Cup match.

Borough got off to a very good start and within 21 minutes had run into a two goal lead, but after that Lockheed hit back hard

and gave the Borough defence plenty to think about. Lockheed certainly showed plenty of fight and not a little skill in the latter stages of the first-half and they must have gone in at the break feeling they had a chance. But five minutes after half-time an own goal ended any hopes they might have had of saving the game, and Borough went on to win as they pleased.

Lockheed's chances received a set-back when, in the 54th minute, former Borough player Harold Cox was injured and taken off the field on a stretcher.

Borough went ahead in the 11th minute when a defender headed away a Malcolm Allen centre to Billy Hails, who breasted the ball down and then beat goalkeeper Crosby. Ten minutes later Malcolm Allen started a move which ended in Paul Cutler taking a pass from Billy Hails to beat two men before piloting the ball into the Lockheed net. In the 28th minute a shot by Ernie Ward was deflected off Davis to Sid Hall, who, in an open position, had no trouble in beating Crump. Five minutes after half-time, from a short corner by Norman Ashe, Roger Thompson slammed the ball across goal for centre-half Les Carter to deflect the ball into his own net.

In the 70th minute Paul Cutler was brought down in the penalty area, and Tony Richards crashed the spot kick into the roof of the net for Borough's fourth goal. Five minutes later Tony Richards with a mere flick, headed a Davis free-kick just inside the post, while in the 86th minute a mistake by Roger Thompson let in Ernie Ward who lobbed the ball home, but thirty seconds later Richards crossed the ball for Norman Ashe to race in and ram the ball past a helpless Crosby.

## Worcester City v Nuneaton Borough 12-11-1966

**Worcester:** Collins, Peck, Brack, McEwan, Madley, Johnson, Hooper, Deeley, Carter, Mullen, Bassett.

**Borough:** Crump, Thompson, Jones, Davis, Watts, Allen, Ashe, Cutler, Richards, Crawley, Hails.

Borough made the journey to St George's Lane to face Worcester City in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Alan Carter, whose goals have helped to defeat his previous club on two occasions already this season, was closely marked on this occasion and had few chances to add to his tally. Tom Crawley was Worcester's leading scorer last season and the home side did their best to keep him in subjection, but he often slipped his guard before being put through by Billy Hails in the 49th minute to score the goal that clinched victory for Borough. Billy Hails had a very effective game. He started off many Borough raids and caused trouble to the home defence by his wanderings and dashes down both wings.

Another player who led the City defence a rare dance was quicksilver Norman Ashe, who, besides working prodigiously both upfield and, when the occasion demanded, also in defence, scored his 12th goal of the season in the 28th minute.

City never really got to grips with an efficient, hard tackling Borough defence until the last 15 minutes when they threw

# Nuneaton Borough 1958-1970 – Part 2



everything they had into a desperate effort to save the game. It would not be doing Worcester justice if it were suggested that Borough did not have some very anxious moments during the home side's last frantic bid to try to salvage a point. Once or twice the visitors' goal escaped narrowly and on other occasions Fred Crump pulled off some fine saves, none better than the one in the last minute of the game from Hooper.

Following a goal kick, Borough rushed to the other end for Tom Crawley to plant the ball in front of goal for Norman Ashe, who had moved into the middle to thrash the ball into the net via the underside of the crossbar. That goal came in the 28th minute.

After Norman Ashe had all but added to Borough's score after waltzing his way through the City defence and shooting only inches over the top, Borough struck again in the 49th minute. They broke out of defence for Billy Hails to put Tom Crawley away on the left. Although Crawley had little of the net in which to shoot, his perfectly placed cross-shot beat the diving Collins to find a resting place in the far corner of the net.

It was by no means a great game. There were many dull periods, especially in the first-half. But when they did get on the move, the Borough forwards interchanged intelligently, and moving the ball about with accuracy, often had Madley and his colleagues in the City defence in difficulties.

## Bedford Town v Nuneaton Borough 14-11-1966

**Bedford Town:** Robinson, Morgan, Skinn, Willis, Collins, Corbett, Paton, Cleary, Fogg, Cooley, Sturrock. Sub: Benning.

**Borough:** Crump, Thompson, Jones, Davis, Watts, Allen, Ashe, Cutler, Richards, Crawley, Hails.

Borough made the journey to Bedford Town to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

This was a terrific Borough performance, a right-out-of-the-blue victory when at one point in the game defeat appeared almost inevitable. Borough's very fine win, after being two goals down at half-time, gave them two more away points, making four in three days and their fifth successive win.

Bedford seemed to be coasting to victory, especially as Borough were playing very moderately and showing few signs of cutting down the home side's lead. Then, in the 65th minute, Tom Crawley reduced the lead. This goal was the signal for a Borough revival and an onslaught which the home side was powerless to withstand.

Three minutes later Crawley levelled the scores, and Borough sailed right in for the kill. Quickly Crawley had the ball in the Bedford net for the third time, only to be given offside. The same player then raced through to send a powerful left-foot drive screaming just over the bar.

It was in the 37th minute that Watts gave away a free-kick and David Corbett's well-placed kick was steered into the Borough net by Cooley with a delicate header. Four minutes later Cleary headed the ball down to Cooley, who prodded

it home. Borough reduced the lead in the 65th minute when Tom Crawley cleverly back-headed an Alan Jones free-kick past Brian Robinson in the Bedford goal. Three minutes later, after a Billy Hails shot had been intercepted and a Norman Ashe shot blocked, Crawley hit the rebound into the net to level the scores.

Five minutes from the end Roger Thompson found Tom Crawley with a beautiful long ball. Crawley moved on a little and then squared the ball to Tony Richards, standing near the corner of the penalty box and the Borough leader drove hard and low into the far corner of the net.

This was an impressive performance by the Borough, and a triumph for first-class team work.

## Nuneaton Borough v Cambridge City 19-11-1966

**Borough:** Crump, Thompson, Jones, Davis, Watts, Allen, Ashe, Sweeney, Richards, Hope, Cutler. Sub: Wilson.

**Cambridge:** Bevis, Moyse, Dennis, Lye, McGuigan, McNally, McVittie, Ward, Bailham, Stevens, Wall. Sub: Aitchison.

Borough welcomed Cambridge City to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough achieved their fourth consecutive league win and their sixth victory in a row. The win was not quite so straight-forward as the scoreline suggests, for odd as it may seem, though City's finishing generally was anything but convincing, they were responsible for three of the best shots of the game.

This first was a Billy Wall effort, which struck the woodwork, while the others, a terrific drive by Bailham from a free-kick just outside the penalty box, and a last minute effort by Gerry Ward, were brilliantly saved by Fred Crump. The Borough goalkeeper had another fine match and quite early on – after Borough had gone into the lead – he saved what looked like a certain City equaliser, when he dived at the feet of John Stevens, who had been put right through by Bailham.

Play in the first-half was inclined to be scrappy, one of the comparatively few incidents to rouse the crowd being a first-minute goal by Roger Hope. Goalkeeper Dave Bevis pushed a shot from Roger Thompson onto the crossbar and when the ball came down he punched it out to Hope, whose hard, low drive was bang on target.

Play improved after the change of ends with Borough generally on top. Highlight of the half was a great second goal by Tony Richards, who met a Norman Ashe corner kick on the left and steered it brilliantly into the Cambridge net just inside the near post.

Paul Cutler rounded off the scoring with a third Borough success. A short passing bout in front of the City goal left Cutler with an easy chance and he made no mistake from close in. Borough's fourth consecutive win was at the expense of an injury to Johnny Watts, who received a cut over his eye and an injury to Roger Hope, who was helped from the field at the final whistle.



## Nuneaton Borough v Cheltenham Town 21-11-1966

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Wilson, Davis, Thompson, Allen, Ashe, Sweeney, Richards, Hope, Cutler. **Sub:** Crawley.

**Cheltenham:** Meeson, Thorndale, Walker, Ferns, Carson, Radford, Hurford, Tabor, Green, Hudd, Holder. **Sub:** Etheridge.

Borough welcomed Cheltenham Town to Manor Park for a Midland Floodlit Cup game.

There were many worried supporters at Manor Park on Monday when, 13 minutes from the end of the game, Tony Richards was pulled down in the penalty area by goalkeeper Dave Meeson. The referee immediately awarded a penalty, but even though Richards took the spot kick himself after receiving attention from the trainer, he was seen to be limping. Richards is obviously a key man for the upcoming first round FA Cup tie at Wealdstone.

It was not a particularly good game and only the goals kept the interest of the spectators alive. Johnny Watts was absent because of the injury received over the right eye in the previous game and the defence suffered as a consequence. The attack minus Tom Crawley and Billy Hails, was not impressive in the first-half. Crawley substituted for the injured Roger Hope after the change of ends, when the football was a little better.

Borough took the lead in the 8th minute when Norman Ashe went through for his shot to be diverted against the post by the goalkeeper and thence into the net. A minute later Graham Green levelled the scores by heading through from a corner kick. After 32 minute David Hurford took a pass from Willie Ferns and fired in a hard drive which entered the Borough net via the underside of the bar. Ten minutes later Tony Richards breasted down an Alan Jones cross and thrashed the ball past a helpless Meeson to make the score 2-2.

A simple goal in the 55th minute gave Cheltenham the lead again, a free-kick taken by Colin Holder well out on the left finding its way into the Borough net. In the 77th minute came Tony Richards' penalty goal.

This draw brought to an end a run of six consecutive wins for Borough. Strangely, the run came to an end against a team lying bottom of the Southern League Premier Division table.

### Borough Await Fitness Reports On Five Players

Not since Borough's last big FA Cup run in the 1953-54 season have Nuneaton's soccer fans been so excited about a football match as the one a Wealdstone tomorrow.

Borough team manager Mr Dudley Kernick, must be a very worried man, since he has no fewer than five of his 14 professionals on the injured list. They are: Billy Hails (ankle ligament), Tom Crawley (kick on instep), Roger Hope (kick on side of knee), Tony Richards (kick on calf) and Johnny Watts (cut over right eye).

## Nuneaton Borough v Poole Town 03-12-1966

**Borough:** Crump, Thompson, Wilson, Davis, Watts, Allen, Ashe, Cutler, Richards, Hope, Hails. **Sub:** Sweeney.

**Poole:** Wakeham, McGhee, Balson, Brewster, Brown, Davock, Saunders, Rutley, France, Henderson, Pitman. **Sub:** Eyden.

Borough welcomed Poole Town to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division fixture.

It took Borough well over an hour to get into their full stride in this Southern League match and the man who did as much as anybody to get them into step was Roger Thompson, whose raiding down the right flank after the change of ends brought some warmth to the chilled crowd. These Thompson sallies downfield ended either in a slam at goal or a high cross, and presented a threat which unsettled a hitherto compact Poole defence, which had kept out an off-form Borough attack.

The right back's persistence had an enlivening effect on his colleagues, and the whole complexion of the game changed. The game really came to life in the 70th minute when Thompson sent in a real pile driver which Poole goalkeeper Peter Wakeham did very well indeed to stop. Thompson followed up with another fine drive from quite 40 yards.

Then, in the 74th minute, a corner kick on the right saw the ball run to Tony Richards, who shot through from close range to add to the lead he had given his side in the 12th minute, when an Allen-Thompson move saw Billy Hails plant the ball into the middle for the Borough leader to beat Wakeham at the second attempt.

This second goal – Richards' 20th of the season – ended the stalemate that had set in, following a long period of indecisive play, during which Norman Ashe and Roger Hope had failed to add to the score with easy chances after being put clean through. Encouraged by this second goal, Borough set about Poole in no uncertain manner and six minutes later they settled the issue with a third goal. Following a short corner Malcolm Allen worked the ball skilfully along the dead ball line and after drawing the defence, centred for Paul Cutler to run in and shoot past Wakeham.

Until the last half hour Borough were well below their best. Yet they did their utmost in the second half to make the crowd forget the unexciting football that had gone before.

## Stourbridge v Nuneaton Borough 06-12-1966

**Stourbridge:** Cashmore, Lynn, Jewkes, Green, Pearson, Wood, Henderson, Parkin, Poynton, Hackett, Barrett.

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Wilson, Davis, Watts, Allen, Sweeney, Cutler, Richards, Crawley, Hails.

Borough made the journey to Stourbridge to play a Birmingham Senior Cup semi-final tie.

Borough made their way to the Birmingham Senior Cup final at Amblecote on Tuesday night, without too much trouble and should have won by a wider margin. For in addition to



scoring three goals, they had the ball in the net on four further occasions, and missed other chances. Three times when the ball was netted Borough were quite rightly given offside.

Borough started as though they would sweep Stourbridge out of the game. They penned in the home side for quite a while, and it came as no surprise at all when, in the 16th minute, Tony Richards brilliantly headed home a Billy Hails' corner kick, the ball simply flashing into the net. Then, in the 29th minute, after a long Fred Crump clearance, Richards slipped the ball to Paul Cutler who weaved his way through to shoot past a helpless Cashmore.

Parkin headed against the foot of the post for Stourbridge and the home side came more into the game towards half-time, and though they didn't seriously worry Johnny Watts and Co., they at least found them work to do.

Just before the break and into the second half, the home side began to employ the offside trap and surprisingly, Borough were continually caught in it.

Fred Crump had to make one good save at the foot of a post from Barrett, while Stan Lynn very nearly put through his own goal in trying to keep the ball away from Richards. Then in the 57th minute, Stourbridge reduced the lead when Hackett shook off a tackle by Johnny Watts and squared the ball in front of goal for Parkin to run in and score.

Borough went two goals ahead again in the 65th minute when a Richards header from a Cutler cross, bobbed up into the air for Tom Crawley to nod the ball home. There were misses by the visitors after this, and many more offsides before the final whistle.

## Swansea To Take A Look At Borough's Lights

Charges for admission, floodlighting and the colours to be worn by the two teams have all been the subject of discussions between Nuneaton Borough and Swansea Town, who meet at Manor Park on January 7 in the second round proper of the FA Cup.

Swansea expressed the view that the prices of admission should be 4s. for the ground and 8s. for the stand instead of the usual charges of 3s. and 4s. 6d. If the higher prices were charged, Swansea pointed out, it would bring in an extra £700 to be shared between the two teams, if the game attracted a capacity crowd of 15,000. But Borough feel that the prices should not be increased.

It has been reported that Swansea understood that the Nuneaton floodlights "are only just adequate," and that they had insisted on a 2-30pm kick-off. However, following talks between the two clubs, Swansea have now agreed that Borough should go ahead with advertising a 3pm kick-off. But they reserve the right, after inspecting the lights tomorrow, to ask for a 2.30pm kick-off if not satisfied.

## Yeovil Town v Nuneaton Borough

10-12-1966

**Borough:** Crump, Thompson, Jones, Davis, Watts, Allen, Ashe, Cutler, Richards, Crawley, Sweeney.

Borough made the journey to The Huish, home of Yeovil Town, for a Southern League Premier Division game.

A goal after 20 minutes from Yeovil outside-left Graham Rees was enough to clinch both points for the Somerset side. It was Borough's first defeat in 11 games and their fourth successive single goal defeat at Yeovil.

But Borough had what looked to be a perfectly good goal disallowed nine minutes from the end. Gerry Sweeney put Tommy Crawley through on the left. The inside-forward was obstructed as he moved on to the ball but he still managed to turn it across the face of the Yeovil goal for centre-forward Tony Richards to bang it into the net. The referee pointed to the centre circle, but then consulted with the lineman and gave a free-kick against Crawley.

Although the home side had more of the play, Borough created more clear-cut chances and could easily have snatched the points. Paul Cutler shot straight at the goalkeeper with the goal at his mercy. The visitors had three shots cleared off the line. Paul Cutler nearly made amends for his early miss when he picked his spot brilliantly only to see right-back Alan Kitley pop up and head away.

Malcolm Allen missed Borough's best chance near the end when he beat the offside trap by dribbling through. But the wing-half slipped the ball past Chilvers only to see it roll the wrong side of the post.

Fred Crump was Borough's star. He foiled Yeovil time and again with his first-class handling and excellent anticipation. The game was only nine minutes old when he went down to block a goalbound shot from Terry Foley. After the break Crump covered himself with mud and glory when he dived at the feet of Harding to prevent a certain goal and later beat out two shots in quick succession when a goal seemed certain.

Despite their second-half supremacy, Yeovil – who were beaten 6-1 by Guildford the previous week – were unable to penetrate Borough's defence. Centre-half Johnny Watts held his side together and right-half Colin Davis broke up many dangerous raids with his strong well-timed tackles.

## Cambridge United v Nuneaton Borough

12-12-1966

**Cambridge:** Haggis, Tedds, Toon, Scurr, Robinson, Payne, Maughan, Barrett, Fahy, Harley, Bennett. Sub: Hobbs.

**Borough:** Crump, Thompson, Wilson, Watts, Ball, Allen, Ashe, Cutler, Crawley, Jones, Richards. Sub: Sweeney.

Borough made the journey to play Cambridge United in a Midland Floodlit Cup game.

A Tom Crawley goal in the 38th minute gave Borough a deserved win on Monday. Alan Jones, who was played at



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inside-left sent Roger Thompson away on the right wing, and the right back crossed the ball to the far post for Crawley to move in and head the ball past the well-beaten Haggis. Borough had been threatening to score for some time and when Crawley did find the net, the score was not unexpected.

The visitors, who used the ball intelligently in the very heavy conditions, generally had a slight edge on the home side, and the very least one can say is that they never looked like being beaten. Considering the conditions, the football was of a quite good standard.

The Borough defence, in which Keith Ball from Tamworth made his debut, gave a solid, competent performance, and until the last ten minutes when United made desperate attempts to save the game, presented a barrier which the home forwards seldom looked like breaking down. And when Fahy and Co. did get a look at goal, quite inevitably there was Fred Crump to contend with, who once again gave a highly competent display.

By and large, Borough were the more impressive side, both in defence and up front, and with a little luck would have got more than one goal. For instance, just after Crawley had given Borough the lead, they very nearly repeated the dose when Tony Richards headed about a yard wide from a Norman Ashe centre, while the latter, when a second Borough goal seemed imminent, slipped up right in front of goal.

Keith Ball made a promising debut. He was good in the air and always tried to use the ball to the best advantage. When he gets accustomed to the pace of Southern League football, he ought to do well.

## Nuneaton Borough v Hillingdon Borough 17-12-1966

**Borough:** Crump, Allen, Wilson, Davis, Watts, Allen, Ashe, Sweeney, Richards, Crawley, Cutler. **Sub:** Hails.

**Hillingdon:** Lowe, McNeice, Goodall, Adams, Newcombe, Moore, Watson, Townsend, Woodhouse, Summersby, Hills. **Sub:** Sawyer.

Borough welcomed Hillingdon Borough to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division game.

Had Swansea Town representatives visited Manor Park on Saturday to see the lights and maybe give their FA Cup opponents a look-over then they would have gleaned very little that would have been of value to them from the playing angle. But owing to a breakdown on the way, they did not put in an appearance and will now visit Manor Park for the Corby match.

Had they been at the Hillingdon game they would not have been impressed by Borough's showing for most of the game, but eyebrows may have been raised at what happened in the last 10 minutes or so when Borough touched something like the form Swansea can expect when the two teams clash on January 7. The trouble is that Borough were able to win without being extended and the result was a colourless, unexciting encounter.

Hillingdon kept on trying and had one purple patch midway

through the second half, when it took the best of goalkeeper Fred Crump to keep his goal intact. At this point Borough were leading 2-0 and playing in rather belaboured fashion. The defence generally had been good, but the attack was out of sorts and making hard work of getting goals, until the final burst which produced two more goals to give them what on paper looked a convincing win.

It was not until a period in the second half that Hillingdon really looked like scoring and then, in double quick time, they went as near to getting three goals as any side can without actually doing so. Firstly a Crump goal-kick went straight to Roy Summersby, who without hesitation slammed the ball back at goal, and only a full-length dive by the goalkeeper, who pushed away a header by Gary Townsend, following Summersby's centre, saved the day. And a few minutes later Crump saved brilliantly by flinging himself across goal to stop a diving Summersby from finding the net with a low header.

It took Borough 32 minutes to get a goal. Paul Cutler pushed the ball back to Ian Wilson, who moved forward and then floated a high ball into the middle, where, after a scramble Gerry Sweeney put through. The score was 1-0 at half time, but in the first minute of the second session Borough went further ahead, when Malcolm Allen started a move which saw Tony Richards centre for Tom Crawley to head through.

The score remained 2-0 until six minutes from time when Allen sent Norman Ashe away and the winger crossed the ball for Tony Richards to meet the ball first time and flash it into the net. Two minutes later, following a half-hit centre by Crawley and a short range shot by Paul Cutler that hit the goalkeeper, the ball was sent home by Sweeney for Borough's fourth and final goal.

## Nuneaton Borough v Corby Town 22-12-1966

22-12-1966

**Borough:** Crump, Thompson, Wilson, Davis, Watts, Allen, Ashe, Sweeney, Richards, Crawley, Cutler. **Sub:** Hails.

**Corby:** Alexander, McBain, Pollard, Knox, Needham, Rennie, Stenhouse, Garden, Kelcher, Barratt, Goodall.

Borough welcomed Corby Town to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division encounter.

Leading by two clear goals less than ten minutes from the end of this game, Borough seemed headed for a comfortable, if not particularly impressive, victory. Then Corby scored a very fine goal which may have been the signal for a late comeback. However, had the visitors held any such ambitions, they were shattered at once, for no sooner had the game restarted, than the ball was in the Corby net for Borough's third goal.

There was little in the play in the first-half calculated to get the crowd in to a state of excitement. Yet the half produced two of the best shots of the game – a very fine effort by Paul Cutler that hit the Corby bar and flew behind; then a hard drive by Barratt, the Corby inside-left that crashed against a post. Both shots were worthy of a goal.



Other incidents of note were when Colin Davis cleared off the line from Jimmy Knox and when Gerry Sweeney challenged keeper Alan Alexander and sent the ball right across the face of goal. The ball appeared to hit the far post as Tommy Crawley was vainly trying to apply the finishing touch.

It was after 25 minutes play that Borough got the only goal of the half. Put through by Paul Cutler, Tony Richards closed in to glide the ball home.

The second-half was a much brighter affair, and early on Roger Thompson put in a great shot which Alexander did well to push over the bar, but shortly afterwards the right-back erred to let in Goodall, who with only Crump to beat, failed badly. Richards hit a post, while Sweeney shot high over the bar with the goalkeeper out.

Then, in the 72nd minute, Richards got away on the right and crossed a perfect low ball for Paul Cutler to make the score 2-0 in Borough's favour. At this point Borough appeared to be coasting home without being anything like at their best. But nine minutes from the end Knox put the ball across for Maurice Goodall to head a picture goal.

Less than a minute later Borough were two up again. Straight from the restart they raced to the Corby end. A Norman Ashe shot was blocked and the ball ran back to Richards who ran into the open and then crashed the ball into the roof of the net.

## Corby Town v Nuneaton Borough 27-12-1966

**Corby:** Alexander, McBain, Pollard, Knox, Needham, Rennie, Stenhouse, Barratt, Kelcher, Garden, Goodall.

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Wilson, Watts, Ball, Allen, Ashe, Davis, Richards, Cutler, Hails. **Sub:** Sweeney.

Borough made the journey to Corby Town for a Southern League Premier Division game.

On a greasy surface which had been affected by both frost and rain, both teams served up some fine football, and the pace at which the ball travelled from one end to the other, almost had the crowd in a whirl. The Steelmen used the long ball very well indeed and often had the Borough defence working at full stretch. Young Keith Ball, who had his first Southern League game, now knows something about the pace of this level of football, and came through a tough trial quite commendably.

In a goalless first half, Alex Garden and Dave Pollard both shot against a post, while at the other end Alan McBain slipped and let in Paul Cutler, and only a desperate dash out of goal by Alan Alexander saved the situation for Corby. The goalkeeper also saved brilliantly from a Richards' header following a Norman Ashe cross. On the whole, however, the first half belonged to Corby.

Five minutes after half-time Corby went into the lead. A long ball through the middle from Garden found Leslie Barratt, and the latter pushed the ball to Barry Kelcher, who ran in to score a fine goal.

Ten minutes later Borough were level. Alan Jones broke away down the right wing and crossed perfectly for Tony Richards to leave Alexander standing with a great header that went into the net like a shot from a gun. But three minutes later Corby were ahead again when Jimmy Knox put the ball through to Alex Garden, who found the net with a delicate header.

With time running out and Borough 2-1 down and facing defeat on Tuesday, the ball was pushed through to Norman Ashe, who after making ground on the right, crossed the ball into the middle and there was Paul Cutler to head it into the net. That goal, in the final seconds of injury time, not only saved Borough from defeat, but gave them a precious point in their championship quest, and provided a dramatic finish to as good a game as anyone could wish to see.

And as Cutler's header went into the net, ten bus loads of Borough supporters, as well as others who made the journey by car, cheered like mad; indeed, were still cheering after the players had left the field.

## Cambridge United v Nuneaton Borough 31-12-1966

**Cambridge:** Slack, Tedds, Toone, Scurr, Baker, Turley, Fairchild, Maughan, Graham, O'Neill, Bennett.

**Borough:** Crump, Thompson, Wilson, Davis, Watts, Allen, Ashe, Jones, Crawley, Cutler, Hails.

Borough made the journey to play Cambridge United in a Southern League Premier Division game.

It was unfortunate that Nuneaton should have to undertake this tough assignment at Cambridge without their free-scoring centre-forward Tony Richards, who had not fully recovered from the injury he received at Corby. The Borough leader was missed. Very much so.

It was obvious from the start that United fancied their chances, for they quickly embarked upon a policy of all-out attack – and kept it up all the way through. The outcome was that the Borough defence had a decidedly tough afternoon, and scarcely had a breather the whole game through. Grimly though they stuck to their task; relentlessly though they tried to keep the United forwards at bay, it soon became evident that they could not hold out for ever – that home goals must come.

But so doggedly did the Borough defence play, that it was not until just before half-time that the United got that long threatened goal. Cambridge pressure became even more intense after the change of ends and it is a tribute to the never-say-die spirit of Borough's defence that United managed only two more goals. It could easily have been more.

At the start of the game the forwards, with Malcolm Allen in support, made a few useful looking raids. Indeed the first real scoring chance fell to Borough when with a flick of the head Tom Crawley sent Billy Hails through the middle, only for the latter to shoot straight at the advancing Rodney Slack, the United goalkeeper.

Fred Crump was kept working at full stretch almost throughout

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the game and though beaten on three occasions, he prevented other goals by daring saves at the feet of opposing forwards.

Cambridge got their first goal three minutes before half-time when, following a move on the left and a pass by Graham, Maughan was left with the simple task of pushing the ball over the line. Goal number two came in the 59th minute when Fairchild crossed the ball for Scurr to head through with Roger Thompson making a despairing effort to stop the ball entering the net. Cambridge's third goal came in the 70th minute when Fairchild headed through from a Turley centre, Crump making a desperate dive across goal in an effort to save.

Five minutes later a shot from Tom Crawley, who was leading the attack with Alan Jones on his right, had a shot strike the goalkeeper and Baker put through his own goal. Borough could by no means have any complaints about the result of this game. They were well and truly beaten by a side which made light of the very heavy conditions.

## Cheltenham Town v Nuneaton Borough 14-01-1967

**Cheltenham:** Turner, Roscolo, Thorndale, Green, Carson, Radford, Hurford, Hudd, Gadston, Ferns, Thorne.

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Wilson, Davis, Watts, Allen, Ashe, Cutler, Richards, Crawley, Hails. Sub: Sweeney.

Borough made the journey to Whaddon Road to take on Cheltenham Town in a Southern League Premier Division game.

After having to withstand one of the fiercest opening barrages for many a long day – an onslaught that threatened to swamp them, and very nearly did, Borough hit back with such skill and determination that they went on to win quite handsomely one of the most thrilling games of the season.

Trouble started for Borough in the second minute when goalkeeper Fred Crump caught but failed to hold the ball following a David Hurford corner kick on the right, and before he could recover Dave Hudd had slammed the ball into the roof of the net. That early success was the signal for an all-out siege on the Borough goal, which in the next ten minutes bore a charmed life. First Adrian Thorne shot against a post, for the ball to rebound to Fred Crump. Then Alan Jones kicked off the goal-line after Crump had had to dive at Radford's feet.

Joe Gaston hit a post and Alan Jones cleared before Fred Crump made a brilliant save from a Gadston header following a Thorne centre. Then in the 18th minute, in what was only their second real attack, Borough drew level in typical style, Johnny Watts came out of defence with the ball at his feet, carried on up the right wing until nearing the half-way line, and then passed to Paul Cutler, who after a short run, crossed the ball to the far post for Tom Crawley to head a perfect goal.

Back came Cheltenham and Crump had to make a good save from Thorne, while a little later Ian Wilson saved on the line. After Ashe had a shot which went over the bar, Crump stopped a pile driver from Ferns. In the 39th minute, Borough took the lead. Norman Ashe provided Paul Cutler with a pass,

and when the latter headed the ball down, Malcolm Allen raced in to unleash a great shot which swung away from the keeper and found the far corner of the net. Once in the lead there was no holding the Borough. In the 50th minute Allen sent Ashe away and the winger's hard low cross was put into the net by Tony Richards. In the 78th minute a move in which Ashe, Cutler, Richards and Crawley all took part ended in Norman Ashe scoring Borough's fourth goal from close range.

After Ashe had missed an easy chance of adding to Borough's lead, Billy Hails put Tom Crawley through for the latter to beat the advancing Turner for Borough's final goal in the very last minute of the game.

## Nuneaton Borough v Cambridge United 16-01-1967

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Wilson, Watts, Ball, Allen, Ashe, Sweeney, Cutler, Crawley, Hails.

**Cambridge:** Haggis, Baker, Finch, Turley, Robinson, Payne, Graham, Maughan, Fahy, Barrett, Hobbs.

Borough welcomed Cambridge United to Manor Park on Monday night to play a Midland Floodlit Cup game.



**Gerry Sweeney (left) has just taken a shot at the Cambridge goal. On the right is Paul Cutler, ahead of two opposition defenders.**

Photo: Nuneaton Observer

After playing brilliantly in the first-half and establishing a 3-0 half-time lead and missing a penalty into the bargain, Borough conceded a goal in the first minute of the second session – and that was the start of all their troubles. From the moment they made the score 3-1, Cambridge took control of the proceedings, drew level and then snatched a winner in the 73rd minute. It was a remarkable transformation.

United were never in the game in the first-half, when they were very largely penned in their own half by the first-class work of the Borough forwards. But after the change of ends it was an entirely different story. The Borough defence, which up to this point, had done very well, began to lose their grip on things and as the half wore on, completely lost control.

There was a sensational start to the game as Borough were awarded a penalty in the third minute for a foul on Tom Crawley. The latter took the spot kick himself and blazed it over the bar. A minute later, following a Hails free-kick,

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Robinson the Cambridge centre-half, headed past his own keeper. Two minutes after that Borough were two up, Paul Cutler heading a fine goal from Crawley's high cross.

Thus in the space of three minutes Borough had missed a penalty, had a goal scored for them by the opposition and then got one themselves.

Borough continued well on top throughout the half. They played copybook football in midfield, the only thing missing being the finishing power of Richards, who was rested after receiving knocks on the head in the game at Cheltenham. A minute before half-time Borough went into a 3-0 lead when, after a pass by Ashe and some skilful dribbling by Cutler, followed by a perfect cross, Tom Crawley headed into the net.

What an incredible change came over the game in the second-half. Within a minute of the restart John Fahy nipped in to open Cambridge's account. In the 58th minute Turley made it 3-2 with a fast, low drive from 25 yards, and four minutes later, a shot from Hobbs was deflected into the net by Alan Jones as Fred Crump was dashing out of goal. And 12 minutes from time Fahy dashed in to score the winner.

While Cambridge must be given full credit for winning a game they seemed to have well and truly lost, a team that is leading by three goals should not lose. But this sort of thing has happened before in football – and will happen again.

## Nuneaton Borough v King's Lynn 21-01-1967

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Wilson, Davis, Watts, Allen, Ashe, Cutler, Richards, Crawley, Hails. **Sub:** Sweeney.

Borough welcomed King's Lynn to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division encounter.



**Borough's fourth and final goal. Paul Cutler (left) prods the ball towards the net with goalkeeper Norman Coe and two other Lynn defenders beaten.**

Photo: Nuneaton Observer

Borough are setting a very hot pace for other championship aspirants, and although this win over King's Lynn was not one of their best performances, it helped them to gain ground on Wimbledon and Hereford United, who both dropped a point away from home.

What excitement there was in this game came in the early and latter stages of the game, when all five goals were scored. In between there was a long, rather dull period, when

the play of both sides lacked urgency. During this period, Borough, who were leading 2-1, experienced some difficulty in maintaining their slender advantage.

In fact it was not until the 78th minute that they put their supporters' minds at rest by scoring a third goal, to virtually settle the issue. Later they banged in a fourth for good measure. Between the scoring of those two very fine first-half goals and their third success, Borough had one or two scares. For instance there was the occasion when right back Tony Hawkin drove the ball hard against a post, and the time when left-back Colin Sharpe dropped the ball on to the bar.

It was a good thing for Borough during this period of uncertainty that their visitors were unable to raise their game, or things might have been different. But apart from those two efforts by the full-backs, and a shot from Mick Wright that was cleverly tipped over the bar by Fred Crump, the Lynn lacked finishing power. Quite often they worried a harassed Borough defence with right winger Ron Bacon often forcing his way through.

It was in the 17th minute that Lynn took the lead. Bobby Laverick tried to get his head to a Ron Bacon centre, but failed and the ball ran on to John McGuigan, who beat Crump with a fast low drive from the edge of the penalty area. Six minutes later Borough drew level. Ashe fed Richards, and when the Borough leader gave Cutler the ball, he slammed the ball home.

And in the 27th minute Borough went ahead. Following a midfield move by Cutler and Richards, left-back Ian Wilson joined in the attack and, moving up on the left lifted the ball towards goal for Tom Crawley to head the ball down to Norman Ashe, who thrashed it into the net to give Borough a 2-1 half-time lead.

The score remained unchanged until the 76th minute when Tony Richards broke away on the left before crossing to Tom Crawley, who let drive at goal. The shot hit the underside of the bar and bounced down before being kicked away. The referee was well up with the play and had no hesitation in awarding Borough a goal. After Malcolm Lindsay had missed a chance for King's Lynn, Crawley had headed over the bar and Tony Richards had scooped the ball over the top when well-placed. Paul Cutler took a return pass from Norman Ashe to round off the scoring with a fourth goal for Borough.

## Chelmsford City v Nuneaton Borough 04-02-1967

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Wilson, Davis, Thompson, Allen, Ashe, Cutler, Richards, Sweeney, Hails. **Sub:** Ball

Borough made the journey to Chelmsford City to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough showed no ill effects from their two gruelling Cup battles against Rotherham when they took a valuable point from a Chelmsford side also chasing hard for Premier Division honours. Another efficient and well-organised team display from Borough gave them a well-deserved share of the points.



Both sides were good technically, and the game was a tussle between two defences who held the key in a match that provided no goals but a lot of good soccer. Borough survived a 47th minute penalty when Colin Davis handled in the box and Chelmsford full-back Bryn Jones shot wide from the spot.

But Nuneaton created more clear-cut chances in front of goal than City's team of full-timers, and a draw was a perfectly fair result after an interesting and at times thrilling battle. Borough were under pressure in the early stages. They fell back and packed their defence ready to launch one of their springboard attacks that have brought so many goals this season.

When they did break they looked far more able to create an impression than Chelmsford, although Ashe missed a chance just before half-time when he shot wide from a good position. Chelmsford's inside trio of Tony Butcher, Bud Houghton and Ted Phillips were held by the well-disciplined Nuneaton defence. Of the three, Butcher provided the biggest threat. He worked hard and most of City's chances fell his way.

Outside-left Peter Leggett looked a match-winner for a spell, but Alan Jones played him coolly and sensibly to curb most of the threat. Tony Richards had another lean day in the Borough attack. He is now a marked man and Chelmsford pivot Terry Eades, watched by the Irish Under-23 selectors, kept him on a tight rein.

Ashe, Cutler and Hails showed flashes of the individual flair needed to break down a well-organised defence. And Sweeney, a late replacement for Tom Crawley, was a midfield threat with his persistence and hard running. Though not overburdened with work, Fred Crump made some good saves in goal and once again showed daring when diving at the feet of opponents.

## Former Favourites



Two former Manor Park favourites – Tommy Whitcroft (left) who was a member of the Borough FA Cup team in 1953-54, and Arthur Barber, who played for Borough in their 1949-50 and 1953-54 cup runs – pictured at the Rotherham cup game at Manor Park.

Photo: Nuneaton Observer

## Kettering Town v Nuneaton Borough 08-02-1967

**Borough:** Crump, Thompson, Wilson, Davis, Ball, Allen, Sweeney, Cutler, Richards, Crawley, Hope.

Borough made the journey to Kettering Town for a Midland Floodlit Cup encounter.

Kettering are top of the Midland Floodlit Cup competition, Borough bottom – and the displays of the respective teams at Kettering on Wednesday night bore a very close relationship to their positions in the table.

Borough were without Johnny Watts, Norman Ashe, Billy Hails and Alan Jones. But as all 15 players are on the books are potential first-team players, Borough should have put on a better show than this. Kettering were much the better side and called the tune throughout. Ken Gully was outstanding for the home side and constantly breached the Borough defence, and but for some bad misses and fine goalkeeping by Fred Crump, the visitors would have sustained a heavier defeat.

The only goal of the match came in the 19th minute when Dennis Martin moved from the left and fired in a very hard drive which Fred Crump got down to but could not hold, and Barry Daldy dashed in to apply the finishing touch.

Kettering are obviously a very useful side, for in addition to heading the Midland Floodlit Cup competition, they are third in the Southern League Division I table and therefore strong candidates for promotion.

They proved their ability by pushing Borough back on to defence and keeping them there for most of the game. They had a sound and quick tackling defence which constantly caught the Borough forwards in possession, and a fast-moving attack which created many openings – and then threw most of them away by bad finishing.

Borough had beaten better teams than Kettering, but on Wednesday they were right out of sorts. They failed to get into their stride and were out of step the whole game.

## Nuneaton Borough v Bedford Town 11-02-1967

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Wilson, Davis, Watts, Allen, Ashe, Cutler, Richards, Crawley, Hails. **Sub:** Hope.

**Bedford:** Collier, Morgan, Marriott, Noble, Collins, Wright, Benning, Paton, Fogg, Sturrock, Cooley. **Sub:** Skinn.

Borough welcomed Bedford Town to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division encounter.

Those supporters who began to chant “easy, easy,” when Borough banged in their third goal against Bedford, must have wished they had not been so hasty in declaring Borough the winners. For in the second half they saw Borough's three-goal lead vanish into thin air and with it a home point they just cannot afford to lose as contenders for the championship.

And what is more, Borough could so easily have dropped

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both points, since just before the end Ron Fogg, the Bedford centre-forward, missed a great chance of giving his side victory. Borough were far and away the better side in the first-half. While Bedford showed promising form in midfield and carried out some neat moves, they never looked anything like so dangerous, so incisive, as Borough, who threatened the Bedford goal almost every time they went down the field.

By half-time Borough had established a three-goal lead and appeared to be coasting to an easy win. But what a transformation came over the game after the change of ends.



**Tom Crawley (right) runs in to head home a cross from Billy Hails, with goalkeeper Alan Collier and another Bedford player unable to do anything about it.**

Photo: Nuneaton Observer

Instead of carrying on where they left off, Borough lost their midfield authority, and sensing their chance had come, Bedford occupied the gaps left by their opponents and took the initiative from them.

After nearly scoring in the first minute, Borough went ahead two minutes later when Billy Hails took the ball right through before giving it to Tony Richards who, in scoring his first goal since the match against Cheltenham on January 14, was injured in a collision with goalkeeper Alan Collier, but was able to resume after receiving attention. Seven minutes later it was 2-0. Malcolm Allen started the move with a pass to Alan Jones and the right-back crossed to Hails who put the ball to the far post for Tom Crawley to head into the net.

In the 37th minute Crawley set Norman Ashe on the move. The winger slipped the ball to Paul Cutler whose return pass to Ashe gave him a clear chance which he was not slow in accepting. During this half Bedford scarcely shaped like a side destined to wipe out a three-goal Borough lead.

When the game was resumed Hails, who had made previous good scoring efforts, fired just over the bar, and everything appeared still to be going Borough's way until the 65th minute when Fogg was allowed to go through before slipping the ball to Norman Cooley who put it past Crump. After this Borough fell away badly and as the game progressed Bedford got right on top.

In the 70th minute after Paul Cutler had missed a chance for Borough, Bedford raced straight to the other end and after a long run Mike Denning rounded Ian Wilson and then shot the ball into the net. Then, in the 84th minute, Ron Fogg headed through from a Benning cross.

The pity of it all is that Borough should have slipped up in front of the biggest league crowd of the season – 5,585 – the majority of whom went home feeling very disappointed.

## Cheltenham Town v Nuneaton Borough 15-02-1967

**Cheltenham:** Turner, Green, Bradford, Carson, Etheridge, Fern, White, Hudd, Horlick, Batty, Pearce. **Sub:** Hurford.

**Borough:** Crump, Thompson, Wilson, Watts, Ball, Davis, Ashe, Sweeney, Richards, Hope, Hails. **Sub:** Crawley.

Borough made the journey to Cheltenham Town on Wednesday to play a Midland Floodlit Cup game.

Borough made several changes, being without Alan Jones, Malcolm Allen, Paul Cutler and Tom Crawley. Johnny Watts moved from centre-half to wing-half to allow Keith Ball to come in as pivot; Roger Thompson was a right-back; while Gerry Sweeney and Roger Hope occupied the inside forward positions. With both sides having made many changes, it was perhaps too much to expect a football feast – but the fare certainly ought to have been better than it was.

The game started fairly brightly, lost some of its urgency before half-time and in the second half provided little in the nature of warmth for the spectators.

Borough went ahead in the 11th minute when Gerry Sweeney was put through by Tony Richards, to slip the ball past goalkeeper Turner as he came out to meet him. Cheltenham drew level in the 39th minute, Batty taking a pass from Green to beat Fred Crump from close range. Both sides often got to close quarters after the goals, but most of their moves petered out through lack of finish, and both goalkeepers were occupied very largely in moving out of goal to pick up loose balls.

Five minutes from the end it looked as though Cheltenham would win the game when Pearce ran clean through the Borough defence, but Crump saved the situation by coming out of goal smartly and beating down the left winger's close range shot. Almost on time Roger Thompson put in the best shot of the match from a 30 yard free kick, which Turner was happy to push over the bar to safety.

## Folkestone Town v Nuneaton Borough 18-02-1967

**Folkestone:** Cochran, Russell, Bell, Peplow, Patrick, Catleugh, Campbell, Churms, Biggs, Ballagher, Tredwell.

**Borough:** Crump, Thompson, Wilson, Davis, Watts, Allen, Ashe, Cutler, Crawley, Hails.

Borough made the journey to Folkestone Town to play a Southern League Premier Division fixture.

Borough, chasing hard for the Premier Division title, were unfortunate to come up against revitalised Folkestone Town

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on Saturday. The Seasiders, struggling desperately to avoid relegation, looked like championship contenders themselves as they swamped the Borough defence.

Apart from the opening 15 minutes when they appeared shaky and uncertain of themselves, Folkestone dominated the game, and were rarely troubled by a strangely out of form Nuneaton attack. Until Folkestone sorted themselves out, and restored midfield order, the visitors were always in with a chance. But once the home side came to grips with the game, the result was really never in doubt.

Crump, unsettled by the eager approaches of the home forwards, began to make mistakes and Nuneaton could have been trailing by three goals before half-time had not full backs Wilson and Thompson cleared off the line. As the second half began, Folkestone increased the pressure, and the Nuneaton defence began to show huge gaps. Shots from winger Don Campbell and inside-forward John Ballagher were only inches wide as the visitors' defence was laid wide open.

Borough were rarely able to get their attack moving, but when they did, Folkestone's defence was always waiting, and destroyed the movements before they became effective. The winning goal came in the 73rd minute from inside-forward Ballagher, who ran into an empty space to deflect the ball past Crump from a cross by winger John Tredwell.

In the last ten minutes Borough fought hard to get back into the game, but only once did they ever look like scoring. Three minutes from the end, inside forward Tom Crawley tried to weave his way through, but was robbed of a shot by goalkeeper Albert Cochran, who dived at his feet to pluck the ball away.

## Burton Albion v Nuneaton Borough 25-02-1967

**Burton:** Potter, Finney, Shepherd, Bate, Haines, Keating, Round, Carver, Tait, Barker, Edwards.

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Wilson, Davis, Watts, Allen, Ashe, Cutler, Richards, Sweeney, Hails.

Borough made the journey to Eton Park to play Burton Albion in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough continued their amazing run of success stretching back several seasons when they won at Burton, for the third time this season by the only goal of the game. This was not a football classic. It couldn't possibly have been in such bad underfoot condition following days of rain. And when a heavy storm broke over the ground just before half-time and continued well into the second half, well anything resembling, clever, accurate football was right out of the question.

It was in the 39th minute that Borough got their all-important goal. Malcolm Allen started the move with a pass out to Alan Jones who had moved down the right wing. The full-back crossed the ball into the goalmouth for Norman Ashe to chip it back across the face of the goal, and Gerry Sweeney dived low to head it past Fred Potter in the Albion goal.

Almost immediately after Sweeney had given Borough the

lead, Albion claimed a penalty when Johnny Watts brought down Tait. But after consulting a linesman the referee awarded Albion a free-kick on the edge of the area, and Fred Crump saved well from Richie Barker's free-kick.

Throughout the second half the Albion strove their hardest to crack the Borough defence, and kept up a steady attack on Fred Crump's charge. Stan Round on the right wing and Pat Edwards on the left flank spearheaded many assaults on the Borough goal, but when they reached the penalty area the home side had not the skill to create clear-cut openings.

For most of the second session, little was seen of the Borough as an attacking force, yet just before the end, Paul Cutler who, in the first-half had a goal disallowed, missed a great chance of putting the issue right beyond doubt after a square pass by Sweeney had left him with only the goalkeeper to beat.

A minute later it looked very much as though Albion would snatch an equaliser, for after Pat Edwards had been checked close in, the ball ran to Alex Tait who, with Fred Crump lying prostrate in the goalmouth mud, chipped the ball towards the net. But there was Alan Jones on the goal line to head the ball to safety.

## Corby Town v Nuneaton Borough 01-03-1967

**Corby:** Alexander, McBain, Pollard, Armson, Knox, Needham, Cooper, Garden, Mattocks, Barratt, Rooney.

**Borough:** Smith, Jones, Wilson, Davis, Ball, Watts, Ashe, Sweeney, Richards, Crawley, Hope.

Borough made the journey to Corby Town to play a Midland Floodlit Cup game.

Borough belied their bottom-of-the-table position and pulled off a convincing win. With Sweeney and Hope in the attack, Borough revealed an abundance of speed, and their lightning moves and constant switching of the point of attack often left Knox and his colleagues perplexed. Whereas Alexander in the home goal was constantly in action, John Smith did not have a great deal to do. But when called upon he handled with confidence. Once he dropped a cross from the right wing, but recovered brilliantly to prevent a score.

Corby put in some useful looking attacks, especially down the right wing, but lacked Borough's penetrative power and did not look dangerous near goal.

Tom Crawley should have given Borough the lead in the 15th minute when he ran right through, but after drawing Alexander out, he shot across the goal and wide of the post. Success came to the visitors in the 39th minute when a hard cross by Johnny Watts was cleared. While a home defender was hesitating as to what to do with the ball, Alan Jones dashed in, secured possession, and then drove the ball hard and low into the goalmouth for Norman Ashe to turn the ball into the net.

Alexander made a good save from Richards at the start of the second-half and also did well to save from Gerry Sweeney,



who had been put right through by Richards. Borough, not unexpectedly, went further ahead in the 76th minute when centre-half Knox failed to clear a Roger Hope cross and Tony Richards nipped in to put a hard drive well out of Alexander's reach. Two minutes from the end, Tom Crawley rounded the centre-half and slammed in a left-foot drive past Alexander. It was a goal all the way, but in a last ditch effort to prevent a score, left-back Pollard dashed in, but could only kick the ball into the net.

This was Borough's best Floodlit Cup competition display for some time. The whole team did well. The defence in which Keith Ball played at centre-half with Johnny Watts on his left, gave a solid display, while the attack gave Corby defenders a most anxious time.

## Nuneaton Borough v Bath City 04-03-1967

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Wilson, Davis, Watts, Allen, Ashe, Cutler, Richards, Sweeney, Crawley. **Sub:** Hails.

**Bath City:** Parker, Swift, Gough, B. Carter, Wood, W. Carter, Lofty, Horton, Denton, Walker, E. Ashe. **Sub:** Owen.

Borough welcomed Bath City to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division fixture.

Borough made hard work of what ought to have been a straight-forward task. Whether or not the uninspiring display by both sides was the result of the almost overnight transition from muddy, slushy grounds to a much firmer, livelier pitch, but this was not a great game and provided little in the way of good entertainment for the 3,785 spectators.

Whereas at Corby, Borough played with great fluency and made good football look easy, on this occasion they merely struggled along and mounted few attacks calculated to arouse the cheers of the onlookers. The home side started off badly and stayed that way for most of the game. In fact, it looked as though Borough would be squandering a valuable home point when they got the winning goal in the 81st minute.

Bath took the lead in the 23rd minute when Billy Horton shook off two tackles and then steered the ball past Fred Crump as the goalkeeper was leaving his goal. Two minutes later Borough were level. A long cross from Ian Wilson way out on the left had Parker in trouble, and he was able only to make a partial save. The ball ran out to Norman Ashe, who shot low through a crowd of players into the net.

Centre-forward Mike Denton missed a simple chance of giving Bath the lead when following a perfect cross by Jimmy Lofty, he headed wide of a yawning net. This was the miss of the match. Just before half-time Norman Ashe, who had earlier been injured, took another knock and had to be carried off. His place was taken by Billy Hails after the interval.

Borough's winner came about following a move on the right, which saw the ball reach the goalmouth, and after Bob Parker had pushed out one shot, Billy Hails turned the ball towards the far post for Tony Richards to run in and put the ball into the net.

Apart from the goals there was little excitement. Two of Borough's best efforts came from Tony Richards in the second-half – a fine header that struck the crossbar and then a hard shot on the turn that flew just over the bar.

## Nuneaton Borough v Burton Albion 06-03-1967

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Wilson, Davis, Ball, Watts, Allen, Sweeney, Crawley, Cutler, Hope. **Sub:** Hails.

**Burton:** Lines, Finney, Shepherd, Fitchett, Keating, Bailey, Round, Carver, Jackson, Potter, Tait. **Sub:** Summers.

Borough welcomed Burton Albion to Manor Park for a Midland Floodlit Cup encounter.

A goal out of the blue in the last minute of the game ended Borough's long run of successes over Burton. And the remarkable thing is that the goal that ended the spell was scored by Albion goalkeeper Fred Potter – only on this occasion he was playing as a forward. When some of the spectators had already left the ground and others were making their way towards the exits, Albion were awarded a throw-in some yards from the corner flag on the Albion left flank.

The ball was thrown in and was hooked high in the air towards goal by Fred Potter and to everybody's surprise, including no doubt the scorer himself, the ball dropped behind Fred Crump and into an empty net. No sooner had the game restarted than the whistle went for full-time.

Potter's goal climaxed a game that had gone very largely in favour of the Borough. They had done quite 75 per cent of the attacking, but just could not get the ball into the net. True, the Albion goal had some narrow escapes. Generally speaking, though, Borough's finishing left much to be desired. Their attack minus Richards, Ashe and Hails was not impressive.

There were times when John Keating and his colleagues in the Burton defence were very hard pressed to keep their goal intact. By and large, though, they did well and deserved any luck they might have had. Three of Borough's best scoring efforts were when Cutler headed against a post following Tom Crawley's cross, when Malcolm Allen put a hard drive just over the top, and when Crawley went close with a header.

The most anxious moment Fred Crump had was when he had to dash out of goal, first to stop Alex Tait and then Fred Potter. Tony Lines had a much busier time than Fred Crump, who largely held a watching brief.

## Weymouth v Nuneaton Borough 11-03-1967

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Wilson, Davis, Ball, Watts, Ashe, Cutler, Sweeney, Allen, Hails.

Borough made the journey to Weymouth to play a Southern League Premier Division fixture.

A controversial penalty two minutes from the end denied Borough a point after they had fought a dogged rearguard action for most of the game. The penalty came when Fred Crump dived at the feet of Weymouth centre-forward Alex



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Jackson to push the ball away. Referee Mr J. F. Orpin, of Cardiff, pointed to the penalty spot and then raced over to consult his linesman as the Nuneaton team protested. Eventually the spot kick was taken and Ray Gough netted for Weymouth.

Before this dramatic ending Borough had survived a terrific pounding from the league champions. Shots were scrambled clear and both Hannigan and Barry hit the woodwork. But Borough's defence managed to hang on.

Borough took the field with one thought in mind – to get a point. And they came within 122 seconds of success, as the penalty came three seconds before the end of normal time and two minutes were added on for injuries and stoppages.

Borough had Keith Ball at centre-half, John Watts at left half and Malcolm Allen wore the No. 10 shirt, but was just another defender. For much of the game Borough centre-forward Gerry Sweeney was the only Nuneaton player in the Weymouth half of the field.

Weymouth, allowed the run of the pitch in midfield by Borough's tactics, launched wave upon wave of attacks after the break. Fred Crump pulled off a string of fine saves and it was ironical that he should have been involved in the penalty that cost the Manor Park men a point. Crump touched a point blank effort from Hannigan onto the crossbar and then flung himself across the goal to push out a shot from Weymouth dangerman Dickie Dowsett.

Weymouth became more and more frustrated and Borough's hopes steadily rose as the minutes ticked away. It looked as if their plans had paid off until the penalty.

## Nuneaton Borough v Burton Albion 13-03-1967

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Wilson, Davis, Watts, Allen, Ashe, Cutler, Richards, Crawley, Hails.

**Burton:** Potter, Finney, Carter, Haines, Fitchett, B. Edwards, Bailey, Hutchinson, Bale, P. Edwards.

Borough welcomed Burton Albion to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division encounter.

After a game of frequent stoppages caused either through dogs invading the pitch – two were caught and escorted off – or injuries to players, Borough did what was expected of them on Monday night in completing the League double over Burton, thus keeping alive their championship chances.

Though Borough won with a fair amount of ease, nobody could really claim that it was an impressive display by Borough, especially having regard to the fact that through illness or injuries Albion were without their player-manager Alex Tait, Round, Barker, Shepherd and Jackson. Burton opened promisingly enough and for the first 15 minutes or so caused the Borough defence some trouble.

But though they never gave up trying, Albion gradually became less effective and Borough went on to gain a fairly firm grip on the proceedings. Even so, it was not until just

before half-time that Borough took the lead through Norman Ashe. Alan Jones got away on the right, moved inside a defender and then passed the ball with his left foot to Richards, who headed the ball to the Borough right winger, who netted with a hard drive which was a goal all the way.

Before that Fred Potter, in the Albion goal, had brought off a fine save from Tony Richards' hard drive. Earlier on, however, Borough scoring efforts generally finished high over the top. Shortly after half-time Tony Richards made it 2-0 when he put through from close range with the Albion defence in a tangle, and in the 56th minute, Richards banged home a penalty kick awarded against Barry Fitchett for handball.

Burton improved their position, when following a Pat Edwards free-kick on the left, Ian Hutchinson, who made a highly satisfactory Southern League debut for Albion, reduced the lead with a well-placed header. Tom Crawley later hit the Albion crossbar from a Billy Hails corner kick, but there was no further scoring.

Considering they had to take the field with a weakened side, Albion played better than was probably expected. Generally speaking though, Borough, without being at their best, played sufficiently well to achieve a comfortable victory.

## Kidderminster Harriers v Nuneaton Boro' 18-03-1967

**Kidderminster:** Wilcox, Buxton, Styles, Attwood, Eden, P. Wassall, Gilbert, B. Wassall, Holbutt, Henderson, Salisbury.

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Wilson, Davis, Watts, Allen, Ashe, Cutler, Richards, Crawley, Hails.

Borough made the journey to Kidderminster Harriers to play the first leg of the Birmingham Senior Cup final.

It will require a mighty effort by Borough at Manor Park on April 8 to divert the Birmingham Senior Cup off its course from Tamworth, the current holders, to Kidderminster. For Dudley Kernick's men will need to beat the Harriers by four clear goals in the second leg of the final to repair the damage done in the first leg.

Indifferently though they played, Borough led 1-0 until a minute before half-time, and up to that point at any rate Kidderminster had shaped anything but like a side destined to win so comfortably. The turning point in this game came a minute before half-time – just at the very worst time psychologically for Borough. During a desperate struggle in front of the Borough goal the visitors failed three times to get the ball away when the opportunity was there to do so, and the awful mix-up ended with the referee awarding a penalty to the Harriers for handball against Johnny Watts. Dave Gilbert duly obliged from the spot to make the scores level at 1-1.

This goal neutralised one scored for Borough by Tony Richards in the 34th minute, when he lobbed the ball into the net with goalkeeper Wilcox slightly out of goal. Cutler had started the move with a pass to Norman Ashe, and the latter hooked the ball to the Borough centre-forward.



Borough suffered another blow in the first minute of the second half when a shot by Peter Wassall reared up and went into the net over the diving Fred Crump. After that goal, which put Kidderminster into a 2-1 lead, Borough faded from the scene, and without playing really well the Harriers got two further goals through Barry Holbutt, a former Borough player, who headed through after 81 minutes, and Henderson who, two minutes from the end, completed Borough's discomfiture with a fourth goal.

This was without doubt one of Borough's most unimpressive performances of the season. Granted the high wind and hard pitch made good football difficult, yet conditions were the same for both sides and could not be used as a valid reason for Borough's poor show.

Barnet v Nuneaton Borough	20-03-1967
<p><b>Barnet:</b> Goymer, Voyce, Jenkins, Picking, Roach, King, Whyte, Eason, Figg, Smith, Turley.</p> <p><b>Borough:</b> Crump, Thompson, Wilson, Davis, Ball, Watts, Ashe, Hope, Richards, Allen, Hails. <b>Sub:</b> Sweeney.</p>	

Borough made the journey to Underhill to play Barnet in a Southern League Premier Division match.

After this game Barnet must realise that in Borough they have very serious rivals for the league championship. Having set their stall out with a defensive formation, Borough found themselves trailing on two occasions, but their ability to move quickly from defence into attack, enabled them to wipe out the arrears.

From whatever angle this game is viewed, the fact is that this was a very fine Borough achievement for Barnet are without doubt one of the best sides Borough have met in the Southern League this season. Not only have they a very sound defence, but their attack moves with great speed and precision, and it was a tribute to the Borough's defensive system that they conceded only two goals.

Barnet did have a Figg goal disallowed for offside, and on another occasion Roger Thompson kicked away after Fred Crump had brought off a one-handed save. Generally speaking though, Borough defended with great determination and no little skill. Fred Crump had a great game and brought off three first-class saves from efforts by Eason, Figg and Turley.

It was in the 24th minute, when Keith Ball, who had done some very useful work at centre-half, was running in to challenge Picking for possession, that the ball came into contact with his hand. The referee awarded Barnet a penalty, and Les Eason scored from the spot, even though Crump got his fingers to the ball.

Borough drew level in the 43rd minute when Malcolm Allen worked his way clear of a defender near the left corner flag, brought the ball along the dead ball line, and then squared it in front of goal to an unmarked Johnny Watts, who put a low shot into the net.

Barnet went ahead again in the 59th minute when Figg split the Borough defence with a perfect through-pass which was fastened onto by Les Eason, whose shot struck the legs of the diving Fred Crump and went into the net. Borough got a great equaliser seven minutes from time. Following a throw-in, Billy Hails crossed the ball from near the left corner flag, and Tony Richards headed it on to the onrushing Norman Ashe, who rammed home an unstoppable shot.

This was a first-class game played by two fine teams. Barnet had a slight edge, but Borough's performance must have made Barnet supporters realise that the visitors had not reached the third round of the FA Cup by accident.

Nuneaton Borough v Romford	25-03-1967
<p><b>Borough:</b> Crump, Thompson, Wilson, Davis, Watts, Allen, Ashe, Cutler, Richards, Senior, Hails. <b>Sub:</b> Crawley.</p> <p><b>Romford:</b> Smith, Read, King, Sorrell, White, Gibbs, Sanders, Aggio, Obeney, Tapping, Barnett.</p>	

Borough welcomed Romford to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division match.

Romford followed up their 4-0 success over championship chasers Wimbledon in Essex on Good Friday by visiting Manor Park on Saturday and achieving the distinction of being the first Southern League side to win there this season. This was a very bad start to Borough's all-important Easter holiday programme and a heavy blow to their title hopes.

And the sad thing is that they had only themselves to blame for losing, for even though they were trailing 2-0 at one point, the home side had enough of the play to at least have saved their unbeaten record. When Borough made the score 2-1 late in the first-half, supporters were not unhopeful of their ability to save the game, especially as in the second session they would have the advantage of a strong wind.

But though they attacked for most of the second-half, Borough fell down on the job of creating and improving upon scoring opportunities. It is true they had one or two near misses. Generally speaking, though, they did not shine as marksmen.

For most of the second-half Borough's tactics seemed to be to pump the ball into the middle in the hope that it would find the forwards. Seldom was the Romford defence put in real jeopardy, though there were a few occasions when they were glad to give away a corner.

Roy Sanders headed Romford into the lead from a 7th minute corner kick on the left taken by outside left Tom Barnett, who himself has scored 37 goals this season, a remarkable achievement for a winger. They made it 2-0 when a quick thrust on the right had the Borough defence in trouble and Ray Aggio made an opening for Terry Tapping to run through and beat Fred Crump.

Borough reduced the lead in the 39th minute when, after Andrew Smith had pushed away a Tony Richards' effort, Paul Cutler headed through. Borough's new signing Roy Senior

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from Rugby Town, made his debut for the home side, and on the whole performed satisfactorily and made at least one opening which should have been improved upon.

By and large, as at Kidderminster, Borough failed to master the conditions and gave a most unconvincing display.

## **Guildford City v Nuneaton Borough 27-03-1967**

**Guildford:** Vasper, Gunter, Anthony, Massey, More, Darby, Watts, Burge, Colfer, Brown, Gregory, Vafiadis. **Sub:** Church.

**Borough:** Crump, Thompson, Jones, Davis, Ball, Allen, Ashe, Watts, Richards, Senior, Hails. **Sub:** Hope.

Borough made the journey to play Guildford City in a Southern League Premier Division game.

An own goal by Roger Thompson 13 minutes from the end of this game gave the home side an outside chance in the championship stakes and at the same time further imperilled Borough's own aspirations. Church, who had come on as substitute for Colfer five minutes after half-time, was sent away on the right and he crossed the ball hard towards goal. As Les Brown raced in, Thompson tried to kick away, only for the ball to flash off his boot and into the roof of the net.

It was most unfortunate for the right back since he had caused as much trouble to the Guildford defence as anybody with his long, raking crosses, which in the first-half especially, had the home defence in trouble.

Throughout the first-half Borough played well – appreciably better than against Romford, and were slightly the better of the two sides. On at least two occasions a goal seemed imminent but at the last moment the ball was scrambled away, while at the other end Fred Crump made a great one-handed save from Les Brown following Darby Watts' free-kick. But the best scoring chance of the game fell to Roy Senior in the 55th minute.

Following a long kick by Fred Crump, Tony Richards slipped the ball through to an unmarked Senior. The latter was left with a clear course for goal with nobody to harry him and with only the goalkeeper to beat, but as Peter Vasper came out of goal, Senior shot straight at him.

Borough were probably unlucky to lose. For a very large part of the game they were the equals of the home side, indeed for some time in the first session were superior.

## **Nuneaton Borough v Guildford City 28-03-1967**

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Thompson, Davis, Ball, Allen, Ashe, Sweeney, Richards, Crawley, Cutler. **Sub:** Hope.

**Guildford:** Vasper, Gunter, Anthony, Massey, More, Watts, Church, Burge, Brown, Gregory, Vafiadis. **Sub:** Knott.

Borough welcomed Guildford City to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division match.

The Easter holiday ended on a more pleasant note than it started for Borough, who, after losing the first two games – defeats that did their title hopes no good at all – beat Guildford

with quite a bit to spare. It was obvious right from the word "go" that Borough did not intend this to be their third defeat in a row. They played purposeful and go-ahead football and once Tony Richards had given them the lead in the 24th minute, there was never any real doubt as to the outcome.

In the first-half Borough's lively raiding had the Guildford defence working at full stretch and often cut a way through to goal. After the change of ends, however, Borough relied more on the long high ball into the Guildford goalmouth largely via Roger Thompson, and although these crosses caused consternation in the City ranks and kept Vasper very busy, they also led to a packed penalty area.

The result was that fewer clear-cut openings developed, and though the City goal had narrow shaves while under fairly constant pressure, Borough managed to add only one more goal to the two they got in the first-half.

In the 24th minute Paul Cutler started a move which saw Tom Crawley split the City defence with a perfect pass, and Tony Richards went through to shoot past Peter Vasper into the net. Borough scored again just before half-time. A Guildford defender handled the ball just outside the penalty area in trying to stop Paul Cutler, and though the City defenders lined up in front of goal, Tony Richards, the Borough leader, found a gap to drive the ball home.

The third goal came in the 76th minute. Alan Jones sent the ball through for Terry More to head away. Richards headed the ball back and Ashe nipped in to net from close range.

This was a much improved Borough performance on some recent showings. Everybody worked with great industry and with much greater mobility.

## **Wellington Town v Nuneaton Borough 01-04-1967**

**Wellington:** Irvine, Whitehouse, Newton, Salt, Clarke, Ray, Matthews, Hart, Bentley, Blackburn, Jagger. **Sub:** Goodall.

**Borough:** Crump, Thompson, Jones, Davis, Ball, Allen, Hails, Cutler, Richards, Crawley, Sweeney. **Sub:** Watts.

Borough made the journey to play Wellington Town in a Southern League Premier Division encounter.

Borough's championship hopes took yet another turn for the worst when a 13th minute goal from the Shropshire side's outside-left George Jagger, was enough to give the home side the points. Jagger cracked home the ball after Brian Hart and Alan Blackburn had teed up the chance and from then on the game developed into a running battle between Nuneaton's over-worked defence and Wellington's powerful front line.

Only Richards was persistent enough to trouble the home defence. The rest of them were only pale shadows of the players that have made Borough a force to be reckoned with. They were far too hurried and anxious and there was no one who could hold the ball, relieve the pressure on the defence and stamp any authority on the game. And Wellington cashed in on the midfield gaps left by this lack of cohesion.



Nuneaton did make a couple of determined bids to salvage a point. But they lacked penetration and their spells on the attack were far too ragged and haphazard to make any lasting impression. Tony Richards had cruel luck when an overhead scissor shot landed on the top of the crossbar and bounced over and Tommy Crawley had a couple of goal chances. But for the most part Borough had to struggle for openings and work overtime in defence.

Former Manor Park favourite Brian Hart had a game of mixed fortunes. He had a hand in the match-winning goal but in the 37th minute he hit the woodwork with a penalty after he had been brought down by Malcolm Allen. Borough tried hard in the closing ten minutes, but by this stage Wellington were determined not to let the game slip from their grasp and in the end Nuneaton were a well-beaten side.

Now Borough go into the final stages of the championship chase with a tough task in front of them but with six home games left, they can still pull it off if they recapture some of their early season form and put this game and their unhappy Easter displays behind them.

## Nuneaton Borough v Folkestone Town 03-04-1967

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Wilson, Watts, Ball, Allen, Ashe, Richards, Crawley, Senior, Hope. **Sub:** Cutler.

**Folkestone:** Cochran, Buscall, Bell, Campbell, Patrick, Catleugh, Ireland, Churms, Biggs, Ballagher, Leggatt. **Sub:** Tredwell.

Borough welcomed Folkestone Town to Manor Park on Monday for a Southern League Premier Division match.

Tommy Crawley kept his side in the hunt for championship honours when he slammed a great hat-trick to sink bottom-of-the-table Folkestone. But Dudley Kernick's men never showed championship form and they must reproduce the football which earned them their fine cup run.

After Borough's defeat at Wellington Mr Kernick made several changes but these did not bring the much-needed sharpness. In the first-half, Folkestone matched Borough and their shoot-on-sight tactics kept the home defenders on their toes. The visitors' forwards produced some attractive football but lacked finishing power. As the game wore on, Folkestone faded and Borough always looked likely to gain revenge for their defeat in Kent a few weeks ago.

Apart from Crawley's three goal performance the game had little to excite the 4,006 spectators. Passing was often poor in both defence and attack and Borough were fortunate to get off lightly on a couple of occasions when a Folkestone forward attempted to take advantage of weak distribution.

Borough's first goal came after 10 minutes when Johnny Watts found Tommy Crawley with a neat pass through the middle. The centre-forward turned and forced his way past two defenders before cracking the ball home. The Kent side missed a great chance shortly afterwards when inside-right Dennis Churms was foiled by a diving save from Fred Crump after he had been put clean through by Ballagher. Folkestone

goalkeeper, Albert Cochran, denied the home side another first-half goal when he pulled off two fine saves.

Two goals in three minutes after the break sank Folkestone further into relegation trouble. In the 53rd minute Crawley was on hand to thump the ball home from a Roy Senior corner and then he headed his third from a Tony Richards' cross following one of the best moves of the second half.

A 3-0 victory should not be grumbled at but Borough will have to do better against Barnet next Monday at Manor Park.

## Nuneaton Boro' v Kidderminster Harriers 08-04-1967

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Wilson, Davis, Watts, Allen, Hails, Richards, Crawley, Cutler, Sweeney.

Borough welcomed Kidderminster Harriers to Manor Park for the second leg of the Birmingham Senior Cup final.

After achieving their object by scoring two early goals to reduce the margin to 3-4, thus putting themselves right back in the reckoning, Borough failed to live up to their early promise and in the end went down 6-3 on aggregate.

But Borough were the victims of ill-fortune in that after only three minutes, their ace goalscorer Tony Richards was injured and carried from the field. He returned after 15 minutes and hobbled about until 13 minutes from the end when he went off for good.

Despite their handicap Borough fought with such spirit that during Richards' absence from the field they scored twice and looked capable of wiping out completely the Harriers' three goal lead. Up to half-time Harriers had done little to suggest a second-half comeback – that they would end the leg all square. But come back they did and slowly but most surely they began to squeeze Borough out of the game.

Borough went into the lead in the ninth minute when Billy Hails put across a perfect centre for Tom Crawley to beat Tony Wilcox with a well-placed header. The same player repeated the dose in the 18th minute when he headed home a Paul Cutler centre. It was in the 58th minute that Holbutt got the first of his two goals, after Crump had got his foot to a shot from David Gilbert and the ball went to Barry Holbutt, who took advantage of an easy chance to reduce the lead. The equaliser came three minutes from the end when Holbutt swept the ball past Crump with the Borough defence wide open.

## Nuneaton Borough v Barnet 10-04-1967

**Borough:** Crump, Thompson, Wilson, Watts, Ball, Allen, Ashe, Cutler, Crawley, Senior, Hails. **Sub:** Sweeney.

**Barnet:** Barr, Voyce, Casey, Picking, Roach, King, Whyte, Eason, Figg, Smith, Turley. **Sub:** Finch.

Borough welcomed Barnet to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division game.

This twice-postponed clash between the championship chasers produced a game that either side could have won, yet in the

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end both teams were doubly pleased to call it a day with the points shared. The result did justice to both sides. Barnet had led 1-0 until eight minutes from time, when Tom Crawley scored his sixth goal in three matches to level the scores.

Barnet played some brilliant football in the first session when they displayed wonderful ball control and precision in the most difficult underfoot conditions, and their skilful attacks created gaps in the Borough defence. Time after time they got clean through the Borough defence and it was really remarkable that they should have crossed over only one goal to the good.

During this very uneasy period for Borough, Fred Crump rescued his side from many delicate situations by coming out of goal either to smother or beat out shots after Barnet attacks, that had left a visiting forward with only the goalkeeper to beat. The first-half was definitely Barnet's, yet just as emphatically, the second half belonged to Borough. After having a "goal" by Paul Cutler disallowed in the first minute of the second half, the home side piled on the pressure and gave the Barnet defence a hammering.

Borough kept up a persistent attack on the Barnet goal, which had quite a few lucky escapes, before finally capitulating eight minutes from time. In one terrific onslaught the Barnet goal escaped fantastically as first one Borough forward, then another, tried to force the ball over the line.

Barnet went into the lead in the 18th minute when Les Picking got away and centred. Keith Ball went up for the ball which, however, reached an unmarked Roger Figg, who ran in to shoot hard into the Borough net. Borough's goal came in the 82nd minute when a Roy Senior cross reached Tom Crawley via Paul Cutler, for the Borough leader to shoot past John Barr.

Crawley's equaliser was the signal for an all-out Borough effort to snatch a winner, and urged on by the crowd they swarmed into the attack. Yet it was Barnet who went closest to getting the much-sought-after winner. In one or two late raids they showed they were by no means done for, and in the last minute they broke through for Keith Smith to shoot against the crossbar.

<b>Cambridge City v Nuneaton Borough</b>	<b>15-04-1967</b>
Cambridge: Bevis, Moyse, Lye, Ward, McGuigan, Barker, Wall, Spears, Stevens, McVittie, Aitchison.	
Borough: Crump, Thompson, Jones, Davis, Watts, Allen, Ashe, Cutler, Ball, Crawley, Senior. Sub: Hails.	

Borough made the journey to Milton Road to take on Cambridge City in a Southern League Premier Division game.

It was not until they found themselves two goals down and on the brink of yet another away defeat that Borough really got to grips with the City. They got back into the game with a Paul Cutler goal in the 55th minute – four minutes after City's second goal – but though they pressed hard and for the rest of the game had the home defence working at full stretch, they just could not get on level terms.

Not that they did not have the chances. They certainly did, but lack of punch in front of goal proved their undoing. It is true that after Borough had reduced the lead City's goalkeeper Bevis brought off good saves from a Cutler shot and from a powerful Roger Thompson free-kick, and that Lye also kicked off the goal-line a Cutler header.

In Tony Richards' absence Keith Ball wore the No. 9 shirt, but played in a defensive role throughout, he and Colin Davis covering up down the middle, with Johnny Watts playing mostly at right-half. Billy Hails and Gerry Sweeney were left out of the side. Borough's defensive attitude in the first-half encouraged City to attack. This they did, almost from the start, yet so often did the final pass go astray, so often was their marksmanship at fault, that their supporters hooted with dismay as move after move broke down.

A minute from half-time Keith Ball conceded a free-kick when there was little or no danger to the Borough goal. From the resulting kick, Ward floated the ball into the Borough goalmouth for Moyse to rise above the Borough defenders to head into the net to give the City a 1-0 interval lead.

And then, six minutes after half-time, a minute or two after Norman Ashe had failed with a possible chance for Borough, Wall split the Borough defence with a pass to McVittie. The latter ran on unchallenged and then squared the ball beautifully for Stevens to race in and net with a brilliant diving header. This goal, a very fine one, really rocked Borough. Two goals down, defeat was now a real threat.

Attack was now the only option and four minutes later, following a Borough move on the right, Senior pushed the ball back to Paul Cutler for the inside-right to fire into an empty net. At this point it looked as if Borough could save the game, and might even win it, since there was plenty of time to go. But though they kept up a steady attack and created a few likely-looking chances, Borough could not get an equaliser, and two more points had been lost.

## **Nuneaton Borough v Wellington Town 17-04-1967**

**Borough:** Smith, Thompson, Watts, Davis, Ball, Allen, Ashe, Sweeney, Crawley, Cutler, Hails. Sub: Wilson.  
**Wellington:** Irvine, Whitehouse, Newton, Salt, Clarke, Ray, Matthews, Hart, Bentley, Blackburn, Jagger. Sub: Goodall.

Borough welcomed Wellington Town to Manor Park for a Midland Floodlit Cup fixture.

Borough have given some of their most unfortunate displays in this competition. This was yet another such display – one that caused dismay among their supporters. The home side started fairly well, but as the game wore on became less and less effective, and showed little or no sign of getting goals.

About the nearest Borough went to getting a goal was when, following a corner by Norman Ashe, Tom Crawley got in a great header which goalkeeper Bobby Irvine did well to push over the bar. The Borough forwards failed to make

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much impression on a sound Wellington defence, which was seldom in real trouble. On the other hand the Borough defence found some difficulty in containing the lively visiting forwards, who moved swiftly into the attack. The link between the Borough defence and attack was not a strong one and often passes went astray.

Wellington went into the lead after only five minutes, when John Smith, deputising for Fred Crump, was harassed into dropping a corner kick, and before the defence could recover Dave Matthews had slammed the ball into the net. The visitors held their single goal lead without much threat from Borough until 10 minutes from the end when they clinched the issue with a second goal – a good one too.

Outside-left George Jagger, took a pass from Bentley, cut inside, and then beat Smith with a well-placed left-foot drive. This was a most uninspiring Borough display, lacking as it did most of the ingredients that make for good entertainment.

It was Wellington's third success over Borough in four meetings this season, and their double over the Borough in the Floodlit Cup competition.

## Nuneaton Borough v Wimbledon 22-04-1967

**Borough:** Crump, Thompson, Wilson, Watts, Ball, Allen, Ashe, Cutler, Richards, Crawley, Senior. **Sub:** Hails.

**Wimbledon:** Smith, Wills, McCready, Ardrey, Law, Davies, Hyde, Martin, O'Rourke, Cartwright, Hodges. **Sub:** Cooke.

Borough welcomed Wimbledon to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division fixture.

Two goals in three minutes – one in injury time in the first-half and the other two minutes after the break – transferred the initiative from Borough to Wimbledon in this all-important game. But the home side hit back to share the points in an exciting game. Up until the scoring of those two goals, Borough were quite deservedly leading 2-1.

Playing better football than in some recent games, even though the defence was guilty of making mistakes, Borough had proved themselves the better of two good sides, whose efforts had made it a most entertaining first-half. The home forwards, effectively led by Tony Richards, back after injury, were playing very well indeed and things appeared to be going Borough's way – until Wimbledon snatched that goal in first half injury time.

Two minutes after the change of ends, Wimbledon got a third goal to give them the lead – and the picture had radically changed as far as Borough were concerned. For quite some time it looked as though Borough would be beaten. Then with 12 minutes to go they got the equaliser. They tried hard in the dying stages of the game to snatch a winner, but a fourth goal eluded them – and a precious home point had been lost.

The game opened sensationally. After Roy Senior had shot wide in Borough's first attack, Malcolm Allen put across a long ball from the left wing and Paul Cutler ran in to beat

Frank Smith from close range. That goal came in two minutes. Then came a penalty kick for Wimbledon. A Paul Hodges pass found Roger Thompson out of position, and Gerry O'Rourke was closing in on goal when he was brought down by the right back. The spot kick was taken by Paul Hodges, who levelled the scores.

After nine minutes Borough were ahead again, Johnny Watts sending Tony Richards through to score with a well-placed shot. The score remained 2-1 in Borough's favour until the last minute of the half, when David Hyde set up a chance for O'Rourke whose shot was blocked and the ball ran out to Brian Martin, who shot hard and low into the Borough net to level the scores. Two minutes after half-time a low cross from Stuart Davies was not cut out and Brian Martin nipped in to drive the ball into the net.

Wimbledon held their 3-2 lead until the 78th minute, when a shot from Billy Hails, who had come on as substitute for Roy Senior 20 minutes from the end, was only partially stopped by Smith and Norman Ashe put through.

## Nuneaton Borough v Hereford United 24-04-1967

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Wilson, Watts, Ball, Allen, Ashe, Cutler, Sweeney, Crawley, Hails. **Sub:** Davis.

**Hereford:** Isaacs, Vale, Timms, Griffiths, McCall, Page-Jones, Holliday, McIntosh, Charles, Harris, Derrick. **Sub:** Neville.

Borough welcomed Hereford United to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division encounter.

The game ended in an explosion of protest from the Hereford side. Three minutes from the end Crawley hooked the ball over his head and it tucked itself into the net as Paul Cutler went up to harass United's keeper, Peter Isaacs. Hereford claimed that Cutler fouled Isaacs, but Crawley raised his arms in triumph before being enveloped by his happy team-mates and saluted by the Manor Park crowd, who had been treated to a football feast.

It was a dramatic ending to a great game, that hit the high spots for entertainment and provided Southern League soccer at its best. A game full of tension, vital to both sides, but also full of craft and skill that made it a spectacle to remember, whatever the outcome of the championship race.

From the start it was a game that Borough had to win. But it was only 13 minutes old when Harris rocked their hopes with a goal, started by Eddie Holliday, engineered by Albert Derrick and rounded off by Harris with a header from a cross that should really have been cut off by Fred Crump. The goal came after Dudley Kernick's men had forced the pace and as so often happens had left themselves wide open to the quick break.

Then Crawley struck with his first goal – a penalty, after Ashe had been pushed in the six yard box by United wing-half Griffiths. Crawley majestically stroked the ball past Isaacs and seven minutes later put Borough into the lead with a wonderful header than gave Isaacs no chance, from an Alan Jones cross.



His second goal came after Borough had shown some excellent approach work but had been foiled time and time again by a defence that relied on soccer rather than panic.

Borough were still in front at the break. But seven minutes after the interval Albert Derrick hit one of those goals that are scored once every season – a 25 yarder from an acute angle that left Fred Crump absolutely flabbergasted and flat footed as it bulged the back of the net. The game built up to its tremendous tension filled climax, as it swayed first one way and then the other, with both sides playing some fine football.

John Charles, put clear by Holliday, produced an amazing turn of speed to outstrip the Nuneaton defence ten minutes from time and only a super stop by Fred Crump who dashed out of his area at the expense of a free-kick halted the “gentle giant” in his tracks.

Norman Ashe hit the crossbar with a tremendous drive and shots went high and wide at both ends as the game kept the crowd alive with thrills. And then, Crawley, the player who hovers between greatness and mediocrity in every game, scored the goal that Hereford will argue about for years.

It's this determination that can still bring the Southern League title to Manor Park. And equally it is this determination that has made this the greatest season in Nuneaton's history whatever has happened – or will happen on May 13.

## Nuneaton Borough v Kettering Town 26-04-1967

Borough welcomed Kettering Town to Manor Park for a Midland Floodlit Cup game.

Borough ought to have won this game on Wednesday night with greater ease. For after Fred Crump had made two good saves in the first five minutes, Borough had much the better of the first half exchanges and deservedly led 2-0 at half-time. They continued the superior side until well into the second half, but after Tom Crawley had headed a Norman Ashe corner kick on to the top of the Kettering crossbar, two or three excellent scoring chances were missed, and Borough began to lose their grip on the game.

Kettering got into the game more and their efforts were rewarded in the 77th minute with a goal. From that point onwards Borough had to work hard to keep the visitors from levelling the score.

Borough went into the lead in the 28th minute when Alan Jones placed a free-kick in front of the Kettering goal for Crawley to find the net with a glancing header. Norman Ashe made it 2-0 ten minutes later, Crawley heading the ball across goal for the right winger to head past Tinsley from near the far post.

Kettering reduced the lead in the 77th minute, Smith heading back to Ken Gully, who ran in to shoot past Crump. Borough only had themselves to blame for having to struggle in the latter stages of the game for they had enough chances to have put the issue beyond doubt. As a result of Kettering's defeat, Wellington are champions of this competition.

## Sky Blues Will Send Full First Team

Mr Dudley Kernick, Borough team manager, said yesterday that Coventry City, now assured of promotion to the First Division, will be sending their full first team to Manor Park on Monday, May 15, to play in the testimonial match for Borough's two longest serving players – Malcolm Allen and Roger Thompson.

Tickets for the game can be obtained from club agents and at Manor Park as from tomorrow, ground tickets at three shillings and stand tickets at five shillings.

Borough will be sending a team to play a friendly at Ibstock and may also play Bedworth at the Oval.

## Poole Town v Nuneaton Borough 29-04-1967

**Borough: Crump, Jones, Thompson, Ball, Watts, Allen, Ashe, Cutler, Richards, Crawley, Hails.**

Borough made the journey to play Poole Town in a Southern League Premier Division fixture.

Borough's bid for a precious championship point took a turn for the worse ten minutes before half-time – and as in so many games this season it was a disputed penalty that rocked their hopes. The ball flew into the Nuneaton goalmouth and suddenly, to the amazement of the Borough players, the referee pointed to the spot.

Dudley Kernick's men surrounded him in protest but he consulted a linesman and then confirmed his decision and Poole inside-left Peter Rutley sent Crump the wrong way with his penalty. Referee Mr K. Galloway said afterwards that he was sure a Nuneaton player handled. But the Nuneaton side claimed that the man who handled was home centre-forward Tony France.

The controversy came near the end of an half that had been fairly even. Borough had made all of the early running and then Poole had come into the picture without looking particularly dangerous. Poole carried on where they left off after the break and in the 60th minute they increased their lead through centre-half Colin Eyden, who had moved into the Borough goalmouth. He slammed the ball into the roof of the net, after Fred Crump had pushed out a shot from Henderson following a free-kick against Ashe for a foul on home full-back Balsom.

Borough then came back into the picture in much the same way that Poole had done before the break. And in the 68th minute Tony Richards, declared fit just before the start, latched on to a Paul Cutler cross to reduce the arrears.

Poole then fought a hit-and-run battle as Borough plugged away for the equaliser. They had a couple of good chances, but on the whole it was Nuneaton who did the bulk of the attacking before the end. Tom Crawley set up two chances for Norman Ashe. From one, Ashe decided to cut across the goalmouth instead of hitting the ball first time, lost

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valuable time and the element of surprise, and the opening was wasted. The minutes slowly ticked away, and at the end Borough were back where they were before they beat Hereford. But there is still no let up in the battle at the top and a clear-cut favourite has yet to emerge with very little time left. In fact everything seems to point to Nuneaton's last game of the season against champions Weymouth at home.

## Nuneaton Borough v Worcester City 01-05-1967

**Borough:** Crump, Thompson, Wilson, Watts, Ball, Allen, Ashe, Richards, Crawley, Cutler, Hails. **Sub:** Sweeney.

**Worcester:** Black, Peck, Bassett, McEwan, Madley, Mullen, MacCready, Gould, Lovatt, Carter, Deeley. **Sub:** Wood.

Borough welcomed Worcester City to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division game.

Leading 3-1 early in the second half, Borough appeared to have this league match at Manor Park sewn up, but to the consternation of their supporters, they then so completely lost control of the game that not only did they concede a goal, but had to struggle desperately hard in the dying stages to prevent the City snatching an equaliser.

This was a game of great importance to both sides. Borough needed two points to keep alive their interest in the league title, while City badly required points to save them from the drop into Division One. This defeat has left them with but a slim chance of staying in the Premier Division.

The first session furnished some quite good football. Borough were the better of the two sides and carved out some good openings. Yet Worcester often found a way through a shaky Borough defence, and on two occasions in the early stages of the proceedings, Fred Crump had to make daring dives at the feet of opponents. On the second occasion both the goalkeeper and Norman Deeley had to receive attention from the trainers.

By half-time though Borough had established a 2-1 lead. This they thoroughly deserved by reason of superior work up front. And when in the 50th minute Borough made it 3-1, they seemed to be coasting to victory. Indeed, ten minutes later Paul Cutler had the ball in the City net once again, only for the goal to be disallowed through Tom Crawley being caught offside.

Then Borough's troubles started and they lost their grip in midfield and with it control of the game. Taking advantage of the wide open spaces left by a consistently retreating Borough defence, Worcester began to exert great pressure on the Borough goal, and it seemed inevitable that they would score, as indeed they did 20 minutes or so before the end of the match.

Borough opened their account in the 12th minute with a very smart goal. Malcolm Allen started the move with a pass to Norman Ashe. The latter then returned the ball to the wing-half who had moved up the right wing, and when Allen

crossed the ball to the far post, Tony Richards was on hand to head past John Black in the City goal. City drew level in the 22nd minute when, after a Mullen shot had been blocked, Alan Carter, a former Borough player, shot through just inside the near post.

After half-an-hour Borough were ahead again. Norman Ashe put across a neat centre and Tom Crawley allowed the ball to go through to Paul Cutler, who netted from close range. In the 50th minute Billy Hails crossed the ball in front of goal for Norman Ashe to head it on to Cutler who made the score 3-1. In the 69th minute Alan Carter took the ball through on his own, evaded two tackles, and then put the ball past Fred Crump to make the score 3-2.

## Nuneaton Borough v Corby Town 03-05-1967

**Borough:** Steane, Jones, Wilson, Davis, Ball, Allen, Ashe, Sweeney, Richards, Cutler, Hails.

Borough welcomed Corby Town to Manor Park for a Midland Floodlit Cup match.

By scoring all three goals on Wednesday night, Tony Richards reached a total of fifty goals for the season, and thus equalled the record for the club, set up by Fred Slater in the 1955-56 season. There were scenes of great excitement when Richards reached his half-century of goals for the season from the penalty spot, and a number of youngsters ran on to the pitch to congratulate the Borough leader on his achievement.

This was a game which went very largely in favour of the home side, and it was really remarkable that while in the first-half traffic was nearly always going in the direction of the Corby goal, the visitors should have led 1-0 until the 40th minute. Their goal came after ten minutes play – from one of the few shots the Northamptonshire side got in during the first-half. And it was scored by full-back Pollard, who picked up a loose ball well out and beat Bob Steane, who was making his debut for Borough.

It was not until the 40th minute that Borough drew level, Tony Richards, who had moved out on to the right wing, swinging over a high ball which entered the net via the far post. Though Corby had more of the play in the second-half, only once did they really look like scoring, and that was when Needham fired in a great shot which Steane saved brilliantly by flinging himself across the goal, pushing the ball against a post, and then swooping on the rebound.

Whereas Steane, who created a favourable impression, had few good shots to deal with, Deighton, at the opposite end of the field, was constantly in action.

But it was not until the 67th minute that Tony Richards got the first of his two second-half goals by heading home a Billy Hails corner kick. He got the other nine minutes from the end when, following a terrific scramble in front of the Corby goal, Borough were awarded a penalty kick, which was slammed home by Richards.





## Nuneaton Borough v Yeovil Town 06-05-1967

**Borough:** Crump, Thompson, Wilson, Watts, Ball, Allen, Ashe, Cutler, Richards, Crawley, Hails.

**Yeovil:** Chilvers, Herrity, Smith, Read, Lambden, Muir, Vowles, Harris, Foley, Taylor, Jarding.

Borough welcomed Yeovil Town to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division encounter.

Borough won this game against Yeovil, scoring two goals in each half. Though the game went very largely Borough's way, Yeovil had a reasonable share of the play, but where they came unstuck was in their finishing, which never matched up to that of the home side.

Chilvers in the visitors' goal was found a very great deal of work to do, and but for his good work, Yeovil's defeat might have been even more pronounced. The highlight of the game was the first of Tony Richards' two goals in the 40th minute, for this success enabled him to beat Fred Slater's record of 50 goals in a season. The centre-forward got another one later to take his total to 52.

Borough opened their account in the 17th minute following a free-kick awarded when Johnny Watts and Tony Richards were brought down near the half-way line. Roger Thompson, who took the kick, placed the ball to the far post. Tom Crawley headed the ball across goal and it reached Norman Ashe via Paul Cutler. The right winger swooped on the ball and drove it into the net, giving Chilvers no chance to save.

Tony Richards got his record-breaking goal five minutes before half-time. Paul Cutler was chasing a through-ball and harassed Lambden into heading the ball to the Borough centre-forward, who from about 20 yards out shot hard and low into the Yeovil net to make the half-time score 3-0.

It was in the 70th minute that Crawley and Cutler opened up the Yeovil defence for Norman Ashe to get in a shot which was blocked on the line, but the ball ran out to Tony Richards who crashed it into the net from close range. Tommy Crawley got the fourth and final goal in the 73rd minute. He took a pass from Cutler, bore through down the middle and was half-stopped by a defender, but though stumbling he succeeded in steering the ball past Chilvers, who was moving out of goal. Sheer persistency brought Crawley this goal.

## Wimbledon v Nuneaton Borough 09-05-1967

**Wimbledon:** Smith, McCready, Willis, Martin, Law, Davies, Hyde, Cooke, O'Rourke, Cartwright, Hodges.

**Borough:** Crump, Thompson, Wilson, Allen, Ball, Watts, Ashe, Crawley, Richards, Hails, Cutler.

Borough made the journey to Plough Lane to take on Wimbledon in a Southern League Premier Division game.

When they visited fellow title chasers Wimbledon on Tuesday night in this crucial league game, Borough came within 15 minutes of achieving their aim of beating the home side

and having a last-day tussle with Weymouth to decide the championship. But so far as beating Wimbledon was concerned, Borough were thwarted by an equalising goal in the 75th minute. What effect the result will have on the Weymouth game remains to be seen.

It is going to be a grandstand finish – and whichever club eventually carries off the honour, they will certainly have earned it, after weeks of fluctuating fortunes for the half-dozen clubs who have been fighting it out for many weeks now. It was very much a case of “so near and yet so far” for Borough on Tuesday night.

They took the lead in the 28th minute when Paul Cutler took the ball down the middle following a Fred Crump clearance from a corner kick, shook off the challenge by Martin, and then from about 35 yards unleashed a shot that was in and out of the net before goalkeeper Frank Smith really appreciated what was happening.

Borough led by this Cutler goal until the 75th minute, by which time Wimbledon were getting really desperate. Then they forced a corner. This was taken by Hyde who dropped the ball into the crowded goalmouth. Fred Crump moved out of goal, caught the ball, then lost it in a scramble, and Law was on hand to drive it into the net.

There was no doubt that up until this point Borough had been the better of two good sides. They had played cool, calculated football, moving the ball around with skill and generally operating with poise and confidence.

This was a game worthy of teams engaged in a championship fight. On some occasions recently Borough's away form has not been convincing. This time they fought like tigers.

## Nuneaton Borough v Weymouth 13-05-1967

**Borough:** Crump, Thompson, Wilson, Watts, Ball, Allen, Ashe, Cutler, Richards, Crawley, Hails. **Sub:** Davis.

Borough welcomed Weymouth to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division game.

Two more goals by ace-scorer Tony Richards, who took his total of goals in competitive matches this season to 54, sank league champions Weymouth in the final league game of the season, and dashed the visitors' hopes of carrying off the title for the third consecutive season.

Borough had to win to stand a chance of carrying off the championship themselves. They accomplished their mission in grand style before a large and enthusiastic crowd – but they were pipped at the post for the title by Romford, who won 2-0 at Worcester and finished a single point in front of Borough.

Romford's consistency over the past two months gained them the title, for while the other contenders, Borough included, were lapsing here and there, the Essex side went on collecting points relentlessly, to slip past their rivals on the last lap.

This has been a truly memorable season for Borough,



undoubtedly the best in the club's history from every point of view. And though, not unnaturally a little disappointed at Borough's failure to annex the title, supporters showed their appreciation of the team's great exploits by swarming across the pitch to the stand at the end of the Weymouth game and calling for Dudley Kernick and the players.

Borough's very fine win over Weymouth left no doubt, following upon their successful run in the FA Cup, that they are one of the best non-League clubs in the country.

It was in the 45th minute that Norman Ashe, finding his way along the right wing barred by Phil Stocker, doubled back and crossed the ball to Malcolm Allen, who put it over to the far post for Tony Richards to head Borough's first goal. And it was Tony Richards who clinched the issue with a second goal in the 69th minute. The move developed along the right-wing and after receiving from Paul Cutler, Norman Ashe found the Borough leader with a nicely-judged pass, and Richards beat John Clarke with a perfectly placed shot.

So far as Borough were concerned this was a great finish to a great season. It was Borough at their cup fighting best, and the result was a triumph for team work. Though Hannigan on the right wing always looked dangerous when Weymouth were on the attack, the Borough defence gave precious little away, and the way Keith Ball held Alex Jackson, the Weymouth leader, must have given his manager much satisfaction. Up front Tony Richards and his colleagues showed clever understanding and always looked dangerous.

## Nuneaton Borough v Coventry City 15-05-1967

**Borough:** Crump, Thompson (Jones), Wilson, Watts (Davis), Ball, Allen, Ashe, Cutler, Richards, Crawley (Sweeney), Hails.

**Coventry City:** Glazier, Kearns, Bruck, Lewis, Curtis, Clements, Key, Machin, Tudor, Gibson, Rees.

Borough welcomed Coventry City to Manor Park in aid of Malcolm Allen and Roger Thompson's testimonial game.

The Sky Blues treated the crowd to flashes of the brilliant football that brought them the league championship and Division One football next season. Despite the rain and the bad conditions generally, the game provided the 7,250 spectators with splendid entertainment.

Not surprisingly, Borough found the Division II champions too much for them, but they had the satisfaction of scoring three very good goals.

Borough started brightly enough, and twice Sky Blues' goalkeeper Bill Glazier had to punch away centres from Billy Hails before, in the sixth minute, the home side went into the lead. Tony Richards sent Hails away on the left and when the winger crossed the ball, Paul Cutler nipped in to net from close range.

Then it was that City really got going, and Borough were given an indication of things to come when David Clements twice hit a post and Brian Lewis shot against the bar, while

Fred Crump saved brilliantly from a John Tudor shot and an Ernie Machin header from a corner.

It was obvious that a goal was inevitable – and it duly came in the 30th minute, when following a move by Ronnie Rees and Clements, John Tudor shot through just inside the post. This goal was the prelude to a devastating spell by the City in which they rocked the Borough with three more goals in five minutes – and the scorer each time was Tudor.

Two minutes after his first goal, the City leader took advantage of a partial clearance to slam the ball home; a minute later Rees made an opening for the centre-forward to score again; and three minutes after that Tudor headed into the net to give City a 4-1 half-time lead.

Both teams made changes in the second-half. Borough brought on Colin Davis for Johnny Watts, Gerry Sweeney for Tom Crawley and Alan Jones for Ian Wilson. For the City, Mick Coop came on for Mick Kearns, Ron Farmer for Lewis and Barry Lowes for Key. A better complexion was put on the game when, four minutes after half-time Cutler put Gerry Sweeney through to beat Glazier with a well-placed shot.

In the 56th minute, however, the Sky Blues replied with a fifth goal, Ernie Machin heading downwards into the net from a Farmer free-kick. Borough replied with a third goal in the 63rd minute, Allen putting Norman Ashe through on the right for the winger to cut inside and fire a low shot into the far corner of the net to make the score 5-3, and after Glazier had saved well from Richards and Allen, City got two more goals through Farmer and Gibson.

After the game the Southern League Premier Division runners-up cup was presented to the Borough skipper, Johnny Watts, by the Mayor, Coun. S. Williams, and afterwards the Borough players did a lap of honour round the ground.

## Ibstock PR v Nuneaton Borough 17-05-1967

Borough travelled Ibstock for a friendly match against Ibstock Penistone Rovers.

Borough won an entertaining game 4-1. Tony Richards opened Borough's account, but the home side equalised before half-time. In the second half, Norman Ashe put Borough ahead again. Richards made it 3-1 and Billy Hails rounded off the scoring with a fourth goal for Borough.

Alan Jones kept goal for Borough in place of Fred Crump and had a good game, making several excellent saves.

## Bedworth Town v Nuneaton Borough 22-05-1967

Borough travelled to The Oval to play Bedworth in a match in aid of the Bedworth Town Floodlight Appeal.

It was a pity that conditions were so bad for this game on Monday night, since both the game and the attendance suffered in consequence. Heavy rain had made the pitch very heavy, and it was perfectly obvious even before the game began that good football would be virtually impossible. As indeed it was.

Borough introduced two new players in whom manager Dudley Kernick is interested – a wing-half Gerry Graham from Cambridge United, and Dave Agnew, a full-back from Notts County. Both did very useful work in the most trying conditions.

Although Borough did most of the attacking, Bedworth put up spirited resistance, as is proved by the fact that they held their Southern League opponents to a goalless draw. Borough often got to close quarters but just could not create clear openings, and good shots were few. A solid Bedworth defence had something to do with this.

Apart from saves from Jones and Pratt, Fred Crump in the Borough goal had little to do, and once in the second-half, took the ball upfield to the cheers of Borough supporters.

Pickard, who kept goal for the “Greenbacks” in the first half, and Mulholland, who took over after the change of ends, had more to do than Crump without being really extended. Pickard made one good save from Graham in the first half, and after the change of ends Mulholland did well to push over the bar a Cutler header from a Tom Crawley cross.

Both sides made half-time changes in a game which produced little in the way of excitement and skillful football, which was not the least surprising having regard to the very testing underfoot conditions.

## Southern League Premier Division 1966-67

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Romford	42	22	8	12	80	60	52
Nuneaton Borough	42	21	9	12	82	54	51
Weymouth	42	18	14	10	64	40	50
Wimbledon	42	19	11	12	88	60	49
Barnet	42	18	13	11	86	66	49
Guildford City	42	19	10	13	65	51	48
Wellington Town	42	20	7	15	70	67	47
Cambridge United	42	16	13	13	75	67	45
Chelmsford City	42	15	15	12	66	59	45
King's Lynn	42	15	14	13	78	72	44
Hereford United	42	16	12	14	79	61	44
Cambridge City	42	15	13	14	66	70	43
Cheltenham Town	42	16	11	15	60	71	43
Yeovil Town	42	14	14	14	66	72	42
Burton Albion	42	17	5	20	63	71	39
Corby Town	42	15	9	18	60	75	39
Poole Town	42	14	11	17	52	65	39
Hillingdon Borough	42	11	13	18	49	70	35
Bath City	42	11	12	19	51	74	34
Worcester City	42	11	8	23	59	79	30
Bedford Town	42	8	13	21	54	72	29
Folkestone Town	42	6	15	21	44	81	27

## Nuneaton Borough End Of Season Dinner

Nuneaton Borough should get more co-operation from the council said the soccer club's chairman at the Presentation Dinner held at the Pingles Hall this week. Mr R. S. Bull, the chairman, said that the club had embarked upon a five year plan to give the fans at Manor Park the best ground, and the best facilities in the Southern League.

“To achieve this we want the help of the town and the Corporation,” said Mr Bull. “The directors have not made a penny out of the club, although we must admit we have had a lot of pleasure,” he added.

As a solicitor he was appalled at the thought that the club had spent £15,000 on a ground belonging to someone else. “It frightens me to death,” he said. He believed that the Nuneaton Borough FC should own the freehold to the ground instead of holding it on a seven year lease from the town.

In tribute to the club's pool he stated that spectators could be paying as much as 15s. a match at the ground without it.

Glowing tributes were paid to both Dudley Kernick and Johnny Watts on the way they had led the team through its finest ever season. The team had done a fine job in finishing runners-up in the Premier Division, but next year he was confident that they would win the title. The five-year plan was aimed to eventually bring Football League soccer to the town.

One black spot in the year was a fine of £500 imposed upon the club by the FA. It was disgraceful that the club had not been told fully what the fine was for.

Dudley Kernick, the team manager, said that his team was made up of “a great bunch of lads” and they deserved their success. Certain statistics were of particular interest and among them were the fact that 270,000 people had paid to watch games at Manor Park this season. The club had a Southern League average gate of more than 2,500, which was well above average for the league.

“This is not bad for a team that were said earlier in the season to be unattractive,” said Mr Kernick.



Malcolm Allen (left) and Roger Thompson with the cheques received at the presentation dinner-dance of Nuneaton Borough Football Club.

Photo: Nuneaton Observer



Nuneaton Borough players being presented with plaques from the Southern League to mark the sides' achievement in finishing runners-up in the Premier Division. The plaques were presented at a dinner-dance held on Wednesday.

Photo: Nuneaton Observer



## **Nuneaton Borough 1966-67**

Back row: Gerry Sweeney, Tommy Crawley, Fred Crump, Ian Davis, Keith Ball.

Middle row: Billy Hails, Alan Jones, Ian Wilson, Malcolm Allen, Tony Richards, Joe Taylor (trainer).

Front row: Trevor Senior, Paul Cutler, Norman Ashe, Dudley Kernick, Johnny Watts, Roger Thompson.



## Atherstone Town — 1st Qualifying Round

Borough made the journey to Sheepy Road to take on Atherstone Town in a 1st Qualifying Round FA Cup tie.

Atherstone: Catlin, Kettle, Bott, Dougall, Hancox, Heal, Moreton, Pyle, Awde, McKenzie, Hicks.

Borough: Crump, Jones, Wilson, Allen, Watts, Davis, Ashe, Hails, Richards, Cutler, Crawley.

The Adders had a goal start in this FA Cup game at Sheepy Road, but it was soon evident that they did not have much of a chance of beating the more cultured Southern League side.

It took Borough just three minutes to neutralise a goal scored by George Awde after only two minutes, and from that point it was only a question of the size of Adders' defeat.

By half-time Borough had the game all sewn up with a 4-1 lead. The visitors were not quite so dominant after the change of ends and the Adders came more into the game.

They had back luck when, shortly after half-time, Awde shot against a post, and later when only a superb save by Fred Crump saved a Gordon Dougall header that looked destined for the back of the net.

Now and again the Adders, prompted from behind by Gordon Dougall, mounted a useful-looking attack, in which Monty Moreton was usually well to the fore, but they were never able to match the skill of their more experienced rivals, who coasted to the easiest of victories.

George Awde gave the home side the lead after only two minutes. He was put through by Moreton and shot past the advancing Fred Crump. Three minutes later a Norman Ashe centre was headed through by Billy Hails to level the scores.

After 29 minutes Paul Cutler made an opening for Tom Crawley to deflect the ball into the net, and five minutes later Tony Richards headed a superb goal from Billy Hails' cross. Richards

completed the first-half scoring just before the interval from Cutler's pass.

At 57 minutes Crawley broke away on the left and pulled the ball back to Paul Cutler whose low drive found the far corner of the net. Two minutes later the Adders were somewhat unlucky to have a penalty given against them, from which Tony Richards scored his third goal.

Richards had a chance to increase his goal tally when, seven minutes from the end, Robert Bott brought down Norman Ashe in the penalty area, but this time Richards shot wide from the spot.

By and large Borough's easy passage into the next round of the competition robbed the game of some of its interest. After the early Atherstone goal it was Borough all the way.

## Loughborough United — 2nd Qualifying Round

Borough welcomed Loughborough United to Manor Park for a 2nd Qualifying Round FA Cup tie.

Borough: Crump, Jones, Wilson, Davis, Watts, Allen, Ashe, Sweeney, Richards, Cutler, Crawley.

Loughborough: Banton, Hall, Mosson, Scothern, Hodges, Baxter, Kalisack, Broadhurst, Metcalfe, Burton, Murray.

After keeping in contact with Borough until half-time, Midland League side Loughborough United were hit by a blitz which left their defence in a state of ruin. United, however, had their moments of glory when they neutralised an early Tony Richards goal and then actually went ahead in the 25th minute. Indeed, it could have been 3-1, since before Borough took that early lead Larry Baxter shot against a post with Fred Crump in no position to save.

At the height of the blitz, Loughborough lost the services of their long-serving centre-half and skipper Stan Hodges, with a cut to his head. Both sides had to field substitutes, Bentley for Hodges and Roger Hope, who deputised for Cutler.

Tony Richards gave Borough the lead in the 7th minute when he headed through after a header by Crawley from a Cutler centre had struck the bar. Two minutes later a Brian Broadhurst centre was deflected to Richard Kalisack, who in the clear, ran on to beat Crump with a hard, low drive.

In the 25th minute Kalisack and Brian Metcalfe combined for the latter to shoot United into the lead, but on the half-hour Crawley got in one of his specials which was kicked away by Baxter, but it was obvious that the United player was behind the line. Almost on the stroke of half-time Crawley made an opening for Cutler, who though challenged by Bill Hall, swept the ball into the roof of the net.

In the 65th minute a header from Gerry Sweeney from a cross by Norman Ashe went across the face of goal and entered the net near the far post. At 78 minutes Sweeney took a pass from Richards to crack the ball home for Borough's fifth goal. Two minutes after Stan Hodges left the field, Richards headed through a Crawley corner kick.

Then, in the 85th minute, came the most spectacular goal of them all, when Norman Ashe raced at top speed to hit a Crawley centre in mid-air and blast the ball past the amazed Colin Banton, who probably never saw the goal as it tore into the net. Tony Richards rounded off the scoring by taking the ball round Dave Mosson and firing a low shot into the far corner of the net.

## Burton Albion — 3rd Qualifying Round

Borough made the journey to Burton Albion for a 3rd Qualifying Round FA Cup tie.

Burton: Potter, Patrick, Shepherd, Jackson, Aston, Bate, Roby, Tait, Round, Barker, Edwards. Sub: Keating.

Borough: Crump, Thompson, Jones, Bryan, Watts, Allen, Ashe, Cutler, Richards, Crawley, Hails. Sub: Sweeney.

A splendidly taken goal by Paul Cutler in the 63rd minute – he met a Tom



Crawley chip across the face of the goal to head into the far corner of the net – gave Borough what most of those who saw the game will agree was a rather fortunate win.

Yet Borough should be given every credit for snapping up one of the not innumerable chances the visitors had after a most inauspicious start which very nearly brought about their exit from the competition.

Indeed, not long before Cutler grabbed that winner, Borough escaped by the skin of their teeth, when Johnny Watts slipped on the greasy surface and let in Alex Tait, but the latter's shot ran two feet wide of the empty net.

In the early minutes Crump lost a cross from the left and the ball ran out to Stan Round, who had a clear look at goal. Round shot towards goal only to see the ball strike colleague Richie Barker and be diverted off target.

Shortly afterwards, first Roby then Barker had the ball in the Nuneaton net, but both goals were disallowed, one for offside and the other for handball. And having regard to the fact that later on both Shepherd and Edwards hit the Borough bar, it will be appreciated that Albion had some cause to complain about their luck.

Borough too had a goal disallowed when a Billy Hails corner kick on the left sailed into the net. The goal was disallowed for pushing. For most of the first-half the Borough defence was far from impressive, indeed could often be faulted, while Crump in goal handled anything but confidently.

Fortunately the Borough defence tightened up a good deal after the break and once Cutler had given the visitors the lead Crump and Johnny Watts and Co. strongly resisted all Burton's efforts to save the game.

The Borough attack made some useful looking moves but, generally speaking, had few really good shots at goal. One of these was a hard free-kick by Roger Thompson which Potter handled

confidently. Another good effort came from Billy Hails whose shot was caught by Potter as he was falling to the ground.

Borough must be given full marks for winning a game they looked like losing. While it can still be said that the defence must be tightened up, the fact is that when the real test came, they stuck to their guns grimly and succeeded in keeping the enemy at bay.

## Macclesfield Town – 4th Qualifying Round

Borough made the journey to Macclesfield Town for a 4th Qualifying Round FA Cup tie.

Macclesfield: Cooke, Sievwright, Forrester, Beaumont, Collins. Goalen, Goodwin, Davenport, Fidler, Hodgkinson, Latham.

Borough: Crump, Thompson, Jones, Davis, Watts, Allen, Ashe, Cutler, Richards, Crawley, Hails.

Borough full-back Alan Jones could hardly have chosen a more opportune time to open his first-team scoring account than in this game, for his goal in the 35th minute earned his side the right to a replay.

Jones' goal came out of the blue. He had followed up a move on the Borough left and when he was given the ball by Hails, he lost no time in letting fly at goal, and the ball went hurtling into the far corner of the net, giving Cooke no chance.

Never could a goal have been more welcome to Borough, since they had been struggling to prevent Macclesfield from adding to a goal scored by Davenport in the eleventh minute.

The move that brought Macclesfield the early encouragement they needed stemmed from Ashe losing the ball in trying to round a defender. The ball was directed towards goal by Forrester and as Fred Crump left his goal Davenport headed into the empty net

Both before and after this goal, Macclesfield had been distinctly threatening, and when the ball was in

the air, Fidler and Davenport were most menacing, and two or three headers went very close. For quite a while the home side kept up the offensive, though in one raid Borough forced a corner from which Tom Crawley got the ball into the net, but the goal was disallowed. Half-time arrived with the score at 1-1.

After the change of ends the Borough defence began to get a grip on things, and becoming frustrated at being unable to get through the home side began pumping the ball down the middle in an attempt to force the Borough defence into making errors.

While it may be said that Borough seldom looked like winning, for most of the second half at any rate, they defended with such rugged determination that they hardly looked like losing. The Borough attack did not have a very happy day, maybe the result of the defence being pinned back for so long, and there were little or no crosses from the wings.

Be that as it may Borough though by no means at their best, did enough to hold a side that had not been beaten in ten games.

## Macclesfield Town – 4th Qualifying Round Replay

Borough welcomed Macclesfield Town to Manor Park for a 4th Qualifying Round FA Cup replay.

Borough: Crump, Jones, Wilson, Davis, Watts, Allen, Ashe, Cutler, Richards, Crawley, Hails. Sub: Sweeney.

Macclesfield: Cooke, Sievwright, Forrester, Leake, Collins, Goalen, Latham, Davenport, Fidler, Beaumont, Hodgkinson. Sub: Myerscough.

The opportunism of Norman Ashe, who grabbed two fine first half goals, put Borough into the 1st Round Proper for the first time since 1954.

Ashe gave Borough the lead in the 10th minute when he shot through brilliantly after Richards had headed in to the middle for the ball to reach the right

winger via Cutler. Ashe's left foot drive gave Cooke in the Macclesfield goal no chance whatever.

Macclesfield missed a great opportunity of equalising in the 23rd minute when Johnny Watts brought down Brian Fidler in the penalty area. Fidler's spot kick was stopped by a diving Fred Crump, but the ball ran back to the Macclesfield leader who shot the rebound against the crossbar, and the ball was kicked clear.

This was a remarkable let-off for Borough and had a decisive effect on the game, for 11 minutes after failing to level the scores, the visitors found themselves two goals to the bad, for in the 34th minute Cooke pushed out a Cutler header for Norman Ashe to slash the ball into the roof of the net.

Five minutes before half-time Macclesfield lost Forrester, their left-back through injury, and after the break both teams fielded a substitute, Myerscough took Forrester's place and Gerry Sweeney came on in place of Tony Richards, who had twice been injured in the first half.

Borough's play in the second half was nowhere nearly so positive as in the first session. Without the steadying influence of Tony Richards the Borough attack lost its rhythm, its ability to get through the Macclesfield defence, and the few chances they had of increasing their lead were not seized upon.

Generally speaking Borough fell back on the defensive and David Latham on the right wing for Macclesfield led many attacks on the Borough goal, and it was fortunate that Macclesfield's finishing was so ineffective as to present little or no threat to the Borough's lead.

When they did get to close quarters, Fred Crump, who had another very good game was nearly always in the right place at the right time to check them. The second half was a big disappointment to Borough's biggest crowd for some years – 7,177.



**Paul Cutler (left) goes down just outside the penalty area during a Borough attack on the Wealdstone goal.**

Photo: Nuneaton Observer

## Wealdstone— 1st Round Proper

Borough made the journey to Wealdstone for a 1st Round Proper FA Cup tie.

Wealdstone: Blythe, Doyle, Leonard, Townsend, Stanley, Dilsworth, Drake, Searle, Childs, Lindsay, Bremer.

Borough: Crump, Thompson, Jones, Davis, Watts, Allen, Ashe, Cutler, Richards, Crawley, Hails.

Amateur Cup winners Wealdstone strove their mightiest to end Borough's FA Cup success story at Lower Mead on Saturday, but their best was not good enough to stop the well-drilled, highly efficient Southern Leaguers from earning the right to entertain Third Division side Swansea Town.

Despite the obvious handicap of losing their centre-half Mike Stanley, after 26 minutes, Wealdstone revealed rare fighting qualities, and after coming under heavy Borough pressure at the start and midway through the first-half, they came back with a bang in the last ten minutes of the first session and gave the Borough defence a grilling.

First Keith Searle made a great effort to get through and only by diving at his feet was Fred Crump able to stop him.

Both players were injured but were able to resume after attention. Crump then made a very fine save from amateur international Hugh Lindsay, whose shot swung away very late. Next, a Borough player headed off the line with Crump out of goal, and finally a terrific drive from Keith Searle smashed against the post.

Although in between these Wealdstone efforts Mick Blythe in the home goal saved brilliantly from Norman Ashe, the home side must have been well-satisfied as they went in at the break on equal terms.

But there can be no argument about the fact that Borough did more than enough in the second half to warrant the successes they achieved in the 59th and 68th minutes.

On the first occasion a determined run by Roger Thompson brought a throw-in not far from the corner flag on the Borough right. Malcolm Allen threw the ball to Thompson, who swung it across goal. Paul Cutler could have played the ball, but allowed it to go through and it eventually ran to Tony Richards, who from just inside the penalty area, drove the ball home. Blythe got his fingertips

to the ball, but could not stop the ball entering the net.

Borough's second success came nine minutes later. A Norman Ashe shot was charged down and the ball ran loose to Paul Cutler, who, from close in, calmly placed the ball past a helpless Blythe.

Wealdstone made a brave attempt to save the game after these two setbacks, but came up against a defence which was absolutely determined not to let them into the game again.

Johnny Watts figured prominently in the break up of Wealdstone's last-ditch attacks and was admirably backed by the rest of the defence – and by those forwards who filtered back to make the defensive barrier almost impregnable.

While Wealdstone were striving in vain to cut the Borough lead, the visitors went close once or twice to extending it. There was a shot by Norman Ashe, which Blythe scrambled away near the foot of the post and then Ashe again and Billy Hails made good efforts to add to Borough's lead, but the end came with Borough still holding their 2-0 lead.



The crowd shows its disapproval when an early Borough goal is disallowed against Swansea.

Photo: Nuneaton Observer

## Swansea Town — 2nd Round Proper

Borough welcomed Swansea Town to Manor Park for a 2nd Round Proper FA Cup tie.

Borough: Crump, Jones, Wilson, Davis, Watts, Allen, Ashe, Cutler, Richards, Crawley, Hails.

Swansea: Hayes, Gommersall, R. Evans, Williams, Purcell, Coughlin, B. Evans, Allchurch, McLaughlin, Todd, Humphries.

Before a record crowd Borough took on and handed out a beating to Third Division Swansea Town, and thus equalled the record of the 1949-50 Nuneaton side in reaching the third round of the competition.

There was no fluke about Borough's win. It was a truly great victory - the best a Borough side has achieved since 1953-54 when Watford were beaten by three clear goals on the same ground.

Borough matched the Welsh side in every phase of the game. In fact bettered them in some – and were certainly superior in the region of goal, where Swansea fell down badly.

This was no football classic. It just couldn't be on so tricky a pitch as this, for rain on top of several nights of frost had made conditions treacherous.

It would not be true to say that Borough did not have any anxious moments, they did. There was that occasion when Brian Evans failed to connect with a Keith Todd cross when a mere touch would probably have meant a goal. Evans, too, turned a ball just wide of a post, while Todd missed a chance after Evans had rounded Jones.



Borough right-back Alan Jones heads the ball away during a Swansea attack.

Photo: Nuneaton Observer

Generally speaking, though Swansea often approached with skill, their finishing was poor and the number of good shots Crump had to deal with were few, though there were some tense exchanges in front of the keeper.

Borough went ahead in the 22nd minute when Malcolm Allen started a move with a pass to Cutler and when the latter put the ball into the middle there was Tom Crawley to flick it into the net with a delicate header.

Paul Cutler, sent through by Allen, failed with a good chance to increase Borough's lead, missing the target with only Heyes ahead of him. Then came a shot by Tony Richards that struck a post – a real let-off for Swansea.



Early in the second half Ivor Allchurch looked like causing trouble when he went round one defender and hit the ball goalwards, but Ian Wilson blocked the shot. In the 62nd minute Crawley fastened on to a Norman Ashe centre, and his shot from an acute angle found the net via Heyes' foot, but the goal was disallowed on the grounds of offside.

Richards broke away on the right for his cross to be sent over the top by Crawley. It was in the 65th minute that Swansea conceded the own goal that virtually settled the issue. Under pressure, wing-half Coughlin tried a long header back to his goalkeeper. Heyes got to the ball near the far post, but it slipped from his grasp and crossed the line. It might have been that Heyes took his eye off the ball as Richards advanced to challenge him.

That goal finished Swansea, although ten minutes from time Coughlin got the ball past Crump, only for the referee to give Nuneaton a free-kick for handball.

Stan Smith, skipper of the team that beat Watford in the 1953-54 cup run, says: "Congratulations to Dudley and his players on their great win, in a game where they not only had to adapt themselves to playing against the extra pace of their full-time opponents, but also the tricky ground conditions."

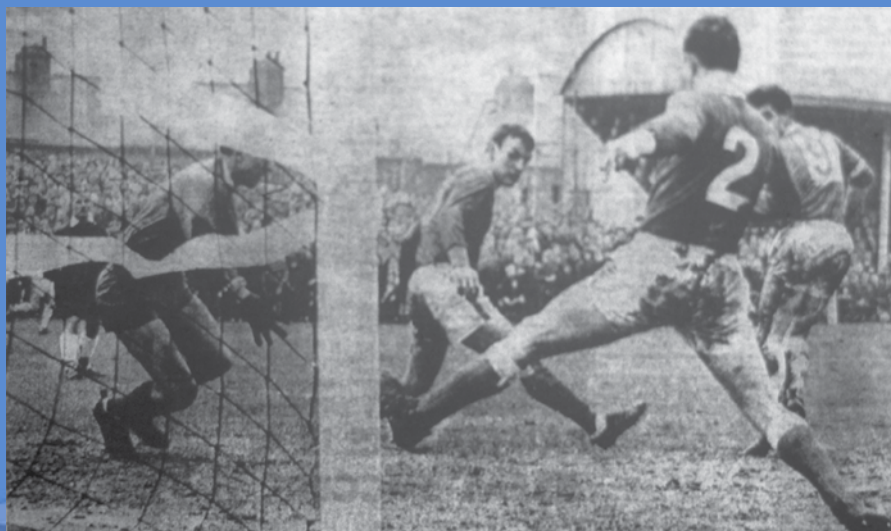
## Rotherham United — 3rd Round Proper

Borough welcomed Rotherham United to Manor Park for a 3rd Round Proper FA Cup tie.

Borough: Crump, Jones, Wilson, Davis, Watts, Allen, Ashe, Cutler, Richards, Crawley, Hails. Sub: Sweeney.

Rotherham: Hill, Wilcockson, Clish, Rabjohn, Haselden, Tiler, Massey, Williams, Galley, Chappell, Chambers. Sub: Harrity.

Borough fought a good fight on Saturday in the most atrocious conditions – conditions that from the physical point of view alone should have favoured the Division II side.



Paul Cutler's shot beats the Rotherham defence to give Borough a 19th minute lead.

Photo: Nuneaton Observer

Yet Borough battled on regardless, and though towards the end they were beginning to show signs of their great endeavours, once again they proved themselves worthy opponents.

Some said that had Borough played as well as they did against Swansea, they might have won this game. But facing Swansea and tackling Rotherham are two very different propositions.

There can be no doubt at all that Borough played as well as they were allowed to. Indeed, only form better than anything they have yet produced in the Cup run could have earned Borough victory on this occasion.

Yet few would deny that Borough earned their draw. Whether they played at their best or not; the fact emerges that Borough gave the opposition plenty to think about. And the result was in doubt right up until the last kick.

In the first-half, while they were able to match their League opponents physically, Borough taxed the Rotherham defence, and well deserved their 1-0 interval lead.

Their goal came in the 19th minute, when, following a corner kick on the right, the ball crossed over to Billy Hails on the opposite side of the field. His hard drive struck a Rotherham defender and ran loose to Paul Cutler,

who drove the ball through a crowd of players into the net.

Though earlier on a Borough defender had rather fortunately got in the way of a Robert Williams' shot that seemed bang on target; though there had been a few occasions when the daring of goalkeeper Fred Crump had come to Borough's aid, the best scoring chances had fallen to Borough.

There was the occasion where keeper Hill and Hesleden got in a complete tangle in their efforts to check Richards as he was dashing through the middle. The ball ran out to the left and was secured by Richards, who with Hill out of goal, shot against the side netting.

Just before half-time, Cutler got away on the right and then crossed perfectly to Crawley some yards beyond the far post, and the latter's header ran all across the face of an empty net with nobody there to touch it over the line.

A second goal by Borough at that point might have had a decisive effect on the result. But it was not to be. And in the first minute of the second half, Rotherham drew level.

Roy Massey got away on the right and when his cross struck another player and lobbed into the air, John Galley headed the ball on to David Chambers, who put it into the net via a post.

After that goal Borough never really regained their first-half assurance and the game lost some of its edge after a collision between Hill and Crawley.

Galley, who took Hill's place in goal proved himself no mean deputy for Hill. He made one excellent save from Billy Hails and cut out two or three menacing crosses from the right. When Galley went into goal, Mick Harrity completed the Rotherham side, while Sweeney took Crawley's place.

A draw was a fair result. Borough found the going hard but their pluck and determination and will to go on fighting, earned them the right to take a second crack at the Division II side.



**Borough Supporters in their fancy hats before the Rotherham game at Manor Park.**

Photo: Nuneaton Observer

## Rotherham United — 3rd Round Proper Replay

Borough made the journey to Millmoor to take on Rotherham United in a 3rd Round Proper FA Cup Replay.

Rotherham: Hill, Wilcockson, Clish, Rabjohn, Haselden, Tiler, Massey, Williams, Galley, Chappell, Chambers. Sub: Harrity.

Borough: Crump, Jones, Wilson, Davis, Thompson, Allen, Ashe, Cutler, Richards, Crawley, Hails. Sub: Sweeney.

Gallant Borough are out of the FA Cup. They reached the end of the road at Rotherham on Tuesday night after a fighting display that earned for them the admiration not only of their own supporters but every one of the 22,930 spectators who watched the game.

Though Borough's dismissal from the Cup was not altogether unexpected, since the odds were always heavily loaded in favour of the Division II side – or should have been – the tragedy of Borough's exit was that the goal that beat them was a hotly disputed one.

It was anything but a clear-cut goal, and came four minutes after the change of ends. Taking the ball from a short corner, Harold Wilcockson ran on and then dropped the ball in front of goal. It is claimed by Borough that as Fred Crump was curling round in the air to flick the ball over the bar, he was impeded, and the ball ran down his arm and into the net. Such was the confusion that some said it was an own goal, some that the scorer was Wilcockson and others that Leslie Chappell scored.

Borough protested strongly as the linesman had been flagging, but the referee allowed the goal to stand. It was a very great pity that Borough's long and glorious run in the Cup should have ended in this manner. But that is football. Up until that goal Borough were right in the game with a chance.

After a rather shaky start, which was not really surprising with all the noise and din and excitement there was, Borough slowly but surely began to settle down, and after withstanding early Rotherham pressure the visitors spurred on by the cheers of several thousand fans, started to show the crowd that it was not a fluke that they had reached the third round of the competition, but that they had got there on ability.

The League side did most of the pressing, but when Borough settled in, home supporters quickly realised that their call for six goals was not going to materialise – not by a long chalk.

Indeed, by the time the half-way stage had been reached it was anybody's game, with Borough looking quite capable of performing yet another giant-killing performance.

But as at Manor Park, Rotherham got an all-important early second half goal. Whether it was a good one or not, the fact remains that it had a profound effect on the game.

It was just the fillip Rotherham needed. True Borough went on fighting; true they contested every inch of ground, but some of the snap they had produced in the last 20 minutes of the first-half was now missing. They were pushed back on defence, and though they worried the United with quick breaks from defence, largely they were kept defending, and Crump was called upon to make several daring saves.

Yet – and quite typical of their fighting spirit – Borough made a desperate late gesture of defiance and only a courageous dive by goalkeeper Alan Hill at the feet of Tom Crawley – the two players involved in that unfortunate collision at Manor Park last Saturday – prevented a late equaliser.

Johnny Watts experience was missed, but the Borough defence must be given credit for sticking to their task so manfully. A special word of praise is due to Colin Davis and Roger Thompson, especially the latter, who was playing his first game for weeks.

It was their job to keep John Galley from doing too much damage and this they did with no little success, while John Haselden again kept a very close grip on Tony Richards.

As at Manor Park, this was not a game distinguished by good shooting. In fact neither side shone in this department, and most of the danger to both goals came from skirmishes in the respective penalty areas.

In Malcolm Allen Borough had as good a player as there was on the field – perhaps the best, though, as ever, Borough's was a team effort.

# Nuneaton Borough 1958-1970 – Part 2



## Southern League Premier Division: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1966-67

Nuneaton Scores First

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	Nuneaton Scores First
08.20	Hillingdon Borough	A	L	1-0	Richards	1,150
08.22	Worcester City	A	MFC	2-6	Ashe, Richards (pen)	2,885
08.27	Cambridge United	H	L	2-1	Cutler, Richards (pen)	2,048
08.31	Hereford United	A	SLC 1 1st Leg	2-2	Crawley (2)	4,564
09.03	Atherstone Town	A	FAC 1Q	6-1	Richards (3, 1pen), Hails, Crawley, Cutler	2,097
09.05	Hereford United	H	SLC 1 2nd Leg	2-2	Ashe, Crawley	3,710
09.08	Lockheed	H	BSC 1	3-1	Richards (2, 1pen), Crawley	1,800
09.10	Cheltenham Town	H	L	2-0	Richards, Etheridge (o.g.)	3,128
09.12	Worcester City	H	MFC	2-3	Richards, Wood (o.g.)	2,795
09.14	Hereford United	A	L	2-2	Cutler, Sweeney	3,884
09.17	Loughborough United	H	FAC 2Q	8-2	Richards (3), Cutler, Ashe, Crawley, Sweeney (2)	3,013
09.19	Hereford United	H	SLC 1 Replay	3-2	Hails, Richards (2)	5,353
09.21	King's Lynn	A	L	1-3	Hails	1,704
09.24	Chelmsford	H	L	3-3	Richards, Crawley, Ashe	2,837
09.26	Bath City	A	L	0-3		2,387
10.01	Burton Albion	A	FAC 3Q	1-0	Cutler	4,147
10.03	Wellington Town	A	MFC	2-3	Richards, Sweeney	1,604
10.08	Hednesford	H	BSC 2	2-1	Hails, Crawley	2,040
10.12	Burton Albion	A	MFC	1-0	Sweeney	1,696
10.15	Macclesfield	A	FAC 4Q	1-1	Jones	3,712
10.17	King's Lynn	H	SLC 2	2-2	Richards, Hope	2,464
10.20	Macclesfield	H	FAC 4Q Replay	2-0	Ashe (2)	7,177
10.24	Lockheed	A	MFC	2-5	Haines (o.g.), Sweeney	1,191
10.26	King's Lynn	A	SLC 2 Replay	3-4	Ashe (2), Hope	2,317
10.29	Romford	A	L	1-6	Richards	2,401
10.31	Halesowen Town	H	BSC 3	2-1	Ashe, Cutler	1,406
11.05	Wellington Town	H	L	4-0	Ashe, Richards (2), Cutler	1,426
11.07	Lockheed	H	MFC	6-2	Hails, Cutler, Richards (2, 1pen), Ashe, Carter (o.g.)	1,700
11.12	Worcester City	A	L	2-0	Ashe, Crawley	1,650
11.14	Bedford Town	A	L	3-2	Crawley (2), Richards	2,217
11.19	Cambridge City	H	L	3-0	Richards, Cutler, Hope	2,572
11.21	Cheltenham Town	H	MFC	3-3	Richards (2, 1pen), Ashe	1,740
11.26	Wealdstone	A	FAC 1P	2-0	Richards, Cutler	5,033
12.03	Poole Town	H	L	3-0	Richards (2), Cutler	2,236
12.06	Stourbridge	A	BSC S-F	3-1	Richards, Cutler, Crawley	1,235
12.10	Yeovil	A	L	0-1		1,569
12.12	Cambridge United	A	MFC	1-0	Crawley	
12.17	Hillingdon Borough	H	L	4-0	Sweeney (2), Crawley, Richards	2,750
12.22	Crawley Town	H	L	3-1	Richards (2), Cutler	3,119
12.27	Corby Town	A	L	2-2	Richards, Cutler	1,200
12.31	Cambridge United	A	L	1-3	Baker (o.g.)	2,477
01.07	Swansea Town	H	FAC 2P	2-0	Crawley, Heyes (o.g.)	18,000
01.14	Cheltenham Town	A	L	5-1	Crawley (2), Richards, Allen, Ashe	1,861
01.16	Cambridge United	H	MFC	3-4	Cutler, Crawley, Robinson (o.g.)	3,429
01.21	King's Lynn	H	L	4-1	Cutler (2), Ashe, Crawley	3,770
01.28	Rotherham United	H	FAC 3P	1-1	Cutler	21,118
01.31	Rotherham	A	FAC 3P Replay	0-1		22,930
02.04	Chelmsford	A	L	0-0		3,945
02.08	Kettering Town	A	MFC	0-1		1,598
02.11	Bedford Town	H	L	3-1	Richards, Crawley, Ashe	5,585
02.15	Cheltenham Town	A	MFC	1-1	Sweeney	720

# Nuneaton Borough 1958-1970 – Part 2



## Southern League Premier Division: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1966-67

Nuneaton Scores First

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	Nuneaton Scores First
02.18	Folkestone	A	L	0-1		1,310
02.25	Burton Albion	A	L	1-0	Sweeney	3,009
03.01	Corby Town	A	MFC	3-0	Ashe, Richards, Crawley	
03.04	Bath City	H	L	2-1	Ashe, Richards	3,785
03.06	Burton Albion	H	MFC	0-1		2,707
03.11	Weymouth	A	L	0-1		2,304
03.13	Burton Albion	H	L	3-1	Ashe, Richards (2, 1pen)	4,018
03.18	Kidderminster Harriers	A	BSC F 1st Leg	1-4	Richards	2,500
03.20	Barnet	A	L	2-2	Watts, Ashe	3,378
03.25	Romford	H	L	1-2	Cutler	3,775
03.27	Guildford City	H	L	3-0	Richards (2), Ashe	3,275
03.28	Guildford City	A	L	0-1		2,800
04.01	Wellington Town	A	L	0-1		2,410
04.03	Folkestone Town	H	L	3-0	Crawley (3)	4,006
04.08	Kidderminster	H	BSC F 2nd Leg	2-2	Crawley (2)	2,943
04.10	Barnet	H	L	1-1	Crawley	3,730
04.15	Cambridge City	A	L	1-2	Cutler	3,054
04.17	Wellington	H	MFC	0-2		2,488
04.22	Wimbledon	H	L	3-3	Cutler, Richards, Ashe	3,826
04.24	Hereford United	H	L	3-2	Crawley (3)	3,642
04.26	Kettering Town	H	MFC	2-1	Crawley, Ashe	1,165
04.29	Poole Town	A	L	1-2	Richards	1,054
05.01	Worcester City	H	L	3-2	Richards, Cutler, Ashe	4,004
05.03	Corby Town	H	MFC	3-1	Richards (3)	818
05.06	Yeovil Town	H	L	4-0	Ashe, Richards (2), Crawley	3,680
05.09	Wimbledon	A	L	1-1	Cutler	4,096
05.13	Weymouth	H	L	2-0	Richards (2)	5,913

KEY: L = Southern League Premier Division, FAC = F.A.Cup, BSC = Birmingham Senior Cup, SLC = Southern League Cup, MFC = Midland Floodlit Cup.



## Promotion And Relegation To Football League

Big plans for the reorganisation of non-league football throughout the country are under way. The aim – guaranteed promotion and relegation to the Football League. And if successful the champions of the Southern League Premier Division and the winners of a completely new league to be launched in the North will, in a very few years, win an automatic place in the Fourth Division.

Talks have already been held with the Football League and the new all-professional Northern League will start operating in 1968-69. Both stops have been taken at the instigation of the Southern League. First details of the ambitious plan to inject new life into non-league football were announced at the Southern League annual meeting at the Cafe Royal, London, on Saturday.

Chairman, Mr John Nash (Kettering) told the packed meeting that very encouraging unofficial talks had been held with the Football League over the past year but pointed out that it would be at least 18 months before a formal approach could be made. “The object will be to stimulate interest throughout non-league football in this country. I am certain it will be the salvation of many clubs that are struggling today.”

“But it would be wrong for us to say that the Football League have agreed to promotion and relegation. They have told us ‘first put your own house in order then come and talk to us.’ That is what we aim to do.”

Mr Nash warned the meeting that the Football League would not give them anything for nothing, but he felt that from the talks they already have had they were progressing along the right lines. The only new club to win a place in the Southern League was second-time-lucky Brentwood Town, who failed last year by four votes. This time they were elected unanimously with Canterbury and Rugby.

Hinckley, Sittingbourne and Tunbridge Wells were forced to quit the league because of insurmountable financial difficulties. But Canterbury and Rugby, who had given notice of withdrawal, changed their minds and were re-elected.

Southern League supporters will have to pay more for their soccer next season. The minimum admission for league and cup games was increased from 2s. 6d. to 3s. A move by Weymouth to increase the minimum admission to 3s. 6d. was defeated. The rule restricting clubs to paying players a signing on fee of no more than £10 was scrubbed. Chairman Mr John Nash commented: “This was archaic and very much a legacy of the past. Now at least it makes us honest.”

## Billy Hails And Rugby Town Post

Nuneaton Borough forward Billy Hails is meeting officials of the Rugby Town FC over the weekend to discuss the question of his taking over as player-manager of the Rugby club.

Hails is on the Borough’s retained list and it is expected that after his talks with the Rugby officials, the matter will be

referred to the Borough manager, Mr Dudley Kernick, with a view to having the player’s name removed from Borough’s retained list.

Meanwhile much work is going on at Manor Park in preparation for the new season. The exterior walls of the new social club have been completed, and the stand is being painted and tip-up seats fixed throughout.

There was a queue for stand season tickets at Manor Park on Wednesday evening. These tickets are available at six guineas each, and for pensioners £4. Admission to the ground will cost 3s. with transfer to the stand an extra 2s. For pensioners and boys, admission to the ground will be 1s. 6d.

## Player Departures

Commenting upon the fact that next season Borough will be without the services of Billy Hails, Roger Thompson and Gerry Sweeney, secretary-manager Mr Dudley Kernick said that supporters need not worry about departures from the club.

Mr Kernick, who has several players in view, said that each departing player would be adequately replaced. Billy Hails has joined Rugby Town as player-manager; Roger Thompson has been placed on the transfer list as he has sold his business interests and will be moving with his family to the South; Gerry Sweeney has been transferred to Burton Albion. Roger Thompson was with Malcolm Allen, the club’s longest serving player.

Mr Kernick was interested in an exchange deal with Burton Albion as between Sweeney and Bate, but the latter will not now be available to make long Southern League journeys for business reasons. No fee was involved in the transfer of Gerry Sweeney.

## Borough On Point Of Signing Three Players

Borough secretary-manager Mr Dudley Kernick revealed yesterday that he was on the point of signing three more players. He has already announced the names of two forward signings. The players he is hoping to sign include a cover for the left flank but principally a defender to take the place of Roger Thompson; a goal-getting outside left or centre forward who netted 29 Southern League goals last season and 32 the season before; and a centre forward or inside-left, also a prolific Southern League goalscorer.

One of the new signings already made is Roger Smith, aged 22, a forward from Walsall. Smith was signed for Walsall on leaving Tamworth Grammar School by Bill Moore, the then manager. The latter refused several offers for Smith, who was a member of the Walsall side that gained promotion from Division Three to Division Two.

After four seasons at Walsall, Smith was transferred to Port Vale, but after one season there, returned to Walsall. Mr Kernick tried to sign Smith last season. The other player Mr Kernick has signed is Laurence Wright (19), from Hednesford, the West Midland League club. He is described as a midfield,



winger and upfield player. He had a two-months' trial with Blackpool last season. Port Vale are said to be interested in Wright. All last season's players have re-signed with the exception of Billy Hails, who has joined Rugby Town as player-manager; Gerry Sweeney, who has signed for Burton Albion and Roger Thompson, who has signed for Barnet; and Roy Senior. Mr Kernick received fees for Hails and Thompson.

Goalkeeper Fred Crump is expecting to take up residence in Nuneaton in the near future.

## Borough Keen On Brian Jenkins

It can now be stated that one of the two forwards Borough secretary-manager Mr Dudley Kernick is keen to sign is Brian Jenkins, who has scored 64 goals for Merthyr during the past two seasons.

Jenkins, a Welsh Under-23 international, was at one time a left-winger, but two seasons ago he played centre-forward for Merthyr and scored 23 goals. Last season he played as one of a double spearhead – a Tom Crawley type of role – and scored 31 goals. It is understood that Jenkins is coming to work in the Nuneaton area next week, and will eventually live here.

There is nothing yet to report regarding the other forward in whom Mr Kernick is interested.

Roy Senior, who joined Borough from Rugby Town just before Easter and played in six games for Borough is rejoining Rugby Town. A fee is said to be involved.

## 1967-68

### Wigan Athletic v Nuneaton Borough 05-08-1967

**Wigan:** Halsall, Houghton, A. Jones, Blundell, Craig, Roberts, R. Llewellyn, Lyon, P. Jones, Holden. **Sub:** Floyd.

**Borough:** Crump, A. Jones, Wilson, Watts, Ball, Allen, Ashe, Cutler, Richards, Jenkins, Smith. **Subs:** Stephenson, Davies.

Borough made the journey to Springfield Park to take on Wigan Athletic in a pre-season friendly.

The meeting between two of the top clubs in their respective leagues revealed that there is no great difference between the footballing standards of the northern and southern premier division sides. And when the new Northern League makes its advent next season, it should, along with the Southern League Premier Section, provide a high quality of play outside the Football League.

Throughout the first-half, Borough showed little enterprise – being content to find their feet and take the ball up into the Wigan quarters. It was a case of “keep the ball out of our area.” There were a larger than usual number of fouls on both sides. In one defensive slip by Borough, the slick Wigan attack grabbed the first goal. The game was only seven minutes old when Llewellyn nodded a low ball into the net after it bounced off keeper Crump.

Shortly before half-time, Richards sent out a beautiful ball

to Ashe. Wigan's full-back Alf Jones, formerly with Lincoln, jumped up and grabbed the ball while standing in the penalty area. It was an easy chance for Cutler to square the game from the penalty spot.

During the interval, Borough manager Dudley Kernick brought off centre-forward and record-breaking goalscorer of last season, Tony Richards. Also taken from the team was Smith. Substitutes Stephenson and Davies took their places.

Although Richards had shown little of his scoring genius in the first-half, it was a move which robbed the Borough side of any height for the rest of the match. This was a handicap which they never overcame and it was left to Wigan's Roberts to score the winner with eight minutes to go.

### Nuneaton Borough v Aston Villa 07-08-1967

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Wilson, Watts, Ball, Allen, Ashe, Cutler, Richards, Wright, Smith.

**Villa:** Stephens, Bradley, Briggs, Sutton, Pountney, Chambers, Roberts, Lawrence, Park, Scott, Rudge. **Sub:** Stokes.

Borough welcomed Aston Villa to Manor Park for a pre-season friendly game.

Before the biggest-ever Manor Park practice game gate – 4,472, Borough soundly thrashed a Villa side studded with first team men. This first home game, though a friendly, left Borough supporters full of confidence for the season to come. With concise precision the home team carved up a poor Villa side which showed little resistance to a workmanlike Borough.

Dudley Kernick's new boys, Lol Wright and Roger Smith both gave copybook performances that delighted the crowd. Borough won admiration with cultured soccer moves, whereas Villa can only hope that their long-suffering fans will forgive and forget. So effortless were Borough in creating chances that one could have imagined the status of the clubs being reversed.

Wright quickly showed his undoubted ability when he stuck out a boot to flick in a shot that almost beat Villa keeper Stephens after only six minutes. Malcolm Allen in midfield kept a stream of long raking passes flowing from the mid-division and Wright, combining well with Smith, made full use of the situation.

Villa were continually being pressed into mistakes and Bradley rescued the situation for the side time and again. In the 14th minute Smith found room on the right and crossed the ball to Cutler in the middle. The latter headed it on to Wright, who scored his first goal for his new club with ease. Borough were now in command. Their players showed a skill with which Villa could not cope.

Defender Pountney was in such a panic about a Lol Wright cross in the 29th minute that he beat his goalkeeper with a shot that many a centre-forward would have been proud of, to register goal number two for the home side. Villa were completely dominated in midfield where Johnny Watts

# Nuneaton Borough 1958-1970 – Part 2



marshalled his men with great skill. Ball too had a good game. Villa were forced to shoot from 30 and 40 yards and Fred Crump was given the easiest of times – never once did he look flustered. With a 2-0 lead at the interval, Borough looked set for victory. Villa replaced Lawrence with Stokes.

Even when Jones headed a Park shot off the line the crowd showed little anxiety about the situation. The switching on of the floodlights saw the twinkling feet of Paul Cutler weaving their way down the right. His high-flighted cross found Tony Richards going up for the ball with the Villa goalkeeper. Stephens fumbled the ball and Richards secured Borough's third goal. Many Villa fans decided to leave the ground as Borough made it 4-0 a few minutes later.

Richards, with an angled shot from just inside the penalty box, beat Stephens with an unstoppable drive. Just before time Villa showed a little flare of planning genius when they almost scored from a free-kick set-up. A strong shot found Park in a position to score, but fine anticipation by Fred Crump prevented him from achieving success.

## Nuneaton Borough v Wigan Athletic 14-08-1967

**Borough:** Crump, Davis, Cutler, Watts, Ball, Allen, Ashe, Keeley, Wright, Jenkins, Moore.

**Wigan:** Halsall, Houghton, A. Jones, Blundell, Craig, Roberts, Ryan, Llewellyn, Lyon, P. Jones, Brunday (Wilkinson).

Borough welcomed Wigan Athletic to Manor Park for a pre-season friendly encounter.

Well-taken goals in the 9th and 48th minutes by Mick Keeley, the Highgate United player, gave Borough a well-deserved victory over Cheshire League side Wigan Athletic on Monday.

Although without two key forwards in Tony Richards and Roger Smith and playing Paul Cutler at left back, Borough did enough to earn their success. Wigan, like Borough, did a lot of quite useful midfield work, but caused Fred Crump in the Borough goal little trouble – apart from when Crump had to go down at the feet of Dave Roberts in the early minutes of the game. Just before this Bert Llewellyn had missed a good scoring chance, hurriedly shooting wide with only Crump to beat.

Cutler did well to contain John Ryan, Wigan's best forward, who found the stand-in full back plenty to do. Young Bobby Moore, from Nuneaton Boys' Club, created a favourable impression on the left flank.

Keeley's first goal was an opportunist effort. Receiving the ball from Norman Ashe he saw his chance as Halsall moved out of goal and shot into the Wigan net just inside the post. His second goal was a really smart effort. Put through by Brian Jenkins, he drew the goalkeeper, feinted to shoot and then took the ball round the diving Halsall to shoot into the empty net.

Without reaching the heights, this was quite an interesting game to watch. Borough had the edge for most of the time and were worthy winners.

## Nuneaton Borough v Margate 19-08-1967

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Wilson, Watts, Ball, Allen, Ashe, Cutler, Richards, Wright, Smith.

**Margate:** Hughes, Campbell, Marshall, Snowdon, Harrop, Clifton, Amato, Thompson, O'Mara, Grace, Burden.

Borough welcomed newly-promoted Margate to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division game.

Though they had strong claims for a penalty turned down, the main reason Borough conceded a point in their first home game, was their inability to crown good midfield play with goals. It was in the 37th minute that Tony Richards got right through the Margate defence only to be brought down from behind by Bryan Snowdon when a few yards from goal. The referee waved away Borough's appeals.

Borough's inability to get a goal meant that Margate were always in the game and in the dying minutes, Fred Crump had to save well from Gordon Burden. In Margate's first attack, Crump was injured, but pluckily carried on, despite incurring a severely bruised thumb.

Every credit must go to the hard-working Margate defence for putting up such dogged resistance. Nevertheless, Borough should not have dropped this point for two were there for the taking. Granted, lucky deflections and blocked shots saved the Margate goal on quite a few occasions. Granted, too, there were one or two near misses from Borough.

Borough built up their attacks quite ably; they got to the Margate penalty area without a great deal of trouble. But once having got there things invariably went awry. The home attack, which included new signings Lol Wright at No. 10 and Roger Smith at No. 11, plus last season's regulars Tony Richards, Paul Cutler and Norman Ashe, could scarcely be described as lethal, and many centres that came in were put too close to the goalkeeper.

In general Borough's defence acquitted itself with credit, though on occasion Margate's most dangerous forward, Phil Amato, was given a bit too much room in which to operate. Margate, who no doubt were quite happy to share the points with their formidable rivals, owed a great deal to a spirited defence which, though often in difficulties, never flagged in their efforts to keep the Borough forwards at bay.

## Barnet v Nuneaton Borough 26-08-1967

**Barnet:** Barr, Thompson, Jenkins, Ward, Roach, King, Ratty, Eason, Figg, Searle, Turley.

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Wilson, Watts, Ball, Allen, Ashe, Cutler, Richards, Wright, Hope.

Borough made the journey to Underhill to take on Barnet in a Southern League Premier Division fixture.

Borough may have deserved a point, but after playing some most attractive midfield football and approaching the Barnet goal with skill, they could manage but one goal after the home

# Nuneaton Borough 1958-1970 – Part 2



side had rocked them with two successes in the 10th and 13th minutes of the game. Yet Borough, though still needing much more punch up front, were not so goal-shy as against Margate. In fact, the home side owed much to the skill of goalkeeper John Barr. Among many other fine saves, he brought the house down with a great clearance from a terrific Richards' header.

The Borough centre-forward had also gone very close with another fine header in the first-half, while Norman Ashe twice got clear. On the first occasion he shot across the face of goal and just wide of the far post; the next time he was sent reeling by a late tackle.

Defensive lapses gave Barnet both their goals. When they got their first after ten minutes' play. Paul Cutler, who played a midfield role, put an ill-placed back pass straight to Les Eason, who ran on, rounded Fred Crump, and shot obliquely into the Borough net. Three minutes later Keith Searle headed a simple goal from a long cross by Roger Thompson, the former Borough defender.

From that point until the last 15 minutes, when Barnet came back into the game a little, Borough had much the better of the exchanges and with better finishing, they could have wiped out the arrears. As it was, despite a whole series of attractive-looking raids, it was not until five minutes from the end that a move in which Richards and Ashe took part, enabled Paul Cutler to slip through to net with a well-placed shot.

In the last few minutes Borough made desperate attempts to salvage a point and home team supporters heaved a sigh of relief when the end came with the score still 2-1. While Barnet must be given every credit for snatching those two goals while the going was good, they were more than just a little fortunate to maintain their 100 per cent league record.

## Nuneaton Borough v Burton Albion 28-08-1967

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Wilson, Watts, Ball, Allen, Ashe, Cutler, Richards, Wright, Hope.

**Burton:** Jones, Keating, Shepherd, Carver, Young, Goodall, Tait, Garden (Verity), Hutchinson, Barker, Bailey.

Borough welcomed Burton Albion to Manor Park for a Southern League Cup first round first leg tie.

It was not until five minutes from time that Borough got a third goal, enabling them to start the second leg at Burton all square. It was following a long ball into the goalmouth from the right flank by full-back Alan Jones that Paul Cutler headed through brilliantly to level the scores at three-all when defeat seemed to be staring Borough in the face. Just before this Jones had shot against the woodwork of the Burton goal.

Burton proved themselves worthy opponents. They defended stubbornly, especially in the second-half when Borough did most of the pressing, and when they moved into the attack often extended the Borough defence, which not always inspired. Burton went into the lead in the 18th minute when Ian Hutchinson took a pass from the left and swung round to shoot into the Borough net from the edge of the penalty area.

In the 22nd minute, from a Norman Ashe centre, Lol Wright beat the Burton goalkeeper, David Jones, in the air to nod Borough's equaliser. The same player gave Borough the lead in the next minute when Tony Richards sent him through to volley the ball home. Two minutes later Richie Barker headed past Crump from a free-kick, and two minutes before half-time Barker made an opening for Tony Bailey to shoot through a crowd of players past the Borough keeper.

This was not an impressive Borough performance. They will certainly need to be at their very best if they are to overcome the powerful Weymouth side and gain their first Southern League victory of the season.

## Nuneaton Borough v Weymouth 02-09-1967

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Wilson, Watts, Ball, Allen, Ashe, Cutler, Richards, Wright, Jenkins.

**Weymouth:** Clarke, Canavan, Stocker, Barry, Hobson, Dowsett, Hannigan, Cave, Fraser, Gough, Bennett.

Borough welcomed Weymouth to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division game.

A great display of goalkeeping by Fred Crump, who made a whole series of first-class saves, laid the foundation for Borough's first league victory of the season. The Borough keeper was especially brilliant in the first-half when, after going into an early lead and then being pegged back, Borough lost control in midfield and were kept on the defensive for most of the half.

Borough opened the scoring in the sixth minute when, after receiving from Cutler, Brian Jenkins, playing his first league game of the season, crossed the ball. Richards failed to connect with the cross, but Lol Wright got the ball to Norman Ashe, whose header Clarke reached but could not prevent from going into the net. Weymouth levelled the score seven minutes later when Johnny Watts conceded a free-kick and Phil Stocker beat Crump with a well-placed shot.

It was a most disappointing first-half for Borough, most of whose trouble in this period stemmed from the fact that they left too many open spaces in midfield. Borough obviously needed a confidence booster – and it came five minutes after half-time in the form of a penalty kick for handball. From the penalty spot Tony Richards registered his first goal of the new campaign. Richards' first kick was saved by keeper John Clarke, but the ball ran loose and Richards followed up to drive the ball home.

Then, nine minutes later, Richards nipped in to cut off a badly-placed Dickie Dowett back pass intended for his goalkeeper and placed the ball out of Clarke's reach into the Weymouth net. It began to look as though Borough had at last established superiority.

But not a bit of it, for ten minutes later, Ray Gough split the Borough defence with a choice pass to Dave Bennett, who ran in to beat Crump with a fine cross-shot. With Borough's lead



# Nuneaton Borough 1958-1970 – Part 2



cut to 3-2, it was anybody's game once again and supporters were visibly relieved when 15 minutes from the end Paul Cutler went through and after having his first shot only partially stopped by Clarke, took the rebound to tuck the ball into the Weymouth net.

## Burton Albion v Nuneaton Borough 06-09-1967

**Burton:** Jones, Finney, Shepherd, Carver, Young, Goodall, Tait, Garden, Keating, Barker, Verity.

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Wilson, Watts, Ball, Allen, Ashe, Davis, Richards, Wright (Cutler), Smith.

Borough travelled to Eton Park on Wednesday to play Burton Albion in a Southern League Cup first round second leg tie.

When in the 65th minute, Norman Ashe ran in from the left to meet a long cross from Roger Smith and shoot his side into the lead, it looked very much as though, once again, Borough were destined to beat the Albion on their own ground. But it was not to be, for Burton replied with goals in the 71st and 73rd minutes to knock Borough out 5-4 on aggregate.

Burton just about deserved their success over a very moderate Borough side. Indeed, just before the end Crump brought off a good save from Carver when the latter looked likely to add to the home side's lead. The keeper was injured in making this save, but after attention was able to resume.

Three Borough players were caught off guard when Burton got their first goal. While they hesitated in going for the ball, Goodall nipped in, took the ball upfield before passing to Barker, who made an opening for John Keating to score. In the next minute Albion went ahead with a remarkable goal. Crump firmly punched away a hard drive, and the ball went to Alex Garden, whose return header found the Borough net.

Borough claimed that Barker, who had been left stranded when Fred Crump punched clear, was in an offside position when Garden headed into the net, but a goal was allowed. What excitement there was in this encounter was largely confined to the second half – after Norman Ashe had shot Borough into the lead. Up till then, there had been little to enthuse over; in fact, the first-half had been a dull affair.

When Ashe scored, the game came to life, but Borough's hopes of continuing their run of success at Burton were shattered when the Albion got those two goals in almost as many minutes.

## Dover v Nuneaton Borough 09-09-1967

**Dover:** Price, Martin, Dennis, Hurley, Swain, Morgan, Griffiths, Stepney, Ray, Kelly, Clewlow. **Sub:** Peters.

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Wilson, Watts, Ball, Allen, Ashe, Cutler, Richards, Wright, Smith. **Sub:** Jenkins.

Borough made the journey to The Crabble to take on Dover in a Southern League Premier Division match.

Borough's defensive plans paid dividends, when they went for a point, but could have had both, but for an unfortunate slip by Fred Crump in the 69th minute.

Crump, who had turned on an immaculate and near perfect performance, left his line to cover a free-kick from Dover's Chris Hurley, but he tripped and stumbled as he went for the ball and it tucked itself into the top corner of the net. But the Borough keeper could hardly be blamed. It was one of those inexplicable things that happen now and then on the field, and he more than made up for it with his display.

Before this incident Nuneaton had been given a goal by Hurley, who headed a Roger Smith cross into his own net four minutes before half-time. Dover had monopolised the attacking play in the first-half and the match followed the same pattern after the break with Borough staging a "backs to the wall" battle and holding the eager Kent forwards.

Borough's display was marred by the sending off of centre-half Keith Ball in the 65th minute – the first Nuneaton player to be given his marching orders since Dudley Kernick took over. Ball was involved in a clash with Dover centre-forward John Ray after they had both climbed for the ball in the air.

But it was a heartening display by the Manor Park side. Any point away from home is a precious one and although Borough's tactics were not attractive to watch, they were certainly effective.

## Guildford City v Nuneaton Borough 11-09-1967

**Guildford:** Vasper, Gunter, Anthony, Massey, Moore, D. Watts, Davies, Hudson, Gregory, Colfer, Vafiadis.

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Wilson, Watts, Ball, Allen, Ashe, Cutler, Richards, Wright, Smith.

Borough made the journey to Guildford to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

The game at Guildford produced a dour, give-away-nothing display by two very evenly matched sides, and the result was in doubt right up to the last kick. Though there were no goals, the encounter fairly bristled with good football, and there were close shaves for both sides. Guildford showed themselves to be a good side, and Borough had to play well to hold them. As at Dover they owed a great deal to a solid, uncompromising defence which contested every inch of ground.

When the ball was in the air Borough generally had the beating of the home side, though they did not always have the better of the exchanges when the ball was on the ground. Keith Ball and Johnny Watts shone in a Borough defence that gave the home forwards not too many clear looks at goal – and when they did manage to get through there was always Fred Crump to contend with.

The Borough goalkeeper again made some very fine saves, none better than when David Watts shot against the bar for Gregory to meet the rebound and crash the ball towards goal. Though off balance, Crump managed to reach the ball and push it on to the bar from which it fell down the back of the net.

The Borough keeper, however, was beaten in the 72nd minute, only for the goal to be disallowed for offside. Crump



had beaten out a cross from the right, but failed to hold the ball. Ray Colfer seized on the ball and shot for goal. Crump smothered the shot only for the ball to run to Gregory who slammed it home. But the referee immediately awarded Borough a free-kick for offside.

Borough found Peter Vasper in the Guildford goal plenty to do without getting in too many really effective shots. His best save came in the first-half when Johnny Watts put Tony Richards through for the Borough leader to crack in a first-time shot which Vasper did very well to clear.

Borough's best efforts came from Lol Wright and Roger Smith, both of whom worked prodigiously. Tony Richards led the attack intelligently and his subtle ball distribution often led to trouble for the Guildford defence.

## Nuneaton Borough v Wimbledon 16-09-1967

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Wilson, Watts, Ball, Allen, Ashe, Cutler, Richards, Wright, Smith.

**Wimbledon:** Smith, Martin, McCready (Cooke), Ardrey, Law, Davies, Hyde, Hobbs, O'Rourke, Collins, Hodges.

Borough welcomed Wimbledon to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

Wimbledon were penned in for so long in this match that they were lucky to get away with just a 4-0 beating. That they didn't conceded more goals was down to Frank Smith's fine goalkeeping and to things not always going right for Borough after brilliant attacking moves had split wide open the Wimbledon defence. Smith, in addition to making fine saves from Cutler, Richards and Ashe, and diving at the feet of the onrushing Roger Smith, showed excellent anticipation in moving off his line to whip the ball right off the heads of Borough attackers when his goal was in peril.

Borough moved the ball around beautifully and cut through the Londoners' defence with a skill and assurance about which the visitors could do little. Wimbledon were kept almost entirely on the defensive in the first-half and it was really remarkable that their goal should have remained intact until the 37th minute, when Borough opened their account.

Roger Smith started the move that led to the opening goal with a pass to Cutler, who swivelled round smartly to cross the ball to Norman Ashe, who moved in swiftly to head past a helpless Smith. Borough struck again three minutes later when, following an Ashe corner kick, Alan Jones, who had moved upfield for the kick, glanced the ball to Tony Richards, who cracked it past Smith.

Wimbledon, for whom Ian Cooke deputised for the injured McCready after the change of ends, came more into the game in the second half without showing much sign of cutting into Borough's lead. David Hyde led a few raids on the Borough goal but usually the Dons' attack was so well covered by the Borough defence, that Fred Crump had a very easy afternoon in goal.

While the Wimbledon forwards were unable to get the better

of the strong Borough defence, Richards and his colleagues continued to worry Roy Law and his fellow defenders, and in the 75th minute they got their third goal, Lol Wright cleverly heading through an Alan Jones free-kick. The same player made it 4-0 in the 83rd minute when Ashe and Richards paved the way for the tall inside-left to hook the ball past Smith.

Wimbledon got a consolation goal in the last minute when Ian Cooke shot past Crump. This was Borough's best display of the season thus far. Their brilliant football, which had the London side rocking and reeling for most of the game, rousing the crowd to a high pitch of excitement.

## Nuneaton Borough v Worcester City 18-09-1967

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Hope, Watts, Ball, Allen, Ashe, Wright, Richards, Jenkins, Smith.

**Worcester:** Collins, Brack (Bailham), Bassett, McEwan, Wood, Mullen, Ward, Gould, Round, Upton, Warrington.

Borough welcomed Worcester City to Manor Park for a Midland Floodlit Cup encounter.

Borough played some delightful football in the first half, but after the change of ends City put in a strong challenge. In fact, after twice holding a two goal lead, Borough were twice pegged back and towards the end it appeared as though the Southern League Division 1 side might snatch an equaliser.

Borough should have had the game sewn up by half-time. Time and again their clever approach work took them right through the City defence. Most of Borough's first-half chances fell to Norman Ashe. He most certainly should have scored more than one goal before the change of ends.

Both goals had narrow escapes. Roger Smith hit a post; Ward put just over the top of the Borough goal from a Frank Upton pass as Fred Crump was moving out of goal; Alan Jones headed against his own crossbar in attempting to clear; Crump had to dive first at the feet of McEwan and then Stan Round to save an awkward situation; while Collins made fine saves from Brian Jenkins' header and a Richards' shot. But the biggest escape for the visitors was when Tony Richards hit the bar from almost on the goal-line.

Borough took the lead in the 9th minute when Richards put through after Collins had failed to hold an Alan Jones cross. In the 40th minute Jenkins had a shot blocked for Norman Ashe to hook the ball in from the rebound. Almost dead on half time Barrie Gould scored the goal of the match when he left Fred Crump standing with a brilliant 30 yard shot that flew into the net from off the underside of the bar.

In the 72nd minute Ashe was pushed off the ball by Bailham, inside the penalty area and from the spot, Tony Richards slammed the ball past Collins. Warrington replied for Worcester when, after having one shot blocked, he took the rebound to move forward and slip the ball into the Borough net.

In the last minute Lol Wright headed a smart goal from Malcolm Allen's centre to put the result right beyond doubt.



## Hastings United v Nuneaton Borough 23-09-1967

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Wilson, Watts, Ball, Allen, Ashe, Cutler, Richards, Wright, Smith.

Borough made the journey to Pilot Field to take on Hastings United in the Southern League Premier Division.

Hastings, without a win or a goal in their last six matches, gave Borough a real caning. On a rain-soaked pitch they hammered in four goals.

The home side had to borrow an amateur goalkeeper from Brighton to make up their side. He did not arrive until five minutes before the kick-off, and it was expected that Nuneaton would be far too good for the home side. But Borough wasted chances which could have given them a two-goal lead in the opening 20 minutes, and they rarely suggested they would take command.

Hastings, whose morale was at a low ebb, gradually realised they were in with a chance. But even their most partisan fan could not have hoped for the events which were to follow. Peter Jones was left with an open goal when Fred Crump failed to cut out a centre from the left and Jim Strachan made it 2-0 from a corner, and Borough were virtually down and out in the 39th minute when full-back Sargent slotted in a penalty.

This was an unfortunate moment for Nuneaton. For it appeared Crump had rescued a weak back pass by Watts which gave Strachan possession. But as the inside-forward staggered, the referee pointed to the spot.

Borough's determination to fight back after the interval faded after Wright headed against a post and Cutler had a shot blocked on the line. Sargent was the Hastings hero on both occasions. And in the first serious attack for some time Hastings went further ahead. Crump could not hold a low centre at the foot of his post, and the ball hit the bar and bobbed about for several seconds before Peter Jones scored.

This was a game Nuneaton will want to forget as quickly as possible, for not a single player enhanced his reputation.

## Nuneaton Borough v Cheltenham Town 25-09-1967

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Wilson Watts, Aston, Ball, Ashe, Cutler, Richards, Allen, Jenkins.

Borough welcomed Cheltenham Town to Manor Park for a Midland Floodlit Cup game.

Paul Cutler, who, up to this game had not been showing his form of last season, grabbed a splendid hat-trick on Monday night. Cutler's goals and another by Tony Richards enabled Borough to win with a fair amount of comfort. In the first-half, Borough played well enough to keep the Cheltenham defence working at full stretch. The visitors, too, put in some useful work and, on the whole, the first session was most entertaining, though going very much Borough's way.

Indeed, by half-time the home side had established a three-

goal lead, and it looked very much as though Cheltenham would be hard-pushed to keep the score down to respectable proportions. But, in actual fact, after the break, neither side played as well as before the change-over. And in the 72nd minute following a tangle with Alan Jones, the Borough right-back, Cheltenham's outside-left Freddie Jones, was sent off.

Stan Aston made a welcome return to Manor Park following his transfer from Hartlepoons, and when he gets settled in, Borough's defensive system will benefit. With Keith Ball there as well, opponents should certainly find difficulty in getting the ball when it is in the air.

Borough went into the lead in the 24th minute when both Richards and the Cheltenham centre-half Alan Jefferies, went up for a Johnny Watts cross, and the Borough leaders' header sailed into the net. In the 42nd minute Cutler dived at a Watts centre to head the ball smartly into the net for Borough's second goal. And a minute before half-time a long, high cross from Alan Jones was headed through off a post by Paul Cutler to make the half-time score 3-0 in Borough's favour.

In the second session Brian Jenkins was unlucky in not opening his scoring account in competitive games when a hard header struck Roger Thorndale when it looked as if it was heading for the net. Eight minutes from the end Paul Cutler completed his hat-trick. He took a through pass from Alan Jones, evaded a tackle, and then shot into the net as two defenders were closing in on him.

### Utility Defender For Borough

This week Borough secretary-manager Mr Dudley Kernick brought his playing squad strength up to sixteen when he signed Ken Hill, a 27-year-old utility defender from Walsall. Hill was a member of Walsall's promotion side and went to Norwich four years ago for a fee of £18,000. Later he failed to agree terms with Norwich, and returned to Walsall last year and from Christmas until the end of the season he missed only two first team games.

## Nuneaton Borough v Corby Town 30-09-1967

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Wilson, Watts, Aston, Ball, Ashe, Cutler, Richards, Allen, Wright (Hope).

**Corby Town:** Alexander, McBain, Burns (Stenhouse), Addy, Knox, McNeil, Lofty, Gardiner, Aldred, Barratt, Campbell.

Borough welcomed Corby Town to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division fixture.

After that 4-0 drubbing at Hastings and the dropping of a home point against Corby Town, it now seems fairly obvious that Borough must be more consistent if they are to do anything like as well as last campaign. So far consistency has certainly not been one of their virtues. Corby were a long way from being a good side and Borough should have won without much trouble. Yet it was only after a struggle that they managed one point.

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This was without doubt one of Borough's most uninspiring performances at Manor Park for a long time. They got off to a bad start and were out of step for the rest of the game. Only for a very brief period just before half-time did they produce anything like form capable of giving them victory.

Corby took a surprise lead after seven minutes' play with David Campbell shooting in to the Borough net. Borough drew level in the 29th minute. Dick McNeil failed to clear an Ian Wilson pass and Cutler slipped the ball into the net as Alan Alexander was moving out of goal. The home side went ahead in the 65th minute, Ashe heading through a long cross from Wilson. But two minutes later Campbell again shot into the net via the far post as Crump advanced to meet him.

Coming within eight days of that grim showing at Hastings, this uninspired display caused supporters to leave Manor Park shaking their heads in almost complete bewilderment.

## Cheltenham Town v Nuneaton Borough 04-10-1967

**Cheltenham: Meeson, Thorndale, Radford, Green, Patterson, Ferns, Dane, Hurford, Eades, Horlick, Gerrard, F. Jones.**

**Borough: Crump, A. Jones, Hope, Watts, Aston, Allen, Ashe, Cutler, Richards, Smith, Jenkins.**

Borough made the journey to Whaddon Road to take on Cheltenham Town in a Midland Floodlit Cup game.

Two minutes from the end, home left-back Ron Radford handled the ball in the penalty area as Tony Richards closed in on goal. The referee blew at once and pointed to the spot. Tony Richards took the spot kick. His hard shot went too close to David Meeson who got his hands to the ball, but failed to hold it – and taking the rebound Richards banged it into the net. This goal enabled Borough to maintain their unbeaten run in this competition and brought their total of points to five out of six.

Cheltenham had taken the lead in the first minute with a penalty, following a tackle by Alan Jones on Freddie Jones and Ferns scored. Between Ferns' goal and Borough's late penalty the visitors had all their work cut out keeping Cheltenham at bay, and though often hard pressed Watts and Co., held them off. Cheltenham had a goal disallowed for pushing, while Richards went close with two headers.

The first half produced some really good football – something far different to that served up at Manor Park last Saturday. Both teams moved the ball about smartly and play went from end to end with great rapidity. Borough started off in great style and for a time Cheltenham were in real trouble, and it came as no surprise when Borough went into the lead in the 12th minute. Norman Ashe started the move with a pass to Brian Jenkins, who centred for Paul Cutler to head it on to Tony Richards, who ran in to thump the ball past a helpless Meeson.

Cheltenham put in some really telling attacks and Fred Crump brought off several first-class saves, notably when he came out of goal to smother a hard drive from Freddie Jones,

who had broken through and from two efforts by Walter Gerrard. Twice Roger Smith, back after injury, went close with shots for Borough and when Ashe pulled the ball back to Richards, the Borough leader was unlucky to see a hard shot strike a defender when a second goal appeared imminent.

It was all very exciting, and in the 32nd minute Cheltenham drew level. Winger Dave Burford started the move and when the ball came across, Fred Crump did extremely well to push Gerald Horlick's well-placed header onto the face of the bar, and as the ball came down Freddie Jones nipped in to head it in just inside the post.

## Stourbridge v Nuneaton Borough

07-10-1967

**Stourbridge: Potts, Corbett, Jewkes, Green, Styles, Parkin, Henderson, Holbutt (Foster), Whetnall, Redfern, Milner.**

**Borough: Crump, Jones, Hope, Watts, Aston, Allen, Smith (Wilson), Cutler, Jenkins, Wright, Ashe.**

Borough made the journey to Amblecote to face Stourbridge in a Birmingham Senior Cup second round tie.

After outplaying Stourbridge and establishing a 2-0 lead, Borough were pegged back just before half-time and then shattered by a three goals in three minutes avalanche straight after half-time. It was a fantastic game which Borough should have won with plenty to spare.

For the first 20 minutes Stourbridge were in the direst trouble and penned almost exclusively inside their own penalty area. Inspired by Roger Smith on the right-wing, Borough launched attack after attack and certainly ought to have scored a goal or two long before they actually did. Such heavy and persistent pressure should have been much better utilised by the visiting forwards.

Yet it was not until the 25th minute that they achieved their first success, Paul Cutler taking a Smith pass to open his side's account. And in the next minute Norman Ashe surprised Potts with a long range shot to make it 2-0. Then five minutes before half-time, when there appeared no danger to the Borough goal, Stourbridge were awarded a penalty following a tackle by Ashe on Foster, who had come on as substitute for Holbutt, and Jewkes beat Crump from the spot.

Even though they were now only a goal ahead, and in spite of the fact that owing to a pulled muscle live-wire Smith did not come out after the interval – Ian Smith completed the Borough side – it still seemed that Borough would not experience much difficulty in winning.

How wrong we were – for between the 47th and 50th minutes the Glassboys had the ball in the Borough net three times, through Redfern, who netted from an unmarked position; Foster, who shot through when the ball ran loose and Milner, who scored from a penalty after Watts had been penalised. Even though they lost the services of Roger Smith, Borough should still have won. They can only blame themselves for this latest reverse.



## Nuneaton Borough v King's Lynn 09-10-1967

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Wilson, Hill (Ashe), Aston, Allen, Smith, Cutler, Crawley, L. Wright, Hope.

**King's Lynn:** Coe, Way, Sharpe, Brookes, Porter, M. Wright, Tough, Scott, Lindsay, Laverick, Clarke. **Sub:** Williamson.

Borough welcomed King's Lynn to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division game.

It was really remarkable that despite Borough's poor showing at Stourbridge and a boisterous wind that was almost certain to make good football a difficult proposition, there should have been a crowd of 5,029 – the highest of the season so far – for the visit of King's Lynn on Monday.

It was a pity therefore, that although they won fairly comfortably, Borough's performance should not have been more impressive. But this was not Borough's lucky night. Once again they lacked the services of Tony Richards, who, when not scoring goals, keeps his line moving well; then in the first minute of the second half, Ken Hill, making his debut, went off injured, and in the latter stages of the game both Roger Smith and Roger Hope were limping.

In the circumstances, therefore, Borough could be excused for not having won more emphatically. Not only was Ken Hill making his debut, but Tommy Crawley, second highest scorer last season, was turning out for the first-time this season.

The first-half went very much Borough's way, and they should have crossed over with more than a two-goal lead. Indeed, so much pressing did they do, that little was seen of the Lynn attack and Fred Crump did not have one difficult shot to save throughout the first-half.

Borough opened their account in the 15th minute. The ball travelled from Alan Jones to Paul Cutler and then via Lol Wright back to Cutler, who ran in to slide the ball past Norman Coe into the King's Lynn net. In the 22nd minute they were two up. When Cutler crossed the ball from the right, Eric Porter failed to clear his lines and Roger Smith nipped in to drive the ball home.

In view of the fact that Hill, Smith and Hope all suffered knocks, Borough probably did well to win with such comfort, though their performance was not impressive.

## Kettering v Nuneaton Borough 11-10-1967

**Kettering:** Wilson, J. Daldy, Needham (Johnson), Ashby, Reed, Evans, B. Daldy, Gully, Smith, Goodall, Walden.

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Wilson, Watts, Aston, Allen, Keeley, Cutler, Foley, Wright, Moore.

Borough made the journey to Rockingham Road to face Kettering Town in a Midland Floodlit Cup game.

With no fewer than nine of his seventeen strong squad not playing for various reasons, Dudley Kernick had to call upon three amateurs, as well as Pat Foley, the Bedworth player-manager, to make up his side.

In addition to Pat Foley, Mr Kernick brought in Bobby Moore,

the local lad who plays for Bromsgrove, and Mick Keeley, from Highgate, who both played in Borough's trial games. Overall Borough did not do too badly; they were certainly not outplayed. Indeed, they held their own until five minutes before half-time when Kettering scored twice in three minutes.

A third Kettering goal in the 54th minute put them well on the way to victory, but from that point until the end Borough put up a praiseworthy fight. In fact, had Borough played as well all through, as they did in the last 20 minutes or so, there might have been a much closer result, although there could be no doubting the Poppies' superiority.

Towards the end, with a bit of luck, Borough might have cut into the Kettering lead. Paul Cutler had one shot kicked off the line by John Daldy when a goal seemed likely; then goalkeeper Alan Wright twice had to be very much on the alert to push over the top shots from Cutler and Foley.

Kettering opened their account in the 40th minute when Roger Ashby netted with a speculative shot which flashed into the net. Two minutes later Ken Gully put through from an Ashby free-kick flighted to the far post. In the 54th minute Malcolm Allen stumbled in midfield to let in Gully, who pushed the ball out to Barrie Daldy, whose cross was hooked into the Borough net by Dick Smith.

## Chelmsford v Nuneaton Borough 14-10-1967

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Wilson, Watts, Aston, Allen, Hope, Cutler, Crawley, Wright, Ashe.

Borough made the journey to Chelmsford for a Southern League Premier Division fixture.

Borough blundered their way through the first-half on Saturday, and then failed to make any impression after the break when they had City on the run. In a game riddled with mistakes from both sides, the Manor Park outfit tossed away two points when just a faint glimmer of their true form would have given them victory.

Tommy Crawley put them back into the game when he made it 4-2 with his second goal 20 minutes from time, and then they let chance after chance slip from their grasp.

However, the damage was done in the first-half when the Essex side cashed in on Nuneaton's mistakes to build up a three-goal lead inside 24 minutes. Cassidy beat Crump from outside the 18-yard box in the seventh minute to put City ahead and 10 minutes later Butcher pounced on a defensive slip-up to increase the lead. It was 3-0 in the 24th minute when Cassidy beat Crump as the Borough defence hesitated, thinking he was in an offside position.

Tommy Crawley netted his first goal of the season to put Nuneaton back in with a chance. But in the early minutes of the second half Cassidy completed his hat-trick following another defensive mistake.

Borough then missed a string of chances before Crawley struck again in the 70th minute with a shot which went in off



the crossbar from a Norman Ashe corner. City began to look a very ragged side after this goal. But Borough still failed to raise their game although they carved out enough chances to have salvaged at least a point from Chelmsford's errors.

## Nuneaton Borough v Wellington Town 21-10-1967

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Aston, Watts, Ball, Allen, Ashe, Cutler, Richards, Crawley, Hope.

**Wellington:** Irvine, Harris, Newton, Salt, Clarke, Ray, Matthews, Hart, Bentley, Blackburn (Read), Jagger.

Borough welcomed Wellington Town to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division game.

This result was most disappointing from Borough's point of view, especially after they had twice fought back from being behind to take the lead. A goal up at the interval, they should have made sure of the points, but failure to score again meant that Wellington were always in close touch.

In fact, prior to Bentley completing his hat-trick, Crump had had to save at the feet of the Wellington leader. Aston had cleared from underneath the bar after Bentley had headed over Crump's head towards the Borough net; and the home keeper had had to dash out of goal to check Blackburn, who was injured in the process and had to be replaced by Dave Read.

Wellington took the lead in the tenth minute when Blackburn put Jack Bentley through for the latter to shoot past Crump after Keith Ball had missed his tackle. Borough drew level seven minutes later when, following a move by Norman Ashe and Malcolm Allen, Roger Hope saw his shot strike Harris and be deflected into the Wellington net.

After 27 minutes Wellington went ahead again, a mix-up between Keith Ball and Roger Hope enabling Bentley to slip through to score his second goal. But three minutes later Norman Ashe shot hard for goal. Harris cleared off the line, but the ball went straight to Paul Cutler, who headed through for Borough's second equaliser. In the 33rd minute Borough went ahead for the first time. When Johnny Watts centred, Malcolm Allen allowed the ball to go through to Tony Richards, who swung round to drive the ball past Irvine.

The score remained 3-2 until Bentley got his third goal in the last minute of injury time. Sammy Salt picked up the ball in midfield and chipped it over the Borough defence for Bentley to run in to slip the ball past Fred Crump to make the score 3-3.

## Nuneaton Borough v Yeovil Town 04-11-1967

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Hope, Allen, Aston, Ball, Ashe, Wright, Richards, Cutler, Smith.

**Yeovil:** Jones, Herritt, P. Smith, Harris, Burfield, Muir, Vowles, Thompson, T. Allen, Taylor, Weller.

Borough welcomed Yeovil Town to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division game.

This was a workmanlike rather than skilful Borough performance in weather conditions which made the game

as much an endurance test as anything else. Both teams should be commended on producing football which, if not particularly exciting, was at least worth watching even on so wretched an afternoon as this.

Third in the table Yeovil are never an easy side to beat, and it was not until the 65th minute, when Borough got their second goal from the penalty spot, that the Somerset side were finally put out of the fight. In midfield there was not a great deal in it, and if Borough were themselves not too impressive in the way they rounded off their attacks, at least they managed a couple of goals. Generally speaking it was a game in which the defences held the trump cards.

After making one or two early mistakes, the Borough defence settled down to put up a very solid front and covered up so well that the Yeovil forwards had few clear looks at goal. Yeovil got in few shots that worried Fred Crump unduly, and the nearest they came to scoring was when, following a corner kick, Chris Weller had a shot deflected onto the post. Two other efforts, one by Weller and the other by Taylor, both of which were capably dealt with by the Borough goalkeeper, just about represented the sum total of Yeovil's most promising scoring efforts.

If Yeovil were unfortunate when a Weller shot was deflected on to a post, things were squared up when Norman Ashe shot against a post early in the second session with the visiting defence in a complete quandary. Borough got their first goal in the 30th minute when Tony Richards deflected a Roger Smith corner kick to Lol Wright, who headed a very smart goal. Ken Jones in the Yeovil goal had no chance to save.

The penalty kick that ended any hope Yeovil might have had of getting a point came 20 minutes after half-time. Jones did well to reach a powerful Roger Smith shot, but when he lost the ball, Paul Cutler nipped in to take it away from the goalkeeper, who brought down the Borough inside man. Despite Yeovil protests, the referee stuck to his decision and Tony Richards scored from the spot.

## Nuneaton Borough v Kettering Town 06-11-1967

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Hope, Allen, Aston, Hill, Ashe (Watts), Wright, Crawley, Cutler, Smith.

**Kettering:** Wilson, J. Daldy, Needham, Gammon, Reed, Evans, Walden, B. Daldy, Smith, Goodall, Johnson.

Borough welcomed Kettering Town to Manor Park for a Midland Floodlit Cup match.

The final score line bore no relation whatsoever to the actual play on Monday night, since Borough had so much of the game, had Kettering defending for such long periods, that they should have won quite handsomely.

Twice Borough hit the woodwork of the Kettering goal; three times John Daldy, the visitors' right-back, cleared off the line with Alan Wilson in no position to save; while on other occasions, off target shooting when scoring chances were there, let Kettering off the hook.

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This just wasn't Borough's night. First Lol Wright crashed one shot against a post; then Roger Smith saw his cross hit the post as Tom Crawley ran in to challenge Alan Smith.

Even though they were defending desperately for most of the game, Kettering still put in some very useful attacks, and it was to their credit, that they still managed to score as many goals as their opponents. Some defences would have cracked under such heavy pressure as that exerted by Borough, but not so Mick Read and his Kettering co-defenders. Often in dire straits, they never gave up trying.

Borough went into the lead in the 31st minute when Lol Wright took a through-pass from Paul Cutler to slam the ball past Wilson. Kettering drew level seven minutes later when Fred Crump pushed the ball into the air following a cross from Harry Walden, for Dick Smith to crack it home as it dropped at his feet.

Paul Cutler got the best goal of the match in the 58th minute when he chased a loose ball and drove it past Wilson with his left foot. Kettering drew level again in the 64th minute when Barry Daldy was left unmarked and netted with Crump out of his goal.

This was a game Borough should have won with a good deal to spare. That they only succeeded in drawing was due in small measure to bad luck, but largely because of their inability to cash in on their superior midfield and approach work.

## Poole Town v Nuneaton Borough 11-11-1967

**Poole:** Whiting, Hibberd, Balsom, Brewster, Brown, Taylor, Harding, Pring, Elliott, Rutley, Pitman. **Sub:** Murphy.

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Hope, Allen, Aston, Ball, Ashe, Hill, Richards, Cutler, Smith. **Sub:** Wright.

Borough made the journey to Poole Town to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

A goal from Tony Richards in the dying minutes gave Borough their first away win of the season against struggling Poole on Saturday and kept them within two points of the Premier Division leaders.

Richards' winner, three minutes from time, rounded off a well-balanced performance from Nuneaton who hit Poole with an early goal and then went on to control the proceedings even after the home side had equalised in the 64th minute.

Borough went to Dorset determined to come away with a point and the late winning goal gave them a well-deserved bonus. They survived an early spell of eager pressure from Poole, before Richards put them into the lead after 11 minutes. Roger Smith floated the ball into the middle and Richards ran on to it unmarked and nodded it past home keeper Whiting.

Poole then made a bid to get back into the game, but Nuneaton were calm and collected and dominated the midfield play. And even though they fell back on defence for long periods, they still found time to trouble the Dorset side's defence with some smooth raids.

Nineteen minutes after the break Poole's persistence paid off when Harding equalised after a scramble in the Borough penalty area. But Nuneaton still dictated the pattern of the game. Richards and Cutler both went close and a tremendous 25 yard drive from Ashe hit the crossbar and thudded down on to the line before bouncing to safety.

The winning goal came from a sudden break out from defence which caught Poole on the hop. Cutler streaked across the pitch and then Allen and Smith both played a part in the move before Richards finished it off by cracking the ball past Whiting.

All told it was a solid display from Borough. Every player did the job he was sent out to do, whereas Poole were eager but anxious and ineffective against Borough's blanket defence.

## Banbury United v Nuneaton Borough 14-11-1967

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Wilson, Hill, Watts, Ball, Ashe, Cutler, Keeley, Wright, Smith.

Borough made the journey to Banbury United to play a Midland Floodlit Cup game.

A bad ten minutes' spell early in the second-half, during which they conceded three goals, cost Borough the game. It was a surprising result, and one player who will not have happy memories of the game must surely be Borough goalkeeper Fred Crump.

Borough went into the lead after three minutes, when, following a Norman Ashe corner, Paul Cutler headed down to Mick Keeley, who netted from close range. But, in the 13th minute Banbury cancelled out Borough's lead when a shot from Richie Ward suddenly reared up in front of Crump, struck the side of his face and went into the net. Crump also erred twice in the second half when Banbury got two of their other goals. At half-time with the score at 1-1, nobody could have anticipated that ten minute second-half goal rush, for up to the break, neither side had shown a great deal of finishing power.

Eight minutes after half-time Crump failed to hold a Sansom cross and the ball ran to Tony Jacques. The latter's shot was blocked by the goalkeeper, only for the ball to run to Colin Holder, who shot into the net. In the next minute Holder sent Jacques through to score with a shot which went in off a post, and nine minutes after that, following a free kick given against Ian Wilson, Peter Svenson slammed the ball home.

In the 68th minute Keeley crossed from the right for Lol Wright to head through to make the score 4-2, but two minutes later Crump failed to hold a Holder shot and Jacques followed up to put through. Six minutes from the end, Smith and Wright combined to make an opening for Paul Cutler to round off the scoring with Borough's third goal.

Had Borough played as well all the way through as they did in the last 15 minutes or so, they would never have lost this game.



## Nuneaton Borough v Cheltenham Town 18-11-1967

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Wilson, Allen, Aston, Ball, Ashe, Cutler, Crawley, Wright, Hope.

**Cheltenham:** Meeson, Thorndale, Radford, Carson, Jefferies, Green, Gadson, Hudd, Horlick, Ferns, Thorne.

Borough welcomed Cheltenham Town to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division encounter.

Borough dropped their fourth home league point of the season on Saturday, because of their failure to capitalise on their marked superiority in midfield for a very large part of the game. They had enough scoring chances in the first-half to have put the issue completely beyond doubt, but frittered them away. Lol Wright failed with three early scoring opportunities, while many other attacks just fizzled out.

Borough paid the penalty for their failures in front of goal when, in the dying gasps of the game, Cheltenham's Joe Gadston had a shot deflected into the net after striking Stan Aston. Earlier, in the 37th minute, Paul Cutler had given Borough the lead when he headed through after a five-man move. Borough could hardly complain, for they had only themselves to blame for losing yet another home point.

Before Cheltenham scored their late equaliser, they had missed a penalty – Gadston put wide from the spot when the referee had penalised Fred Crump after the Borough keeper had challenged Gadston for possession – and had a goal disallowed for offside when Dave Hudd slipped the ball past Crump. The keeper protested against the penalty award, but the referee was adamant.

Just after half-time, too, Crump, who made several good saves, had to leave his goal very smartly indeed to smother an effort by Gadston after he had been put right through.

After being penned in their own half for a great deal of the first-half and often being in difficulties, Cheltenham did much better after the break, no doubt encouraged by Borough's failures to clinch the issue.

The Borough defence did not have too bad a game without being anything like dominating, but faltered a few times in the latter stages of the game.

## Nuneaton Borough v Corby Town 20-11-1967

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Hope, Watts, Aston, Ball, Ashe, Cutler, Keeley, Allen, Wright.

Borough welcomed Corby Town to Manor Park for a Midland Floodlit Cup encounter.

As with last Saturday's game, Borough missed a number of scoring chances and had to be content with two goals, one of which came from the penalty spot. Still lacking the services of Tony Richards and Roger Smith, the attack performed usefully without ever being convincing.

In addition to scoring a fine goal, Mick Keeley had another

most satisfactory game, while Paul Cutler worked prodigiously throughout, moving from defence to attack with speed and great resolution. On a number of occasions in the second half, a Borough forward got through, but with only Alan Alexander to beat failed to find the net.

During this period the nearest Borough came to scoring was when first Alan Jones and then Tom Crawley hit a post. Generally speaking, the defence had the measure of the Corby attack, which had few chances, but occasionally went close to scoring. Fred Crump, though not overworked, did well in goal, and made fine saves from Richard McNeil and David Campbell after they had broken through the Borough defence.

It was unfortunate that after 25 minutes' play Malcolm Allen should have joined the list of key Borough players on the injury list. He limped off with a knee injury and was replaced by Tommy Crawley. Corby, too, lost a player through injury, Alan McBain going off 15 minutes after half-time. Paul Aldred took his place.

Borough opened their scoring account in the 32nd minute when Mick Keeley cracked the ball past a helpless Alexander. A minute before half-time Paul Cutler got Borough's second goal when he netted from the spot after Lol Wright had been brought down in the penalty area by Jimmy Knox.

## Romford v Nuneaton Borough 25-11-1967

**Romford:** Smith, Read, King, Sorrell, Gibbs, Reed, Sanders, Obeney, Flatt, Tapping, Barnett. Sub: Taylor.

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Hope, Watts, Aston, Ball, Ashe, Cutler, Richards, Wright, Hill.

Borough journeyed to the Brooklands, home of Romford, to play a Southern League Premier Division fixture.

A strong, uncompromising defence earned Borough another away point on Saturday. Romford tried their hardest to break the visitors' resistance, but long before the end it became fairly clear that, barring Borough mistakes, the home side was hardly likely to score.

It was obvious right from the word "go" that Borough's initial objective was a point, and then, if possible, to snatch a winner. And they very nearly did. For after goalkeeper Andy Smith had to scoop the ball from Paul Cutler's feet, Lol Wright rattled the crossbar with a great show, and then only a desperate last-ditch tackle stopped Norman Ashe when Romford were in real trouble. Andy Smith just managed to touch Lol Wright's shot and that touch probably represented the difference between Borough getting one or both points.

Though Romford did far more attacking than Borough, Fred Crump was so well shielded by his colleagues that he had few threatening shots to contend with. Only on about three occasions did Romford go really close to scoring – and on none of these occasions did Crump have to handle.

Once Alan Jones headed off the line from Terry Tapping; next Dennis Sorrell chipped a ball into the side netting; then



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Obeney banged one into the side-netting. The key-note of Borough's performance was team-work; each and every player had a hand in the picking up of this valuable point.

Two of Borough's four injured players returned to the side - Tony Richards and Ken Hill; Roger Smith was still absent, as was Malcolm Allen. Johnny Watts came in for Allen at right-half, while Hill, though wearing No. 11, joined in the general defensive plan.

This game between the Southern League Premier Division Champions and Runners-up, Borough, could hardly be described as a football feast. It was much too dour a tussle for that. The result did justice to both sides.

## Wellington Town v Nuneaton Borough 27-11-1967

**Wellington:** Knight, Harris, Newton, Salt, McKinney, Ray, Matthews, Hart, Bentley, Read, Jagger. Sub: Clarke.

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Hope, Watts, Aston, Hill, Ashe, Keeley, Richards, Cutler, Wright. Sub: Wilson.

Borough made the journey to Shropshire to play Wellington Town in a Midland Floodlit Cup competition.

Borough gave another highly competent performance on Monday night when they gained a well-deserved success over Wellington. The result must have come as quite a shock to the home side as they had beaten Barnet 5-2 on the Saturday.

Borough made virtually certain of winning in the first-half when they scored all their goals. Early in the second session Tony Richards failed to add to the visitors' lead when he shot wide from the penalty spot after goalkeeper Knight had brought down Lol Wright as the latter was taking the ball round him.

Wellington made great efforts to make inroads into Borough's lead in the last half hour or so, but it was not until 12 minutes from time that they succeeded. They were unfortunate when a Matthews shot hit the far post and rebounded to Jagger, who shot over the top.

The Borough attack moved with precision and often had the home defence in difficulties. Richards had a hand in all three goals. Ashe was continually probing the Wellington rearguard, while Keeley got that important early goal to put his side in good heart. The Borough defence again covered well.

Wellington played some attractive football, but lacked the steadiness of Borough in front of goal. Feature of the game was some brilliant goalkeeping by Fred Crump. He made some splendid saves, one from a flashing header by Jack Bentley.

Borough opened their account when a cross from the right was headed by Tony Richards to Mick Keeley, who found the net with a well-placed header. They went further ahead after half-an-hour when Salt headed into his own net in trying to clear a Richards' centre.

Borough got their third goal two minutes before half-time when a Ken Hill free-kick was headed on by Richards to Lol Wright. The tall Borough forward's first effort was blocked but

he fastened on to the rebound to force the ball into the net when challenged by Ray.

Jack Bentley reduced the lead in the 78th minute when he slammed the ball past Crump from close range.

## Nuneaton Borough v Cambridge United 02-12-1967

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Wilson, Watts, Aston, Hill, Ashe, Keeley, Richards, Cutler, Smith. Sub: Wright.

**Cambridge:** Barker, Lindsey, Grant, Scurr, Baker, Hardy, Barrett, O'Neill, Houghton, Ward, Wall. Sub: Payne.

Borough welcomed Cambridge United to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division fixture.

Cambridge United are a most capable side – a team good enough to rely solely upon their skill to win them points. Therefore, it is difficult to understand why they should have found it necessary to introduce into their play, tactics not conducive to the high standard of play expected.

During the course of the game Cambridge conceded a long series of free kicks in their efforts to contain Borough. In the second-half, especially, they were frequently pulled up for quite unnecessary infringements. In fact, the half produced one hold up after another and spectators became angry.

In the first session Keith Lindsey, the Cambridge right-back had his name taken for a tackle on Roger Smith, and there were other stoppages. Even so, up to the scoring of the two goals, the football had been quite good. Indeed, it looked likely to be a rare tussle for supremacy after the change of ends.

Instead the proceedings became riddled with free-kicks, and the result was that as a football spectacle the game virtually ended at half-time. In the early part of the game at any rate both teams put in some solid defensive play and a number of purposeful attacks, without, however, being able to create many scoring opportunities. Neither keeper had many shots to deal with.

When Borough went into the lead in the 21st minute, it was the first goal Barker had conceded in four games. And it was a very good goal too, Norman Ashe diving to head home a Tony Richards cross. But no sooner had the game been restarted than Cambridge were on level terms. A Dai Ward centre had been headed away only to be returned to Harry Houghton, who volleyed the ball into the net from close range.

## Margate v Nuneaton Borough 16-12-1967

**Margate:** Hughes, Campbell, Marshall, Snowdon, Harrop, Clifton, Amato, Morris (Jarman), Fahy, Grace, Burden.

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Wilson, Aston, Hill, Allen, Wright, Keeley, Richards, Cutler, Ball.

Borough travelled to Hartsdown Park to play Margate in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Dogged Nuneaton fully merited their draw on Saturday. After being in arrears at the break they made the most of the

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slope in the second half and for the second time this season honours eventually finished even between the two sides.

Borough, who brought in Wright, Wilson, Keeley and Ball in place of Ashe, Hope, Smith and Watts, defended soundly throughout, and it was bad luck on the steadfast Hill that he should put into his own net in the 15th minute. Fresh from the recent FA Cup victory at Yeovil, Margate opened brightly, with Amato always a danger on the right wing, and Crump twice saved well from both Burden and Fahy.

When right-back Campbell lobbed a high ball into the goalmouth there seemed little danger, but Crump challenged by Fahy, misjudged it. Hill, in attempting to clear, chipped the ball into the yawning net. If the goal had an element of luck about it, certainly Margate merited their lead. The only time in the first-half when Nuneaton really threatened was when Richards had an angled drive cleared off the line by Burden after Hughes had fumbled an Allen lob.

It was a different story in the second half, with Aston and Allen driving hard in midfield, Nuneaton raised the pace of their game to take control for a period. They forced a series of corners, and from one of them, after 60 minutes, the equaliser was scored. Following a Wright corner on the right, Richards turned the ball sharply across the goalmouth and the waiting Stan Aston banged it home from close range.

Although Nuneaton's emphasis was essentially on defence, they had their moments up front, especially when the lively Richards had possession.

It was as well for Margate that Harrop and skipper Snowdon linked up well down the middle, for they both averted many a dangerous probe, particularly in the early part of the second half when Nuneaton were constantly surging forward.

## Nuneaton Borough v Barnet 23-12-1967

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Hope, Watts, Ball, Hill, Ashe, Cutler, Richards, Allen, Smith. **Sub:** Wright.

**Barnet:** Barr, Thompson, Jenkins, Ward, Roach, King, Anderson, Eason, Figg, Searle, Turley. **Sub:** Voyce.

Borough welcomed Barnet to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division fixture.

Borough should be given credit for fighting back after being two goals down. Their second goal came just at the right moment, early in the second half. But instead of making the expected recovery, they fell away and once Barnet had gone into the lead again, Borough were up against it.

Barnet are a good side, there can be no doubt about that. Even so, this was a game in which they were helped to victory by the shortcomings of the home side, both in defence and attack. For quite some time now the defence has been the strong part of the Borough team. It took Fourth Division Exeter City 291 minutes to break their resistance. On this occasion, when they were without Stan Aston for whom Keith Ball deputised, they played much below their recent high standard.

But the real difference was up front. While Barnet were slick in their moves and never neglected to take a crack at goal, Borough built up their attacks much too slowly, with the result that they lacked the element of surprise. And they missed early scoring chances which, if accepted, could so easily have altered the course of the game.

Barnet took the lead in the 13th minute when Roger Figg headed in a Gerry Ward centre. Fred Crump got to the ball, but it escaped his grasp and went into the net. The visitors' second success came right out of the blue in the 25th minute. After having one shot blocked, former Borough right-back, Roger Thompson, seized the rebound and crashed the ball past a helpless Fred Crump from just outside the penalty area.

Ten minutes before half-time, Paul Cutler reduced the lead from a corner kick on the left, and five minutes after half-time Tony Richards ran on to a hard low Alan Jones cross to level the scores.

Barnet hit back, however, and Tony Turley ran clean through the Borough defence and rounded Fred Crump, only to be robbed at the very last moment by Roger Hope. Then the visitors regained the lead when Keith Searle and Turley paved the way for Les Eason to score what proved to be the winning goal in the 68th minute with a fast, low cross-shot

## Hereford United v Nuneaton Borough 26-12-1967

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Hope, Allen, Aston, Hill, Keeley, Cutler, Richards, Wright, Smith. **Sub:** Ashe.

Borough made the journey to Edgar Street to play Hereford United in a Southern League Premier Division match.

After a terrific tussle in stamina-sapping conditions on Boxing Day, Borough came back with a point which could hardly have been expected after their defeat by Barnet. While Borough were losing their home league record, Hereford were beating Margate 6-2.

But Borough put up a great fight and were full value for their point. Both teams found it almost impossible to work the ball through the mud, and passes often fell short of their target. Even so, the two sides put on a show which gripped the 5,000 plus crowd from first kick to last.

It was anybody's game right up to the final whistle; indeed, about the last effort of the match was a shot by Roger Hope that went flying over the top of the Hereford crossbar.

United suffered a blow when, early in the second-half, player-manager John Charles, had to go off with an injured knee.

Although the visitors' had one bad patch mid-way through the first-half when Hereford exerted great pressure on their goal and Charles' skill was much in evidence, the fact remains that Borough fought back after being a goal down and crossed over at half-time on level terms at 1-1.

During that brief period of Hereford ascendancy in the first-half, Fred Crump was splendid. Once Charles worked



his way right through and the Borough keeper did the only thing he could – and dived at the feet of the Hereford leader. He managed to smother the ball, which then ran to Dodson, whose shot was blocked and then kicked away. Then, after Hereford had gone into the lead, a back pass intended for the Borough goalkeeper, stopped in the mud and was seized upon by Charles again. Crump dived at Charles' feet and caused him to put the ball wide of the Borough net.

The second-half was a very even affair, both sides putting in some useful attacks. In fact, in the last 10 minutes or so, Borough set up several right-flank raids which had the United defence in trouble.

Generally speaking this was a game in which there was not a great deal in the way of good shooting. But there were some exciting skirmishes in front of goal. Borough's defence had a splendid game. Though now and again in trouble, by and large they more than held their own against Hereford's attack.

Hereford took the lead after 24 minutes when Roger Griffiths and Summerhayes combined and when Griffiths took the return pass from the latter, he beat Crump with a well-placed cross-shot. Borough drew level in the 35th minute. A short corner by Roger Smith to Alan Jones saw the Borough full-back cross the ball in front of goal. Appleby punched away, but before he could recover, Stan Aston, who had moved upfield for the corner kick, prodded the ball into the Hereford net.

Considering the conditions, this was a very good game indeed, and a draw was a fair result. So far as Borough were concerned, once again it was the defence which earned the honours. The forwards are still finding goalscoring difficult.

## **Nuneaton Borough v Hereford United 30-12-1967**

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Wilson, Allen, Aston, Hill, Keeley, Cutler, Richards, Wright (Ashe), Smith.

**Hereford:** Isaacs, Griffiths, Timms, Summerhayes, Lamden, Page-Jones, Cocker, McIntosh, Rosser, Derrick, Rodgerson.

Borough welcomed Hereford United to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division match.

When, with less than 15 minutes to go, neither side had scored, it looked quite on the cards that Borough were going to see the Old Year out with what would have been their eleventh draw in 20 league games. But, in the 76th minute, Mick Keeley got his first Southern League goal by shooting through after a Tony Richards effort from Ken Hill's centre had been blocked.

This goal brought about Hereford's first defeat in eight games. In fact, when Borough drew at Hereford on Boxing Day, they ended a run of six wins on the trot by United. Though Hereford were weakened by the absence of John Charles and other first-team players, owing to injury, Borough's performance in taking three points from their two games with the United was still commendable.

As has been the case so often in Borough's games this

season, this was a defence dominated encounter – a match in which neither side found the way through to goal easy. Nevertheless, Borough should not have had to struggle as they did to win. But the plain fact is that they will go on struggling until they show much more punch up front.

Borough, on a few occasions, did look like scoring, especially when an early header by Richards went close, as did Mick Keeley's header early in the second half, which struck the crossbar. Shots from Malcolm Allen and Roger Smith also had Isaacs in trouble.

Only about twice did Hereford threaten. Albert Derrick forced Crump to use all his skill to keep out a shot near the foot of the post and the keeper also saved a good shot from Nigel Page-Jones in the second half. Otherwise, like Isaacs, the Borough keeper was not overworked.

Lol Wright was replaced by Norman Ashe after 61 minutes, who almost immediately just failed to get his head to a Paul Cutler cross, when it seemed a mere touch would have meant a certain goal. Mick Keeley also missed a likely looking chance in the first-half through hesitation. Still, the youngster got the goal that gave Borough victory.

### **Match Abandoned**

Borough's game at Weymouth was abandoned after 51 minutes when the home side were winning 1-0. The home side's notorious Rec pitch has lost many a match in recent times and last season there were 11 matches called off because of the state of the pitch.

Dave Bennett had given the home side a 13th minute lead before the referee abandoned the match.

## **Worcester City v Nuneaton Borough 15-01-1968**

**Worcester:** Maclaren, Brack, Bassett, McEwan, Wood, Peck, Ward, Gould, Mullen, Stephenson, Warrington. Sub: A. Wood.

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Hope, Watts, Aston, Allen, Ashe, Keeley, Richards, Cutler, Smith. Sub: Ball.

Borough made the journey to play Worcester City in a Midland Floodlit Cup match.

A Paddy Mullen goal 13 minutes from the end was enough to give the home side victory on Monday night. The winning goal came from one of the best moves of the game. Receiving the ball from a throw-in John Warrington beat Alan Jones, then rounded Stan Aston as the latter left the middle to challenge him and finally pulled the ball back to an unmarked Paddy Mullen, who simply had to pick his spot in the Borough net.

The Southern League Division I leaders have only been beaten at home twice this season – by Folkestone in the League and Yeovil in the League Cup and have a run of 17 league games without defeat. Their record this season is an impressive one and, quite obviously, they are a good side.



Even so, Borough should not have lost this game; indeed, they might very well have won had they rounded off their attacks to the best advantage. Neither side impressed with their marksmanship, though City looked slightly more dangerous in front of goal.

After a mediocre first half in which neither side showed up to advantage, Borough got on top early in the second session. Their midfield and approach work was quite good and they often had the City defence worried. But when they got to the penalty area many of their attacks fizzled out.

Fred Crump distinguished himself with fine saves from Peck and Warrington just before Mullen got the winner.

Johnny Watts, Alan Jones and Roger Hope put in some good work in a Borough defence which gave the City forwards few scoring chances. Up front, Richards, though closely marked, looked more likely to get a goal than anybody else, and tested Maclaren with two or three good headers.

This was a game Borough lost simply because of a lack of finishing power. They played some good football, especially in the first 15 minutes or so of the second half, but it's goals that count.

## Wimbledon v Nuneaton Borough 20-01-1968

**Wimbledon:** Smith, Martin, Macready, Collins, Law, Davies, Hodges, Cooke, Bailham, Ardrey, O'Rourke. **Sub:** Willis.

**Borough:** Crump, Allen, Hill, Watts, Aston, Allen, Wright, Keeley, Richards, Cutler, Smith. **Sub:** Hope.

Borough made the journey to Plough Lane to take on Wimbledon in a Southern League Premier Division match.

Surprising though it may seem, having regard to the scoreline, this was not a one-sided game. On the contrary, up until ten minutes from the end the Dons were having to struggle to hang on to their one-goal lead, which was being threatened as Borough fought to get on level terms.

Borough had hit back from being 3-1 down at half-time to reduce the Wimbledon lead to 3-2. Twenty minutes' play remained and the home crowd began to get a little uneasy as the visitors kept up a steady pressure. And so it went on with Borough striving to snatch a point until nine minutes from time when the Dons struck back with a fourth goal to virtually settle the issue. And, two minutes from the end they scored a fifth goal for good measure.

During the first half the lively Wimbledon forwards often found a way through a none-too-happy Borough defence, in which Ken Hill had come in at left back in place of Roger Hope. Paul Hodges had been a constant threat on the Wimbledon right flank, and there had also been some loose covering in front of the Borough goal.

The second half was not quite so eventful, at least not until Lol Wright got his second goal in the 70th minute. That goal set the game alight again. For the next ten minutes Borough, spurred on by Johnny Watts and Malcolm Allen, kept up

steady pressure on the Wimbledon goal and goalkeeper Frank Smith had some anxious moments. His goal, however, remained intact. And when, nine minutes from time, the Dons got that decisive fourth goal, Borough's fate was sealed. The fifth goal in the dying minutes was a mere formality.

The game was only four minutes old when failure to cut out a cross from Hodges presented Eddie Bailham with an easy chance to beat Fred Crump from close range. In the ninth minute Roger Smith made an opening for Lol Wright to shoot through off the post to level the scores.

Six minutes later Hodges and Davies combined to make an opening for Bailham, who took an across goal pass to move the ball from his left to right foot, turn, and drive the ball high into the net. In the 34th minute a tussle in front of the Borough net saw Gerry O'Rourke force the ball into the Borough net. In the 61st minute, Roger Hope came on for Mick Keeley. Nine minutes later, a Johnny Watts' cross was deflected on to Lol Wright, who beat Smith from close range to score his second goal.

In the 81st minute Wimbledon got that vital fourth goal. Following a Law free-kick, O'Rourke headed to the far post for Paul Hodges to run in and score with ease. And two minutes from the end a Cooke shot was blocked and the ball lobbed up to Bailham, who nodded it home to make the final score 5-2.

## Borough In Testimonial Match Defeat

Borough travelled to the Lamb ground on Monday night to play a testimonial game for the benefit of Ron Sims and Dave Seedhouse, two long-serving Tamworth players.

Borough were never really in the hunt and their defence was always in trouble against a lively Tamworth attack, in which Tommy Morrow shone. Tamworth's scorers in a 6-2 home win were Bache, Morrow (2), Carter (2) and Fencoti. Borough's goals came courtesy of Mick Keeley and an own goal by Roy Boonham.

## Nuneaton Borough v Stevenage Town 27-01-1968

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Hill, Watts, Ball, Allen, Ashe, Cutler, Richards, Hope (Keeley), Smith.

**Stevenage:** Peacock, Pratt, Keenan, Stevens, Mills, Walker, Powell, Chandler, Bannister, Brooks, England.

Borough welcomed Stevenage Town to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough supporters left Manor Park on Saturday shaking their heads in almost complete bewilderment, for this was a defeat they had not bargained for – a defeat which makes all the more urgent manager Dudley Kernick's efforts to strengthen the side.

It was Borough's fourth defeat in a row, their second home reverse of the season in the Southern League, and the ninth point they have dropped at Manor Park.



This latest League defeat was largely the result of defensive mistakes, though Borough's general display was most unconvincing. Borough conceded a goal five minutes before half-time and after struggling along they got an equaliser in the 67th minute. But if there was anybody in the crowd who fancied that this was the signal for a Borough revival, they were sadly disappointed.

For two minutes later Stevenage took advantage of one of many Borough defensive mistakes to take the lead again. This goal was the end of the road for Borough, whose defence was pierced on two further occasions to complete a tale of woe.

While defensive mistakes proved so costly, little can be said in praise of the work up front, which seldom looked likely to produce goals.

While Borough's greatest need is still more punch in attack, it is fairly obvious that the flow of goals against in recent matches has to be checked. Stevenage, who up to this game had won only one away match in the league this season, and had five fewer points than Borough, were the better side and well deserved their success.

Chandler (2), Bannister and Hope (own goal) scored for Stevenage and Cutler for Borough.

Unless there is a big improvement on recent performances, Borough might very well find themselves getting uncomfortably close to the relegation zone. This is a possibility which has to be faced, even though two or three victories would quickly relieve any anxiety on that score.

## Lockheed v Nuneaton Borough 30-01-1968

**Lockheed:** Partridge, Detchon, Lawton, Knox, Moore, Kelsey, Salmon, Vest, Holmes, Hail, McCann (Elliott).

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Wilson, Hill, Ball, Allen, Martin, Richards, Smith, Cutler, Hope. **Sub:** Watts.

Borough made the journey to the Windmill Ground to take on Lockheed in a Midland Floodlit Cup game.

Things are not going Borough's way these days and they sustained their fifth defeat in a row at Leamington on Tuesday night. In those five games they have conceded 20 goals and scored only six.

Midland League club Lockheed, who prior to this game had picked up but three points out of 24 in the competition, owed their success to their more direct methods and much better finishing. Territorially there was nothing in it. Borough had every bit as much of the game as the home side, but allowed too many scoring opportunities to slip by.

Roger Smith, who wore the No.9 shirt, Malcolm Allen, Tony Richards and Chris Martin, a New Zealand amateur international, who was given a trial at No. 7, all missed reasonably good scoring chances, though the last named had one hard drive well saved by Partridge. Richards, too, caused Partridge some trouble with a glancing header in the first half, but towards the end of the game missed an easy chance. Hill

and Cutler made a perfect opening for Richards, who was left with only the keeper to beat, but from six yards he shot wide.

More accurate finishing would have given Borough a much better chance, but whereas the lively Lockheed forwards caused Fred Crump to bring off a number of excellent saves, Partridge at the other end, apart from showing his skill in dealing with high balls, had not a great deal to do.

Borough went into the lead in the 39th minute, when an Alan Jones shot was pushed out to Cutler, who shot through, it looked as though Borough might end their run of non-success. But their hopes were dashed in the three minutes before half-time when the home side struck back with two goals.

At 42 minutes Ray Holmes put Alan Vest through, for the latter to round Ian Wilson and turn inside to shoot just inside the post with his left foot. Almost dead on half-time a long ball down the middle was chased by Ray Holmes. Keith Ball beat him to it and tried to push the ball back to Crump. But the back-pass fell short and Holmes, who had kept running, got there before Crump to put the ball into the net.

At 58 minutes Salmon brought the ball right in and following a tussle in front of goal, Syd Hall slammed it into the Borough net. Ten minutes later Keith Ball brought down Holmes in the penalty area and Hall made it 4-1 from the spot.

## Fred Badham Quitting Manor Park

Mr Fred Badham, commercial manager of Nuneaton Borough Football Club, has asked to be released from his contract so that he can join Wellington Town.

Yesterday he was out of town on business and not available for comment. Later in the afternoon he was said to be at Kettering discussing his future.

Mr R. S. Bull, chairman of the Borough, said: "The directors will be discussing Mr Badham's request tomorrow night and I cannot say whether he will be released until after then."

Wellington have offered Mr Badham a general managership to promote the club's fund raising activities. Whether or not he will have anything to do with the running of the team or what his duties will entail is not known.

Since arriving at Nuneaton, Mr Badham has done a tremendous amount of work for the club as coach, team manager and promoter of the club's soccer and bingo pool. He has been a controversial figure since leaving the team to take over the pool in November 1965. Many thought he would leave after handing over the management of the side to Dudley Kernick, but Fred stayed on to make the Borough Development Fund stronger than ever. But for his work Borough would not possibly be thinking of the extensions and development they are considering now.

Under his guidance the team were Southern League Cup finalists and won promotion to the Premier Division of the Southern League. His contract has more than four years to run.

## Nuneaton Borough v Hastings United 03-02-1968

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Hope, Watts, Aston, Hill, Ashe, Richards, Smith, Allen, Cutler. **Sub:** Keeley.

**Hastings:** Cowan, Coney, Nash, Leck, Rutter, Smith, Duncan, Jones, Harrison, Folds, Strachan. **Sub:** Nicholas.

Borough welcomed Hastings United to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division encounter.

Although they managed to halt their run of five defeats in a row when they entertained bottom-of-the-league Hastings United, Borough's display lacked vitality and inspiration. The home side did most of the attacking, especially in the first-half, and while showing some improvement in front of goal in that they scored a couple of good goals, generally speaking their marksmanship was again unimpressive.

After Borough had neutralised a Hastings goal and then went ahead, they looked like taking the two points. But they were pegged back early in the second half, and from then onwards it was anybody's game.

Hastings went into the lead after 10 minutes when Bob Harrison beat both Fred Crump and Alan Jones to a high cross by Edwards to head the ball home. Three minutes later Paul Cutler levelled the scores with a smart header from a Tony Richards cross. At 24 minutes Tony Richards headed Borough into the lead from Johnny Watts' centre, but in the 53rd minute Bob Harrison ran through to level the scores again. It was Tony Richards' first goal since he netted against Barnet on December 23.

Hastings' total of 11 points from 23 games includes three at the expense of Borough who lost 4-0 on United's ground.

## Corby Town v Nuneaton Borough 06-02-1968

**Corby:** Alexander, McBain, Pollard, l'Anson, Knox, McNeil, Stenhouse, Burns, Aldred, Barratt, Campbell.

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Hope, Allen, Aston, Hill, Smith, Wright, Richards, Keeley, Cutler.

Borough made the journey to face Corby Town in a Midland Floodlit Cup game.

There was a hint of better things to come about Borough's display on Tuesday night. Yet only time will prove whether they have turned the corner. We should know more after the games against Hillingdon and Tamworth, where they can expect stiff opposition. But they certainly played better, especially in the first-half, when they often had the Corby defence in trouble. It was in this half that all the goals were scored.

After the change of ends, however, Corby showed marked improvement and, raising their game, thoroughly tested the Borough defence, which, like the attack, showed improvement. When Corby went into the lead after only five minutes, the sort of start Borough just did not want in view of their recent poor form, their chances of success looked

doubtful. But, rather than let this early reverse disturb them, Borough, to their credit, quickly fought their way back into the game, equalised, and then went ahead.

Moving the ball about smartly, Borough often got through to close quarters and really should have crossed over with more than a 2-1 lead.

Once Mick Keeley, put clean through by Tony Richards, was left with only goalkeeper Alexander to beat, but put the ball too far forward and the goalkeeper was able to clear. Later Keeley had Alexander well beaten, but there was McBain on the line to kick clear, while Roger Smith caused Alexander to make a smart save from a hard drive.

It was Corby's turn to take the initiative after the change of ends. Though Borough threatened in breaks from defence, Corby did most of the attacking, especially down the right where Stenhouse proved troublesome. Crump once had to dive smartly on to the ball when a back pass fell short, and the goalkeeper also made good saves from efforts by Stenhouse.

Borough had a chance to clinch the issue when, late in the half, Richards was put through by Hill, but with only Alexander ahead of him, for some reason, preferred to shoot from outside the area and put his shot wide.

Corby went ahead after five minutes when Aldred shot through after Fred Crump had done well to punch away a Stenhouse shot that had looked a winner. Richards levelled the scores in the 14th minute, when he beat McBain, moved inside the full-back and then shot low into the net. In the 29th minute Richards took advantage of a defensive mix-up to shoot past the advancing goalkeeper and into the net.

Though there is still room for improvement – they had to fight hard during the second half of this game to retain their half-time lead – this victory should help in some measure to restore Borough's lost confidence.

### Borough Players Released



Colin Davis (left) and Ian Wilson, whose contracts with Borough have been cancelled by mutual consent. Davis is a wing-half and Wilson a left-back.



## Hillingdon v Nuneaton Borough 10-02-1968

**Hillingdon:** Lowe, McNeice, Langley, Watson, Newcombe, Moore, Fairchild, Townend, Salmon, Carter, Heard. **Sub:** Adams.

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Hope, Allen, Aston, Hill, Ashe, Cutler, Wright, Keeley, Smith. **Sub:** Watts.

Borough made the journey to Hillingdon to play a Southern League Premier Division fixture.

A goal from Hillingdon winger David Heard, six minutes from the end cost Borough a well-deserved share of the points, after they had shown a vast all-round improvement. Nuneaton will play worse than this and win. And they did show signs that their dismal lean spell is coming to an end.

There was more bite in their play, they were prepared to attack swiftly and sharply and more important, there was more confidence in the side than in recent weeks. Twice in the first-half they held the lead and looked good value for a share of the spoils until Heard shattered their hopes.

In a fast, exciting game, punctuated by some rugged but fair tackling, Borough took a third minute lead when Roger Smith swept the ball into the net. Their lead was short-lived, however, for three minutes later Townend equalised for Hillingdon before Mick Keeley restored Borough's lead with an opportunist goal in the 30th minute.

Borough held on to their lead until the 52nd minute when Fairchild darted in to beat Crump as Hillingdon piled on long periods of second-half pressure. But the Nuneaton defence, with Ken Hill and Stan Aston particularly outstanding, held out, and at times managed to catch Hillingdon on the run with some quick breaks. Then, just when it seemed that a point was on its way back to Manor Park, Heard struck with a header just inside the upright.

Earlier, Hillingdon player-manager Jimmy Langley missed a penalty for handball. It was a refreshing performance from the Manor Park side, although they lost. If they can keep up this form they should soon get back on the winning trail.

## Tamworth v Nuneaton Borough 12-02-1968

**Tamworth:** Crosby, Bache, Boonham, Sims, Cox, Seedhouse, Morrow, Meek, Holbutt, Franklin, Bent. **Sub:** Jessop.

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Hope, Watts, Aston, Hill, Ashe, Ball, Richards, Cutler, Smith. **Sub:** Keeley.

Borough travelled to the Lamb ground to take on Tamworth in the first leg of the W. A. Camkin Cup on Monday night.

A goal six minutes from the end by Mick Keeley, who had come on as a substitute for Stan Aston after 30 minutes, enabled Borough to finish all square. After a disappointing first-half display, Borough improved after the change of ends without, however, being really impressive and Keeley's goal came after a period of fairly consistent pressure on the Tamworth goal, though the home side were still dangerous in their quick breaks from defence.

Tamworth played well enough in the first-half to cause Borough plenty of trouble and during this period they were the better side, and had the edge on Borough, who posed few difficulties for the quick-tackling Tamworth defence.

Borough, however, sharpened up after the change of ends, and if the first-half belonged to Tamworth, the second was Borough's. Once again though, they failed to impress with their finishing. Twice during the game, Tony Richards was put through, but failed to score when left with only goalkeeper Crosby to beat. Keeley also missed a chance, while Roger Smith was dispossessed only a few yards from goal.

Even so, Crosby had to pull off the save of the match when he managed to reach and push outside a header by Smith from a Roger Hope cross that looked a winner all the way. Just before this splendid effort by Crosby, Fred Crump had saved competently from Jessop, who had come on as substitute for Franklin after 67 minutes, and Morrow.

Tamworth took the lead in the 28th minute when Franklin made an opening for Barrie Holbutt to run in and shoot into the net. Borough drew level in the 84th minute. Smith passed to Alan Jones who centred for Mick Keeley to glance the ball home with his head. Almost on time Holbutt headed over the Borough bar when well-placed, but nobody can really deny that a draw was a fair result.

As a result of drawing this game, Borough go into the second leg at Manor Park next Wednesday, favourably placed. But Tamworth can be relied upon to give them another hard game.

## Stevenage Town v Nuneaton Borough 17-02-1968

**Stevenage:** Peacock, Pratt, Keenan, Stevens, Mills, Walker, Chandler, Powell, Bannister, Brooks, England. **Sub:** Long.

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Quartermain, Watts, Aston, Ball, Ashe, Hill, Wright, Keeley, Smith. **Sub:** Hope.

Borough made the journey to Stevenage for a Southern League Premier Division fixture.

A missed penalty, a disallowed goal and a Ken Hill back pass which got stuck in the mud and fell well short of Fred Crump, paved the way for Stevenage's second goal and played a part in Borough's defeat on Saturday. By winning the home side hauled themselves further away from the danger zone, and, at the same time worsened Borough's position. When the two teams met at Manor Park on January 27, Stevenage were five points behind Borough. Now they are one point ahead, which all goes to show how much Stevenage have improved and how much Borough have fallen away.

Three times in this match Borough had the chance to put themselves right back in the game, but for one reason or another did not succeed. Their first chance came in the 14th minute when, a goal behind, they were awarded a penalty for handball against Mills. Roger Smith took the kick in the absence of Tony Richards and Paul Cutler, only to see his shot saved by Peacock.

# Nuneaton Borough 1958-1970 – Part 2



With the score 2-0 in Stevenage's favour, Roger Smith burst through on the right and banged home a fine cross shot, but the goal was disallowed because Keith Ball, now playing upfield, was in an offside position.

Then with the score 3-1 in the home side's favour, Mick Keeley missed an easy chance of reducing the lead. Bannister (3 minutes), Brooks (47 minutes), Chandler (62 minutes) and England (86 minutes) scored for Stevenage, and Keith Ball (65 minutes) for Borough.

Considering the very bad underfoot conditions, the football provided by both teams was quite good, but results count, and this was another unhappy day for Borough.

## Nuneaton Borough v Burton Albion 19-02-1968

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Quartermain, Aston, Ball, Allen, Hope, Cutler, Wright, Keeley, Smith. **Sub:** Watts.

**Burton:** Potter, Finney, Shepherd, Carver, Young, Reay, Metcalfe, Bailey, Keating, Tait, Hills. **Sub:** Verity.

Borough welcomed Burton Albion to Manor Park for a Midland Floodlit Cup match.

This was all too easy for Borough, who without reaching the heights, proved much too strong for a very mediocre Burton side on Monday night. The Albion were in with a chance only once, when left-back Brian Shepherd came upfield for a corner in the 65th minute to shoot past Fred Crump to make the score 2-1.

After that Borough strode away from the luckless Burton and finished up with a nap hand of goals. Albion were more or less confined almost exclusively to a rearguard action, and whenever Lol Wright engaged in one of his long runs down the right, the visitors were in trouble.

In the 37th minute Fred Crump and Alex Tait came into collision and both had to leave the field. Tait took no further part in the game and was replaced by Verity. Crump came back after half-time, but during his absence Alan Jones went in goal.

Borough went ahead after only two minutes when Paul Cutler took a Lol Wright pass, rounded two defenders, and then drove the ball into the Burton net. Roger Smith made it 2-0 in the 25th minute when he headed through a cross from the left. Shepherd reduced the lead from Hills' corner kick in the 65th minute, but three minutes' later Cutler restored Borough's two goals lead from the penalty spot after Smith had been brought down in the area.

In the 75th minute Lol Wright raced through from his own half before slipping the ball to Mick Keeley, who forced the ball past Fred Potter, and almost on time Lol Wright made all the running for Borough's fifth goal which was scored by Mick Keeley.

Pat Quartermain made his first home appearance in this game and created quite a favourable impression.

## Nuneaton Borough v Tamworth 21-02-1968

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Quartermain, Aston, Ball, Allen, Hope, Cutler, Wright, Keeley, Smith. **Sub:** Watts.

**Tamworth:** Crosby, Bache, Boonham, Meek, Cox, Seedhouse, Bent, Morrow, Holbutt, Jessop, Carter. **Sub:** Franklin.

Borough welcomed Tamworth to Manor Park for a Camkin Cup second leg tie on Wednesday night.

Borough were very sluggish and lacking in ideas and on only very few occasions looked like scoring. Tamworth provided strong opposition and once they took the lead, there was never any real doubt as to which team was going into the next round. Tamworth were the better side and thoroughly deserved their success. They were quicker to the ball, more direct in their methods, and far more threatening in front of goal. And the way they snapped up their chances was a lesson for Borough.

Nevertheless, Borough never ought to have gone through this game without scoring, but their finishing was such that John Crosby in the Tamworth goal had little to worry him. Most of the time he was catching high balls into the goalmouth or cutting out centres. He had few really telling shots to save.

His goal had one lucky escape, though. And that was when in the 15th minute, Mick Keeley headed against a post from a Lol Wright centre. Crosby also had to push aside a Hope shot and deal with a Keith Ball header, and once his goal underwent one brief bombardment.

Generally speaking though, Borough's work in front of goal was far from impressive – nothing like as effective as it was against Burton. When the Tamworth forwards, skilfully prompted by George Meek, were in full cry, the home defenders looked anything but confident.

Tamworth took the lead in the 10th minute. Holbutt and Meek combined to make an opening for Tommy Morrow, who received the ball in an unmarked position. He raced in from the right and then let drive at goal. Crump got his fingers to the ball but could not prevent it going into the net.

Tamworth increased their lead after 25 minutes. Graham Jessop took a pass from Alan Carter to slam home a 25 yards shot, and they made it 3-0 in the 43rd minute, when Carter fed Morrow, who rounded Alan Jones, and then squared the ball for Jessop to score easily.

## King's Lynn v Nuneaton Borough 24-02-1968

**King's Lynn:** Coe, Chilleystone, Sharp, Williamson, Porter, Wright, Tough, Davies, Lindsay, Scott, Clarke.

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Quartermain, Watts, Aston, Hill, Ashe, Cutler, Richards, Thomas, Smith.

Borough made the journey to The Walks to take on King's Lynn in a Southern League Premier Division match.

The fight is now really on. For after losing this vital game, Borough find themselves on the fringe of the relegation zone





and involved with several other clubs in the tussle to stay in the Premier Division.

King's Lynn crept above Borough on goal average and brought their total of points to seven in the last four games. Once again it was a story of what might have been – of Borough failing to cash in on the openings they had engineered.

Tony Richards and Norman Ashe both failed to score when well placed at a time when Borough were doing most of the attacking. As well as these misses, Eddie Thomas, the former Swansea and Derby County player, who has been loaned to Borough by Orient and who was making his debut, went very close when he nipped in to intercept a header from Williamson intended for Coe. Thomas swivelled round smartly to hook the ball just over the top of the Lynn goal.

Norman Ashe caused Coe to bring off the save of the match when he took a header from Richards, ran across the edge of the penalty area, and unleashed a fine left-foot drive which looked a goal all the way. But Coe, flinging himself to the right, managed to get his hand to the ball and deflect it for a corner.

Crump had to pull off a very good save from Mick Wright, before three minutes before half-time, Lynn shocked Borough by taking the lead. Clarke, on the left, headed the ball inside to Scott, who chested the ball down and chipped it over Crump, and the ball spun into the net off a post.

Borough went in at half-time a goal down, but there was worse to follow, for in the 52nd minute, Clarke, from well out on the left, swung the ball towards goal. Crump had moved out of goal, and the ball curled into the net. After missing a great chance of adding to Lynn's lead, Lindsay headed through a Scott centre to make it 3-0.

At this point Borough looked a well beaten side, but two minutes later, Porter, in trying to clear a centre from the left, headed the ball to the feet of Norman Ashe, who in a flash volleyed an unstoppable shot past a helpless Coe. And at 78 minutes Borough put themselves right back in the game. Following a long kick upfield by Crump, Roger Smith and Cutler made an opening for Eddie Thomas, who cleverly flighted the ball into the net to make the score 3-2.

## Nuneaton Borough v Chelmsford City 02-03-1968

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Quartermain, Allen, Ball, Hill, Ashe, Cutler (Wright), Richards, Thomas, Smith.

**Chelmsford:** Medlock, Costello, Smith, Docherty, Eades, Shreeves, Leggett, Butcher, Walsh (Pulley), Gordon.

Borough welcomed Chelmsford City to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division match.

Unless Borough can do much better than they did in this vital league match on Saturday, their chances of steering well clear of the relegation zone cannot be rated as particularly high. On an occasion when it was imperative they should raise their game in order to prevent further loss of home points, Borough once again failed to impress.

Quite obviously they must soon start picking up some points, or else it may be too late. This was certainly a game they should not have lost. They had enough chances, especially in the second half when traffic was mostly towards the City goal, not merely to have saved themselves from defeat but to have won the game. But once again bad finishing proved their downfall.

Chelmsford's form by no means reached the standard expected, and the only period they had the edge on Borough was in the first 20 minutes or so when they snapped up their two goals, though they still remained dangerous in their breaks.

The visitors took the lead after only six minutes when, following an ill-directed Malcolm Allen pass, Cassidy sent Tony Butcher through to put the ball past Fred Crump. Borough drew level four minutes later. Goalkeeper Owen Medlock pushed away an Alan Jones centre to John Docherty, who in attempting to clear, put the ball to Tony Richards, who shot home from close in.

Chelmsford got what proved to be the winning goal after 20 minutes play when a misdirected Allen pass enabled Peter Shreeves to give the ball to Butcher, whose cross was headed home by Bill Cassidy.

Tony Richards missed the chance to salvage a point 15 minutes from time, when he was presented with a great chance, but missed. But it was Richards who scored the goal and later had a shot kicked off the line by Terry Eades, and then saw one of his headers drop on top of the crossbar.

## Nuneaton Borough v Lockheed 04-03-1968

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Quartermain, Watts, Ball, Hill, Smith, Allen, Richards, Thomas, Ashe. **Sub:** Wright.

**Lockheed:** Partridge, Tedds, Lawton, Knox, Moore, Wileman, Salmon, Holmes, Corlett, Vest, Mallinson. **Sub:** McCann.

Borough welcomed Lockheed to Manor Park for a Midland Floodlit Cup game.

It was a familiar story for Borough, who lost after having had much the better of the game territorially. They did at least 75 per cent of the attacking and had enough scoring chances to have won with plenty to spare, but inaccurate finishing let them down. Borough ought to have had the game all sewn up before Lockheed had a real scoring chance.

But when Lockheed did get a chance they snapped it up, and shortly afterwards a goalmouth mix-up led to their scoring a second goal. Therefore, instead of going in at half-time with a comfortable lead, Borough found themselves trailing 2-0. Before the visitors went into the lead Borough had missed several scoring chances. Eddie Thomas was responsible for two of those misses.

On the first occasion he was put clean through by Richards but shot straight at goalkeeper Dave Partridge. The second time he was sent through once again by Richards, following a Roger Smith centre, only to blaze the ball high and wide.

# Nuneaton Borough 1958-1970 – Part 2



It was seven minutes before half-time when Richard Wileman split the Borough defence with a through ball for Ray Holmes to race through and bang the ball past Fred Crump. Then, just before half-time, the Borough defence failed to clear a Bill Salmon corner on the left, and the ball went into the net via Mick Corlett.

The Lockheed defence was under pressure for most of the second half, and Partridge proved his worth in goal with some excellent handling from crosses and high lobs into the goalmouth. He made one fine save from Richards, whose hard drive he pushed against a post.

By and large, though Borough's finishing posed few threats, most of their scoring efforts going high or wide. But in the 77th minute, a Smith cross was palmed down by Partridge, and before he could get back into goal, Malcolm Allen had shot into the net. After this Borough made an all-out effort to draw level but failed in their mission. Two of their best scoring efforts came from Keith Ball. He had a header cleared off the line, and then saw his hard drive well saved by Partridge. The ball ran across the goalmouth and Richards netted, but the goal was disallowed for offside.

## Cambridge City v Nuneaton Borough 09-03-1968

**Cambridge:** Bevis, McGuigan, Lye, Cartwright, Collins, McNally, Spears, McGeorge, Foley, McVittie, Denton. **Sub:** Benson.

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Hope, Allen, Ball, Hill, Ashe, Cutler, Richards (Keeley), Thomas, Smith.

Borough made the journey to Milton Road to take on Cambridge City in a Southern League Premier Division game.

A disputed penalty kick decided the issue in this game on Saturday – a game of vital importance to both sides. The penalty came in the 39th minute, when Alan Jones was adjudged to have handled the ball in the penalty area.

Cambridge were closing in on goal from the left when the referee stopped play after seeing a linesman flagging. After consulting the linesman, the referee awarded City a penalty, despite strong appeals by the visitors. After the match Jones said he headed the ball away. It was some little time before the kick was taken and when it was McGeorge beat Fred Crump from the spot. The referee ordered the kick to be retaken, apparently on the grounds that a City player had moved, but again McGeorge put the ball into the net.

While it may have been harsh on Borough, the fact is that they never looked like scoring. What precious little shooting there was came from City.

Borough played their best football in the first 20 minutes when they did most of the attacking, but apart from a Paul Cutler shot which Bevis had to dive to push away, there was little on-target shooting. Little was seen of the home side as an attacking force in the early stages, and there was little suggestion that either side would score, until that 39th minute penalty kick.

The penalty success pepped up the City who, for most of the second-half had the better of the exchanges. They certainly seemed more dangerous up front than Borough, whose goal had one escape when a terrific drive from McGeorge rattled the Borough crossbar. Borough lost Tony Richards, injured in the first half and after the change of ends his place was taken by substitute Mick Keeley.

## Nuneaton Borough v Dover

11-03-1968

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Hope, Allen, Ball, Hill (Keeley), Wright, Cutler, Smith, Thomas, Ashe.

**Dover:** Price, Martin, Dennis, Hurley, Swain, Morgan, Peters, Gregory (Clewlow), Ray, Stack, Griffiths.

Borough welcomed Dover to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division encounter.

The goal scored by Roger Smith against Dover on Monday night was one of the best seen at Manor Park for a long time. Smith collected the ball near the halfway line after Lol Wright had lost possession, ran on to within about 25 yards of the Dover goal, and then unleashed a terrific shot which simply rocketed into the net.

This goal, Borough's second, came after 28 minutes play and helped the Manor Park side to their first Southern League win this year, and to only their third point since they beat Hereford 1-0 at Nuneaton on December 30.

These two points were invaluable to Borough for after their defeat by bottom-but-one Cambridge City and the victories of Poole and Burton Albion, things were beginning to look rather grim. Paul Cutler had scored Borough's first goal in the 22nd minute and his goal, like Roger Smith's was a good one. A long kick upfield by Fred Crump was taken by Smith who gave the ball to Thomas, and the last named transferred it to Cutler, who from the corner of the penalty box fired a hard low shot into the far corner of the net.

With the wind at their backs Borough did an overwhelming share of the attacking in the first-half. Their play was bright and purposeful and in refreshing contrast to the dull, unimpressive football they have been producing for quite some time. And the two goals they scored were good enough for anybody.

Taking a 2-0 lead into the second half, Borough's defence protected their lead in workmanlike fashion, though twice Dover's number nine Stack failed to find the net with a good scoring chance. On the first occasion he put the ball wide with only Crump to beat; then he hesitated when right through and Crump was able to rush out and smother his effort.

Borough should have gone further ahead when Mick Keeley, who had come on as substitute shortly after half-time for the injured Ken Hill, had the goal at his mercy, but from close range put the ball wide.

After so many disappointments, this was a most heartening display, but there is still some way to go before relegation worries are banished once and for all.



## Wellington Town v Nuneaton Borough 16-03-1968

**Wellington:** Irvine, Harris, Newton, Croft, Clarke, Ray, Matthews, Hart, Bentley, Houghton, Jagger. **Sub:** Read.

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Hope, Allen, Ball, Aston, Ashe, Cutler, Wright, Thomas, Smith. **Sub:** Quartermain.

Borough made the journey to The Buck's Head for a Southern League Premier Division game against Wellington Town.

Although Borough's victory over Wellington was the result of a solid team performance, a special word of praise is due to Norman Ashe, who despite being injured, played a significant role in his side's most welcome away win. Ashe received a knock in the early minutes and was assisted off the field. He returned with his right knee strapped up, and then proceeded to snap up a couple of first-half scoring chances to put Borough on the winning trail.

But that was not the end of the Ashe story, for ten minutes from time he received another knock, and once again had to be assisted off the field, and did not to return. His place was taken by substitute Pat Quartermain.

Two goals down at half-time, Wellington threw everything into attack after the change of ends. The Borough goal was under almost constant pressure, but so effectively did their defensive system work, so capably did Keith Ball and Stan Aston cover strikers Jack Bentley and Bud Houghton, that scoring chances were few and far between. Wellington disappointed their supporters with their lack of finishing power.

The nearest Wellington came to scoring was from a free-kick on the edge of the penalty area. George Jagger touched the ball to Houghton, whose astutely placed shot over the heads of the Borough wall, was cleverly tipped over the crossbar by Crump. On another occasion Ball raced across the edge of the penalty area to whip away the ball as Matthews, who had rounded Roger Hope, was bearing down on the Borough goal.

Borough took the lead in the 24th minute when a Roger Smith cross from the right was headed through by an unmarked Norman Ashe. They scored again almost dead on half-time. Following a move on the Borough right by Eddie Thomas, John Ray tried to pass back to his goalkeeper and Ashe nipped in to slot the ball into the Wellington net.

## Nuneaton Borough v Hillingdon Borough 18-03-1968

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Quartermain, Allen, Ball, Watts, Wright, Thomas, Cutler, Smith, Hope (Keeley).

Borough welcomed Hillingdon Borough to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division encounter.

Borough's latest success on Monday night, was achieved in most trying conditions with a strong, swirling wind making accurate football an extremely difficult proposition. Hillingdon proved themselves worthy opponents.

But as Borough have found out to their cost in many

games since the turn of the year, it's goals that really count in football, and on this occasion, as against Dover and Wellington, Borough got two goals without reply – and a priceless six points in the process.

With Tony Richards, Ken Hill, Stan Aston and Norman Ashe all on the injured list, Borough had just enough fit players to turn out a full side plus a substitute. But after just over half an hour's play Roger Hope joined the list of injured and was replaced by substitute Mick Keeley.

In a rather scrappy game, which was not surprising in the circumstances, Hillingdon made Borough fight all the way for the points. In fact it was not until they got their second goal in the 62nd minute that the home side virtually made certain of victory. Hillingdon's work near goal was not convincing, but credit should be given to the Borough defence for giving them so few scoring chances.

There was one exciting incident, however, when Fred Crump, after punching away from Gary Townsend, had to rush out of goal to smother a return shot from Ian Wright. Lol Wright, who engaged in many determined long runs, figured in both Borough's goals. He was working his way through the visitors' defence in the 27th minute when brought down by Jimmy Langley inside the penalty area. Paul Cutler slammed the ball into the roof of the net from the spot.

The second goal came in the 62nd minute. Malcolm Allen started the move with a pass to Roger Smith, who, in turn, slipped it to Lol Wright, who banged the ball into the Hillingdon net with his left foot. In between those two goals, Eddie Thomas missed a great chance. After an Allen shot had been blocked, the ball ran to Thomas in an unmarked position, but he pulled his shot, which passed wide of the far post.

## Nuneaton Borough v Guildford City 23-03-1968

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Quartermain, Allen, Ball, Hill, Wright, Thomas, Cutler, Smith, Richards. **Sub:** Keeley.

**Guildford:** Spratley, Gunter, Anthony, Massey, Moore, Watts, Burge, Gregory, Davies, Hudson, Vafiadis. **Sub:** Brown.

Borough welcomed Guildford City to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division game.

Had Borough not won this match on Saturday, they would have been most unfortunate. But it wasn't until eight minutes from the end that they got the winner, Lol Wright making one of his characteristic long runs in which he shrugged off the attentions of two City players, before slipping the ball to Tony Richards, who slammed in an unstoppable shot.

This certainly wasn't Borough's lucky day and three times they hit the woodwork of the Guildford goal. Malcolm Allen being the unlucky player on two occasions and Paul Cutler the other time. Goalkeeper Alan Spratley was also extended in saving from Keith Ball – a fine effort by Borough's No. 5 – Alan Jones and Malcolm Allen.

Then left-back Tommy Anthony saved what would have been

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a certain goal by using his hands to beat out a Lol Wright header with Spratley in no position to save. And to cap it all, when the inevitable penalty kick was awarded following Anthony's handling offence, Paul Cutler failed to beat Spratley from the spot with the keeper saving quite easily.

Hereabouts it looked very much as though Borough would never score, but when the winner did eventually arrive, Manor Park simply erupted.

Whereas Borough were constantly buzzing around the Guildford goal, and causing Spratley plenty of trouble, Fred Crump had a fairly easy time in the home goal. City showed up well in midfield. Once again, however, the Borough defence, in which Keith Ball was outstanding, was firm.

Only twice did Guildford really look like scoring. Once Crump palmed down an Anthony centre and the ball went via David Watts to Tony Burge, whose half-hit shot was cleared almost off the line by Paul Cutler. Then John Hudson, after racing through, delayed taking a crack at goal and put wide when challenged near the edge of the penalty area.

Borough were worthy winners, in fact with normal luck they would have won by a wider margin. Borough had to wait a long time before they got the winner. But when it did come, it was a good one – one well worth waiting for.

## Burton Albion v Nuneaton Borough 25-03-1968

**Borough: Crump, Jones, Quartermain, Allen, Ball, Aston, Keeley, Thomas, Richards, Cutler, Smith.**

Borough made the journey to Eton Park on Monday, to play Burton Albion in a Midland Floodlit Cup match.

In a fantastic six minutes' spell immediately before half-time, the Albion netted four times. Three of them counted and the other was disallowed for offside. As Burton banged in three more goals to Borough's one after the change of ends, they more than avenged their 5-1 defeat at Manor Park.

It was an extraordinary game. For the first half-hour, Borough looked more than good enough to account for Albion, who are engaged in a desperate battle to avoid relegation to Division I. Until the first of those three goals, Borough were the masters in midfield and did most of the attacking without, however, showing much in the way of finishing power.

Les Surman in the Albion goal made useful saves from a Tony Richards header and a Paul Cutler lob, while the latter, on another occasion, failed to control the ball when well-placed, and hurriedly shot well off target. Meanwhile, little had been seen of the Albion, and when they did get on the move they were usually comfortably held by a Borough defence which, in its last four Southern League games, had not conceded a goal.

The first half looked as though it was going to be goalless until the 38th minute when the game took a dramatic turn in Albion's favour. Taking a pass from Kevin Verity, Tony Bailey let fly from 25 yards and before most of the spectators knew what was happening, the ball was nestling in the back

of the Borough net. It was a goal right out of the blue. Four minutes later, as Keith Ball was challenging Ron Metcalfe for possession, the ball bounced awkwardly to let in the Burton forward for an easy second goal. In the next minute came a disallowed goal from John Keating. And then, after 44 minutes, Verity made it 3-0 with a shot which reared as Fred Crump went down to save near a post.

Thus, in the brief space of six minutes, the game had swung dramatically in Burton's favour.

As Borough obviously needed goals, Roger Smith came out for Johnny Watts after the change of ends. But after 64 minutes' play Metcalfe, unmarked, headed the fourth goal. The same player made it 5-0 after 77 minutes when he was put through by Keating to steer the ball into the net.

Three minutes from the end Pat Quartermain put the ball in the middle for Tony Richards to reduce the lead. Two minutes from time Verity made it 6-1 when he shot over the heads of the Borough defenders, and just before time Paul Cutler took a pass from Richards to crack a shot against the post.

## Weymouth v Nuneaton Borough 28-03-1968

**Weymouth: Clarke, Glover, Buckingham, Dowsett, Hobson, Hall, Cane, Camp, Parks, Barry, Bennett. Sub: Bazeley.**

**Borough: Crump, Jones, Quartermain, Allen, Ball, Hill, Wright, Thomas, Richards, Cutler, Smith. Sub: Aston.**

Borough made the journey to Weymouth to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

After 15 minutes of the second half, Borough leader Tony Richards swept the ball into the back of the net following a Thomas header, but the referee disallowed the goal. After the game the referee said that the goal was ruled out on two counts. Firstly, Thomas had fouled a Weymouth defender and secondly, Richards scored from an offside position.

Despite this, Borough manager Dudley Kernick says he is quite pleased with the result: "We came for a point and got it," he said. Borough may have come for a point, but they could have had two.

Apart from Richards' disallowed goal, Wright and Thomas also went close to netting the winner and taking Borough's Southern League victory run to five matches. With 57 minutes gone, Wright moved on to a Borough clearance down the wing and out ran full-back Buckingham. There was only Clarke to beat but the red shirted goalkeeper slid out to push Wright's effort round the post. Then 16 minutes later the lanky right winger had a good snap shot excellently saved by Clarke, who dived backwards to snatch the ball out of the air.

In the first period Eddie Thomas had the ball taken off his foot on two occasions just as he was about to shoot; once following a Wright centre and then after Allen had sent him through. Weymouth had the majority of play but, although they hit the bar twice, they never really looked like scoring.

Nuneaton's well drilled rearguard with Ball and Hill in

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fine form and Crump giving good support from behind, competently held the home front line which included new signing John Parks from Halifax at centre forward.

Roger Smith gave his best display for some time. He was all over the park, continually worrying the Weymouth defence. But the most outstanding player on the hard, virtually grassless pitch was the home centre-half Tony Hobson, playing his 180th consecutive game. Time and again it was the tall fair-haired Hobson who broke down Borough attacking movements with some classy controlled play.

Also in Weymouth's line-up were Glover of Coventry at full-back, and Dick Hall who signed from Bournemouth.

All in all it was a good point for Nuneaton; and now, as Dudley Kernick said, they are hoping to do the same at Yeovil.

## Yeovil Town v Nuneaton Borough 30-03-1968

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Quartermain, Allen, Ball, Hill, Wright, Cutler, Richards, Thomas, Smith.

Borough made the journey to The Huish to take on Yeovil Town in a Southern League Premier Division match.

The Yeovil forwards had been battering away at Borough's defensive barricade for virtually the whole match. And then with just four minutes left for play they almost found a way through. From a corner kick on the left Myers volleyed in a shot, it was beaten away and then Thompson followed up to ram the ball through the wall of defenders. It looked a goal, but Borough full-back Pat Quartermain covered up well to save the day and hook the ball clear off the line.

That was the last straw for the home front line. Time and again they had mounted piercing, dangerous-looking attacking moves, but every time the strong Nuneaton rearguard had held them off. This was full credit to the Borough. With Keith Ball and Ken Hill turning in a superb display at blocking off the middle and Alan Jones and Quartermain containing the two lively wingers, it was an all-round fine performance from the defence.

Against any weaker opposition Yeovil would have surely romped home by a decisive margin. As it was Borough kept them at bay and won what was probably their best point of the season. With the draw plus the one at Weymouth the previous Thursday night, Borough have climbed to just under half-way in the Southern League table.

Nuneaton's unbeaten league run has now been stretched to six games, during which time they have not conceded a goal. And after the Yeovil clash it is certainly going to take a good attack to score one past them.

On the famous sloping Huish ground, the home front line prompted by half-back Muir, dominated for at least 85 per cent of the game. Twice they hit the woodwork, but otherwise they never sent in a worthwhile threatening shot.

In fact, goalkeeper Fred Crump never had to make a save and

was only called upon to pick up back passes or move out to collect fruitless through balls.

Now Nuneaton must start to sharpen up their attack. Midfield men Malcolm Allen, Roger Smith and Paul Cutler fetched and carried well but when the front line did make an occasional break it led to nothing. With a forward line to match their four man defence and their link trio, Borough could certainly become a force to be reckoned with.

## Rugby Town v Nuneaton Borough 02-04-1968

**Rugby Town:** Richards, Harrald, Bramwell, Hinde, Haines, Rhodes, Coatsworth, McCluskey, Whitehead, Whittle, Senior.

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Hill, Allen, Ball, Aston, Wright, Keeley, Richards, Cutler, Smith.

Borough made the short journey to Rugby Town to play a Midland Floodlit Cup game.

Two free kicks led to goals which brought about Borough's defeat at Oakfield on Tuesday night – an encounter in which defences generally held the upper hand. On a bitterly cold night and on a pitch which had a thin covering of snow down the wings and in the corners, the football was probably better than might have been expected under the circumstances.

Borough really only had themselves to blame for losing, because of their failure to cash in on their marked superiority in the first-half, when traffic was mostly going in the direction of the Rugby goal. Yet on only a few occasions did they look like scoring.

Quite early on Harrald kicked off the goal-line a Tony Richards effort, and when Paul Cutler banged in the rebound, this time Bramwell was on the line to clear. Just before this Richards had blazed a shot over the top, while after 25 minutes Richards in the Rugby goal did remarkably well to beat down a pile-driver from Lol Wright. Borough certainly ought to have been in front at half-time after all the pressing they had done.

Then, four minutes after the change of ends, Rugby went ahead with a scrambled goal. A Brian Rhodes free kick was headed away by Keith Ball and then returned into the goalmouth by Harrald. Fred Crump punched away from Ken Whitehead and the ball ran across the face of the goal for Coatsworth to put through near the post. But the referee had already signalled a goal, ruling that the ball was over the line when Crump fisted it away.

After this Borough lost most of their earlier authority, and the only really good shot they got in during the second half was one by Keeley which Mick Richards did well to punch away.

It was not until the 77th minute that the home side clinched the issue with a second goal. When challenged near the edge of the penalty area by an opponent, Fred Crump, after standing still for a moment or two, threw the ball clear. The referee ruled that in throwing the ball, Crump's arms went out of the box, and gave an indirect free kick. This was touched by Whittle to Brian Rhodes, who lifted the ball into the far corner of the net.



## Nuneaton Borough v Poole Town 06-04-1968

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Quartermain, Allen, Ball, Hill, Wright, Thomas, Richards, Cutler, Smith. **Sub:** Keeley.

**Poole:** Whiting, Eyden, Balsom, Brewster, Brown, Rutley, Down, Taylor, T. Allen, France, Murphy. **Sub:** Hibberd.

Borough welcomed Poole Town to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough made it 12 points from their last seven Southern League games, five of which have been won and two drawn, when they beat third-from-the-bottom club Poole Town by the odd goal in five. They should have won by a much wider margin. In one of their few raids on the Borough goal, Taylor put across a low ball from the right which France stepped over and allowed to run through to Trevor Allen who shocked Borough by putting through from close range.

Borough continued to do nearly all the attacking, but it was not until 10 minutes before half-time that they equalised. There was a corner on the left and during the scramble that ensued, Keith Ball, who had moved upfield for the corner kick, secured possession and put the ball past Whiting into the Poole net.

There was another shock for Borough five minutes after the change of ends when, from a free-kick, Down floated the ball over to Trevor Allen, who scored an easy second goal.

In the 65th minute Borough drew level again. This time Eddie Thomas paved the way by cutting inside and then slipping the ball to Tony Richards who beat Whiting.

The home side grabbed the winner in the 75th minute. Quartermain landed a free kick in front of goal for Richards to beat both the tall Brown and Whiting in the air and nod the ball to Eddie Thomas, who headed into the net.

## Nuneaton Borough v Wellington Town 08-04-1968

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Quartermain, Allen, Ball, Aston, Ashe, Thomas, Keeley, Cutler, Smith. **Sub:** Wright.

**Wellington:** Knight, Ray, Newton, Croft, Clarke, Harris, Matthews, Hart, Bentley, Houghton, Jagger.

Borough welcomed Wellington Town to Manor Park for a Midland Floodlit Cup match.

While there was some fairly good play in midfield, the game hardly abounded with in front of goal thrills. The best football was played in the first-half, but after the change of ends, Borough having established a 2-0 lead, appeared content to let Wellington come at them. If anything Wellington probably did slightly more attacking than Borough, especially in the second half, without however, causing the strong Borough defence much trouble.

In one assault, Jack Bentley (twice), Bud Houghton and George Jagger all had shots blocked, and a little later Fred Crump pulled off fine saves from Dave Matthews and Bentley.

These efforts apart, however, Wellington seldom looked like scoring, so effective was Borough's covering. For the most part, Borough certainly looked more likely goal-getters than the visitors, who found difficulty in finding a way through to the Borough goal. Bob Knight had a much busier time than Crump and handled confidently. He could not be blamed even in the slightest degree for his side's defeat.

Borough were without Tony Richards and Ken Hill, both of whom were injured against Poole last Saturday, but welcomed back after injury Norman Ashe, who had not played since he got the two goals by which Borough beat Wellington away from home on March 16, and Stan Aston, injured at Rugby the week before.

Borough went ahead after 12 minutes when Knight, after catching Ashe's corner kick, fell over John Clarke. The ball ran loose and in attempting to kick clear Johnny Ray banged the ball against Roger Smith, from whom it cannoned into the net. They scored again in the 24th minute. When the ball came across from Smith, Paul Cutler headed it on to Ashe, who, unmarked, moved in to beat Knight with a well-placed shot.

In the second-half, Knight made good saves from Keeley and Malcolm Allen before Borough got their third goal, when Eddie Thomas sent Keeley through to take full advantage of a clear opening.

Wellington had a good share of the game but, as at Wellington in the recent league match, failed to impress with their finishing, strikers Bentley and Houghton again being well cared for by the solid Borough defence.

## Cheltenham Town v Nuneaton Borough 13-04-1968

**Cheltenham:** Meeson, Thorndale, Radford, Carson, Jefferies, Green, Ferns, Hudd, Horlick, Gadston, Thorne.

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Quartermain, Allen, Ball, Keeley, Ashe, Thomas, Richards, Cutler, Smith.

Borough made the journey to Whaddon Road to take on Cheltenham Town in a Southern League Premier Division game.

It was fairly clear that Borough would have to be at their very best if they were to continue their run of seven league games without defeat. But this was not Borough at their best – and so their unbeaten run ended.

Borough made a promising enough start, one very good move ending in Eddie Thomas shooting outside. Town goalkeeper, Dave Meeson, also had to deal with a Richards header. But it took the home side only 10 minutes to go into the lead.

Paul Cutler, with time to clear, tried to dribble round an opponent, and lost possession. The ball was headed on by Dave Hudd, and Keith Ball headed away only for Joe Gadston to run in and ram the ball past a helpless Fred Crump.

Although shortly afterwards Richards had a shot saved by Meeson, Cheltenham began to take control of things, and they went further ahead after half-an-hour.



Gadston shook off a Malcolm Allen challenge and slipped the ball to Ferns, who sent Thorne away on the right. When the ball was swung across goal, an unmarked Gerald Horlick headed through.

Hopes of a second-half revival by Borough were quickly shattered, for five minutes after the change of ends Cheltenham got their third goal. Gadston started a move which was carried on by Judd, who tried to get the ball through the middle. His first effort was blocked by Ball and Hudd regained possession and sent away Adrian Thorne, who beat the advancing Fred Crump.

Borough had the better of the exchanges in the last 15 minutes or so and ought certainly to have narrowed the margin. Roger Smith took a shot at goal when, in fact, a pass to the unmarked Mick Keeley might have produced better results; Thomas had a shot blocked and Malcolm Allen had an effort saved by Meeson. The best chance, however, fell to Norman Ashe, but he completely missed the ball as it sped across the face of the Cheltenham goal.

On the other hand, though now having less of the game than their opponents, Cheltenham still remained dangerous in their sudden breaks, and Crump made one great save from Gadston. He also saved a Thorne effort, and just before the finish had to leave his goal smartly to thwart Horlick.

## Corby Town v Nuneaton Borough 16-04-1968

**Corby:** Alexander, McBain, Caldwell, O'Connor, McGugan, Barratt, Aldred, Goodall, Zelos, Burns, Stenhouse.

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Quartermain, Allen, Ball, Aston, Ashe, Watts, Cutler, Smith, Keeley.

Borough made the journey to Corby Town for a Southern League Premier Division game.

For some weeks now Corby have been faced with the threat of relegation, and if their form on this occasion is any criterion, then the outlook for them is very gloomy indeed, especially as they now have only one more home game.

Two players were responsible for all Borough's goals, Paul Cutler and Mick Keeley. Wearing the No. 9 shirt, Cutler revelled in the role of striker, and struck Corby to the tune of four goals. The other two were netted by Keeley and all the goals were well taken. The most remarkable thing is that despite attacking non-stop in the first-half, Borough only crossed over with a 1-0 lead. However, two more goals in the space of three minutes at the start of the second half set Borough well on the way to victory.

Fred Crump must have had his easiest game of the season, as Corby barely had a shot on goal. His job mainly consisted of moving out of goal to pick up passes placed too far forward or to collect back passes from his colleagues. About the only time Corby really looked like scoring was when Maurice Goodall, with the score at 5-0, got right through only to send the ball wide as Crump came out to meet him.

Borough's first goal was scored on 30 minutes when Norman Ashe sent Paul Cutler through and the latter found the net with a left-foot drive that went in off the far post. Roger Smith floated in a free-kick for the second goal on 48 minutes, and Mick Keeley nipped in to beat Alan Alexander with a smart header. Three minutes later Smith crossed the ball to Malcolm Allen, who glanced the ball through to Cutler, who again beat Alexander with a well-placed shot.

Keeley scored again after 75 minutes, after Allen and Cutler opened up the way for him to shoot past the advancing goalkeeper from the corner of the penalty area. Two minutes later Cutler headed through a Smith centre. Five minutes from the end Keith Ball put through to Cutler, who beat an opponent and shot into the Corby net to make the score 6-0.

This was a good team effort by Borough for though Cutler and Keeley stole the limelight by scoring all the goals, they were helped materially by the sound support of their colleagues, with Roger Smith having a particularly good game. The Borough defence, which included Johnny Watts and Stan Aston was firm and unyielding and Corby had few clear looks at the Borough goal.

## Nuneaton Borough v Romford

20-04-1968

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Quartermain, Allen, Ball, Aston, Ashe, Cutler, Keeley, Watts, Smith. **Sub:** Richards.

**Romford:** A. Smith, Read, King, Sorrell, Gibbs, Obeney, Summers, Aggio, Flatt, Tapping, Barnett. **Sub:** Taylor.

Borough welcomed Romford to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division game.

Romford goalkeeper Andy Smith played a big part in his side's victory on Saturday, in this encounter between the current champions and runners-up. For on three occasions he pulled off first-class saves when Borough goals appeared imminent.

Twice, once from a shot by Paul Cutler and then from a header by Tony Richards, he managed to get his finger tips to the ball and push it against a post. Each time the ball came back into play to be cleared, when it could just as easily have rebounded into the net. He also made an excellent save from a Mick Keeley header following a cross from Norman Ashe when Borough looked like neutralising a goal scored by Romford's Colin Flatt shortly before half-time.

But after going so close to levelling the scores when Smith made that save from Keeley, Borough almost immediately found themselves two goals down. For from goalkeeper Smith's clearance upfield, Dennis Sorrell ran through a surprised Borough defence to slip the ball into the net as Fred Crump advanced to meet him, to virtually settle the issue.

The Borough keeper had made one very good save in the first-half when, after beating out a shot from Sorrell, he moved forward to smother an effort by Tapping, who had seized on the rebound. Crump was injured but resumed after attention.

Nine minutes from the end Richards put Norman Ashe

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through to reduce the lead with a well-placed shot, but Borough failed in their efforts to save the game.

Borough's performance, generally speaking, was disappointing following their 6-0 hammering of Corby Town. Romford, of course, provided infinitely stronger opposition than the Steelmen. Even so, the home side should have given a better account of themselves.

Up until Richards came out in the second half as substitute for the injured Pat Quartermain, Borough had not moved really well and hardly shone in their work near goal. Richards introduced more order into their attacks and his work in the air caused the Romford defence some trouble.

## Nuneaton Borough v Rugby Town 22-04-1968

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Quartermain, Allen, Ball, Hill, Wright, Keeley, Tony Richards, Cutler, Ashe. **Sub:** Eddie Thomas.

**Rugby:** Mick Richards, Harrald, Bramwell, Walker, Knox, Hopkin, Coatsworth, Cluskey, Rhodes, Whittle, Senior. **Sub:** Bill Thomas.

Borough welcomed Rugby Town to Manor Park to play a Midland Floodlit Cup game on Monday night.

Lapses by the Rugby defence led to two of Borough's three goals, though there can be no doubt at all that Borough were the better side. The first of the two slips came in the 65th minute when a mix-up between Ken Harrald and Don Walker let in Mick Keeley to give his side a 2-1 lead. Then, after 72 minutes, Ken Whittle mis-directed a back pass intended for goalkeeper Mick Richards, leaving Tony Richards with the simple task of putting the ball into an empty net.

Borough opened the scoring in the ninth minute following a Norman Ashe corner. The ball ran out of a crowded goalmouth to Cutler, who fairly hammered the ball into the Rugby net. Rugby levelled the score after 38 minutes. Roy Senior put the ball across to Brian Rhodes who shook off three tackles and prodded the ball to Fred Coatsworth who drove the ball into the far corner of the net.

Borough went close on another occasion when Ashe shot against a post. Rugby no doubt missed the guiding influence and skilful midfield promptings of player-manager Billy Hails, under whom the team has played so well this season, and also their leading goalscorer Ken Whitehead up front.

Fred Crump was so well covered that he had a very easy evening, and on the few occasions he was tested proved equal to the occasion. His best save was from a shot by Coatsworth. On the other hand Mick Richards had a very busy time in the Rugby goal, not that he had many really difficult shots to save. When high balls came into the goalmouth, however, Richards dealt with them with confidence and ability.

This was an entertaining rather than skilful game – a game that kept the crowd interested throughout. Billy Hails' men put up a hard fight and never gave up trying. Generally speaking, however, Borough's success was well merited. They had the edge for most of the game.

## Cambridge United v Nuneaton Borough 27-04-1968

**Cambridge:** Barker, Lindsey, Grant, Scurr, Baker, Hardy, Wall, Chambers, Hutchinson (Ward), O'Neill, Barrett.

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Quartermain, Allen, Ball, Hill, Smith, Keeley, Richards, Cutler, Ashe. **Sub:** Wright.

Borough made the journey to the Abbey Stadium to face Cambridge United in a Southern League Premier Division game.

A desperate rally which brought them two goals in the last 14 minutes, the second just before the final whistle, enabled championship chasers Cambridge United to salvage a point in their game against Borough on Saturday.

Borough had established a 3-1 lead and were playing with such authority that Cambridge appeared a beaten side. But in the 76th minute, United's No. 5 Gerry Baker, went upfield for an Alan O'Neill corner on the left and got his head to the ball to deflect it through a crowded goalmouth into the far corner of the net. And two minutes from the end, from yet another O'Neill corner kick, Baker scored an identical goal, again diverting the ball into the far corner of the net with his head.

In between these two goals, Norman Ashe had missed a great chance when he failed to put the ball into the net after dribbling his way right through the home defence.

Few people expected Borough even to get one point from the game, but they ought to have had two. For after O'Neill had given United the lead in the 20th minute from the penalty spot after Alan Jones was adjudged to have fetched down Dave Barrett in the penalty area, Borough hit back with such purpose that they levelled the scores before half-time and by the 65th minute had gone into a two-goal lead.

Paul Cutler got Borough's first goal close to half-time. Following good work by Ashe and Tony Richards, Borough's top scorer took the ball round keeper Barker and shot into the empty net as two defenders closed in. In the 64th minute, following a Smith corner, Quartermain banged a terrific shot against the crossbar and Tony Richards was on hand to head the rebound into the net. Four minutes later, Mick Keeley was put through on the right, and crossed the ball to the far post for Richards to head his second goal and Borough's third.

And then came Baker's two goals and that Norman Ashe miss when he had chance to clinch the issue.

## Nuneaton Borough v Banbury United 29-04-1968

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Quartermain, Allen, Aston, Hill, Wright, Keeley, Richards, Cutler, Ashe.

**Banbury:** McArthur, Cassidy, Darvell, Haynes, Page, Swensom, Ward, Sansom, Holder, Jacques, Buckley.

Borough welcomed Banbury United to Manor Park for a Midland Floodlit Cup game.

Two minutes before the end of the game on Monday night, Malcolm Allen worked his way through the Banbury defence



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and then cracked the ball into the net to win the game. And just before the final whistle, the Banbury keeper Dave McArthur, mishandled a Lol Wright shot, and the ball ran against a post before being cleared. By and large, however, Borough hardly shone as marksmen.

Banbury, who last Saturday had their promotion prospects rocked by a 6-1 home defeat at the hands of Brentwood, played very well on this occasion. However, failure to accept scoring opportunities cost them the points. In the first-half a Tony Jacques header ran across the face of the Borough goal and a Banbury score looked almost certain, but Colin Holder could do no better than put the ball against a post; and then, after the change of ends, the same player, after being put clean through by Jacques, failed to get the ball past Fred Crump, although the latter's quick reaction to a desperate situation may have put Holder off.

Borough also missed chances. Once, after a Tony Richards shot had been blocked, Norman Ashe, in an excellent scoring position, put the ball high over the top. Paul Cutler, too, missed a chance, but had another on-target effort capably dealt with by McArthur, who apart from that last-minute slip, had a good match. There were shouts from the crowd for a penalty when Cutler went down in the area, but an indirect free-kick was awarded.

Generally speaking Borough did not impress up front, but the defence, though having a few anxious moments, did a good job of work in dealing so well with a very useful Banbury attack which included the leading goalscorer in the Southern League in Jacques, who had a good game, and apart from making those two openings for Holder, brought the best out of Fred Crump with some hard drives.

## Burton Albion v Nuneaton Borough 01-05-1968

**Burton:** Potter, Finney, Shepherd, Carver, King, Goodall, Metcalf, Farnden, Notley, Clevely, Hills. **Sub:** Bailey.

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Quartermain, Allen, Aston, Hill, Smith, Cutler, Richards, Keeley, Ashe. **Sub:** Wright.

Borough journeyed to Eton Park on Wednesday to play Burton Albion in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Following Poole Town's 1-0 win over Barnet on Tuesday, Burton desperately needed two points from their home game against Borough to keep alive their hopes of avoiding relegation. They achieved their objective by beating Borough 2-0, and though they are not yet out of the woods, whereas before this game they were fourth from the foot of the table, they jumped two places, with one more point than Stevenage and slightly better goal average than Poole.

Burton are certainly making a determined fight to stay in the Premier Division and deserved these two vital points, since with fewer opportunities than Borough they managed to score two goals. When Burton opened their scoring account in the 31st minute, Norman Ashe lost the ball trying to dribble past two Burton players. Gerry Carver gained possession and

sent Ron Metcalfe away down the right wing. The speedy winger, unmarked, quickly made ground and then swung the ball across goal, for Barry Notley to dive and head the ball into the Borough net.

Albion got that all-important second goal after 70 minutes when a misplaced Malcolm Allen pass was seized upon by David Hills, who ran through towards goal. Fred Crump, who had no alternative but to come out of goal, blocked Hills' shot. The ball ran loose and was then picked up by Notley who passed to Ron Metcalfe, who found the net despite a last desperate effort by Crump to prevent the ball crossing the line.

Fred Potter made a fine save from a Paul Cutler header, but generally speaking, Borough's finishing was thoroughly unconvincing, and the Albion keeper, while often in action, had few really difficult situations to contend with. Two of Borough's best chances fell to Mick Keeley and Tony Richards, but both failed to accept them.

Quite early in the game Keeley shot wide after being put through by Richards, while in the second half a Dave Goodall mis-kick let in Cutler who, after missing a chance himself, managed to get the ball to Richards, who shot over the top from close in. Just before the end Ashe got through, but his shot went off the keeper and on to the post.

## Nuneaton Borough v Burton Albion 04-05-1968

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Quartermain, Allen, Aston, Hill, Wright, Smith, Cutler, Keeley, Ashe. **Sub:** Ball.

**Burton:** Potter, Finney, Shepherd, Carter, King, Goodall, Metcalfe, Garden, Notley, Clevely, Hills. **Sub:** Bailey.

Borough welcomed Burton Albion to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough squandered any amount of chances in the away fixture, but they squandered even more in the return game. However, this time they did manage one goal – just before half-time – but both before and after, particularly after, they tossed away chance after chance.

The result of Borough's many misses was that though outplayed for long periods after bursts of activity at the start of each half, Albion, only one goal behind, were to all intents and purposes still in the game with a chance, when the issue should have been settled long before.

Norman Ashe ought to have made better use of two chances he had when crosses found him unmarked in front of goal with only Fred Potter to beat. But each time his header was easily saved by the goalkeeper. Twice, too, Lol Wright, who came into the side in place of Tony Richards, shot outside when left with only Potter to beat.

Mick Keeley also headed over the top when in a most favourable scoring position, but he at least had the satisfaction of scoring the goal that gave his side the points.

But probably the worst miss of the match was that of Paul Cutler, Borough's marksman in chief, in the 74th minute. After

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getting right through and having the goal at his mercy, he put the ball outside. Both sides too, had a goal disallowed. Mick Keeley put the ball into the net from an Alan Jones centre, but was given offside. Then Clevely netted for Burton from a Metcalfe cross for the referee to disallow the goal after consulting the linesman.

Burton must have gone close on two occasions to conceding penalties when Ashe, Borough's liveliest attacker, went down in tackles when rounding Albion defenders well inside the area. It was in the 41st minute that Paul Cutler crossed the ball to Mick Keeley who lobbed the ball over the heads of Finney and Potter into the far corner of the net. Potter touched the ball, but could not prevent it from going into the net.

It was ironic that Borough should have scored from what was really a difficult chance when they had missed so many clear-cut opportunities. The visitors for most of the time were defending their goal, although Ron Metcalfe caused trouble when he had the ball.

Not for the first time this season, Borough made hard work of what should have been a simple, straightforward job of work – because their forwards failed to capitalise on the many easy scoring chances they created.

## Johnny Watts To Retire

Nuneaton Borough captain Johnny Watts is retiring from football, and will play his last competitive game tomorrow against Cambridge City at Manor Park.

A great club man, Johnny joined Borough in July, 1964, from Birmingham City, for whom he made 300 first-team appearance. He has spent the whole of his professional career with Birmingham and Borough.

Johnny is sure of a warm reception when he leads his team on to the field tomorrow for Borough's last league game of the season. Ken Hill has a groin injury; Keith Ball is fit but is not included in the list of twelve players from whom the team will be chosen.

## Nuneaton Borough v Cambridge City 18-05-1968

**Borough: Crump, Jones, Quartermain, Allen, Aston, Watts, Ashe, Keeley, Smith, Cutler, Wright.**

Borough welcomed Cambridge City to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division game.

It was most unfortunate that Borough should have played so badly in Johnny Watts' final game for Nuneaton before retiring from football.

It certainly wasn't flattering to Borough that City, already doomed to relegation, should have been able to complete the double – their one and only double of the season – at their expense. It is true the City goal had some fortunate escapes; that Norman Ashe, Lol Wright and Stan Aston all had efforts

strike the woodwork. Yet Borough still had enough easy chances to have won with plenty to spare.

Both sides lost a player in the 33rd minute. Following a corner kick City goalkeeper Dave Bevis and Paul Cutler came into collision and both were taken to hospital, the former with a cut head and concussion and Cutler with a lacerated mouth.

McNally went in goal for City, and both teams brought on substitutes for Bevis and Cutler, who were allowed to leave hospital after treatment.

With a quarter of an hour to go, substitute Mick Denton shot the ball past Crump for the only goal of the game.

## Southern League Premier Division 1967-68

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chelmsford City	42	25	7	10	85	50	57
Wimbledon	42	24	7	11	85	47	55
Cambridge United	42	20	13	9	73	42	53
Cheltenham Town	42	23	7	12	97	67	53
Guildford City	42	18	13	11	56	43	49
Romford	42	20	8	14	72	60	48
Barnet	42	20	8	14	81	71	48
Margate	42	19	8	15	80	71	46
Wellington Town	42	16	13	13	70	66	45
Hillingdon Borough	42	18	9	15	53	54	45
King's Lynn	42	18	8	16	66	57	44
Yeovil Town	42	16	12	14	45	43	44
Weymouth	42	17	8	17	65	61	42
Hereford United	42	17	7	18	58	62	41
Nuneaton Borough	42	13	14	15	62	64	40
Dover	42	17	6	19	54	56	40
Poole Town	42	13	10	19	55	74	36
Stevenage Town	42	13	9	20	57	75	35
Burton Albion	42	14	6	22	51	73	34
Corby Town	42	7	13	22	40	77	27
Cambridge City	42	10	6	26	50	81	26
Hastings United	42	4	8	30	33	94	16



## Nuneaton Borough 1967-68

Back Row: Dudley Kernick (manager), Keith Ball, Roger Smith, Ken Hill, Tony Richards, Fred Crump, Ian Wilson, Alan Jones, Stan Aston, Joe Taylor (trainer)  
Front row: Malcolm Allen, Norman Ashe, Paul Cutler, Tommy Crawley, Lol Wright, Roger Hope, Johnny Watts (captain).

### Midland Floodlit Cup Innovation

Nuneaton Borough's revolutionary points plan for the Midland Floodlit Cup received overwhelming support when the clubs met at Corby on Tuesday night. Only one club, Lockheed Leamington, objected to the scheme which gives teams ten points for a win, five for a draw and one for each goal scored. Goal averages will be worked out by subtracting the goals against from the goals for, instead of the present system of division.

The plan takes effect this coming season and the Floodlit Cup is the first league in Britain to try out such an idea. Wellington Town manager Fred Badham told the meeting: "This is a revolutionary idea and I think even the Football League will be watching it closely."

Dudley Kernick, who devised the plan, told the clubs: "The accent is on goals. The hard core of fans will watch every game, but we feel this could attract the 'floaters,' the people who come to see something different."

He added: "We find that we have to play some clubs four times a season and in the case of Wellington Town, six times.

"There's a chance we could also meet in other cup

competitions and we feel that the public want to see a different type of game."

Said Fred Badham, former Borough manager, who spoke in support of the plan: "This competition goes dead half-way through the season, if a club is in the middle or near the bottom of the table.

"I feel that every game played under this system would be attractive."

After the meeting Dudley Kernick outlined the proposal which will make the Floodlit Cup a showpiece competition this season. He said: "Floodlights are no longer a novelty or an attraction in themselves. With ten points awarded to the winners, plus a point a goal, there are several exciting possibilities which will attract a public wanting to see exhilarating games.

"No longer will we see teams play the unpopular defensive game or 'sit' on a one-goal lead. The incentive is always there to get more points.

"A side will not give up the ghost when a game appears to be lost. For the prospect of gaining points for goals, even if losing, will prove a vital issue.



**Tony Richards slides towards the ball in the Matlock goalmouth, but right-back Tom Goodwin beats him to it and clears the ball upfield.**

Photo: Nuneaton Observer

## Matlock Town — 4th Qualifying Round

Borough welcomed Matlock Town to Manor Park for a 4th Qualifying Round FA Cup tie.

Borough: Crump, Jones, Wilson, Allen, Aston, Ball, Ashe, Richards, Crawley, Cutler, Hope. Sub: Wright.

Matlock: Ashmore, Goodwin, Heaton, Adams, Towndrow, Jones, South, Whitham, Parker, Howard, Jenkinson. Sub: Willey.

A solitary Paul Cutler goal put Nuneaton Borough through to the next round of the FA Cup, but unless their finishing improves, they are unlikely to progress much further.

The highest crowd of the season turned up to watch what it hoped would be the start of another glorious cup run. The side frequently made headway into the penalty area but a goal eluded Borough until substitute Lol Wright joined the attack in the 75th minute.

He laid on a pass for Norman Ashe who crossed skilfully and Paul Cutler dived forward to net with a gem of a header.

Malcolm Allen put Tom Crawley in a good position after showing his talent in midfield, but Crawley failed to take

advantage of the situation shortly after the start. Matlock put a tight grip on the Borough attack and consequently raid after raid broke down just when the crowd were ready to cheer a success.

Ashmore, in the Matlock goal, was kept busy without being unduly troubled in the early part of the game. He plucked a dangerous-looking centre from Ashe out of the air away from the threatening head of Richards in a most unconcerned way.

Some might say that Borough were not having the run of the ball and that they could have scored three or four goals with a little more luck.

Others shared another view that the forwards lacked ideas. The good general of last season's FA Cup saga, Billy Hails, is being sadly missed.

Tom Crawley did not have a happy game. His cup reputation for getting goals will quickly be forgotten with many more displays like this.

Matlock's attack could make little impression on the well-drilled Borough defence. Feeble efforts by Jenkinson and South gave little cause for alarm.

One incident that put the home fans in

a fluster was when Aston pulled down Parker just outside the penalty box. Heaton floated the subsequent kick into the goal area only to see it hit the woodwork and bounce to safety.

By the interval Borough fans had become puzzled by their side's inability to turn opportunities into goals. On resuming Matlock continued to fight a rearguard action, packing in defence and hoping for a quick breakaway match stealer.

Although the home attack was greatly intensified goals would not come. Somehow Borough had forgotten how to roll the ball for another player to have a shot. They continually played the ball forward and right into the hands of the Matlock defence. Players started to get in one another's way and spectators were on tenterhooks.

Lol Wright walked on to the field to substitute for Crawley with 15 minutes to go, and it was then that Borough made headway. The cheers were deafening as Cutler secured the prize – yet another bumper gate at Manor Park.

## Exeter City — 1st Round Proper

Borough welcomed Exeter City to Manor Park for a 1st Round Proper FA Cup tie.

Borough: Crump, Jones, Hope, Watts, Aston, Hill, Ashe, Keeley, Richards, Cutler, Smith.

Exeter: Smout, Embery, Smyth, Blain, Newman, Huxford, Hart, Banks, Curtis, Crawford, Fudge. Sub: Batson.

It was most unfortunate that the weather should have been so unkind for this FA Cup first round game, for the frost-bound pitch made foothold precarious and skilled football was out of the question. The outcome was a game that failed to arouse the enthusiasm of the crowd to the same degree as did the Swansea and Rotherham games last season.

Even though the snow had been cleared, conditions were still difficult if not bad enough to prevent the game being played.

The proceedings were largely dominated by the defences. Clear-cut openings were few, and long before the end it became fairly obvious that if either side managed a goal, it could very well prove the decider. But that goal never came.



**Norman Ashe being challenged for possession by Jimmy Blain.**

Photo: Nuneaton Observer

Urged on by the crowd, Borough put in a grandstand finish in an effort to make the journey to Exeter on Wednesday unnecessary, but to no avail.

Borough came closest to getting a winner when Huxford, in trying to clear a Jones free-kick, very nearly put through his own goal, the ball rolling just the wrong side of the post.

Hereabouts, Norman Ashe missed a possible chance when goalkeeper John Smout only partially cleared a Roger Hope centre; Mick Keeley had a shot blocked and Paul Cutler saw a shot-cum-centre pass just over the angle of the goal. Richards also went close with a header.

Most of Borough's scoring efforts were concentrated into that brief last-ditch effort to get a decider.

Previously their best attempts had been a Mick Keeley header which went just over the top, and a Tony Richards shot which was also just too high.

Exeter probably had fewer scoring

chances than Borough, yet went closest to snatching a winner when Campbell Crawford cracked the ball against the underside of the bar for Michael Fudge to head outside the post from the rebound. This was a close shave for Borough.

Another good Exeter effort was when left-back Cecil Smyth unleashed a terrific shot which went over the bar.

Crump once had to race out of goal beyond the penalty area to kick clear as Crawford was racing in to collect an Alan Banks through-pass that split the Borough defence. This was one of the few occasions the Borough defence was caught unprepared.

Two of those Exeter efforts came during a brief second-half spell when the visitors, for the first time in the game, looked like getting on top.

For most of the game Exeter could make very little impression upon a solid Borough defence which gave little away. Their raids seldom carried any real threat and were usually quite comfortably held, though now and again Crawford caused some concern.



**Paul Cutler collects the ball with Johnny Newman in close attendance.**

Photo: Nuneaton Observer

Borough, too, never really impressed as a striking force.

Exeter would be quite happy with the result, for, quite obviously, their

principal objective was to hold Borough and take them to a replay. On the other hand Borough must have felt they might have done better.

## **Exeter City — 1st Round Proper Replay**

Borough travelled to St James' Park to take on Exeter City in a 1st Round Proper FA Cup replay.

Exeter: Smout, Embery, Smyth, Blain, Newman, Huxford, Hart, Banks, Curtis, Crawford, Fudge. Sub: Balson.

Borough: Crump, Jones, Hope, Watts, Aston, Hill, Ashe, Cutler, Richards, Allen, Smith. Sub: Wright.

After 210 minutes of football, Exeter City and Borough have yet to score a goal, for even after extra-time at St James' Park, on Wednesday evening the score-sheet was still blank.

The two teams will now meet for a third time at Ashton Gate, Bristol City's ground, on Monday evening.

Nuneaton made two changes – one positional – compared with Saturday's side. Cutler crossed from inside-left to inside-right, allowing Allen to come in at No. 10. Exeter were unchanged.

Nuneaton certainly had to withstand a real pounding at times, and the bouquets must go to their magnificent defence and the great goalkeeping of Fred Crump.

In spells Exeter, it seemed, must score, but Nuneaton played it calmly throughout. Even in the last anxious moments there was no sign of panic or desperation, and because of this rock-like defence, Nuneaton were always in with a chance.

It was typical Cup-tie stuff. There was plenty of excitement, a sprinkling of fair football, but mainly a tough practical battle which Nuneaton played with great intelligence.

And there was the almost inevitable disputed "goal." Exeter did in fact get the ball into the net and it was through a cracking shot by right-half Jimmy Blain. But the roar of triumph died

quickly in the throats of the Exeter supporters as referee Clive Thomas ruled another Exeter forward offside.

Exeter certainly had a mammoth share of the game offensively, but there were times when Nuneaton came within inches of scoring.

Quite early in the game Nuneaton's big danger man in the attack, inside-left Malcolm Allen, headed a beauty from a corner that brought a fine save from Exeter goalkeeper John Smout.

In the second half right winger Norman Ashe twice cut in and sent in two fierce shots that could, with a little more luck, have brought them a goal.

During the hectic 30 minutes of extra time there were signs that Nuneaton might yet grab a goal.

But in the main it was a game in which Exeter made the running and the Nuneaton defence had to deal with a whole barrage of shots and headers. The fact that they dealt with them so well not only proved the effectiveness of their defence but the fact that Exeter's finishing was not decisive enough when it came to the crunch.

Apart from the time when Blain got the ball into the net, perhaps Nuneaton's most desperate moment was when, in trying to block a shot from Campbell Carwford, left-half Ken Hill very nearly deflected the ball into his own net.

## Exeter City – 1st Round Proper 2nd Replay

Borough travelled to Ashton Gate, Bristol, to take on Exeter City in a 1st Round Proper FA Cup 2nd replay.

Exeter: Smout, Embery, Smyth, Blain, Newman, Huxford, Fudge, Banks, Curtis, Crawford, Corr.

Borough: Crump, Jones, Hope, Watts, Aston, Hill, Ashe, Cutler, Richards, Allen, Smith.

It was third time lucky for both Exeter City and their inside right Alan Banks in this second replay of the first round of the FA Cup at Ashton Gate, Bristol. It was the third meeting of the two clubs in this first round marathon that City

got the vital goal that earned them the right to a home game against Walsall in the second round of the Cup.

And it was the third time he sent the ball against the woodwork of the Borough goal that Banks got the only goal of this 300 minute battle.

On the two previous occasions – once in the first half and earlier in the second session – Banks' shots had come out to be cleared. The third time he hit the woodwork – this time with nine minutes to play – Banks saw his header from a John Corr cross, strike the underside of the bar and then drop down only inches behind the goal-line.

Seeing that twice earlier in the game Alan Jones had cleared off the goal-line when Exeter goals appeared certain, it must be said that Exeter just about deserved their success.

But what a fight Borough had given them. Indeed, with only just over a minute to go and with defeat staring them right in the face, Borough staged their last act of defiance.

Tony Richards and Paul Cutler opened up the City defence to put Roger Smith through. The latter moved to the corner of the penalty area and shot just the wrong side of the post, the ball hitting the side netting.

It was so close in fact that some

Borough supporters leapt to their feet and yelled "goal," thinking the ball was in the net. It was a very narrow escape for Exeter.

Borough played some of their best football of their three games against Exeter, and caused the City some anxious moments.

Twice Tony Richards went near with headers. One from an Ashe cross went just over the top, and then John Smout made the best save of the match when he dived to keep out another Richards' header that followed a free-kick. Cutler, too, had one good attempt well saved.

Malcolm Allen missed a possible chance, no doubt through being surprised when the ball rebounded to him off a City defender, while Richards had just failed to reach a Cutler cross when a touch would have meant a goal.

While playing well in midfield and showing good approach work, especially in the first-half, Borough however, lacked the finishing power that might very well have won them entry into the second round of the cup.

And so for the present season at any rate, Borough have no further playing interest in the FA Cup. While Exeter should be given credit for their ultimate triumph, one cannot help but feel that Borough missed their big chance when the teams originally met at Manor Park.



**Mick Keeley, Roger Smith, Roger Hope and Tony Richards confronted by a solid wall of Exeter defenders.**

Photo: Nuneaton Observer

# Nuneaton Borough 1958-1970 – Part 2



## Southern League Premier Division: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1967-68

Nuneaton Scores First

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	Attendance
08.05	Wigan Athletic	A	PSF	1-2	Cutler (pen)	1,968
08.07	Aston Villa	H	PSF	4-0	Wright, Pountney (o.g.), Richards (2)	4,472
08.10	Stratford Town	H	PSF	2-3		
08.12	Rugby Town	A	PSF	0-3		
08.14	Wigan Athletic	H	PSF	2-0	Keeley (2)	3,035
08.19	Margate	H	L	0-0		4,839
08.26	Barnet	A	L	1-2	Cutler	2,200
08.28	Burton Albion	H	SLC 1 1st Leg	3-3	Wright (2), Cutler	3,985
09.02	Weymouth	H	L	4-2	Ashe, Richards (2), Cutler	4,157
09.06	Burton Albion	A	SLC 1 2nd Leg	1-2	Ashe	2,766
09.09	Dover	A	L	1-1	Hurley (o.g.)	1,879
09.11	Guildford City	A	L	0-0		1,967
09.16	Wimbledon	H	L	4-1	Ashe, Richards, Wright (2)	4,202
09.18	Worcester City	H	MFC	4-2	Richards (2, 1pen), Ashe, Wright	4,077
09.23	Hastings United	A	L	0-4		1,118
09.25	Cheltenham Town	H	MFC	4-0	Richards, Cutler (3)	3,787
09.30	Corby Town	H	L	2-2	Cutler, Ashe	4,306
10.04	Cheltenham Town	A	MFC	2-2	Richards (2)	1,153
10.07	Stourbridge	A	BSC 2	2-4	Cutler, Ashe	1,402
10.09	King's Lynn	H	L	2-0	Cutler, Smith	5,039
10.11	Kettering	A	MFC	0-3		1,617
10.14	Chelmsford City	A	L	2-4	Crawley (2)	2,012
10.21	Wellington Town	H	L	3-3	Harris (o.g.), Cutler, Richards	3,636
10.28	Matlock Town	H	FAC 4Q	1-0	Cutler	5,588
11.04	Yeovil Town	H	L	2-0	Wright, Richards (pen)	3,211
11.06	Kettering Town	H	MFC	2-2	Wright, Cutler	3,244
11.11	Poole Town	A	L	2-1	Richards (2)	841
11.14	Banbury United	A	MFC	3-5	Keeley, Wright, Cutler	1,728
11.18	Cheltenham Town	H	L	1-1	Cutler	4,102
11.20	Corby Town	H	MFC	2-0	Keeley, Cutler (pen)	2,806
11.25	Romford	A	L	0-0		2,545
11.27	Wellington Town	A	MFC	3-1	Keeley, Wright, Salt (o.g.)	1,881
12.02	Cambridge United	H	L	1-1	Ashe	4,164
12.09	Exeter City	H	FAC 1P	0-0		12,359
12.13	Exeter City	A	FAC 1P Replay	0-0		6,909
12.16	Margate	A	L	1-1	Aston	1,797
12.18	Exeter City	A	FAC 1P 2nd Replay	0-1		5,090
12.23	Barnet	H	L	2-3	Cutler, Richards	4,029
12.26	Hereford United	A	L	1-1	Aston	5,653
12.30	Hereford United	H	L	1-0	Keeley	3,440
01.15	Worcester City	A	MFC	0-1		1,589
01.20	Wimbledon	A	L	2-5	Wright (2)	2,389
01.22	Tamworth	A	F	2-6	Boonham (o.g.), Keeley	
01.27	Stevenage Town	H	L	1-4	Cutler	3,190
01.30	Lockheed Leamington	A	MFC	1-4	Cutler	
02.03	Hastings United	H	L	2-2	Cutler, Richards	2,297
02.06	Corby Town	A	MFC	2-1	Richards (2)	352
02.10	Hillingdon	A	L	2-3	Smith, Keeley	850
02.12	Tamworth	A	CC	1-1	Keeley	1,612
02.17	Stevenage	A	L	1-4	Ball	1,292
02.19	Burton Albion	H	MFC	5-1	Cutler (2), Keeley (2), Smith	1,903
02.21	Tamworth	H	CC	0-3		2,565
02.24	King's Lynn	A	L	2-3	Ashe, Thomas	1,247



## Southern League Premier Division: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1967-68

Nuneaton Scores First

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	Attendance
03.02	Chelmsford City	H	L	1-2	Richards	2,003
03.04	Lockheed Leamington	H	MFC	1-2	Allen	1,781
03.09	Cambridge City	A	L	0-1		1,927
03.11	Dover	H	L	2-0	Smith, Cutler	2,524
03.16	Wellington Town	A	L	2-0	Ashe (2)	1,703
03.18	Hillingdon Borough	H	L	2-0	Cutler (pen), Wright	2,878
03.23	Guildford City	H	L	1-0	Richards	2,863
03.25	Burton Albion	A	MFC	1-6	Richards	851
03.28	Weymouth	A	L	0-0		1,180
03.30	Yeovil	A	L	0-0		1,445
04.02	Rugby Town	A	MFC	0-2		
04.06	Poole Town	H	L	3-2	Ball, Richards, Thomas	2,788
04.08	Wellington Town	H	MFC	3-0	Smith, Ashe, Keeley	2,071
04.13	Cheltenham Town	A	L	0-3		2,333
04.16	Corby	A	L	6-0	Cutler (4), Keeley (2)	485
04.20	Romford	H	L	1-2	Ashe	3,369
04.22	Rugby Town	H	MFC	3-1	Cutler, Keeley, Richards	2,150
04.27	Cambridge United	A	L	3-3	Cutler, Richards (2)	3,346
04.29	Banbury	H	MFC	1-0	Allen	1,557
05.18	Burton Albion	A	L	0-2		1,195
05.18	Burton Albion	H	L	1-0	Keeley	3,002
05.18	Cambridge City	H	L	0-1		
05.21	Ibstock Penistone Rovers	A	F	6-3		

KEY: L = Southern League Premier, FAC = F.A.Cup, BSC = Birmingham Senior Cup, SLC = Southern League Cup, MFC = Midland Floodlit Cup, CC = Camkin Cup



## Manor Park Admission Price Up Sixpence

It is announced that the ground admission charge at Manor Park for next season is being raised by sixpence to 3s. 6d., which is still one of the cheapest admission prices in the Premier Division of the Southern League.

This is the only change being made. Season tickets for the stand cost six guineas and for pensioners and juniors £4. Ground season tickets cost three guineas and 30s. for pensioners and juniors.

Borough have been drawn against Wellington Town in the Southern League Cup which, of course, is run on a home and away basis.

None of the non-league clubs applying for membership of the Football League at the annual meeting in London was elected, all the clubs applying for re-election being voted back. Of the 15 who applied, the Southern League Premier Division champions, Chelmsford City, had the most votes – three.

Bedford, Cambridge City, Cambridge United, Romford and Wigan Athletic each received two votes; Cheltenham Town, Guildford City, Hereford United, New Brighton, Wellington Town, Wimbledon and Worcester City each received one vote and Nuneaton Borough and Yeovil Town none.

It would appear that Borough's best chance of getting into the League is if the League is extended or if the new Northern League and the Southern League eventually become accepted as a regional Fifth Division with a promotion and relegation system between these two set-ups and the Fourth Division.



### Borough Sign League's Goalscorer No. 1

Appreciating the necessity of introducing more punch into the Borough attack next season, manager Dudley Kernick has secured the signature of Tony Jacques from Banbury United at what is described as a record fee for the Borough club.

With 34 goals Jacques was the leading goalscorer in the Southern League and Southern League Cup last season – a position occupied by Tony Richards the previous season.

Jacques was also top scorer in the Midland Floodlit Cup competition which Banbury won. The season before last Jacques scored more than 30 goals and over 40 goals in Banbury's last season in the West Midlands League. Mr Kernick is also seeking two other forwards and two defenders.

## Borough Appoint Assistant Manager

Nuneaton Borough have appointed their own "facts and figures" man, much travelled Tommy Hayes. as personal assistant to manager Dudley Kernick. His job is to help coach the squad and analyse Borough's opposition this season.

Hayes will travel around seeing the teams Borough will have to play. He will weigh up their strengths and weaknesses and report to Mr Kernick.

"It's a logical step," says the Borough boss. "Every team sends a scout to watch the opposition in the FA Cup, so why not do it for league matches?"

Mr Hayes has just returned from a three year stint in Canada and Florida. He was chief coach for those years of the Province of Ontario, who supplied eight players to the national soccer team. During his stay in Canada he was unofficially recognised as the country's number one coach. His prime object was to educate the country's up and coming coaches. He was also a lecturer for referees and a lecturer for the Canada FA.

After two successful years he was offered a job with Miami Cobras. He toured South America and Jamaica with the Cobras, but the lure of England was too much.

He knew Mr Kernick when the Borough chief was in charge of a coaching course at Greenmoor College, and when he returned to England, he came to Nuneaton. He says of his new appointment: It's progressive. It's thinking deeply about the game on a professional basis."

## Borough Move To Get Among The Goals

If Borough are to recapture their form of two seasons ago, when they were one of the best non-league sides in the country, then they must show much more punch up front in the coming season than in 1967-68.

There seems little doubt that in his close season travels in search of players, manager Dudley Kernick had an improvement in the output of goals very much in mind. Indeed, his first signing was Tony Jacques, top goalscorer in the Southern League last season.

Last weekend the Borough manager added three more players to the Manor Park squad – a left winger and two midfield players who can also get goals. Many midfield players," says Mr Kernick, "tend to be too defensive, but its goals that we want as well as being tight at the back."

The outside-left is 19-year-old Peter Foweraker from Plymouth and the other two are both ex-League players, Alec Jackson, who is to skipper the side now that Johnny Watts has retired and Bunny Larkin.

Jackson is the former West Bromwich Albion and Birmingham City winger, and joins Borough from Walsall.

While with the Albion for whom he made his first team debut in 1954, Jackson played for the Football League against the Scottish League. That was in the 1961-62 season.



He was transferred to Birmingham City two seasons later for £15,000, and joined Walsall 15 months ago for £5,000. Larkin was top scorer for Wisbech the past two seasons, scoring 17 goals last season and 23 the season before, mostly by coming through from behind. He joined Birmingham City as a youth, made his way into the first-team, and was a regular until transferred to Norwich City in 1962 for £18,000.

Borough are again exempt until the final qualifying round of the FA Cup. This will be played on November 2.

## Sky Blues To Play Borough?

Borough manager Mr Dudley Kernick has asked Coventry City if they can send a team to Manor Park to play a pre-season public trial game, and City may be able to comply with the request providing the only date they can offer – July 31 – is suitable to Borough.

If Mr Kernick successfully completes the negotiations for the signature of Mickey Boot, the young ex-Arsenal wing half, he may be his last close season signing. If Mr Kernick signs Boot, he will have brought his new signings to six.

The other newcomers are Tony Jacques from Banbury United, top scorer on the Southern League last season; Peter Foweraker, the young Plymouth left winger; Alec Jackson and “Bunny” Larkin, two midfield players; and his latest signing, Bobby Drake, a defender and son of Ted Drake, the former Chelsea manager.

Aged 23, Bobby Drake was a member of Fulham’s first-team squad and had deputised for England full-back George Cohen. He has made 30 first team appearances in two years. Drake is most likely to operate in the back four at Nuneaton. He has played up front at Fulham and could do the same for Borough in an emergency.

Mickey Boot is a wing half, aged 20. He left Arsenal for South Africa 18 months ago to play for the Port Elizabeth club at a fee of £5,000. He was unable to settle down there and returned to England. He comes from Leicester and skippered the Arsenal Youth team that won the Youth Cup in 1965. He made three first team appearances for Arsenal.

Moor Green have agreed to their keeper John Whelan becoming deputy to Fred Crump.

## 1968-69

### Dudley Town v Nuneaton Borough 27-07-1968

**Dudley:** Edwards, Plant, Cooper, Adams, Woodall, Reeve, Spencer, Foster, Flavell, Hodgkisson, Arnold.

**Borough:** Gilbert, Jones, Drake, Quartermain, Smith, Allen, Boot, Jackson, Richards, Larkin, Foweraker.

Borough made the journey to play Dudley Town in a pre-season friendly.

Dudley Kernick has 13 days in which to sharpen his side to match fitness, particularly in the goal taking department which let them down so badly last season. For at times

the “new” Nuneaton squad had a familiar look about it as chances were made and missed. At least four good chances, and a penalty, were tossed away against Dudley who won through a tenth minute gift goal from centre-forward Flavell.

But practice games are fault-finding exercises in themselves, in readiness for the real thing, and Mr Kernick used the game to the full by fielding 17 players with constant changes and re-shuffles – too many in fact for any real pattern to emerge.

The newcomers came through all right individually between the changes and the only real factor that did emerge was that chances were regularly made and missed. Despite the fact that he failed to score, record buy Tony Jacques impressed with his robust style and strength in the air.

He went close with two headers, had a shot blocked by Dudley’s Edwards, which the keeper knew very little about, and set up a chance which was missed by Tony Richards.

Richards missed a penalty, but these two should provide a few headaches for Southern League defences when they sort themselves out. Winger Peter Foweraker made some useful breaks down the line but could have made better use of his crosses. Bobby Drake is a strong, reliable, defender and Alec Jackson, a little casual at times, showed some touches of his skill in midfield.

Larkin did not make a great deal of impression when he played down the middle and may be a better prospect playing deep and coming through from behind. Mickey Boot showed that he could make an impact with the Manor Park fans when his registration is sorted out. He is a tenacious performer who likes to be in the thick of things and keeps himself pretty busy. Amateur keeper Keith Gilbert had little chance with the goal but neither he nor Fred Crump had a great deal to do.

The goal came when Alec Jackson lost possession and let in Flavell who was presented with a clear shooting chance by a square Borough defence and took his goal well. But the real pre-season tests should come against Coventry and Leicester this week when the pressures and atmosphere will be greater in front of the Manor Park crowd.

### Highgate United v Nuneaton Borough 29-07-1968

Borough did enough attacking in their second trial game at Highgate on Monday night to have won with something to spare, but a combination of missed chances and fine goalkeeping by Highgate’s King resulted in the visitors having to be content with a draw.

Though Highgate must be given full credit for a stubborn defensive display and for having snapped up two scoring chances, the fact remains that they were saved from defeat by the splendid work of King in goal. Both on the ground and in the air he was equally competent. He cut out many dangerous crosses and made a series of fine saves. Borough were so much on top in the second half that Fred Crump, who had taken over from Keith Gilbert, had precious little to do in goal.

# Nuneaton Borough 1958-1970 – Part 2



The Borough had missed two or three fairly easy chances before Highgate shocked them with goals by Masters (21 minutes) and Wilson (35 minutes).

Just before half-time, however, Tony Jacques headed through a Malcolm Allen cross to reduce the lead, and seven minutes from the end Bunny Larkin levelled the scores with a crashing drive after very heavy Borough pressure.

Even though well beaten by Larkin's shot, King succeeded in getting his finger tips to the ball, but had no hope of preventing a goal as the ball hurtled into the top corner of the net.

## Nuneaton Borough v Coventry City 31-07-1968

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Smith, Drake, Aston, Boot, Jackson, Allen, Jacques, Cutler, Foweraker, Ashe, Wright, Larkin.

**Coventry:** Glazier, Bruck, Catlin, Machin, Curtis, Tudor, Hannigan, Hunt, Gould, Baker, Gibson, Paddon, Coop, Shepherd.

Borough welcomed Coventry City to Manor Park for a pre-season friendly game on Wednesday.

Borough had been disappointing in their previous two friendlies against Dudley and Highgate, but on this occasion, in front of a crowd of 6,118, they rose to the occasion and shook the City by grabbing a couple of goals after their visitors had gone in front from the penalty spot.

Borough's performance was all the more meritorious because only two of the Sky Blues who turned out in this game – Trevor Gould and Graham Paddon – had not played in the first team. It was a quite remarkable result, yet the fact remains that Borough played sufficiently well to keep the City working hard for the whole 90 minutes. They certainly found George Curtis and his colleagues plenty to do.

It was not a game notable for good marksmanship and front of goal thrills and neither Bill Glazier nor Fred Crump was overburdened with really good on-target efforts. Crump was called upon to make one good save however – from a Tudor header when Hannigan crossed the ball into the middle.

Yet Borough grabbed two chances to snatch victory, the winning goal coming 11 minutes from the end.

Six newcomers were in the Borough side, Mickey Boot confirmed the good impressions he had already created, while Bobby Drake put in some sterling work, moving quickly upfield from defence.

Tony Jacques put his side in good heart when he got their equalising goal, while Bunny Larkin had a hand in Jacques' goal and got the second himself. Both were opportunist goals. Alec Jackson and Peter Foweraker, who played in the first-half, worked hard. Several of last season's players put in good performances in what was essentially a satisfying team performance.

City went into the lead after 25 minutes when Mickey Boot was adjudged to have handled the ball in the area and Ernie Hunt scored from the spot. Borough drew level five minutes

after half-time when Tony Jacques followed up to net after Glazier had done well to get to a well-placed Larkin free-kick near the post, and Larkin himself came along with the winner in the 79th minute when he fastened on to the ball as it came across goal to shoot past the goalkeeper.

City lost John Tudor through injury five minutes from the end of the game.

## Nuneaton Borough v Leicester City 02-08-1968

**Borough:** Gilbert, Jones, Smith, Aston, Drake, Boot, Larkin, Jackson, Ashe, Jacques, Cutler, Foweraker.

Borough welcomed Leicester City to Manor Park for a pre-season friendly game.

A great goal by lanky Lol Wright two minutes after the interval gave Borough victory against Leicester City. Number seven Alec Jackson was the man who made the goal when he shoved through a perfect 20-yard pass for the former Walsall forward to run on and ram the ball home into the roof of the net. This put Nuneaton back into the lead after Leicester had equalised a Norman Ashe goal just before half-time.

The Filbert Street side almost pulled back on level terms again when they turned on the pressure with 15 minutes to go. Borough's amateur goalkeeper Keith Gilbert saved them, however, with two fine saves, both from A team man Graham Brown.

But in the 89th minute Borough should have added their third goal when new signing Tony Jacques muffed a chance in front of an open goal after Jackson had collected a Foweraker ball and beaten centre-half Harrison and goalkeeper Bob Kelly.

It was a well-deserved win for Dudley Kernick's side and was their second against Football League First Division opponents in three days. Leicester fielded a reserve side, as the club's seniors are at present on tour in Germany, but it still included five players who have had first team experience.

One of them was inside-right Alan Tewley who last season netted one of Leicester's goals in their draw with Manchester United. But along with the rest of the visitors' strikers, Tewley was well contained by Borough's efficient defence.

Apart from one mistake which resulted in Leicester's goal, Alan Jones turned in another solid performance and also figured in a couple of attacking movements when he overlapped down the flank. One of these runs gave Borough the lead in the 12th minute. Jones beat two defenders on the wing and sent over a ground cross for Ashe to nip in and score after Paul Cutler had intelligently "sold a dummy."

Roger Smith, wearing the number three jersey, did not give as good a display as he did against Coventry City on Wednesday, but still adapted himself well to the full-back spot.

Close season captures Mickey Boot and Bobby Drake again impressed and centre-half Stan Aston, too, had a good game against Leicester's dangerous young poacher Bobby Svarc,

# Nuneaton Borough 1958-1970 – Part 2



who had a few Division One matches last term. Jackson had a reasonably quiet first-half, but after the break he came into his own and sent through several defence-splitting balls. Bunny Larkin turned in a good show in midfield and Peter Foweraker, who came on at half-time had several good moments.

Centre-forward Tony Jacques, leading scorer in the Southern League last term, has already made himself a firm favourite with the Manor Park fans. In the 15th minute, he was unlucky not to find the net when Leicester's amateur goalkeeper Kelly brought off a great save from his diving header.

## Bromsgrove Rovers v Nuneaton Borough 03-08-1968

Borough travelled to the Victoria Ground to take on Bromsgrove Rovers in a pre-season friendly.

Bromsgrove manager Gil Merrick certainly landed a scoop signing when he captured John Dyer from amateur side Alvechurch last month. For on Saturday this 19-year-old right winger turned in a brilliant display to lay on both of Bromsgrove's goals which sent Borough to defeat.

Six minutes after the interval Dyer made a break down the wing and swung the ball over for Pat Edwards to head home. And then after 71 minutes he did the same and this time his cross found young Dave Imms, who drove it into the net.

Bromsgrove's victory, however, was not as convincing as the scoreline suggests. The Nuneaton men, taking things easy after having played against Leicester less than 20 hours before, were, on the standard of play, the better outfit. They moved well, mounting some good attacks, and it was one of those sort of matches where things could well have gone the other way for a Borough win.

The Manor Park team were not as sharp up front as in the previous games with Coventry and Leicester. Paul Cutler was, for one, guilty of missing a goal-scoring chance when, in the second half, he mis-cued after a clever free kick movement had put him through.

Home goalkeeper Chris Hooper saved his side on a few occasions with some diving stops. After tipping a Boot drive over the top and holding a tricky Tony Jacques header, Hooper saved what seemed a certain goal in the 21st minute.

Bunny Larkin moved onto an Allen chipped pass and from 15 yards out sent a bullet-like header goalwards. But the Bromsgrove keeper turned it round the post with a flying dive.

## Nuneaton Borough v Notts County 05-08-1968

Borough welcomed Fourth Division Notts County to Manor Park for a pre-season friendly.

Borough scored their third victory over a Football League outfit within a week when, on Monday night, they outplayed and outclassed Notts County in the last of their pre-season practice games. Billy Gray's County side were no match for Borough. They looked unimpressive and shabby against a creative and sharp Nuneaton team.

The scoreline was unfair to Borough. It could quite easily have been 6-0 and they had at least four efforts cleared off the line as they mounted some good attacking movements. Their goal came in the 20th minute when Tony Jacques got up well to head a Jackson cross past former Charlton Athletic keeper Mike Rose and into the far side of the net.

Bunny Larkin was unlucky not to add to the score when he had two fine left-foot drives flash narrowly over the bar and in the second-half Malcolm Allen, Mickey Boot and Peter Foweraker all went close in a 30-second bombardment of the Notts County goal.

## Nuneaton Borough v Chelmsford City 10-08-1968

Borough: Crump, Jones, Drake, Aston, Smith, Larkin, Boot, Jackson, Jacques, Cutler, Foweraker.

Borough welcomed Chelmsford City to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division encounter.



Up goes Shreeves . . . and another Borough raid comes to nought. Notice the expert cover given to goalkeeper Leiper. On the line are Smith, Eades and Shreeves. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Here was the perfect setting – the first match of the season, a glorious day, perfect conditions – and the champions of the Southern League at Manor Park. Pity it all fell flat.

For Borough – so optimistic after their wins over Coventry, Leicester and Notts County – fumbled through 90 minutes, missed too many chances, and eventually bowed to a surprised Chelmsford side who suddenly found themselves with two points instead of the one they so obviously came for. There can be no excuses. Chelmsford, without Leggett, Moy, Costello and the goal ace Tony Butcher, sat back on their interval lead and let Borough do all the attacking. Their policy: Hold out at all costs.

And how splendidly they did their job. Man of the match,

# Nuneaton Borough 1958-1970 – Part 2



Eades, was a tower of strength as Chelmsford fought a magnificent rearguard action. But the simple truth is that Borough could still have won handsomely. They had their chances – and more than their share of bad luck.

Tony Jacques had one header which beat Leiper only to finish inches wide of the post; they hit the woodwork twice, and had two efforts cleared off the line. Yet Jacques should have had a couple himself. He was put through twice, and on each occasion, with only the goalkeeper to beat, muffed his shots. Add to those misses that of Paul Cutler's just before the interval, and it becomes clear why City were allowed to take both points.

The most disappointed man on Borough's side was Stan Aston. The powerful centre-half had just about his best match for Nuneaton, hardly put a foot wrong, and had the cruellest of luck in the second half when a header from the edge of the 18-yard box hit the underside of the bar and was cleared from the challenging Jacques.

Borough were impressive in defence. They were well-organised, had Aston commanding everything down the middle and only conceded a goal in a momentary lapse. It came in the 34th minute when Coughlin, covered by Drake, whipped round the No. 4 and left Fred Crump helpless. Crump had, minutes earlier, made the save of the match from Maughan.

Borough were less impressive in midfield where Bunny Larkin and Mickey Boot covered acres of ground – yet did very little with the ball when they had it. Boot did all that was expected, but failed to stamp the authority on the game as he did against Coventry and Leicester. Larkin made one or two immaculate passes, and if the strikers had taken advantage, might have become the hero of the hour. But where was that rocket shot we saw in the practice matches?

The new look forward line was particularly unimpressive. Jackson flopped, Jacques had a tough time against Eades and Shreeves, and Paul Cutler was hardly in the game at all. Perhaps Peter Foweraker can be excused – but he decided to go it alone too many times and wasted many an opening by shooting wide when a simple cross would have been in order.

## Nuneaton Borough v Burton Albion 12-08-1968

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Smith, Drake, Aston, Boot, Wright, Allen, Jacques, Cutler, Ashe. **Sub:** Jackson.

**Burton:** Potter, Bailey, Winton, Cleevly, King, Goodall, Metcalfe, Brown, Vincent, Gilden, Scattergood. **Sub:** Knight.

Borough welcomed Burton Albion to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division game.

Mickey Boot, Borough's prize close-season capture from Johannesburg, led Borough on a five-goal spree against Burton on Monday – and put fresh heart into disappointed fans who saw the Chelmsford failure.

Boot and the recalled Malcolm Allen completely dominated the game. It was one-way traffic for practically the whole

of the 90 minutes, and only once did Burton get close to scoring – when Brown hit a post with a header. Albion looked a ragged side, and Borough took full advantage. Boot scored two cracking goals, Paul Cutler added another two and just to prove Nuneaton supremacy, full back Alan Jones came up to add the fifth seven minutes from time.

It was all too easy for Nuneaton. Manager Dudley Kernick left out new signings Alec Jackson, Bunny Larkin and Peter Foweraker, and Borough looked a much better balanced side. They retained their strength and composure in defence, added more bite in midfield, and looked sharper in attack.

But it was in midfield where the game was really won. Boot, the ex-Arsenal player, had a tremendous game, and with Allen in sparkling form, Burton were starved of possession. The Borough duo kept a constant supply of passes to their strikers. They tackled well and found plenty of space in which to work the ball, and at last Borough found their shooting boots.

Paul Cutler gave them the lead in the fifth minute when he finished off an Ashe-Boot movement. And when Boot scored the first of his two goals in the 40th minute, Burton were a beaten side. Boot scored the third after 70 minutes when he took advantage of a Goodall slip to crash the ball past goalkeeper Potter, and then Cutler scored his second after Allen had laid off the pass. Alan Jones completed Burton's misery when he beat Watton inside the 18 yards area and hit a left foot drive past the diving Potter.

Manager Kernick can gain satisfaction from this win. Not only did his side do everything that was expected of them, but the fans gave them another chance after Saturday's defeat.

## Guildford City v Nuneaton Borough 17-08-1968

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Drake, Aston, Smith, Boot, Allen, Wright, Jackson, Cutler, Jacques. **Sub:** Larkin.

Borough made the journey to Guildford City to play a Southern League Premier Division match.

Alec Jackson, Borough's club skipper, dropped after only one league match in Borough's colours, silenced the pessimists, as Nuneaton crushed Guildford on Saturday. Jackson was brought back at the expense of Norman Ashe. He shrugged off the memory of the Chelmsford failure and led his side to a morale-boosting win over an enthusiastic but experienced Guildford outfit.

The former Walsall star operated behind his strikers and prevented the home side from gaining any midfield control. His experience was often evident as Borough built up their attacks and it was good to see him challenging for every ball with grit and determination.

It was Jackson's zest which resulted in Nuneaton's third goal – the one which clinched the points after 53 minutes. He raced half the length of the field to collect a return pass from Lol Wright before lofting the ball into the goalmouth. From his cross Paul Cutler saw a snap shot strike a post, but centre-

# Nuneaton Borough 1958-1970 – Part 2



forward Tony Jacques was there to run the ball over the line. The goal was Jacques' second of the match. And, after being bought for a high fee for the job of scoring goals, he was relieved to get off the mark.

Jacques had an intriguing tussle with Guildford's towering centre-half Les Burns. But the Borough man came out on top. He took only ten minutes to find the net when he crashed home a scorching volley following a right wing cross from Alan Jones.

Although Guildford equalised, Cutler put the Manor Park outfit back in front when he caught goalkeeper Brooks by surprise with a smart shot on the turn which dropped into the net. In addition to creating plenty of space for themselves up front, Borough were generally solid at the back where Stan Aston and Bobby Drake commanded the high ball, and once again showed top form.

Only a couple of times during the match were Borough in any trouble. But goalkeeper Fred Crump denied Guildford with three brave saves inside a minute.

## Nuneaton Borough v Wellington Town 19-08-1968

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Drake, Aston, Smith, Boot, Allen, Wright, Jackson, Cutler, Jacques. **Sub:** Larkin.

Borough welcomed Wellington Town to Manor Park for a Southern League Cup first round first leg tie.

A storming finish during which Wellington goalkeeper Bob Knight, after making two very fine saves from power drives by Alec Jackson and Mickey Boot, was beaten by a great Tony Jacques shot in injury time, failed to save Borough from defeat on Monday night.

Yet they have only themselves to blame for having to make the journey to Wellington next Monday in the second leg, a goal down. They played so skilfully in the first-half and created so many openings that they should have crossed over with at least a two goal lead. But they came unstuck in their finishing, fairly easy scoring chances being allowed to slip by.

Paul Cutler will want to quickly forget this game, as he rounded the goalkeeper and failed to put the ball into an empty net, and also failed from the penalty spot when Alec Jackson was brought down by Ken Satchwell. Cutler's weak spot kick was saved by Knight.

Borough went into the lead in the 14th minute when Cutler challenged the keeper and prodded the ball towards goal. The ball appeared to clip Jacques and then went into the net off Gerry Harris. Wellington drew level in the 41st minute, after one shot had been charged down, John Ray put through.

In the 58th minute Lol Wright sent Tony Jacques through to beat Knight with a fine shot. Wellington drew level again four minutes later when a George Jagger shot struck Boot's foot and went into the net. Five minutes later Bentley put the visitors ahead and in the 74th minute, Fudge crossed a low ball for Matthews to nip in and slam it home. In injury time,

Jackson put Jacques through for the Borough striker to crash the ball past Knight.

## Romford v Nuneaton Borough

24-08-1968

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Smith, Drake, Aston, Boot, Jackson, Allen, Jacques, Cutler, Foweraker.

Borough made the journey to the Brooklands to play Romford in a Southern League Premier Division fixture.

Mickey Boot added to the two goals he scored against Burton by slamming home the decisive goal on Saturday, to give Borough four points from their first two away games. Boot's shot was a winner from the moment it left his foot, the ball swinging away to give Smith in the Romford goal no chance.

This was a very fine Borough performance. Nobody could possibly deny that they deserved their success. They were worthy winners in every respect. The visitors, who brought in Peter Foweraker for Lol Wright, were strong at the back, showed any amount of skill in midfield, while their strikers were far more dangerous than those of the home side, who generally failed to match up to the skill of their visitors.

It was Tony Jacques who put Borough in the right frame of mind by sending them ahead in the 18th minute. A short corner by Alec Jackson saw Peter Foweraker cross the ball for Paul Cutler to touch it on to Jacques, who wasted no time in driving the ball past Smith. Romford drew level in the 32nd minute when Sanders passed to Rodney Sharp whose shot across goal was turned into his own net by Alan Jones.

But hardly before the cheering had died down Borough had struck again, Allen pushing through a pass to Jackson, who turned smartly inside to shoot past Smith. Romford drew level again in the 65th minute. Crump made a bad clearance and sent the ball to Sharp. The latter's pass was picked up by Ray Aggio who ran in to shoot low into the Borough net.

But the persistency of Tony Jacques brought Borough the winner five minutes later. Jacques went through with great determination before passing to Mickey Boot, whose cracking 25 yard shot left Smith standing.

This was a first-class Borough performance. They played cool, calculated football which really bristled with skill. Romford, who are never an easy side to beat on their own ground, were lucky to escape so lightly. Not until the last ten minutes or so, when they fought hard to save a point, did they really seriously trouble a thoroughly competent Borough.

## Wellington Town v Nuneaton Borough

26-08-1968

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Boot, Aston, Smith, Larkin, Cutler, Jackson, Wright, Jacques, Richards. **Sub:** Drake

Borough made the journey to the Buck's Head to play a Southern League Cup first round second leg tie.

When Bud Houghton headed into the Borough net after only six minutes, things looked pretty black for Nuneaton, since

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they were then 5-3 down on aggregate. Borough made three changes from the side that won that very fine victory over Romford. Bunny Larkin, Lol Wright and Tony Richards, who was making his first competitive appearance of the season, coming in for Malcolm Allen, Bobby Drake and Peter Foweraker, went on to prove the strength of the Manor Park playing squad, by hitting back to such purpose that they won the leg 4-1 and the round 7-5 on aggregate to the great delight of the many supporters who made the journey to Wellington on Monday.

It took Borough 15 minutes to neutralise that early Houghton goal and they went ahead just on half-time. In the early stages of the second half Wellington pressed hard, Fred Crump making good saves from Fudge and Jagger. Then, in a typical break from defence, Borough struck again to make the score 3-1, and then eight minutes from time Bunny Larkin rounded off the scoring with a great fourth goal for the Manor Park side.

Larkin's goal was a very fine effort indeed. Most of the Wellington players had gone upfield for a free-kick just outside the Borough penalty area. Larkin secured possession after the kick had been taken, and set off downfield flanked by Cutler and Jackson. The home defence was wide open, and Larkin dribbled round Peck and then ran on to put the ball into the net. This was great stuff and the Borough fans went wild with delight.

Wellington went ahead after only six minutes. A free kick was awarded against Alan Jones. This was taken by Jagger, who put the ball across for Bentley to return it to Bud Houghton, who jumped to head past Crump. Sixteen minutes later Borough drew level. They were awarded a free-kick and Jackson put the ball out to Wright. The latter ran on and then drifted a high ball across the face of the Wellington goal. The ball was headed back, and Lol Wright, who had moved inside, was on the spot to score from close in.

Almost on half-time a move started well back by Roger Smith ended in Stan Aston sending the ball through to the goal-grabbing Tony Jacques, who shot into the net to give Borough the lead. Wellington started the second half with Croft substituting for the injured Ken Satchwell.

Borough got their third goal in the 75th minute. Paul Cutler took the ball from deep in defence into the Wellington half before passing to Wright, who gave the ball to Jackson, whose shot was saved by Irvine, but before he could clear Tony Jacques nipped in to put the ball into the net.

Then came Larkin's goal to round off another highly competent Borough performance.

## Nuneaton Borough v Wimbledon 31-08-1968

**Borough: Crump, Jones, Smith, Drake, Aston, Boot (Larkin), Jackson, Allen, Jacques, Cutler, Wright.**

Borough welcomed Wimbledon to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division game.

A goal about 15 minutes from the end by Bunny Larkin, who had come on as substitute for the injured Mickey Boot, put

Borough on the right track when it seemed they were heading for their third home defeat of the season. The outlook for Borough certainly appeared anything but bright when Alec Jackson made the opening for Larkin to shoot into the Wimbledon net.

That goal, which levelled the score at 2-2, sparked off a Borough revival, and at the same time, wrested the initiative from the visitors who up to that point at any rate, looked likely winners. The Dons were visibly shaken by Larkin's goal and seven minutes from time a Lol Wright centre was swept into the net by Tony Jacques to give Borough victory.

Jacques had scored Borough's first goal – the opening goal of the game after ten minutes, when he put through following a scuffle in the Wimbledon goalmouth. Borough's form between their first and second goals bore little relation to their sparkling performances at Romford and Wellington.

They just could not get going, and it came as no surprise when Dennis O'Mara made the scoring 1-1 after 21 minutes, when he headed through a left-wing cross, and then put his side ahead following a free-kick in the 70th minute.

Then almost out of the blue, came those two late Borough goals to snatch the points out of the visitors' grasp. Fred Crump had a good afternoon in goal, making excellent saves from Gerry O'Rourke and Ian Cooke at a crucial period in the game while Malcolm Allen strove his utmost to get Borough together when things were going none too well for them.

## Burton Albion v Nuneaton Borough 02-09-1968

**Burton: Potter, Finney, Watton, Carver, King, Goodall, Metcalfe, Brown, Notley, Clevely, Scattergood. Sub: Vincent.**

**Borough: Crump, Jones, Smith, Drake, Aston, Larkin, Ashe, Allen, Jacques, Cutler, Foweraker. Sub: Keeley.**

Borough made the journey to Eton Park to play Burton Albion in a Southern League Premier Division fixture.

Borough, who since the opening game of the season had scored three or more goals in each of their six engagements, three of which were away from home, failed to get on to the goal trail at Burton on Monday night, and one of the few good shots either side managed brought the home side victory.

The only goal of the match, which shattered Borough's hopes of going to the head of the table, came in the 50th minute. The scorer was Dave Scattergood, an Albion signing from Derby County, whose out-of-the-blue shot from well out was bang on target and entered the Borough net just inside the angle via the underside of the crossbar.

Scattergood's goal enabled Albion, who had lost four of their previous five games, to avenge their 5-0 drubbing at Manor Park. Borough started as though they were going to repeat their Manor Park performance. For upwards of 15 minutes, they attacked relentlessly. Burton hardly had a look-in. But in spite of all the pressure exerted, Borough were unable to achieve a breakthrough.

# Nuneaton Borough 1958-1970 – Part 2



Once Paul Cutler shot into the side netting and a little later the same player put the ball over the top when forced to make a hurried shot by the advancing Fred Potter. Borough's inability to get a goal when the tide was running strongly in their favour gave the home side encouragement.

As the game progressed, Burton gained confidence. They came more into the game and subsequently matched Borough in what was very largely a midfield struggle. Neither side created many real scoring chances, and the result was that neither Fred Crump nor Fred Potter had many anxious moments. Fourteen minutes from the end Mick Keeley came on for Bunny Larkin, but the goals Borough so badly needed failed to materialise.

## Margate v Nuneaton Borough 07-09-1968

**Margate:** Thomas, Verath, Marshall, Clifton, Harrop, Houston, Jarman, Grace, Moffat, Jenkins, Burden. **Sub:** Campbell.

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Drake, Aston, Smith, Allen, Jackson, Wright, Jacques, Cutler, Ashe. **Sub:** Keeley.

Borough made the journey to Hartsdown Park to play Margate in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Controversial refereeing and two sides who failed to raise their game made Saturday's clash at Margate a scrappy mistake-ridden affair. Borough deserved a point but came away empty handed because referee, Mr I. S. Walton, ignored what looked like a perfectly legitimate goal from Tony Jacques and a handling offence by Margate defender Houston almost on his own goal-line.

The match was eventually decided by a Lol Wright blunder in the 59th minute. Wright lost possession with time on his side and let in Derek Grace for Margate's winner.

Two goals inside the first 16 minutes got the game off to a cracking start. Margate took the lead after five minutes through centre-forward Bob Moffat before Tony Jacques equalised with his tenth goal of the season.

The game then deteriorated with neither side being able to stamp any real authority on the proceedings, even after Grace had notched the seaside's second goal.

## Dover v Nuneaton Borough 09-09-1968

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Smith, Aston, Drake, Larkin, Allen, Jackson, Keeley, Jacques, Foweraker. **Sub:** Richards.

Borough made the journey to The Crabble to play Dover in a Southern League Premier Division game.

A Mick Keeley header, the deadly finishing of Tony Jacques and a great left foot goal from Peter Foweraker, made sure of two vital points for Borough at Dover on Monday. But the secret of Borough's success was an all round team effort and the determination to match their attacking skill. Few teams will match Borough in attack when they hit their rhythm and they were streets ahead of Dover in their build ups.

Bunny Larkin had his best game of the season in midfield and his determination to do well summed up the showing of the whole side. Mick Keeley also did some hard running up the middle, Peter Foweraker continued to improve and Tony Jacques kept the home defence on its toes.

Malcolm Allen did a good job of sticking to Dover's Brian Kelly and picking up a lot of loose balls in an around the middle. Without Kelly to prompt their attack and top scorer Robin Chandler, out with an injury, Dover struggled for openings against Borough's tight defensive set up. Stan Aston and Bobby Drake were solid in the middle of the back four with hard running full-backs Roger Smith and Alan Jones on their flanks.

Mick Keeley scored the first goal in the 12th minute, with a header after Alec Jackson had turned the ball back into the middle from a corner. After 29 minutes Clewlow hit Dover's equaliser with a great 25-yard drive which went in like a rocket. Tony Jacques restored the Borough lead midway through the second half from a Mick Keeley pass. One minute later, however, Chris Hurley made it 2-2 with a wonderful chip from a free-kick.

But, with three minutes left, Bunny Larkin and Alec Jackson made the winning goal for Foweraker who met Jackson's cross first time and lashed it into the net with his left foot.

## Nuneaton Borough v Hillingdon Borough 14-09-1968

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Smith, Drake, Aston, Boot, Jackson, Keeley, Jacques, Larkin, Foweraker. **Sub:** Cutler.

Borough welcomed league leaders Hillingdon Borough to Manor Park on Saturday for a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough toppled the league leaders, but their victory was not so clear cut, not so decisive as the scoreline might suggest. Indeed, it was not until Mick Keeley shot Borough's third goal from Peter Foweraker's centre three minutes from the end of ordinary time that the home side put the result completely beyond doubt.

Borough, who had Alec Jackson injured in the 77th minute – Paul Cutler took his place – won the game the hard way because they were never able to take control in midfield.

Borough got off to a flying start, Alec Jackson putting them ahead inside half a minute from a Foweraker cross. Hillingdon drew level in the seventh minute when Bill Carter nodded the ball down for Trevor Watson to run in and drive the ball into the Borough net.

Borough got their second goal in the 62nd minute, Stan Aston going upfield to head through a Jackson corner kick, and the score remained 2-1 until Keeley got that third goal for the home side.

Though not at their best, Borough should be given full credit for successfully completing what was undoubtedly a tough assignment.



# Nuneaton Borough 1958-1970 – Part 2



## Nuneaton Borough v King's Lynn 16-09-1968

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Smith, Drake, Aston, Boot, Wright, Allen, Jacques, Cutler, Keeley.

Borough welcomed King's Lynn to Manor Park on Monday night for a Southern League Premier Division match.

The game was won and lost in the first three minutes, for in that brief period King's Lynn rocked Borough and stunned the 4,178 crowd by grabbing a two goal lead.

Though Borough pulled a goal back in the 74th minute, those two lightning blows by Lynn sufficed to give them both points. Two minutes after the start, Brian Jenkins, the former Borough player, started a move that led to the visitors' first goal. He gave the ball to John Hawksby who put it back to David Brooks. Brooks in turn put it out to David Clarke, who beat Alan Jones and shot. Fred Crump pushed the ball to Jenkins, who accepted an easy chance to slot the ball into the net.

Before the crowd had got over that blow, they had to take another. Ray Savine slipped round Roger Smith and pulled the ball back from the by-line for John Hawksby to make it number two.

It was obvious that if Borough were to avoid defeat, they must get back into the game quickly. But their efforts to cut into the Lynn lead were rather easily held until 18 minutes from the end when Malcolm Allen started a move which saw Mick Keeley head the ball down to Tony Jacques, who beat Norman Coe with a well-placed shot.

Mickey Boot very nearly salvaged a point for Borough in the last minute when he unleashed a great shot which hit the top of the bar, rose into the air and then dropped on top of the bar again before falling behind the net.

Both teams called on substitutes in the second half. In the 66th minute Norman Ashe came on for Lol Wright, while 12 minutes later Lynn player-manager Reg Davies took the place of Brian Jenkins.

Borough never really recovered from those two early setbacks. They saw plenty of the ball and were often attacking, but generally failed to split a solid Lynn defence. The visitors were the faster, more methodical side, and despite that last-minute slice of luck, deserved their success.

## Cheltenham Town v Nuneaton Borough 18-09-1968

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Quartermain, Smith, Cutler, Boot, Larkin, Ashe, Richards, Jacques, Foweraker.

Borough made the journey to Whaddon Road to play Cheltenham Town in a Midland Floodlit Cup game.

Borough manager, Dudley Kernick, must have been very pleased indeed with the way things went in this Floodlit Cup game on Wednesday night – the first either side had played under the new points scheme he had devised and which the clubs accepted at their annual meeting.

Under this new system, ten points are awarded for a win, five for a draw and a point for every goal scored. And as Borough banged in five goals against Cheltenham's two, the visitors came away with 15 points to their opponents' two.

It was a fast, exciting, all-action game with the emphasis very much on attack – on goals. Shots were fired in from all directions; there were seven goals, several near misses and some excellent saves by goalkeepers Fred Crump and Dave Meeson. Borough were much the superior side in the first-half and crossed over with a three-goal lead. And when they scored two more in the early part of the second half, it looked as though Cheltenham were in for a drubbing.

Cheltenham, however, pulled themselves together and after scoring two goals, matched Borough for the rest of the game.

Borough went ahead in the 20th minute when, after Norman Ashe had a shot blocked, Mickey Boot secured possession and let drive, the ball striking Jeffries and being diverted into the net.

In the 34th minute, Boot tried to force his way through, but Bunny Larkin picked up the loose ball, ran a few yards, then turned to shoot into the far corner of the net. When they got their third goal, Borough took the ball from one end of the field to the other. Pat Quartermain, who was making his first appearance of the season, headed a right wing cross down to Roger Smith. The latter put the ball back to Crump, who gave the ball to Boot. Boot pushed it through to Tony Richards, playing only his second game of the season, who left Meeson helpless with a fine shot.

Three minutes after half-time Richards crossed the ball into the middle for Tony Jacques to head just inside the post for Borough's fourth goal. Two minutes later Peter Foweraker put the ball across for Paul Cutler to score the visitors fifth and final goal.

Cheltenham pulled a goal back in the 56th minute, the ball running off Alan Jones to David Hudd, who drove it past Crump, while the same player came along with a second goal for the home side when his shot hit the advancing Crump and went into the net.

## Hereford United v Nuneaton Borough 21-09-1968

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Smith, Larkin, Aston, Boot, Jackson, Allen, Jacques, Cutler, Foweraker.

Borough made the journey to Edgar Street to take on Hereford United in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Though Borough's failure to win at Hereford ended a short reign as leaders, the result should be regarded with a good deal of satisfaction by everybody in the Borough camp. A win and the retention of the league leadership would, of course, have been a perfect result from the Borough angle, but this drawn game should be regarded not as a point lost, but as a point well-earned and thoroughly deserved. In fact, a determined bid for victory by Borough all but succeeded.



First Tony Jacques, put through by Alec Jackson, saw his hard drive tipped over the bar for a corner by goalkeeper Davies; then the goalkeeper pushed a shot from Mickey Boot against the woodwork for the ball to be kicked away to Alan Jones, whose return shot went high over the bar. And finally Davies had to go down full-length to turn aside a Malcolm Allen shot.

If Borough finished looking more like winners than Hereford, they had their work cut out keeping the United at bay in the first-half, when, aided by the strong wind, they kept up steady pressure on the Borough goal.

It required solid work at the back and some good goalkeeping by Fred Crump during this period to keep the visitors within striking distance of the home side. Hereford owed their goals in the 17th and 44th minutes to the John Charles-Albert Derrick combination, for each time, first from a Scarrott cross and then from a high centre from the left, Charles headed the ball forward to Derrick, who headed the ball into the net. On the first occasion, however, there seems little doubt that Charles' header would have crossed the line, but Derrick thrust himself forward to head the ball home to make absolutely sure.

Alec Jackson shot Borough's first equaliser following a Peter Foweraker corner kick, and Foweraker got Borough's second goal in the 56th minute when he cut between Evans and Scarrott to land the ball in the Hereford net near the far post.

## Nuneaton Borough v Worcester City 23-09-1968

**Borough: Crump, Smith, Quartermain, Drake, Allen, Boot, Jackson, Wright, Keeley, Cutler, Foweraker. Sub: Larkin.**

Borough welcomed Worcester City to Manor Park for a Midland Floodlit Cup match.

Borough followed up their 5-2 win at Cheltenham by hammering Worcester City 7-1 on Monday. Thus in their first two engagements under the league's new plan, Borough have amassed a formidable 32 points to their opponents' three. They sailed into the City from the word go and in the first-half shattered Worcester's defensive system to such an extent that by the break they had rattled in six of their seven goals.

City had no answer to the fast, skilful moves and effective finishing of the home side, who played some delightful football. Though lacking the services of Tony Jacques, who took a knock at Hereford on Saturday, Borough got goals at regular intervals throughout the first half, when City were penned in for long periods.

But if the 4,286 spectators expected a continuation of the goalscoring spree, after the change of ends, they were disappointed. Borough failed to take the same firm grip on the proceedings as hitherto, and play became more even. City showed improved form and scored a consolation goal before Borough rounded off the evening with a seventh goal.

Borough took the lead inside three minutes, Alec Jackson making the opening for Mick Keeley to head through.

Following a free-kick in the 11th minute, Cutler put the ball across for Keeley to race in and head a second goal. In the 29th minute Peter Foweraker crossed a low ball which was turned into the net by Paul Cutler. Five minutes' later Roger Smith lobbed the ball into the middle for Cutler to run in and head the ball over the advancing Isaacs into an empty net.

In the 36th minute, a Roger Smith shot struck a defender and Keeley rushed in to bang home goal number five, while just before half-time Isaacs failed to hold a Foweraker cross and Cutler made the half-time score 6-0 to Borough.

The second-half was a much less exciting affair, Harry Middleton netting for City from Ward's pass in the 61st minute and Cutler for Borough with a header from Lol Wright's centre.

## Stourbridge v Nuneaton Borough 28-09-1968

**Borough: Crump, Drake, Smith, Wright, Quartermain, Boot, Jackson, Cutler, Jacques, Keeley, Foweraker. Sub: Jones.**

Borough made the journey to Amblecote to play Stourbridge in a Birmingham Senior Cup first round tie.

Borough have played some of their most effective football away from home, but for this game they were way below their best and were held by the West Midland League side in a dull, goalless game. This was certainly a game Borough ought to have won. That they did not do so was very largely due to their own failings, even though Stourbridge should be given credit for a determined display.

After being matched by Stourbridge for long periods, Borough made a determined effort to win the game in the last ten minutes or so. Nearly all of what little excitement there was in this game came in the dying minutes, when Reg Everton came to the rescue of his side with some good saves.

First he rushed out of goal to charge down a Tony Jacques shot. Next he saved well from another Jacques effort and then from a Mick Keeley shot, and completed a fine afternoon's work with an excellent save from a Jacques' header. In between these saves, Fred Crump, at the other end, had to move out of goal pretty smartly to beat Ken Satchwell to a through ball.

Apart from an early shot by Jacques which went just wide of the far post, and that late burst of activity, little was seen of Borough as a striking force, though they had far more of the ball than their opponents.

Most of their attacks broke down before becoming really threatening, very often because of bad passing. Stourbridge, who had Milner come on for the injured Edwards early in the second half, also lacked punch in attack, and the nearest they came to scoring was when a fine Ashton header was pushed over the top by Crump.

Although they had to work desperately hard to keep Borough out in the closing stages of the game, Stourbridge earned the right to a replay at Manor Park on October 23.



## Bromsgrove Rovers v Nuneaton Borough 30-09-1968

**Borough: Crump, Jones, Smith, Allen, Quartermain, Boot, Ashe, Richards (Cutler), Jacques, Larkin, Foweraker.**

Borough made the journey to the Victoria Ground to play Bromsgrove Rovers in a Midland Floodlit Cup match.

The highlights of this exhilarating game on Monday night were goals scored by Borough's No. 3, Roger Smith, and by Paul Cutler, who netted with the first kick he had after coming on a substitute for the injured Tony Richards.

It was in the 62nd minute that Smith collected the ball inside his own half, raced past two opponents, and then from fully thirty yards out unleashed a shot which hurtled into the net, giving the goalkeeper Chris Hooper no chance at all. Richards sustained a groin injury eight minutes from the end, and no sooner had Cutler come on in his place than Peter Foweraker broke away on the left, rounded a defender, and then crossed a low ball – and there was Cutler to turn it into the net with his first kick.

Borough played some delightful football, and by scoring four more goals brought their tally of points to 46 in three games. Borough opened the scoring after 30 minutes when Boot passed to Richards, who sent Tony Jacques through to beat Hooper with a well-placed shot. Roger Smith got his spectacular goal in the 62nd minute. Then, after 71 minutes, Boot sent Jacques through to make it number three.

Norman Deeley pulled one back for the Rovers in the 75th minute when he calmly placed the ball past Fred Crump, but eight minutes from time Cutler scored Borough's fourth goal.

Norman Ashe nearly got a fifth goal in the dying minutes when he weaved his way through the Bromsgrove defence and placed the ball well out of Hooper's reach, only to see his shot pass just the wrong side of the far post.

This was a game which had the crowd yelling throughout. Both sides shot on sight and a number of goalbound shots crashed against defenders.

Though Borough were the more skilful, the more polished side and threatened whenever they got near goal, the Rovers proved themselves a thoroughly competent side, and it required a very solid back division to deal with their quick thrusts.

## Nuneaton Borough v Romford 05-10-1968

**Borough: Crump, Jones, Smith, Aston, Boot, Jackson, Allen, Jacques, Cutler, Foweraker, Richards. Sub: Quartermain.**

Borough welcomed Romford to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division encounter.

If Romford had any ideas of completing a hat-trick of successes at Manor Park – they won 2-1 there last season and the season before – then their hopes were quickly shattered. Romford held their own for the first fifteen minutes only. After that it was Borough all the way. The Essex side just had no

answer to the skill, resourcefulness and rapier-like thrusts of the home side.

Borough were at their peak before the interval – from about 15 minutes after the start to the break. In this period they launched a whole series of brilliantly executed moves which tore holes in a bewildered Romford defence and produced three well-taken goals. Borough were still immeasurably the better side after the change of ends and added three more goals.

After a fairly good start, Romford were swept aside by a top-form Borough. Yet Romford should not have left the field without having scored. With the score 1-0, Tom Barnett was put clean through but his shot was saved by the advancing Fred Crump. Colin Flatt and Ray Aggio also missed possible chances.

Set against this is the fact that Borough, too, could have scored even more goals. Tony Richards cracked one in, only for the goal to be disallowed for offside, while there were other near misses. The score certainly did not flatter Borough's superiority.

Alec Jackson opened Borough's account in the 24th minute when he rammed the ball past Danny O'Leary after his hard free-kick, following upon a foul on himself, had rebounded off an opponent. Tony Jacques made it 2-0 when he banged the ball in after a chip into the middle by Mickey Boot. A minute before half-time O'Leary had to go down full-length to save from Boot and before he could complete the clearance, Jacques ran in to net the third goal.

In the 62nd minute Jackson lifted the ball across for Jacques to complete his hat-trick with a header. In the 77th minute – four minutes after Terry Tapping had come on for John Read in the Romford side – Paul Cutler headed the fifth goal after Jacques had nodded back a Peter Foweraker centre; and eight minutes from the end Cutler completed the scoring when his shot was helped into the net by full-back Alec Moyses in an attempt to clear.

## Nuneaton Borough v Tamworth 07-10-1968

**Borough: Crump, Drake, Aston, Boot, Jackson, Jacques, Ashe, Richards, Quartermain, Keeley.**

Borough welcomed Tamworth to Manor Park for a Midland Floodlit Cup game.

An injury-time goal by Tony Jacques, who put the ball past goalkeeper John Crosby following an Alec Jackson corner kick, enabled Borough to maintain their 100 per cent record in the Midland Floodlit Cup on Monday night.

Jacques' goal gave Borough a 2-1 victory and twelve points to Tamworth's one. While Tamworth gave a solid, workmanlike display, quickly breaking from defence into attack, Borough were nearly always struggling, and as at Stourbridge, many of the attacks broke down due to faulty passing. Tamworth took the lead through Tommy Morrow, following a Ron Sims'



free-kick after ten minutes, and later Fred Crump came to the rescue of his side with a brilliant save.

Mickey Boot missed the ball to let in Morrow, who was left with only Crump to beat, but the goalkeeper saved a desperate situation for the home side by racing out of goal and diving at the feet of the advancing forward. The goalkeeper was injured but able to resume after receiving attention. Tamworth retained their lead until the 54th minute when Bunny Larkin levelled the scores with a great shot.

Then in the 65th minute Jacques was fouled by Harold Cox when challenging Crosby for the ball and the referee awarded Borough a penalty kick. But to the dismay of Borough supporters Larkin sent his spot kick well wide of the goal, thus missing a great chance of giving the home side the lead. Just before the final whistle, Jacques got the winner.

Borough made five changes from the side that beat Romford so handsomely on Saturday, Bobby Drake, Bunny Larkin, Norman Ashe, Pat Quartermain and Mick Keeley coming in for Alan Jones, Roger Smith, who took a knock on Saturday, Malcolm Allen, Paul Cutler and Peter Foweraker.

## Nuneaton Borough v Guildford City 12-10-1968

**Borough: Crump, Jones, Aston, Boot, Quartermain, Jackson, Allen, Jacques, Cutler, Richards, Foweraker.**

Borough welcomed Guildford City to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

Prior to Saturday Guildford had played four games without conceding a goal, but on this occasion their defence was opened up on four occasions by free-scoring Borough.

It took Borough 25 minutes to break the barrier, but having achieved the breakthrough they went on to complete their second double of the season, and also took over as league leaders from Chelmsford who were beaten 3-0 at Cheltenham.

Guildford played some good football, especially in the first half, when they did well to keep the score down to 1-0. After the break however, persistent pressure brought Borough three more goals.

City found themselves up against a defence which covered up well and left few loopholes. As a consequence Fred Crump had not a great deal to do in the Borough goal until the last few minutes when he had to turn aside shots from Alan Davies and David Watts.

It was in the 25th minute that Borough opened their account, Boot making the running for skipper Alec Jackson to crack in a shot which clipped Paul Cutler on its way into the net. Ten minutes after the break, Tony Jacques headed the ball back to Paul Cutler, whose effort struck the bar. The ball was headed away by Tommy Anthony to Tony Richards, whose return header beat goalkeeper John Brooks.

In the 80th minute Peter Foweraker broke away on the left

and crossed the ball to Richards who scored his second goal with a diving header, and five minutes from the end Richards sent Tony Jacques through to slam in number four.

This was a competent, resolute Borough who pounded away at the City defence until eventually it cracked.

## Corby Town v Nuneaton Borough 14-10-1968

**Borough: Crump, Jones, Aston, Drake, Quartermain, Ashe, Wright, Deakin, Cutler, Richards, Larkin.**

Borough made the journey to Corby to play the first leg of the Anglia Floodlit Trophy.

Corby, one of the sides relegated to Division 1 at the end of last season, were an efficient, resolute, determined side, and on this showing ought to do well this season. They played speedy, direct football; in fact, did so well that nobody could possibly have begrudged them their victory.

Against a side that kept up such a fast pace, Borough found difficulty in settling down. Indeed, they were able only to produce occasional flashes of the form of which they are capable. It was a blank first-half in which there was little to choose between the two sides, except perhaps that Corby did more attacking than their opponents.

If it were thought that Corby's pace must slacken after the change of ends, it certainly did not prove the case. They kept hammering away until, in the 65th minute, they went ahead. They got a second three minutes later, and a third ten minutes from time to make Borough's task in the second leg a most difficult one.

Corby went ahead after 65 minutes when Goodall passed to Scott, who put McNeill away on the left. He had a clear run in and cleverly placed the ball over the advancing Fred Crump into the empty net. Three minutes later Stan Aston, who was not feeling well, missed to ball to let in Irvine, who, with only Crump to beat, made no mistake and Black completed the scoring when he netted from a McGeorge centre.

## Worcester City v Nuneaton Borough 16-10-1968

**Borough: Crump, Jones, Aston, Allen, Quartermain, Boot, Cutler, Jackson, Richards, Jacques, Foweraker.**

Borough made the journey to St George's Lane to play Worcester City in a Southern League Premier Division match.

It's tough at the top, as Borough found at Worcester on Wednesday night, for fourth-from-bottom City gave the league leaders as hard a game as they are likely to get anywhere. This was a vastly different City to the side hammered 7-1 in the Midland Floodlit Cup, and the visitors had to fight every inch of the way to win a point.

It was a very close, tense struggle from first kick to last. At times tempers became frayed as the two sides put everything they had into an effort to force a win. So dour became the struggle that the game abounded in free-kicks.

# Nuneaton Borough 1958-1970 – Part 2



Four players, in fact, had their names taken – Tony Jacques and Harry Middleton, following clashes with opponents, and Mickey Boot and Alan Jones for kicking the ball away after the referee had awarded a free-kick.

Borough got off to a bad start by conceding a goal after only two minutes, and it was not until almost on half-time they were able to draw level. For most of the second half, Borough had to withstand strong pressure on their goal.

Griffiths and Reynolds both put the ball over the top in strong City attacks, while Fred Crump cut out a very dangerous-looking low cross from Ward. On the other hand, almost with the last kick of the match, Alec Jackson very nearly won the game with a clever flick which Dave MacLaren just got to. Tony Richards, too, saw one of his headers lob up and drop just beyond the far end of the goal.

In the first-half Jackson had sent a hard header just wide of the goal, while Richards slammed in a great shot which McLaren did well to stop near a post. By and large, though, neither side created many real scoring chances, both defences behaving well.

The game had only been in progress two minutes when Alan Jones slipped when about to challenge Ward for possession, with the result that the latter was left with a clear field ahead of him. He ran on unchallenged to the bye-line and then crossed the ball for Brayley Reynolds to put through from close range.

The first half had gone into two minutes of injury time when Borough got the equaliser. Following some neat passing, Mickey Boot broke away on the left and put the ball across goal to Jackson for Tony Jacques to run in and beat MacLaren from close range.

All points picked up away from home are good points – and Borough would not be dissatisfied with the one they got in this encounter. It was certainly earned the hard way – only by a tremendous effort.

## Chelmsford City v Nuneaton Borough 19-10-1968

**Borough: Crump, Jones, Smith, Drake, Aston, Boot, Jackson, Allen, Jacques, Deakin, Foweraker. Sub: Quartermain.**

Borough made to journey to play Chelmsford City in a Southern League Premier Division game.

A two goal second half rally which rocked Chelmsford back on their heels, failed to save Borough from defeat at New Writtle Street on Saturday. Trailing 3-0 at half-time, Nuneaton threw everything into attack after the break. But when Mickey Boot scored the second goal there was only two minutes left.

Borough were too defensive-minded in the first-half. Often, Tony Jacques was left alone upfield, and they paid the penalty. Peter Leggett shot City into the lead in the 27th minute. Tony Moy made it 2-0 four minutes later and Tony Butcher notched a third for the champions only seconds before the half-time whistle.

But Borough were a different side after the break. They altered their outlook and Chelmsford found themselves on the receiving end of a stream of attacks. Peter Deakin, making an impressive Southern League debut, pulled back one goal in the 49th minute and Borough had City on the hop. Tony Jacques mis-hit an Alec Jackson cross and blazed his shot over the bar from the sort of chance he usually converts into a goal and Chelmsford were stretched for long periods.

When the home side did manage to set up an attack they found Stan Aston and Roger Smith in great form in the Borough defence and they were restricted to one second half chance when Butcher shot inches wide.

But the minutes ticked away before Boot scored from the edge of the penalty area in the 88th minute – too late for Borough to do much more. They were still on the attack when the whistle went. If they had shown more aggression in the first-half they could easily have come away with a point.

As it was, Chelmsford recorded their first double of the season and moved up to join Nuneaton at the top of the table, but behind Borough on goal average.

## Nuneaton Borough v Cheltenham Town 21-10-1968

**Borough: Crump, Smith, Quartermain, Deakin, Aston, Boot, Wright, Cutler, Jacques, Richards, Jackson.**

Borough welcomed Cheltenham Town to Manor Park for a Midland Floodlit Cup encounter.

Borough failed to convert their third penalty kick in a row on Monday night, when their hundred per cent record in the competition was brought to an end.

When Alec Jackson had his spot kick saved by goalkeeper Pellant in the 64th minute, after the Borough skipper had been brought down in the area, he followed in the footsteps of Paul Cutler and Bunny Larkin, both of whom had failed to score from penalty kicks this season. Cutler had his shot saved in the game against Wellington in the first leg of the Southern League Cup, while Larkin fired wide in the Floodlit Cup game against Tamworth.

Nine minutes before Jackson's miss, Alec Crason had a goal disallowed, while near the end Collins shot over the top when a second Cheltenham goal looked on. Then, almost on time, Peter Deakin flashed the ball over the top for Borough.

Borough went ahead in the 23rd minute when Tony Jacques deflected a hard, low Peter Deakin drive into the Cheltenham net. The visitors levelled the score in the 55th minute, Dave Collins exploiting a big gap in the Borough defence to run through unchallenged to beat Fred Crump.

After a bright opening, Borough lost their grip on the game, and though doing a great deal of attacking, found difficulty in creating openings, and most of their shots were from long range. When they did get near goal their finishing was not impressive. After a shaky start, Cheltenham came much more into the game and deserved their six points.



## Nuneaton Borough v Stourbridge 23-10-1968

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Drake, Aston, Allen, Jackson, Deakin, Jacques, Richards, Cutler, Foweraker.

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

Borough will have to do much better than they did in this game if they are to make further progress when they meet Tamworth. They certainly made hard work of putting Stourbridge out of the competition. Borough had enough chances against the West Midland League side to have won by quite a comfortable margin, yet they only managed to struggle through by the odd goal in three.

Most of the traffic was one-way – in the direction of the Stourbridge goal. Chance after chance was created – and chance after chance was frittered away. While every credit must be given to Reg Everton for a most courageous display in the Stourbridge goal, in the face of very heavy pressure, it must be said that Borough have only themselves to blame for scoring just two goals.

It was a tribute to Stourbridge's pluck and determination that though often defending rather desperately, they still contrived to build up some useful-looking attacks, and every now and again Fred Crump had to bring off a good save to keep them out. He made very good clearances from Harry Duerdin and Burt Flannery. One of Borough's best efforts was a Peter Deakin shot which flashed just wide of a post.

Stourbridge lost Graham Sissons through injury in the 65th minute and called upon their substitute. Jacques got his first goal in the 48th minute when he ran through the middle to shoot past Everton as defenders were closing in on him. His second goal came six minutes later when Peter Foweraker came in along the bye-line to pull one back for Jacques to run in and shoot hard into the net. Ken Satchwell got a last minute goal for Stourbridge.

## Nuneaton Borough v Margate 26-10-1968

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Aston, Allen, Drake, Boot, Deakin, Jackson, Cutler, Jacques, Foweraker. **Sub:** Keeley.

**Margate:** Ede, Yorath, Marshall, Clifton, Harrop, Campbell, Amato, Grace, Houston, Moffat, Jenkins. **Sub:** Burden.

Borough welcomed Margate to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough have the best attack in the Southern League, an attack which has proved beyond shadow of a doubt that it can score goals. But, against Margate they made too many defensive mistakes, slips which left them with a tremendous fight on their hands. In the end, their attacking power saw them through and nearly won them the match. But the defenders finished with question marks hanging over their heads.

The fact that these slips led to one of the most exciting

endings to a game for a long time must have been of little consolation to Dudley Kernick. For they cost Borough their top of the table spot and their fifth home league point of the season. The game itself was a real corker with a tremendous thrill-packed ending. The second half saw Borough fight back from 3-1 down to take the lead. With just minutes left more sloppiness in defence led to full-back Yorath netting an equaliser for the struggling seashiders.

Foweraker sparked off the goal rush in the fifth minute. Houston equalised for Margate and then Borough creaked. Moffatt made it 2-1 for the Kent side following a midfield mistake and Houston juggled with the ball in front of goal before notching Margate's third as the Nuneaton defence looked on.

But the picture changed completely after the break. Borough went after goals and got a vital one in the 47th minute through Paul Cutler. Peter Deakin made it 3-3 with a 68th minute 25 yarder and Cutler shot Nuneaton ahead with seven minutes to go.

Then the Manor Park side made their final boob. Margate marksman Rob Moffat screened the ball and moved across the face of the 18 yards box. He shook off a lunging tackle from Mickey Boot, ignored his shadow Malcolm Allen and rolled the ball back to Yorath who had moved half the length of the field. The full back scored with a first-time shot.

It was a fitting end to a match which provided the 3,000 crowd with some first class soccer entertainment. But there is still the question of those defensive slips.

## Tamworth v Nuneaton Borough 09-11-1968

**Tamworth:** Crosby, Sims, Newton, Hall, Cox, Seedhouse, McGrath, Morrow, Holbutt, Jessop, Carter. **Sub:** Bache.

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Smith, Aston, Allen, Jackson, Larkin, Cutler, Richards, Keeley, Foweraker. **Sub:** Wright.

Borough made the journey to Kettlebrook for a Birmingham Senior Cup second round tie against Tamworth.

Tamworth tore to pieces a demoralised Borough on Saturday, when the Manor Park side took a hammering neither they nor their supporters will readily forget. It was the biggest battering Borough had taken since they were beaten by a similar margin at Hereford in the FA Cup in November 1955.

So three days after their dismissal from the FA Cup, Borough made their exit from the Birmingham Senior Cup. This was a remarkable game in that Tamworth snapped up practically every scoring chance they had.

Their first two goals followed defensive mistakes, while on another occasion the Borough defenders stood still as a Barry Holbutt header sailed over their heads into the net.

In fairness to Borough, however, it has to be said that the woodwork of the Tamworth goal was struck three times, first when goalkeeper John Crosby pushed a centre from Peter Foweraker against the underside of the bar; next when Mick Keeley headed against a post; and then when Foweraker



dropped a centre on top of the bar. Tony Richards had a header saved on the line by David Seedhouse; Peter Foweraker missed an easy chance after getting right through, while just before the end Richards shot straight at Crosby when close in.

Even so, Borough were never able to match Tamworth when it came to turning chances and half-chances into goals. Tamworth shattered a bewildered Borough defence. Tommy Morrow, who had a great game, got three of his side's goals and made two others; Barry Holbutt also scored three, the other two being obtained by Graham Jessop.

Tamworth sailed in from the word "go." Within 90 seconds they had gone into the lead, and by the time the game had been in progress a quarter of an hour, they were leading 4-0. They got another goal before half-time to make it 5-0 at the break. After the change of ends, the home side cracked in three more, while just before the final whistle Tony Richards got a consolation goal for Borough from a Cutler cross.

The scoresheet read: Jessop (90 seconds); Jessop (8 minutes); Holbutt (13 minutes); Morrow (15 minutes); Morrow (35 minutes); Holbutt (51 minutes); Morrow (60 minutes); Holbutt (79 minutes); Richards (86 minutes).

The secret of Tamworth's success was lightning raids – raids which had the Borough defence rocking and reeling – and the ability to take scoring chances whether created by themselves or by the mistakes of their opponents.

## Tamworth v Nuneaton Borough 11-11-1968

**Borough: Crump, Jones, Smith, Allen, Aston, Quartermain, Jackson, Richards, Cutler, Larkin, Foweraker.**

Borough made the journey to Kettlebrook for a Midland Floodlit Cup match against Tamworth.

Borough went some way towards making amends for the drubbing they received on Saturday, when they achieved an emphatic victory over the West Midland League leaders. The Manor Park side obtained this win with but one change from the side beaten so heavily on Saturday, Pat Quartermain coming in for the injured Mick Keeley.

Five minutes after the kick-off – after Tony Richards had a goal disallowed for offside – Tamworth were awarded a penalty when Roger Smith handled a Graham Jessop header. Tommy Morrow took the kick and shot hard for goal, but diving to the right, Fred Crump brought off a fine save.

Then in the 40th minute, Borough were awarded a penalty when Harold Cox handled a Roger Smith centre. Following failures by Paul Cutler, Alec Jackson and Bunny Larkin to score from the spot in previous games this season, Peter Foweraker was entrusted with the kick and made no mistake.

That penalty goal gave Borough just the incentive they needed, and they struck again four minutes later, when Roger Smith took the ball through and shot. John Crosby could only parry the shot and Paul Cutler was on the spot to put the visitors two up at half-time.

Six minutes after the change of ends it was 3-0, Smith and Larkin paving the way for Paul Cutler to head past Crosby, while in the 81st minute Tony Richards shot Borough's fourth and final goal after two shots had been blocked. On this occasion, Tamworth, who were unchanged, found goal-getting a more difficult proposition than on Saturday, due partly to their own failures in front of goal, and partly to much stronger resistance from the Borough defence, which, this time, gave a solid display and contested every inch of ground.

It was sound covering at the back and good goalkeeping that kept Tamworth at bay when they were looking at their most dangerous – in the first half hour of the game. The first half was contested at a cracking pace, and Tamworth, playing fast attacking football, had more scoring chances than Borough, but lacked the same deadly finishing power as on Saturday.

Foweraker's penalty goal was the turning point in the game. Tamworth continued to play well after the break. Borough, however, had the edge and went on to win with something to spare. Nuneaton must be given full marks for their great efforts to make up for that wretched performance on Saturday. They were obviously all out to prove both to the Tamworth crowd and to their own followers that their earlier display was much too bad to be true – and succeeded in proving their point.

## Have Borough Fans Been Duped?

Even Nuneaton Borough's 4-0 "revenge" win over Tamworth on Monday night did little to erase the memory of Saturday's humiliation at the hands of the Staffordshire club.

On that occasion the shame-line read: Tamworth 8, Nuneaton 1.

Perhaps now, in view of some of the results between Southern League and West Midland League clubs when they meet, is an opportune time to reflect on the merits of both of the leagues.

Is the Southern League so much superior as sometimes claimed? Certainly the players are paid more handsomely; certainly spectators have to pay more at the turnstiles to provide for them; but it is still very questionable whether the football is so much better.

Have Borough fans been duped into thinking that they are watching something vastly superior to what goes on at Sheepy Road, for instance, or even at the Oval, the headquarters of lowly Bedworth?

Before rising to the defence of the Southern League, consider some of the results in recent years when teams from the two leagues come into opposition. Nuneaton, in particular, have often found it hard graft. Rugby, in fact, lost to Bedworth in the FA Cup only this year.

It will be so easy to claim that the attraction of the cup games brings the best out of the underdogs, and this could be readily conceded if some of the so-called "freak" results were only isolated. But they occur so consistently.

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And when the pride of the Southern League is thrashed twice in three days – the the tune of 3-0 and 8-1 – by clubs from an “inferior” league, it offers food for thought on the standard of football in the two leagues.

## **Nuneaton Borough v Wellington Town 18-11-1968**

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Smith, Quartermain, Aston, Allen, Larkin, Jackson, Cutler, Jacques, Foweraker. **Sub:** Boot.

**Wellington:** Irvine, Whitehouse, McKinney, Ball, Coton, Ray, Matthews, Fudge, Bentley, Houghton, Jagger. **Sub:** Harris.

Borough welcomed Wellington Town to Manor Park for a Midland Floodlit Cup match.

Peter Foweraker added his name to the list of Borough players who have failed to score from the penalty spot this season. It was in the 14th minute that McKinney brought down Alec Jackson in the penalty area. Foweraker, who after earlier failures this season by a number of players, scored against Tamworth, but this time his shot was saved by Bobby Irvine in the Wellington goal. This was Borough's fourth miss in five attempts, but in the 63rd minute another penalty was awarded to the home side after Cutler had been fetched down by Ray. This time Larkin stepped up, but his shot was saved by Irvine, but Ray had moved into the penalty area as the kick was being taken and Mr Kirkpatrick ordered the kick to be retaken. This time Pat Quartermain took the kick and made no mistake with a hard drive.

Quartermain's goal enabled Borough to neutralise a goal scored for Wellington by Houghton, who headed through a Matthews centre in the 34th minute. This Wellington success immediately followed a very good save by Irvine from Tony Jacques, back in the side after suffering from concussion sustained in the FA Cup replay at Kidderminster.

Borough got the winning goal in the 61st minute when the Wellington goalkeeper punched away a Foweraker corner kick for Paul Cutler to hook the ball into the far corner of the net. Though Fred Crump and Irvine made some good saves, neither side really excelled in the art of finishing off their moves to the best advantage, and both should have scored more goals considering the number of chances they had.

## **Nuneaton Borough v Yeovil Town 23-11-1968**

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Smith, Aston, Quartermain, Boot, Allen, Jackson, Cutler, Jacques, Foweraker.

Borough welcomed Yeovil Town to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division match.

Borough just cannot afford slips like this and others they have made at Manor Park this season – not if they are to keep alive their championship hopes. What was most disappointing was that Yeovil were able to achieve their success without producing the form expected of a top of the table side.

Nor, for that matter, did Borough shape anything like a team occupying third place in the table. Their play generally lacked

authority and inspiration. But what was missing more than anything else was the ability to press home the advantage of having struck the first blow.

On the other hand, when, in the second half, Yeovil's big chance came, they cashed in with a couple of goals to take back with them to Somerset two priceless points. As a result of their defeat Borough sank to sixth position in the table, three points behind the leaders.

This was yet another game Borough should not have lost. They had much the better of the first-half exchanges. Indeed, so little was seen of the visitors that neither Borough nor their supporters could have anticipated defeat. While Borough were continually buzzing around the Yeovil goal, Fred Crump at the other end scarcely had a shot to save, so few and far between were the visitors' raids.

Yet when half-time arrived Borough were leading by only one goal, largely because most of their raids broke down in the penalty area. It has to be said, though, that Nuneaton were unfortunate when just before the break, Jacques shot against a post with goalkeeper Ken Jones well beaten. A goal at that point might very well have settled the issue.

After the change of ends, however, Borough lost their grip on things. They failed to retain the initiative they had held without much trouble in the first session and for the first time in the game Yeovil began to come into the reckoning. With what was practically their first real chance, they levelled the scores and seven minutes from the end they grabbed the winner.

Borough got their goal a quarter of an hour from the start when Paul Cutler seized on a faulty clearance and pushed the ball through to Tony Jacques, who nipped in to put the home side ahead. In the 55th minute Yeovil drew level. Dick Plumb, the visitors' signing from Bristol Rovers, got the ball on the left wing, shrugged off a tackle by Pat Quartermain, and ran on to put a low ball across the face of the goal for Dick Elliott to run in and score. In the 77th minute Dick Plumb on the right, put across a ball which swung in and squeezed between Crump and the post into the net.

## **Nuneaton Borough v Banbury United 26-11-1968**

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Smith, Aston, Drake, Allen, Deakin, Jackson, Boot, Jacques, Cutler.

Borough welcomed Banbury United to Manor Park for a Southern League Cup third round game on Monday night.

The highlight of this game saw a fine goal by Nuneaton's No. 3 Roger Smith. It was ten minutes from the break when Paul Cutler sent the overlapping full-back away with an astute pass. As Smith moved forward, Dave McArthur, the Banbury keeper, came out to meet him. As he did so, Smith lobbed the ball towards goal, and judged his effort so well that though he jumped, the goalkeeper could only get his fingertips to the ball which dropped behind him and ran on into the net with the goalkeeper scrambling after it.





This was the second of Borough's two goals, the first having come from a penalty kick in the 35th minute. Peter Deakin was racing through when he was brought down by Jimmy Knox. In the absence of Pat Quartermain, the last successful spot kicker, Deakin was entrusted with the kick and flashed the ball into the back of the net. These two goals enabled Borough to reach the quarter-finals of the Cup.

Borough did not do at all badly in the first-half, when they played some quite attractive football. But as against Yeovil, their form deteriorated after the change of ends, when many of their attacks again broke down near goal, either through inaccurate passing or faulty finishing.

In the second half Paul Cutler flashed a shot over the top; Alec Jackson, who before the break caused McArthur to bring off a great save, got through without being able to score and just before the finish shot over the bar. Tony Jacques, who was closely marked by his former team mates, did manage to get the ball into the net, only to be pulled up for offside.

Banbury proved themselves to be a quite lively side and in Colin Holder, had a great worker. He thoroughly tested Fred Crump with one fine shot, but the goalkeeper brought off an excellent save. On another occasion Holder got through but lost his chance when he moved to the right instead of going straight ahead. Lofty also had a good shot saved by Crump.

Borough made two changes from the side beaten by Yeovil, Peter Deakin and Bobby Drake coming in for Pat Quartermain and Peter Foweraker. Drake had his name taken following a foul on Holder in the second half.

## Cambridge United v Nuneaton Borough 30-11-1968

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Aston, Drake, Smith, Deakin, Allen, Jackson, Boot, Jacques, Cutler.

Borough travelled to the Abbey Stadium to play Cambridge United in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough failed to show the improvement necessary to put them back among the leading contenders for the league championship. Indeed, if they do not soon get back on to the winning trail, they may find themselves well behind the pacemakers. But there is a long way to go yet.

Borough played well for the first quarter of an hour, during which period they caused the home defence plenty of trouble, and only a fine save by Flack from a Mickey Boot header prevented them from taking the lead. But then came the shocks, for within four minutes Borough found themselves well and truly in trouble as they fell two goals in arrears.

Though the visitors managed to cut into the Cambridge lead seven minutes after half-time, they never recovered their confidence, and their hopes of salvaging a point were finally quashed four minutes from time, when United got a third goal from a penalty.

Until this penalty kick, Borough were in the game with a chance, but the fact is that their back division had a harder

job coping with Cambridge attacks than the Cambridge defence had dealing with Borough's raids.

Cambridge were tight in defence, where Baker kept a close eye on Tony Jacques, while up front they were fast and purposeful and generally showed more punch than their opponents. Fred Crump brought off several first-class saves when United were making strenuous efforts to settle the issue with a third goal.

But that third decisive goal did not come until the 86th minute when, during a hectic tussle in front of the Borough goal, the referee ruled that Roger Smith handled in the penalty area. Borough claimed that he chested the ball down.

From the spot kick Lindsey shot into the net to make the score 3-1, and give the home side the two points they needed to revive their title prospects after losing at Rugby and drawing at Kettering.

Cambridge got their first goal in the 19th minute when Borough dropped back to deal with a Saunders corner kick, which was cleared downfield by Jacques. The clearance was picked up by Lindsey in a wide-open space in midfield. The Cambridge full-back pushed the ball to Hardy who, in turn slipped a pass through to Gregson, who beat Crump with a fine shot.

Four minutes later from another Saunders corner kick, Cassidy headed towards the post, and the ball ran into the net through Jones' legs. It was seven minutes after half-time that Borough reduced the lead. Following a Malcolm Allen free-kick, Bobby Drake gave the ball to Boot. When Boot was challenged, the ball ran to Paul Cutler, who beat Flack with a well-placed shot.

## Nuneaton Borough v Lockheed 02-12-1968

**Borough:** Crump, Drake, Boot, Aston, Smith, Larkin, Jackson, Wright, Cutler, Richards, Foweraker.

Borough welcomed Lockheed to Manor Park for a Camkin Cup first round tie.

For some weeks now Borough have been failing to make the best use of their scoring chances, but most certainly they have not allowed to slip by as many opportunities in one game as they did against Lockheed on Monday.

Borough got off to a bad start when Mick Keeley failed with an easy opening in the first few minutes of the game. They went on missing chances – and then, midway through the first-half Bill Salmon showed them how to get goals by slamming a couple of shots past Fred Crump.

Lockheed hung on to their 2-0 lead until the 66th minute when, at long last, Borough got a goal. They were awarded a free-kick, and Bunny Larkin touched the ball to Mickey Boot, whose shot really rocketed into the net. The ball was again in the Lockheed net four minutes later, but the referee had already blown for a penalty against Ramshaw. Peter Deakin took the spot kick and put the ball past Bob Steane to level the scores.

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Lockheed had taken the lead after 20 minutes, when a Vest free-kick travelled to Holmes, back to Vest and then to Salmon, who netted with a fine shot. The visitors struck again four minutes later when Crump punched away a Lawton free-kick for Salmon to gain possession and score again.

Though there can be no excuse whatsoever for some of Borough's misses, there were occasions when the Lockheed goal was lucky to escape downfall. After Keeley had a goal disallowed for offside, Paul Cutler put Keeley through for the latter to slip the ball past the advancing goalkeeper towards the empty net. A goal looked certain, until Roberts raced back to kick away from off the line.

Later, a Bunny Larkin shot was on its way into the Lockheed net when the referee blew for offside against Jackson. Then a Deakin shot crashed against the underside of the bar and bounced down.

After 21 minutes' play Cutler was injured and taken to hospital, where it was found that he was suffering from a badly bruised shin. His place was taken by Deakin.

## Nuneaton Borough v Dover 07-12-1968

**Borough: Crump, Smith, Drake, Aston, Boot, Allen, Deakin, Jackson, Larkin, Richards, Foweraker.**

Borough welcomed Dover to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division game.

Skipper Alec Jackson and goalkeeper Fred Crump helped Borough to halt their slide down the Southern League table against Dover on Saturday. Jackson scored the winning goal with just seconds left when he launched himself at a Peter Deakin shot which was going wide and headed the ball home.

But Crump had earlier helped to keep the Manor Park side's hopes alive with some smart work in the Borough goal. More than once, he was forced to dash to the edge of his 18-yard box to save. He stopped what looked like two certain goals after Dover goal ace Robin Chandler had burst through.

Jackson's goal provided a spectacular ending to an uninspiring game. But it could make all of the difference. Things could change now that Borough have emerged from the November spell which damaged their championship hopes. They still have to show some of the flair and sparkle which took them to the top of the table and sent their supporters' hopes soaring.

But the bad patch could be over despite the fact that the Dover game was often scrappy with chances being missed by both sides. The match began as if it would be a high scoring clash and almost faded into a goalless draw. This was a result of the chances tossed away by both sides.

Chandler should have scored for Dover, Tony Richards had one effort scooped away as it dropped towards the line and Bunny Larkin almost hit the corner flag from close in after the break. Dover, who relied a lot on Chandler for their attacking power, came for a point and had settled for one as the game

went into its dying minutes. Borough launched a last ditch effort to take two points and there was a lot of action in the Dover goalmouth as the minutes ticked away.

Then Jackson's goal relieved the tension and the pressure which has built up during Nuneaton's bad spell and which had made things go from bad to worse.

## Burton Albion v Nuneaton Borough 10-12-1968

**Burton: Potter, Finney, Watton, Clevely, Goodall, Bailey, Metcalfe, Price, Notley, Bostock, Scattergood. Sub: Carver.**

**Borough: Crump, Smith, Drake, Aston, Boot, Larkin, Wright, Keeley, Richards, Deakin, Jackson. Sub: Allen**

Borough made the journey to play Burton Albion in a Midland Floodlit Cup game on Tuesday night.

Tony Richards, stand-in striker for ace goal-snatcher Tony Jacques, showed Borough fans that he is far from finished, with a superb header which salvaged a draw and six points from under the dim Eton Park lights.

Richards scored his goal in the 31st minute of a game lacking atmosphere, and for the most part, excitement. It equalised a 21st minute goal from Price. Peter Deakin started the move. He fed Mick Keeley on the left, and the following centre was rocketed into the net from the famous head of Richards.

It should have been the signal for Borough to start a goal avalanche against a poor Burton side. It wasn't – despite the midfield promptings of Alec Jackson and Bunny Larkin. They had their chances – but more often than not, the ball was either ballooned over the top of scrambled away for fruitless corners.

Twice Lol Wright was sent galloping through by Jackson. Twice he fluffed the chances. Then Larkin and Jackson tried long-range efforts which went harmlessly wide, and Fred Potter dived courageously to cut out a Jackson centre which only needed a touch from Mick Keeley. But try as they might Borough could not break through again. Not because Burton were particularly tight at the back. But because Borough were hurried in front of goal.

Three times in the second half, Burton were all at sea in their own 18 yard area. But Larkin blazed over, Keeley made a hash of another chance, and Richards saw a header bounce safely into Potter's arms.

Sympathy should be given to Stan Aston, who had many high balls to deal with under the wretched lights, and it is no wonder he had difficulty in dealing with them

## Nuneaton Borough v Corby Town 13-12-1968

**Borough: Crump, Drake, Allen, Boot, Aston, Deakin, Cutler, Richards, Foweraker, Larkin.**

Borough welcomed Corby Town to Manor Park for an Anglia Floodlit Trophy second leg tie. Borough lost the first leg 3-0.

Borough went for all out attack to try to claw their way back into the tie. But where they came unstuck was that they had

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not the necessary finishing power to make their attacking policy a success. They did 70 per cent of the attacking; traffic was mostly one-way – towards the Corby goal. Yet when it came to capping their moves, they were just as unimpressive as they have been in many recent games.

Chance after chance was tossed away, although there were times when only good goalkeeping kept them out. One Borough player who was not slow taking a crack at goal was Bunny Larkin, and it was fitting that he should have scored his side's goal with an unstoppable shot.

Peter Deakin saw one good shot well saved by Alexander, while another shot of his was beaten out by the goalkeeper, ran across goal and then hit a post before being cleared. In the main, however, Borough once again did not shine as marksmen. With so many players involved in the bid for goals, Borough were bound to leave holes at the back, and twice McNeil exploited open spaces to score for Corby – in the 17th minute, when he slammed a great shot past Fred Crump, and in the 54th minute, when he was put clean through to slip the ball past Crump.

These two goals put Borough in the impossible position of being five goals behind on the two legs. But in the 76th minute they did manage a consolation goal, Mickey Boot touching a free-kick to Bunny Larkin, who slashed the ball past a helpless Alexander.

## Lockheed v Nuneaton Borough 16-12-1968

**Lockheed:** Steane, Ramshaw, Anthony, Roberts, Lawton, Salmon, Unwin, Skellington, Holmes, Gretton, Hall. **Sub:** Tedds.

**Borough:** Crump, Boot, Aston, Drake, Smith, Allen, Larkin, Wright, Jackson, Cutler, Foweraker. **Sub:** Quartermain.

Borough made the journey to The Windmill ground to play Lockheed in a Camkin Cup first round replay.

There was not a great deal between the teams in this match on Monday night, until Paul Cutler gave Borough a 2-1 lead in the 65th minute. That goal was the signal for an all-out Borough effort and in the end they won quite decisively.

Cutler's goal was the turning point in the game. Three minutes' later Lol Wright scored a great goal to increase the visitors' lead, and from that point onwards it was Borough all the way. They did almost as they pleased in the last 15 minutes or so, and had they finished with five or six goals, Lockheed could hardly have complained since their goal had some narrow squeaks in the final stages of the game.

On a frost-bound pitch, Borough played their best football for quite some time, moving the ball about smartly and, in the second half at any rate, showing greatly improved marksmanship.

The visitors started somewhat uncertainly, and when Ray Holmes fastened on to a through ball from Unwin to close in and slam the ball past Fred Crump in the 15th minute, Borough's prospects looked grim. Despite the early reverse

Borough continued to play good football without being able to claim any marked advantage over the Midland League side.

But in the 28th minute, during a hectic tussle in front of the Lockheed goal, Alec Jackson was held by the goalkeeper. The referee awarded a penalty and from the spot Peter Foweraker crashed the ball into the net to level the scores. In the 52nd minute Jackson hit a post, but it remained anybody's game until the 65th minute when Foweraker centred for Paul Cutler to shoot. Steane managed to get a hand to the ball but it escaped his grasp and ran into the net.

Then, in the 68th minute, came the highlight of the match – a brilliant goal by Lol Wright. He took a throw-in way out on the left, cut inside, beat three men, and then beat Steane with an unstoppable shot. In the 61st minute Bobby Drake had his name taken for a tackle on Holmes.

This was a much better Borough display in conditions scarcely conducive to good, accurate football. Yet they mastered the conditions and, especially in the second half, achieved some quite attractive moves. Lockheed held their own for more than half the game, but in the end were a well-beaten side.

## Nuneaton Borough v Weymouth 21-12-1968

**Borough:** Crump, Boot, Drake, Aston, Smith, Allen, Larkin, Wright, Jackson, Cutler, Foweraker. **Sub:** Quartermain.

**Weymouth:** Watts, Glover, Roundsevell, Muir, Hobson, Hall, Bennett, Etheridge, Parks, Gough, Stocker. **Sub:** House.

Borough welcomed Weymouth to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division encounter.



**Peter Foweraker (centre) and Bunny Larkin (right) engaged in a tussle for possession with three Weymouth defenders at Manor Park on Saturday.**

Photo: Nuneaton Observer

Borough had to win this match to stay among the challengers for the championship – and win they did. Yet while the result was satisfactory from Borough's point of view, the football never reached the standard expected.

The game generally lacked excitement, and neither side

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impressed near goal. In fact both teams will have to show much greater striking power than in this game if they are to keep in touch with the title pacemakers. Nuneaton did most of the attacking but, once again, far too many of their attacks broke down near goal, though some of the credit for this must be given to the Weymouth defence.

Yet Borough got the goal that mattered, the goal that earned them two vital points. It came in the 22nd minute when Roger Smith split the Weymouth defence with a perfect through-ball, which Paul Cutler took in his stride to shoot past goalkeeper Graham Watts. It was a well-taken goal, yet equally good chances both before and afterwards were missed.

But the worst miss of the match was surely that of Weymouth's No. 7, Dave Bennett, in the 14th minute. George Muir started the move with a pass to Keith Etheridge, who sent Bennett through. The winger's first shot struck Fred Crump and rebounded to him. He now had an empty net ahead of him but to the great relief of everybody in the Borough camp Bennett put the ball over the bar.

Chief honours went to the Borough defence which, throughout kept a firm grip on the Weymouth forwards and allowed them no more chances like the one Bennett missed. In fact Crump was so well covered that the Borough keeper had a particularly easy afternoon.

One of Borough's brightest periods was towards the end of the game when Alec Jackson missed a chance – there were unsuccessful appeals for a penalty when his shot struck Roundsevell on the line – and Bunny Larkin shot against a post. Borough despite their faults near goal deserved to win.

## King's Lynn v Nuneaton Borough 04-01-1969

**Borough: Crump, Boot, Drake, Aston, Smith, Deakin, Larkin, Allen, Cutler, Jacques, Foweraker.**

Borough made the journey to The Walks to play King's Lynn in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough came within five minutes of being the first team to win a league game at King's Lynn this season, for it was not until the 85th minute that the home side got an equaliser. The goal that saved the home side's unbeaten record was awarded against Bunny Larkin for dissent. The free-kick was taken by Reg Davies, the Lynn player-manager, who had come on for former Borough player Brian Jenkins in the 71st minute.

Davies chipped the ball over to Rudd and the latter headed it on to Malcolm Lindsay who, in turn, headed past Fred Crump. It was a close call for King's Lynn, yet a draw was probably a fair result. The first-half definitely belonged to King's Lynn. Playing fast, direct football, and using their wingers to the full, the side gave the Borough defence a gruelling first session, and when, in the eighth minute, Lindsay chipped the ball over Larkin's head for David Brooks to run in and shoot past Crump, it looked as though the Lynn were going to complete the double over Borough.

Not a great deal had been seen of Borough as an attacking force. Then, in the 34th minute, they struck. Following an exciting tussle in front of the Borough goal the ball was cleared downfield to Peter Deakin who headed the ball on to Paul Cutler. The latter saw his chance, and shot into the Lynn net, the ball brushing the inside of the post as it went in.

The game took a turn in Borough's favour in the 58th minute, when Mickey Boot put Peter Deakin through to deliver a low shot near the post. Goalkeeper Coe got his hands to the ball which, however, escaped his grasp and ran over the line and into the net, giving Borough a 2-1 lead.

This goal undoubtedly shook the Lynn, for though they still did a fair amount of attacking, Borough's well organised defence dealt with their raids quite confidently. Indeed, the nearest either side came to scoring between Borough's first and second goals was when Mickey Boot slammed in a hard drive which scraped the outside of the post and went behind.

As the minutes ticked by it began to look as though Borough would crack Lynn's home record. But then, with five minutes to go, came that free-kick that saved Lynn from defeat.

## Lockheed v Nuneaton Borough 06-01-1969

**Borough: Crump, Quartermain, Aston, Drake, Smith, Boot, Cutler, Keeley, Jackson, Richards, Jacques.**

Borough made the journey to the Windmill Ground to face Lockheed in the Midland Floodlit Cup.

Borough became the first team to pass 100 points in the Midland Floodlit Cup with a 2-1 victory. This was a fast, open, all action game in which both teams ought certainly to have scored more goals. Borough started off as though they were going to overwhelm their hosts. For 15 minutes or so they launched attack after attack on the Lockheed goal without, however, being able to cap heavy pressure with goals.

Then Lockheed gradually started to come into the game and they shocked their visitors by taking the lead in the 25th minute when Geoff Skellington sent Ray Holmes through to slam the ball past Fred Crump.

Seven minutes later, however, Borough drew level when Tony Jacques, took a high cross from the left and hooked the ball home as he was off balance and falling to the ground. This goal was the signal for further heavy Borough pressure. Jacques had a header kicked off the line and then caused goalkeeper Bob Steane to bring off the save of the match when he hammered goalward a hard drive which Steane managed to push against the woodwork, from which it rounded and was scrambled away. Shortly afterwards Crump made a fine save from Ralph Ramshaw at the expense of a corner.

The second half began with both sides going out for goals, and both had escapes, Borough when Holmes shot hard against the bar and Lockheed when Jacques drove the ball against Steane's legs. Then in the 70th minute Nuneaton went into the lead. Pat Quartermain lobbed the ball in front

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of the goal for Alec Jackson to head it on to Tony Richards who scored from close range.

Lockheed hit back spiritedly and after Ramshaw had shot across the face of the goal, Crump brought off a fine save from Holmes. At the other end Jacques shot wide after going past Peter Lawton. Then in the dying minutes of the game Sid Hall was put right through by Holmes. As he had only Crump to beat, it looked as though he would have no difficulty in saving the game for Lockheed, but the goalkeeper made a timely dash out of goal to charge down the left winger's slightly delayed shot.

## Kettering Town v Nuneaton Borough 18-01-1969

**Borough: Crump, Boot, Smith, Drake, Aston, Allen, Larkin, Deakin, Jacques, Cutler, Foweraker.**

Borough made the journey to Rockingham Road to face Kettering Town in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Although league leaders Cambridge United dropped a vital home point against Margate on Saturday, the gap between themselves and Borough widened by another point as a result of Borough's defeat.

Borough had very few scoring chances throughout the game, but two came in the latter stages when Borough were striving to save a point. On one occasion Paul Cutler worked his way through, only to see his shot go over the top; then Bunny Larkin, with a clear look at goal, put high over the bar. In the first-half Larkin caused Bryan Harvey to dive to save a hard, low drive, and Stan Aston had a header kicked off the line by Dalby following a corner. Peter Foweraker had a shot pushed aside for a corner towards the end of the game.

By and large, though, Borough did not impress as a striking force. Not that Kettering did much better in front of goal, but they got the goal that mattered. The goal came almost dead on half-time – just at the wrong time psychologically for Borough. Following a corner kick taken by Walden, the ball was cleared out to Lawman standing in an open space to the left of the goal. His low shot passed across goal and was going outside when Dick Smith slid in to divert the ball past Fred Crump.

What honours there were certainly went to the defences who, despite difficulty in turning, still managed to cut down the number of real scoring chances to a minimum. Twenty minutes from the end Peter Deakin went off injured and his place was taken by Alan Jones.

## Nuneaton Borough v Hereford United 20-01-1969

**Borough: Crump, Jones, Smith, Drake, Aston, Boot, Jackson, Allen, Richards, Jacques, Foweraker.**

Borough welcomed Hereford United to Manor Park for a Camkin Cup quarter final tie.

A great goal by Roger Smith in the 35th minute, five minutes after Hereford had taken the lead, put Borough on the victory trail. Smith secured possession well out on the left, worked

his way inside to within 25 yards of goal, and then delivered a shot which had goalkeeper Lynn Davies well beaten. Borough went ahead two minutes later, got a third in the 77th minute and a fourth seven minutes from time.

As a result of this most emphatic win over John Charles' side, Borough qualified to meet either Kidderminster Harriers, the team that knocked them out of the FA Cup, or Coventry City in the semi-final of the competition.

Borough got off to a most unhappy start, for after only ten minutes play they had to call upon their substitute Bunny Larkin, for Peter Foweraker, who had to leave the field with gash on the forehead which needed eight stitches. The game had been in progress half an hour when Hereford went ahead through Alan Scarrott, who put through from close in from a centre from the left.

It was five minutes after this that Roger Smith got his very fine equaliser, and two minutes after that Tony Jacques put the home side into the lead when he received the ball way out on the left, and after a quick manoeuvre, let fly at goal, and the ball sailed into the net just underneath the bar.

The score remained 2-1 until the 77th minute when Borough got the goal that put the seal on Hereford's fate. Alec Jackson was moving in on goal from the left wing when he was brought down by John Bird, and referee Roger Kirkpatrick immediately pointed to the spot.

Tony Richards took the kick and had his first shot saved by Davies, who could not hold the ball, however, and moving in Richards took the rebound and put it into the net.

Seven minutes from the end came another excellent Borough goal. Put through the middle by Roger Smith, Tony Jacques rounded Hereford's Alan Smith before shooting past the advancing goalkeeper and into the empty net.

John Charles led Hereford in the first-half and on one occasion headed into the side netting from a Bird free-kick, but he did not come out after the break and his place was taken by Brian Punter.

## Wimbledon v Nuneaton Borough 25-01-1969

**Borough: Crump, Jones, Smith, Drake, Aston, Allen, Jackson, Boot, Jacques, Cutler, Richards.**

Borough made the journey to Plough Lane to face Wimbledon in a Southern League Premier Division match.

In the 73rd minute of this game, the home side forced a corner. When the ball was cleared, it went to the Dons' right back, Brian Martin, standing about 25 yards out. He hit the ball straight back, and on its way towards goal it touched Stan Aston and was deflected into the net.

This goal, much against the run of play, opened up the way for a Wimbledon victory when the home side were definitely struggling against a Borough team which had played the better football.

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Wimbledon consolidated their position five minutes later when the tall John O'Mara got up high to head home a Hodges' centre. It was a pity that Borough should have left Wimbledon with nothing to show for much good play.

They were the better tacticians, held control in midfield and carried out some very attractive looking moves, though at times the build-up was on the slow side. But a team that cannot score, cannot win, and while Borough failed to beat Guy in the Dons' goal, second in the table Wimbledon struck twice when things were going anything but well for them.

The result might have been different had Borough been awarded a penalty when, in the first half, Paul Cutler went down to a tackle in the penalty area by Martin after the Borough No. 10 had rounded the full back. The referee, however, waved play on.

A Borough goal at this point could have had a big influence on the game, for the Dons were looking anything but a confident side.

Wimbledon would be pleased to come out of this game with two points – points which keep them well in the running for the league championship.

## Nuneaton Borough v Corby Town 27-01-1969

**Borough: Crump, Jones, Smith, Aston, Boot, Jackson, Allen, Jacques, Cutler, Ashe, Richards (Larkin).**

Borough welcomed Corby Town to Manor Park for a Southern League Cup fourth round tie.

Sharp-shooting Richard McNeil, whose two goals on his last visit to Manor Park enabled Corby to defeat Borough, very nearly sank Borough again on Monday night with an impressive hat-trick. Only a goal by skipper Alec Jackson in the dying minutes saved Borough from defeat and gave them a second chance of reaching the semi-final.

Division 1 side Corby looked like making it three wins in a row this season over their Premier Division opponents when, with only a couple of minutes to go, they were leading 3-2. It was then that Borough were awarded a free-kick just outside the penalty area. Mickey Boot's kick led to a terrific scramble in front of the Corby goal before Jackson sent the ball into the net.

Jackson's late equaliser was a dramatic climax to a thrill-packed game – a game which, especially towards the end, produced a whole series of exciting incidents. Down 3-1 after 60 minutes, Borough appeared on their way out of the competition, for Corby were playing with great confidence and assurance. The man who did much to get Borough back on their feet was Bunny Larkin who came on as a substitute for the injured Tony Richards.

No sooner had he taken the field than he ran through to drive a shot into the side netting, and from that point he took over as Borough's main striker. He shot on sight and two or three times went close to scoring.

Borough were awarded a penalty in the 60th minute, after Norman Ashe was brought down in the penalty area and Larkin was entrusted with the spot kick and made no mistake. This second goal put Borough back in the game with a chance, but they were thwarted time and again by the Corby goalkeeper Fallon, who in the course of the game made a number of very fine saves, particularly from headers by Tony Richards and Tony Jacques.

Time was running out for Nuneaton when Jackson grabbed that late equaliser and earned his side a replay at Corby.

Borough got off to a good start by taking the lead after only three minutes, when a Jackson corner kick was headed on by Paul Cutler to Stan Aston, who headed through from close in.

After that Borough lost their grip on things. Slowly but surely Corby got on top and it came as no surprise when, in the 21st minute Richard McNeil got the first of his three goals. Jimmy McGeorge and Bertie Black making an opening for McNeil to prod the ball home.

McNeil got his second goal in the 35th minute when, after sending Alan Jones the wrong way, he shot into the net after seeing one shot hit a post and another blocked. McNeil completed his hat-trick after 59 minutes when he took a pass from McGeorge to score with a great shot.

In the next minute came Bunny Larkin's successful penalty kick and then, just before the end, Alec Jackson's equaliser.

This was one of the most exciting games seen at Manor Park for some time, and though it was a close call for Borough, they deserved a second chance.

## Nuneaton Borough v Wellington Town 01-02-1969

**Borough: Crump, Jones, Smith, Drake, Aston, Jackson, Allen, Jacques, Cutler, Larkin, Ashe.**

Borough welcomed Wellington Town to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division game.

Before Borough went well clear of their opponents with three second-half goals, both sides had missed chances of establishing their authority on the game.

With the score 1-0, Tony Jacques, who had opened the scoring for Nuneaton and later went on to complete a hat-trick, and Paul Cutler, had both put the ball over the top when well placed, while a minute before half-time and immediately afterwards George Jagger failed to cash in on two easier chances for the Shropshire side. But in the end there was no questioning Borough's right to the points.

For as the conditions worsened through heavy rain the home side's superiority became pronounced as they ploughed through the mud with great spirit and determination.

Borough went ahead in the 13th minute when Bobby Drake found Tony Jacques in the open, and as Bobby Irvine left his goal, Jacques sent the ball into the net just inside the post.

Later came chances of establishing a comfortable lead. First,



Paul Cutler headed on to Jacques a centre from Alec Jackson, for the Borough leader to hook the ball over the top. Then Cutler shot over the bar after Irvine had pushed out a shot from Jacques. In the 29th minute, Mick Fudge headed a fine equaliser from Jack Bentley's perfect cross.

Jagger missed an easy chance just before the break and then immediately after half-time, Bentley sent a beautiful ball through to Brough, who slipped past Alan Jones, moved forward and then crossed a low ball which Brian Hart allowed to run on to Jagger, who, with the goal at his mercy, shot against a post.

These two misses marked the beginning of the end of Wellington, for in the 55th minute Jones sent Norman Ashe away, for Paul Cutler to put Borough ahead again with a very fine header from Ashe's cross. The score remained 2-1 in Borough's favour until the 81st minute, when Bunny Larkin took a pass from Cutler to sweep the ball diagonally towards the net, for Jacques to run in and make doubly sure of a third goal for Borough.

Two minutes from the end Malcolm Allen split the Wellington defence with a through ball for Jacques to race through and slip the ball past Irvine as the goalkeeper left his goal.

## Nuneaton Borough v Lockheed 03-02-1969

**Borough: Crump, Jones, Drake, Allen, Boot, Larkin, Jackson, Wright, Cutler, Keeley, Ashe.**

Borough welcomed Lockheed to Manor Park for a Midland Floodlit Cup game.

After a disappointing first half during which little good football was seen on the frost-bound pitch, Borough put on a greatly improved performance after the break and won a quite convincing and clear-cut victory.

There was little in the play of either side in the first-half to make spectators forget the bitterly cold weather, both sides experiencing difficulty in controlling the lively, bouncing ball. But after the change of ends Borough were a vastly different side. They played fast, direct football, and proceeded to exert heavy pressure on the Lockheed goal, and but for some fine goalkeeping by Bob Steane the visitors would have sustained an even heavier defeat. The keeper could only stand and watch though as Alec Jackson hammered two shots against the woodwork.

After conceding the first goal, Borough were soon on level terms. Most of their attacks, however, petered out in front of goal. But after the break it was a different story. Borough simply peppered the Lockheed goal, and it soon became obvious that it was just a matter of how many goals Borough would score.

The game had only been in progress for five minutes when Bill Salmon picked up the ball near the half-way line and ran through to lob the ball over Fred Crump into an empty net. Seven minutes later an Alec Jackson shot was deflected into

the net by a defender to level the scores. Ten minutes after half-time a move between Mick Keeley, Cutler and Lol Wright ended in the last-named pulling the ball back from the by-line for Norman Ashe to head his first goal of the season. In the 58th minute Keeley centred for Paul Cutler to shoot hard into the Lockheed net to make the score 3-1.

Four minutes after that Mickey Boot fed Mick Keeley for the latter to lob the ball into the net as the goalkeeper was going out to meet him. Then in the 80th minute Ashe beat his man and centred for Cutler to head Borough's fifth and final goal.

## Weymouth v Nuneaton Borough 06-02-1969

**Weymouth: Clarke, Glover, Rounsevell, Muir, Hobson, Hall, Adams, Etheridge, Jackson, Gough, Bennett. Sub: Stocker.**

**Borough: Crump, Jones, Drake, Aston, Smith, Allen, Boot, Cutler, Jackson, Jacques, Ashe. Sub: Larkin.**

Borough made the journey to Weymouth to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

Another second half rally took Borough to within an ace of a point on the clinging mud-bath of a pitch they call The Rec. And they would have made it but for a disallowed goal with seven minutes to go.

A Bunny Larkin free-kick hit a wall of defenders. He cracked the rebound goalwards and it was deflected into the net off a defender. The referee pointed to the centre spot, spotted a linesman's raised flag – and gave a free-kick against Nuneaton for offside.

Only two minutes later, Larkin netted from the penalty spot to make it 3-2. But, by that time, Borough's chance had gone and they walked off the pitch empty-handed when they deserved a point for their second-half effort and determination which rocked the best defence in the Premier Division. Twice, they were two goals down and twice they hit back before the dramatic final minutes.

Bennett shot the home side ahead in the seventh minute after a centre from Weymouth's new winger Rod Adams. He caught Roger Smith in two minds and seized on the ball as the full back tried to push it back to Crump. And Weymouth's Jackson made it 2-0 when the ball hit Fred Crump and bobbled back into his path. The Weymouth centre-forward was able to run on and steer it into the net without checking his stride.

That looked like the end for Borough – until Norman Ashe set the game alight with a goal only three minutes after the break. It was a solo effort from the tiny winger whose new-found form has put him back into the ratings. He left Weymouth defenders Hall and Rounsevell in his wake and slammed in a powerful close range shot.

Terra's keeper Clarke saved at the feet of Tony Jacques after a pass from Malcolm Allen, Borough's best performer, had sliced through their defence. Then centre-half Tony Hobson just managed to cut off a centre from Alec Jackson, as Jacques lurked in the goalmouth.

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But the goal Borough needed did not come. Weymouth shook off the pressure for a spell and Bennett made it 3-1 from another Adams' centre. Once again that should have been the end for Nuneaton. Instead, it led to another rally. Larkin, who substituted when Ashe went off injured in the 67th minute, had his goal disallowed and scored his second successive penalty after Hobson had handled.

The game ended with everyone but Crump in the Weymouth half. Borough forced two successive corners. From the second with only seconds to go, Jacques headed over the top. Two passes later, the whistle went for the end of the match.

## Nuneaton Borough v Netherfield 15-02-1969

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Smith, Drake, Aston, Boot, Jackson, Allen, Jacques, Cutler, Ashe.

Borough welcomed Netherfield to Manor Park for a friendly game

Borough's second-half superiority earned them a clear-cut victory on a very tricky pitch in this first-ever meeting between Southern League and Northern League sides. Before the kick-off, Mr Denis Follows, FA Secretary, was introduced to the players of both teams.

It was apparent from the word "go" that the players were going to have a hard job keeping their feet on the frost-bound pitch, and that skilful football would be an extremely difficult proposition. Even so, the game was well worth watching.

Netherfield had their best spell in the last quarter of an hour or so of the first-half, when they not only neutralised an early Tony Jacques' goal, but gave the Borough defence some anxious moments. Both before and after their equalising goal, Alan Jones cleared off the line, first from Gordon Fisher and then Alan Kirkman.

But after the break there was no questioning Borough's superiority. They kept up steady pressure on the Netherfield goal, and but for some fine saves by Trevor Holmes, their victory would have been even more emphatic. Holmes made a series of fine saves, notably from two very hard drives from Tony Jacques, a header from the same player, a shot by Mick Keeley, and a Mickey Boot effort.

Borough took the lead after ten minutes, following a short corner. Alec Jackson slipped the ball to Norman Ashe, whose cross Holmes failed to hold, and Tony Jacques was on the spot to chest the ball over the line. It was in the 31st minute that Les Campbell put the ball through to Alan Kirkman, who slipped it into the net as Fred Crump came out to meet him.

After half-time, Borough brought on Lol Wright and Mick Keeley for Paul Cutler and Alec Jackson, and immediately after the restart Norman Ashe was injured, and his place was taken by Bunny Larkin. Netherfield brought on Jim Raynor for Barry Brayton.

The second half was most definitely Borough's and they went ahead in the 55th minute when, following an Alan Jones

centre, both Keeley and Jacques challenged for the ball which ran out to Malcolm Allen, who found the net with a well-placed shot.

Borough completed the scoring after 70 minutes from another short corner. Wright put the ball to Jones, whose cross was flicked on by Larkin to Jacques, who banged the ball home. Just before the end, Michael Taylor headed off the line from Mickey Boot.

It was a good idea to arrange a match such as this, and despite the unfavourable weather conditions, there was a crowd of 3,150 which reflects the interest in the game.

## Worcester City v Nuneaton Borough 27-02-1969

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Allen, Aston, Smith, Larkin, Jackson, Boot, Ashe, Jacques, Keeley.

Borough travelled to St George's Lane to play Worcester City in a Midland Floodlit Cup game.

Borough retained their unbeaten record and the Midland Floodlit Cup competition leadership by drawing away against second-in-the-table Worcester. Both sides picked up six points, bringing Borough's total to 129 and Worcester's to 121, but City have played three more games than Borough.

In the 24th minute Norman Ashe netted for Borough but the goal was disallowed. Worcester scored in the 41st minute, when Ernie Ward beat Crump with a well placed cross shot from a Roger Griffiths centre.

But five minutes after the change of ends Borough drew level from a penalty kick. Ashe collected the ball after a Mickey Boot shot had been blocked, and was making for goal when brought down.

The referee had no hesitation in awarding Borough a penalty and Bunny Larkin made no mistake from the spot.

## Nuneaton Borough v Poole Town 01-03-1969

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Smith, Allen, Aston, Boot, Jackson, Jacques, Cutler, Larkin, Ashe.

Borough welcomed Poole Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

The big difference between the two teams in what was the first Southern League game played at Manor Park since February 1, was that while Borough snapped up their chances, Poole, with more scoring opportunities, could not manage even one goal.

This could hardly be called an impressive performance from Borough. Their victory was by no means as easy as the scoreline might suggest. Poole often had an uncertain Borough defence in trouble, but when it came to applying the final touches to a lot of useful approach work, they came unstuck time after time.

Twice Poole saw the woodwork of the Borough goal struck,



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once when Fred Crump pushed a shot from Norton on to a post, and then a shot by Murphy. And Fred Crump pulled off one or two good saves. By and large, however, their work in front of goal was poor.

This was certainly not Poole's day, and to add to their troubles Hibberd, their No. 6, was carried off the field on a stretcher in the 64th minute and taken to hospital, where it was found he was suffering from a severely bruised shin. Taylor came on as substitute.

Borough went into the lead in the 19th minute when, following a cross from the left, goalkeeper Whiting pushed out a Jacques header for Paul Cutler to head through from close range. In the 34th minute a move in which Norman Ashe, Alec Jackson and Paul Cutler took part, saw a Bunny Larkin shot parried by Whiting for Tony Jacques to force the ball home. It was five minutes from the end that Borough got their third goal. Norman Ashe shooting past Whiting after a Jackson cross and a Jacques pass.

## Corby Town v Nuneaton Borough 03-03-1969

**Borough: Crump, Jones, Drake, Aston, Smith, Boot, Allen, Larkin, Jackson, Jacques, Richards.**

Borough made the journey to play Corby Town in a fourth round Southern League Cup tie.

Borough earned themselves a place in the semi-final of the Southern League Cup as the result of an efficient, thoroughly workmanlike display against Corby at Occupation Road on Monday night.

The Manor Park side got just the start they needed – a goal after only six minutes play, and 12 minutes from the end they clinched the issue with a second goal to shatter the Steelmen's hopes of reaching the last four of the competition.

Corby put up a hard fight but there could be no questioning Borough's right to victory on this occasion. They had a solid, unyielding defence which was right on top of its job. Corby tried desperately hard to crack Borough's defensive system, especially in the latter stages of the first half, when they threw everything into attack, and Borough did well to keep them out. During this period Gregory headed over from a corner during heavy pressure on the Borough goal; Mickey Boot made a timely clearance following a free kick; and Fred Crump punched behind from a corner and then came out of his goal to catch the second flag kick.

But Corby's best chance of scoring had come earlier when Black slipped past Alan Jones only to shoot over the top as Crump came out of goal.

What was most satisfying was the way Borough handled McNeil, the man who had banged in six goals against them in their three previous encounters. This time McNeil was so well held that he had few chances to show why he is the top goalscorer in the Southern League.

Borough struck their first blow in the sixth minute when,

following a Norman Ashe pass, there was a scramble in front of the Corby goal, and the ball ran to Bunny Larkin, who wasted no time in banging it past Fallon. Their second goal came in the 79th minute when Jones dropped a free kick into the middle. The ball went via a defender to Alec Jackson, who shot into the far corner of the net. Before Jackson clinched the issue with this second goal, Corby had had two close shaves.

The first time Roger Smith sent the ball towards goal. As Fallon left his goal to deal with the shot, he slipped and the ball ran on towards an empty net. Fortunately for the home side, Barratt just beat Tony Jacques to the ball and kicked it clear. A little later the same player headed off the line from a Jacques header following a Jackson corner kick.

## Cheltenham Town v Nuneaton Borough 08-03-1969

**Borough: Crump, Jones, Smith, Drake, Aston, Boot, Wright, Cutler, Jacques, Allen, Keeley.**

Borough travelled to Whaddon Road to take on Cheltenham Town in a Southern League Premier Division game

Having taken only one point from their previous six league games and in that period having scored just two goals, Cheltenham were badly in need of a win, not only to help them steer clear of the relegation zone, but to boost their flagging confidence.

It was a bad back pass by Bobby Drake that put Cheltenham on the victory trail. The second half had been in progress only five minutes when Drake tried to put the ball back to Fred Crump, and let in Gerald Horlick. The Borough keeper did well to block Horlick's first shot, but the ball rebounded to Cheltenham's No. 9, who took the ball over the goal-line.

Two minutes later Cheltenham scored again, and Borough hardly ever looked like saving the game. This time, following a cross by Clive Lloyd, Alec Carson beat Crump to the ball, which rolled to Dave Hudd, who had little difficulty in scoring.

Borough, who made three changes from the side that won so well at Corby, leaving out skipper Alec Jackson, Norman Ashe and Bunny Larkin, and bringing in Mick Keeley, Paul Cutler and Lol Wright, gave a most unimpressive display, especially up front, against a mediocre home side.

Up to half-time Nuneaton were tight at the back and experienced little difficulty in holding Cheltenham's attack, and it looked then, despite their poor finishing, that Borough ought to gain at least a point. But those two quick goals after the break shook even the usually solid Borough defence, and the Robins might well have added to their score.

Borough troubled Dave Meeson on only a few occasions. Just before half-time Paul Cutler dropped the ball on top of the bar, but on only two occasions after the home side had gone into their two-goal lead did Borough ever really look like getting goals, once when Lol Wright ran through and shot just over the angle of the bar and post, and when Tony Jacques got past Jefferies only to shoot hurriedly over the bar.

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A quarter-of-an-hour after the change of ends Tony Richards came on for Mickey Boot, obviously with the idea of trying to introduce more punch into the attack, but the change failed to bring goals.

## Nuneaton Borough v Cheltenham Town 10-03-1969

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Smith, Drake, Aston, Allen, Larkin, Jackson, Jacques, Cutler, Ashe.

Borough welcomed Cheltenham Town to Manor Park for a Southern League Cup semi-final tie.

This was Borough's biggest blow since they were hammered 8-1 at Tamworth earlier in the season in the Birmingham Senior Cup; indeed it was an even bigger shock, since Cheltenham have been struggling against the threat of relegation. Borough played so badly, in fact, that spectators were leaving the ground before the final whistle.

Even after that unexpected reverse at Cheltenham, there were few people who did not expect Borough to win their way into the final of the League Cup. But it was not to be. They revealed few ideas in their approach work, despite the gallant efforts of Roger Smith to show them the way to get through, and their work in front of goal was such that goalkeeper Dave Meeson had little to worry him, at least not until the last five minutes of the game when Nuneaton went closer to scoring than in the previous 85 minutes.

In that brief period, Meeson had to save a hard drive from Norman Ashe; Frank Conboy cleared off the line a Paul Cutler header, and Tony Jacques shot against a post. More efforts like these earlier on might have brought a different result.

Cheltenham played the better football, and once they had gone into the lead in the 17th minute, their superiority was never seriously challenged. A factor which contributed in no small measure to Borough's defeat was their inability to take control in midfield, where Cheltenham were the masters.

When the visitors took the lead in the 17th minute Gerald Horlick beat Stan Aston in the air to a high ball from Adrian Thorne, and headed the ball across to Clive Lloyd who, unmarked, ran in to shoot into the net past the advancing Fred Crump. It was Lloyd's 24th goal of the season.

Indecision on the part of Malcolm Allen and Fred Crump in the 65th minute led to Dave Hudd scoring a simple second goal for Cheltenham – a goal which put the issue beyond doubt.

## Banbury United v Nuneaton Borough 12-03-1969

Borough made the journey to Banbury United to play a Midland Floodlit Cup game.

Peter Foweraker returned to the Borough side to score the goal that gave them victory and another 11 points.

The left winger had been out of the side since sustaining a severe cut over the eye in a Camkin Cup game against Hereford United on January 20.

The only goal of the match came in the 15th minute when Roger Smith, Mickey Boot and Alec Jackson took part in a move which led to Foweraker beating goalkeeper Tony Lines with a well-placed shot.

## Nuneaton Borough v Cheltenham Town 15-03-1969

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Aston, Allen, Smith, Boot, Larkin, Jackson, Foweraker, Jacques, Wright.

Borough welcomed Cheltenham Town to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division game.

A fine goal by Peter Foweraker five minutes from the end ensured a revenge win for Borough, but it was by no means a convincing performance by the home side. Foweraker's goal clinched victory for Borough after they had been visibly struggling to hang on to a 2-1 lead. The move was started by Alec Jackson and carried on by Norman Ashe, who sent the ball out to Foweraker. The little winger took the ball up to Roger Thorndale, beat him, cut inside, and as Frank Conboy was coming across to challenge him, he switched the ball to his left foot, and then delivered a shot which left Dave Meeson helpless to save.

It was Foweraker who scored the goal which earned Borough 11 Floodlit Cup points at Banbury on his return to the side after that severe cut over the eye sustained in the game against Hereford; it was Foweraker on his second appearance after the eye injury, who got the goal which made certain of Borough picking up two most welcome Southern League points.

Foweraker's goal was most opportune, for after a fair first-half display, Borough fell away and their 2-1 lead was being threatened. Indeed, just before Foweraker scored, Fred Crump had to rush out of goal to stop Gerald Horlick, a most persistent raider, and then had to dive at the feet of Dave Hurford when things were not looking good for the home side.

Borough opened the scoring in the fifth minute when Foweraker crossed the ball and Jackson shot. Meeson pushed away the Borough skipper's shot, but the ball ran to Mickey Boot, who volleyed it into the net. Cheltenham drew level in the 18th minute when Alec Carsen made an opening for Dave Hudd to chest the ball down and bang it home.

In the 22nd minute a move in which Boot, Foweraker and Ashe took part ended in Tony Jacques restoring Borough's lead with a shot which entered the net via a post. The score remained 2-1 until Foweraker came along with that fine solo effort in the 85th minute.

## Nuneaton Borough v Banbury United 17-03-1969

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Aston, Allen, Smith, Boot, Keeley, Wright, Jackson, Jacques, Foweraker.

Borough welcomed Banbury United to Manor Park for a Midland Floodlit Cup game.

Borough took a step closer to winning the Midland Floodlit Cup League when they took their total points to 154, after

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beating Banbury 4-0. It was very much one-way traffic and Borough were attacking for at least 85 per cent of the game, but it was not until after the change of ends that they got on the goalscoring trail.

While Tony Lines must be given credit for bringing off some good saves in the first session, Borough's work in front of goal before the interval was hardly convincing. It is true they went close to scoring on two or three occasions, especially when Mick Keeley sent a hard header just wide and Roger Smith shot against a post, and it required a brilliant diving save by Lines to push aside a Keeley shot for a corner. But the fact remains that Borough went in at half-time with nothing to show for a good deal of attacking.

It was not until the 53rd minute that Borough opened their scoring account from a penalty kick. Haynes let in Keeley, who was in the act of taking the ball round Lines when the goalkeeper brought him down near goal. The referee immediately awarded Borough a penalty, and Peter Foweraker made no mistake from the spot to score his third goal in three games following his return to the side after injury. His shot gave Lines no chance.

Keeley was injured and had to go off, and his place was taken by Norman Ashe. In the next few minutes Lines had to rush out to check Alec Jackson; he also saved from Foweraker; while a Roger Smith shot hit the top of the bar and went behind. Then, in the 68th minute, Alan Jones crossed the ball for Norman Ashe to head a smart second goal for Borough.

Banbury's Roger Smith sent a left-foot shot just wide, but Crump had very little to do. A few minutes before the end, Ashe sent Tony Jacques through and the Borough No. 9 slammed in a very hard shot which Lines got his hands to but could not prevent going in the net. Then, almost on time, Lol Wright, who had been put through by Jones, was fetched down by the goalkeeper, but the ball ran to Norman Ashe who promptly netted Borough's fourth and final goal.

## Nuneaton Borough v Rugby Town 19-03-1969

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Smith, Aston, Allen, Jackson, Larkin, Ashe, Jacques, Cutler, Foweraker. **Sub:** Wright.

**Rugby:** Corlett, Cholerton, Clarke, Burkitt, Walker, Hopkin, Senior, Docker, Whitehead, Nottley, Brady. **Sub:** Sandon.

Borough welcomed Rugby Town to Manor Park for a Midland Floodlit Cup match.

Tony Jacques notched another hat-trick as Borough sparkled and spluttered their way to a 7-2 victory. Borough scored five goals in the first-half with a sparkling show, but after the interval Borough spluttered and the game turned into football boredom.

In the first-half the fans loved every minute of the game. It was like a full-scale work-out for Borough and winger Peter Foweraker had a field day. Throughout the period he was left completely unmarked on the left flank and he got in some

useful practice in chipping the ball into the middle. Three of the opening five goals came from Foweraker's crosses. In the eighth minute he centred perfectly for Jacques to head home. Four minutes later the little No. 11 dropped the ball over for Paul Cutler to nod over the keeper's head to make it 2-0. And then after 38 minutes Cutler scored his second when he converted a low Foweraker pass from the byeline. Borough's other two first-half goals came from Jacques, who prodded an Ashe ball into the net after 15 minutes, and centre-half Stan Aston, who rose to head a Smith corner kick just inside the near post.

Rugby only had one serious attempt in the first-half. That was in the 25th minute when striker Nottley sent a good header skimming off the crossbar. Up to the half-time whistle, Borough played some simple, attractive soccer. With Larkin prompting from midfield, Allen and Jackson laying off some neat passes and Smith overlapping well down the left, the Nuneaton outfit looked more than worthy to wear the Floodlit Cup crown. They destroyed that image in the second period. Borough were drab and shabby and even when fans' favourite Lol Wright took the field as substitute in the 71st minute, the game failed to spark back into life.

But it's goals that count – especially in the Floodlit Cup competition. And Borough now march on to the 200 points target – and the title. Borough goals: Jacques (3), Cutler (2), Aston and Larkin. Rugby: Jones (o.g.) and Senior.

## Barnet v Nuneaton Borough

22-03-1969

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Allen, Drake, Smith, Boot, Cutler, Keeley, Jackson, Jacques, Foweraker.

Borough made the journey to Underhill to play Barnet in a Southern League Premier Division match.

An own goal by Bobby Drake decided the issue in this Southern League game on Saturday. Borough went in at half-time leading 1-0, and went close to increasing their lead immediately after the break. Then Barnet hit back with two goals in seven minutes, and afterwards looked more likely to score again than did Borough.

Nuneaton missed their big chance in the first-half, when they had the slope and a strong breeze in their favour. In spite of this advantage they managed only one goal, which came in the 27th minute following a corner kick. Alec Jackson headed into the goalmouth, and Tony Jacques forced the ball into the net after a terrific scramble on the goal-line.

In the early minutes of the second half, goalkeeper Barr just managed to beat Jackson to a pass by Jacques, and then the goalkeeper pushed a centre from Paul Cutler on to the bar. But the tide turned against Nuneaton in the 62nd minute when Billy Meadows headed a smart equaliser from a perfectly placed George centre.

And seven minutes after that goal, the home side took the lead, Bobby Drake, in attempting to clear a free-kick chipped



towards the far post, headed into his own net. Fifteen minutes from the end, Borough, who were without Stan Aston because of an injured shoulder, brought on Norman Ashe for Peter Foweraker, but the best chance of a further score fell to Eason, who failed to beat Fred Crump after being put right through.

## **Nuneaton Boro' v Kidderminster Harriers 24-03-1969**

**Borough: Crump, Jones, Drake, Aston, Boot, Jackson, Allen, Cutler, Larkin, Ashe, Foweraker.**

Borough welcomed Kidderminster Harriers to Manor Park for a Camkin Cup semi-final tie.

The game ended with angry Borough supporters running on to the pitch at the end of the game and demonstrating against the referee, Mr K. Goodfellow of Birmingham, who was given police protection on his way to the dressing room.

During the game Borough had two penalties awarded against them, Alec Jackson received marching orders, while goalkeeper Fred Crump was injured and had to be assisted off the field, his place in goal being taken by Alan Jones. In addition, of course, three Kidderminster goals.

Borough met with an early set-back, when they went behind after just two minutes. Peter Wassall, making his 300th appearance for the visitors, received a pass from Cocker, took the ball round Stan Aston and then shot into the Borough net.

After Wilcox had brought off a fine save from Jackson, Harriers broke away and shook Borough with a second goal in the 13th minute. Cocker seized upon the ball when Aston headed away a centre from the left, and drove it hard into the net. Worse was to follow, when in the 20th minute Alan Jones brought down Taylor in the penalty area. Peter Wassall took the spot kick, but his shot was brilliantly saved near the foot of the post by a diving Crump. It was a minute before half-time when Jackson was sent off following a clash with Cockcroft.

In the early stages of the second half Crump twice had to leave his goal to check Peter Wassall, and in the 70th minute he again had to rush out to save from the Kidderminster striker. Both the goalkeeper and Wassall were injured. Wassall was able to resume after treatment, but the goalkeeper took no further part in the game, with Alan Jones deputising and Mick Keeley coming on as substitute.

Paul Cutler had a shot saved by Wilcox and a Foweraker header was pushed over the top by the goalkeeper. Though not seriously tested, Jones performed competently as substitute goalkeeper. In injury time the referee awarded a penalty against Stan Aston for handball and this time Peter Wassall made no mistake with the spot kick.

Borough were unfortunate in having to take the field without top scorer Tony Jacques and the most reliable Roger Smith, but there was really no excuse for this poor performance. Nuneaton were too slow in their build-up, due in no small measure to their slowness in getting the ball over from the wing.

## **Rugby Town v Nuneaton Borough**

**26-03-1969**

Borough made the journey to Rugby Town for a Midland Floodlit Cup game.

Borough were held to a goalless draw by a team they had whipped 7-2 just a week previously. It was the first time Borough had failed to score in a Floodlit Cup game, and they had to be content with five points. Fred Crump was back in goal after the injury he received in the Kidderminster match and had a good game. Midway through the second half he stopped a hard drive from Harrald and when the ball ran loose blocked successive shots from Brady and Senior.

It was a scrappy game in which there was little good football. After an even first-half, Rugby had the better of the exchanges and play was mainly in the Borough half of the field. The Manor Park side, still without Tony Jacques and Roger Smith, seldom looked like scoring, and Corlett in the Rugby goal had little to do, especially after the break.

Bunny Larkin and Bobby Drake both received knocks. Peter Foweraker came out for Larkin after the change of ends, but saw little of the ball. By drawing, Borough maintained their unbeaten record in the cup.

## **Nuneaton Borough v Kettering Town**

**29-03-1969**

**Borough: Crump, Jones, Allen, Aston, Boot, Jackson, Cutler (Jacques), Ashe, Keeley, Wright, Foweraker.**

Borough welcomed Kettering Town to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough suffered their fourth home league defeat of the season on Saturday when, after another unimpressive performance, they were beaten by Kettering Town, who thus completed the double. This was the third successive game in which Borough had failed to score.

Borough lost to Kettering after having enjoyed much the better of the exchanges territorially. They did quite 70 per cent of the attacking – yet failed to score. Once again, most of their attacks just petered out, for the simple reason that they were unable to create clear cut chances.

The home side had their best spell midway through the second half, but it was too brief to have much influence on the proceedings overall. First Alec Jackson, taking a pass from Malcolm Allen, turned sharply just inside the penalty area and whipped in a shot which went just over the bar; next Harvey had to tip over the top a fine shot by Allen; and then Norman Ashe flashed the ball over the bar.

Otherwise, with the exception of an Ashe header, Harvey, though having more work to do than Fred Crump, was not unduly bothered.

Kettering grabbed the winning goal in the 23rd minute, Barry Daldy smartly heading past Fred Crump from a Gammon free-kick. He very nearly got a second goal two minutes later when

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he raced in to get his head to a Walden centre. Fortunately for Borough the ball went straight to Crump.

After the break, Borough, badly hit by injuries and illness, had to call on Tony Jacques, their substitute, who had been suffering with a sore throat and high temperature during the week, to replace Paul Cutler, who was injured just before half time and had to be carried off on a stretcher, suffering from a badly bruised hip.

## Wellington Town v Nuneaton Borough 31-03-1969

**Wellington:** Cockayne, Whitehouse, G. Harris, Ray, A. Harris, Croft, Hart, Matthews, Bentley, Fudge, Brough. **Sub:** McKinney.

**Borough:** Crump, Boot, Aston, Allen, Jones, Larkin, Wright, Jackson, Ashe, Keeley, Foweraker. **Sub:** Moore.

Borough made the journey to the Buck's Head to face Wellington Town in a Midland Floodlit Cup match.

The man who did the damage in this match was tiny winger Peter Foweraker, who notched a first-half hat-trick. He ensured Borough maintained their unbeaten run in the competition with a tremendous display which completely rocked Wellington. He scored his first goal from the penalty spot in the 22nd minute, added another at 30 minutes after a superb solo run, and completed his hat-trick on the stroke of half-time.

Foweraker's polished performance gave Borough just the tonic they needed after Saturday's dismal defeat at the hands of Kettering. Nuneaton were more relaxed, and apart from a short spell when Wellington hit back to reduce the margin to 3-2, held a tight grip on the game.

They waltzed into a 3-1 interval lead, and added two more after the break to complete Wellington's misery. But at one stage, it looked as though Wellington might snatch a draw. A misunderstanding between Fred Crump and Stan Aston let in Mickey Fudge to add a second to Ian Brough's first half goal. Any signs of a Wellington revival, however, were quickly snuffed out with a fourth Borough goal in the 66th minute.

And it was that man Foweraker who again did the damage. He latched onto a Bunny Larkin throw-in, centred, and there was Alec Jackson on the spot to coolly chip over Cockayne's head as the goalkeeper came out. The goal heralded Borough's 50th in the Midland Floodlit Cup, and was the signal for Mick Keeley, another star in the Borough front line, to grab the fifth. He placed a Norman Ashe centre wide of Cockayne almost on the stroke of time, and Borough left the Buck's Head with the title firmly in their possession.

## Bedford Town v Nuneaton Borough 04-04-1969

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Allen, Aston, Boot, Larkin, Wright, Jackson, Ashe, Keeley, Foweraker. **Sub:** Drake.

Borough travelled to The Eyrie to play Bedford Town in a Southern League Premier Division game.

For nearly 40 minutes Nuneaton looked as if they would

stroll home against a poor Bedford side that faces relegation for the second time in three seasons. They took the lead through a Bunny Larkin left foot special after ten minutes and exposed the Eagles in almost every department. Then they surrendered.

Bedford fired in a two-goal salvo in as many minutes and Borough ran up the white flag and tossed away two more points. The Eagles were there for the taking. They were shoddy in defence and had little up front until Borough helped them on their way.

After a promising start few players did enough to be able to leave the Eyrie with their reputations intact. The fact that they have talent, have got the skill and know-how to beat most Southern League sides is beginning to wear a bit thin. For all too often in the Southern League this season their greatest talent has been to submerge their skill with sloppy play against sides they should beat.

The two-goal spell that put paid to their hopes started with a 37th minute goal from winger Lou Adams. He ran in on the blind side of the defence and nodded the ball past Crump. But Mickey Boot, operating at left-back, was caught stranded by the cross and Adams was presented with the ball on a plate.

Then Norman Coolley beat Stan Aston on the edge of the Borough six-yard box to head home another soft goal. Fred Crump twice saved Borough before the Eagles made it 3-1 just 15 minutes after half-time. Ironically this time the keeper looked to be at fault. He went up with Ron Fogg for a Danny Paton cross, missed the ball as it swirled across and Fogg headed it down and into the net.

Borough realised that the game had slipped away from them and staged a late rally to salvage the game – and some of their lost pride. Bunny Larkin sparked it off with one of the “quietest” goals Nuneaton have scored this season – it was greeted by almost complete silence from the crowd and the players. Larkin planted a header just inside the post. And the players then strolled calmly back to the centre circle without as much as a murmur.

## Wellington Town v Nuneaton Borough 05-04-1969

Borough made the journey to face Wellington Town in a Southern League Premier Division match.

Borough were robbed of a penalty at the Buck's Head, denying them both points. Wellington defender John Ray used both hands to push the ball out from under the crossbar. The referee waved play on.

## Nuneaton Borough v Bedford Town 07-04-1969

Borough welcomed Bedford Town to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division game.

This was one of the poorest games of the season and provided little in the way of soccer skills or entertainment value. Both teams looked like strugglers. There was little

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cohesion and at times even less effort as the Eagles took a shock lead through George Cleary.

Cleary, Bedford's best forward, moved on to a free kick from full-back David Skinn and forced the ball into the net from a few yards out. Borough got an equaliser when Tony Jacques headed goalwards and the Eagles' full-back Bob Ryder pushed the ball out with his hands from under the bar. Referee Ray Baldwin pointed to the spot and Bunny Larkin thundered home the ball to save Nuneaton from a humiliating defeat by the Premier Division strugglers.

After Larkin's penalty Borough searched for the winner without success. And Bedford, one of the poorest sides Nuneaton have met so far, went home happy with a point to add to the two they took on Friday.

Now Borough must look to their games in hand to lift them up the table. But they look like a tired team and could find themselves in deep trouble. Fred Crump, Malcolm Allen and Mick Keeley are the only players who can look back over Easter with any sort of satisfaction. Crump in particular has had a chance to silence his critics in the past few games, and big-hearted Keeley has continued to improve.



**Borough were temporarily denied an equaliser when full-back Bob Ryder palmed out a Tony Jacques header. The ball looked well over the line even before the defender handled. Larkin equalised from the resulting penalty.**

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

## Nuneaton Borough v Worcester City 14-04-1969

**Borough: Crump, Jones, Drake, Aston, Allen, Boot, Larkin, Ashe, Keeley, Jacques, Foweraker.**

Borough welcomed Worcester City to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

Badly in need of points to enable them to steer clear of the relegation zone, Borough slipped up once again before their own supporters on Monday night, and they will certainly have to show a marked improvement in their last eight league games, if they are to put aside all fears of relegation.

Borough once again did a lot of attacking, certainly more than Worcester, yet they created few clear-cut chances, most

of their moves breaking up before they had become really threatening. Too much reliance was placed on the long high ball into the middle. In fact, neither side impressed with their work in front of goal, and neither Fred Crump nor Knight was over-burdened with work.

All three goals followed handling offences, two of which led to penalty awards, one to each side. It was in the 32nd minute that Stan Aston handled the ball and from the free-kick, George Kirby nodded the ball down to Ivor Allchurch who steered a shot into the far corner of the net. Five minutes later Howard Madley handled in the penalty area, and Bunny Larkin crashed the ball home to level the scores.

The winning goal came in the 65th minute, when the referee awarded a penalty for handball against Stan Aston and Barrie Gould made no mistake from the spot to give his side their fifth successive victory.

Though, generally speaking, Borough could not complain about the result, they were certainly unfortunate in the last minute when Mick Keeley headed against the crossbar and the ball was cleared off the line as Tony Jacques was running in to try to apply the finishing touch.

## Nuneaton Borough v Rugby Town

17-04-1969

**Borough: Crump, Jones, Drake, Allen, Aston, Larkin, Boot, Wright, Jacques, Cutler, Foweraker. Sub: Keeley.**

**Rugby: Richards, Cholerton (Clarke), Austin, Burkitt, Walker, Hopkin, Whittle, Docker, Whitehead, Harrald, Senior.**

Borough welcomed Rugby Town to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division game.

Paul Cutler, back in action after a three week lay off, slotted home a simple 18th minute goal, and it was enough to virtually seal the relegation fate of Rugby Town. But Borough's first victory in six league outings and two badly needed points did little to rekindle enthusiasm, as it was another uninspiring display by Dudley Kernick's men.

Against a poor Rugby outfit they enjoyed 80 per cent of the attacking play. But they were like a boxer without a knock-out punch. Borough showed such a lack of ideas against Rugby's retreating defence that it was almost unbearable to watch. The lowest gate of the season 1,507, had halved itself long before the end.

The only real cheers of the night were for the visitors' goalkeeper Mick Richards, playing his first match for Rugby since before Christmas. In the 23rd minute he did remarkably well to get down to a Bunny Larkin free-kick and push the ball to safety and two minutes before half-time he foiled Larkin for a second time. The Borough midfielder man ran on to a square pass from Tony Jacques and connected with a typical explosive shot. The fans had already acclaimed a goal when Richards hurled himself sideways for a miraculous save.

During the second half Richards somehow kept out a point blank shot from Jacques and later clawed a Cutler effort

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out of the air when he appeared to be beaten. But although Richards deserved plenty of credit Nuneaton should still have won by a far more handsome margin. Raid after raid fizzled dismally out on the edge of the Rugby penalty area.

Ironically Borough's only goal came from a defensive mix-up. Three Rugby men left the ball for each other and Jacques moved in swiftly to feed Paul Cutler who was standing unmarked in the middle. The number 10, who has been on the casualty list with a thigh injury, calmly placed his shot past the advancing Richards for his 27th goal of the season.

Cutler, who had earlier gone close with an angled shot following a glorious pass from Jacques, had a lively first half but faded after the break.

Borough keeper Fred Crump, who was not called upon until late in the game, nearly presented the Oakfield men with an equaliser in the 71st minute when he mishit a goal kick straight to Ken Whitehead on the edge of the box. Former Hinckley striker Whitehead wasted the golden opportunity by hurrying his shot and the ball ran tamely wide.

## Hillingdon Borough v Nuneaton Borough 19-04-1969

**Borough: Crump, Jones, Allen, Aston, Drake, Larkin, Boot, Cutler, Keeley, Jacques, Foweraker.**

Borough made the journey to Hillingdon to play a Southern League Premier Division match.

Twin strikers John Cozens and Gary Townend, who have scored 40 of the 66 goals scored by Hillingdon this season, each got a goal in this match, enabling the home side to take both points. Nuneaton gave the home side a closer game than might have been expected, but they were unable to halt Hillingdon's determined bid to carry off the league title.

Hillingdon were by far the better side in the opening half and fully deserved their 2-0 interval lead. Two goals in arrears, Borough had to come out of defence after the break, and leaving Hillingdon less room in midfield in which to manoeuvre, they came more into the game.

But although Mick Keeley reduced the lead in the 62nd minute, Nuneaton were unable to get an equaliser, and suffered yet another defeat. It was not a particularly inspiring game. For one thing there were far too many free kicks, most of which were conceded by Borough.

The game was notable for the fact that when he banged in Hillingdon's first goal, John Cozens scored his 50th goal of the season in competitive football. The goal came in the 20th minute. A free-kick conceded by Keeley way out on the left led to a scramble just outside the Borough penalty area, during which Bobby Drake fouled Townend. Cozens took the free-kick and his full-blooded blast found its way through a wall of Borough defenders and into the back of the net.

Townend got Hillingdon's second goal five minutes before half-time when he shot home a Mick Fairchild cross. Mick

Keeley replied for Borough when he lobbed the ball over Mick Lowe's head following a free-kick.

At half-time it looked as if Borough were in for a sound beating, but they improved sufficiently after the break to make a better fight of it without, however, really looking like saving the game.

## Nuneaton Borough v Cambridge United 21-04-1969

**Borough: Crump, Jones, Allen, Aston, Drake, Larkin, Boot, Keeley, Cutler, Jacques, Foweraker.**

Borough welcomed Cambridge United to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division game.

A goal by Terry Eades in the 68th minute enabled Cambridge United to gain a point on league leaders Hillingdon and keep alive their championship hopes. For while United were picking up both points at Manor Park, Hillingdon had to be satisfied with a draw at Wellington.

The goal that gave Cambridge the points followed a corner kick taken by Roland Horrey. Gerry Baker headed the flag kick against the underside of the bar and when it came down, Eades was on the spot to force it into the net. This goal was sandwiched between two disallowed Cambridge efforts.

Just before Eades' goal Dennis Walker put Bill Cassidy through, and the Cambridge leader, after flicking the ball over the advancing Fred Crump, shot into an empty net, but two players were in an offside position. Cassidy headed into the net in the 86th minute, but the whistle had already gone, again for offside.

Borough also had a goal disallowed in the 21st minute when Mick Keeley got the ball to Tony Jacques who headed into the net. But Jacques was given offside. Borough had been having quite as much of the game as United until the first of those two second half disallowed goals. Then things started to go Cambridge's way. Though playing better football in midfield than in some recent games, Borough once again lacked the skill to create openings and most of their attacks broke down when the penalty area was reached.

Indeed Borough seldom looked like scoring. One of their best efforts came when Keeley picked up a Mickey Boot pass, turned sharply and then drove the ball just over the top. Probably the best opening fell to Paul Cutler in the 28th minute. The defence failed properly to clear an Alan Jones free-kick and when the ball ran to Cutler, he shot high over the bar.

## Nuneaton Borough v Derby County 22-04-1969

**Borough: Crump, May, Norman, Keeley, Drake, Allen, Wright (Boot), Ashe, Metcalfe, Aggio, Flannagan.**

Borough welcomed Derby County to Manor Park to play a friendly match.

Borough's fans were treated to an exhibition match on Tuesday night by the Football League Division Two



champions Derby County and a Borough line-up which included seven regular players and five guest players. Neither side extended themselves in the wet and slippery conditions. But County did enough to show the crowd of 2,289 why they are back in the First Division after 16 years. And if the displays of youngsters Roy McFarland and John McGovern are anything to go by, its First Division football at the Baseball Ground for many years to come for Brian Clough's men.

McFarland celebrated his selection for the England under-23 tour by scoring Derby's third goal after 57 minutes. The young centre-half collected a pass from Durban, waltzed round Fred Crump and shot into the net. Three minutes earlier left winger Alan Hinton picked up a McFarland pass following a Carlin free kick and beat Crump for Derby's second.

Derby went into the lead with a goal by Welsh international Alan Durban after 31 minutes of the first-half. But strangely enough, although County were on top, it was Borough who created the best scoring chances in the first-half.

Once, the reliable Les Green, obviously a favourite with the crowd, let a hard centre from guest winger John Flanagan slip out of his hands. Luckily for Derby there was no Borough forwards at hand. Then the bustling Lol Wright broke clean through only to be brought down from behind by left back Robson. Borough were unlucky in the second-half when Burton Albion player Metcalfe, leading the attack, cracked a low shot on to the far post.

## Rugby Town v Nuneaton Borough 23-04-1969

**Rugby:** Corlett, Clarke, Hopkin, Walker, Austin, Harrald, Burkitt, Whittle, Docker, Whitehead, Senior. **Sub:** Brady.

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Allen, Aston, Drake, Boot, Keeley, Cutler, Larkin, Jacques, Foweraker. **Sub:** Ashe.

Borough made the journey to Oakfield to play Rugby Town in a Southern League Premier Division fixture.

Bunny Larkin, whose shooting power can transform a game in a split second, rammed home another piledriver last night to take Borough to within one point of safety from relegation. His 62nd minute winner stunned a fighting Rugby team and took Nuneaton to the 36 points mark with four games to go.

The goal, Larkin's fifth out of Borough's last eight, signalled the end of Rugby's almost hopeless fight for Premier Division survival. It came at a time when the home side had launched an all out attack after the interval, and followed Borough's first attack of the second half. Peter Foweraker pulled back the ball from near the corner flag. Paul Cutler left it for Larkin who thundered one of his left foot specials past Town keeper Paul Corlett.

But the Rugby fans must have wondered how their side managed to lose. For they enjoyed the bulk of the attacking play, particularly after the break, but finished with just one goal to show for their efforts.

Crump's sound performance helped Borough stay in the

game. He was backed up by a powerhouse performance by Stan Aston and an uncharacteristic safety first display from Malcolm Allen. Aston, robust and rugged at times, won almost every duel in the air and Allen weighed in with some timely interceptions and first-time clearances in his sweeper role.

Nuneaton went in front in the 21st minute through Paul Cutler. Corlett fumbled and failed to hold a Foweraker centre, Cutler seized on the ball, dragged it across the keeper with his right foot and hit it home with his left for a well taken goal.

Rugby equalised ten minutes before half-time. Whittle dropped a cross towards the far post, Alan Jones failed to clear and Senior lobbed it across the Nuneaton goalmouth. Ken Whitehead connected from point blank range and his shot hit the woodwork, spun away and John Docker was there to slot it into the net.

Rugby fought to the last kick. Even if it was their determination rather than their skill that threatened to upset Borough, they deserved at least a share of the points. But Borough have done the same thing themselves many times this season – and lost. Chances are there to be taken and Borough took two of theirs.

## Nuneaton Borough v Hereford United 25-04-1969

Borough welcomed Hereford United to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division fixture.

Borough followed up their victory at Rugby by collecting another two points against Hereford – and Southern League Premier Division football at Manor Park next season is assured. The goal that won the game was scored by Bunny Larkin, who had secured the winner at Rugby. It came in the 35th minute from a free-kick a few yards outside the penalty area. Larkin fired in a hard low drive which goalkeeper Davis managed to get to near the post, but could not prevent going into the net.

Four minutes before this goal, Larkin had failed with a penalty kick after John Bird had handled in the area. Larkin fired wide from the spot. In between the penalty miss and the goal, Larkin had two more shots go outside. By this time Borough should have been in a good position, instead of only one goal ahead.

And in the very last minute John Charles got his head to a free-kick. The ball struck the ground and then reared up to hit the crossbar. Fortunately, Alan Jones was on hand to put the ball behind for a corner.

Earlier in the game Charles had gone close to scoring with another header, and with a shot which went just over the angle of the crossbar. One of Nuneaton's best moves was when Norman Ashe, Mickey Boot and Malcolm Allen made an opening for Tony Jacques to shoot hard but wide of the mark. Ashe also made two good efforts. One caused the goalkeeper to go down smartly to save; the other flashed across the face of the goal.

Once again, Borough, though better than in some games, were not really impressive finishers – but they got the goal that mattered.





## Poole Town v Nuneaton Borough 29-04-1969

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Allen, Aston, Drake, Boot, Jackson, Larkin, Ashe, Jacques, Cutler.

Borough made the journey to Dorset to take on Poole Town in a Southern League Premier Division game.

By winning their home game against Borough on Tuesday night, Poole Town made certain of retaining their place in the Premier Division of the Southern League. After shaking off the shock of a first-minute Poole goal from the penalty spot, Borough got on level terms, but Poole secured the winner to take them to safety. The penalty was awarded for handball against Alan Jones.

Borough drew level in the 12th minute. Stan Aston put a free-kick down the middle and Larkin headed it on. Tony Jacques ran in to slam the ball home. It was Jacques first goal since he scored at Barnet on March 22.

Poole went ahead in the 62nd minute. Shergold pulled the ball back into the middle. Fred Crump got a hand to the ball, but it ran to Allen, who prodded the ball over the line for the winning goal. Thirteen minutes from the end, Mickey Boot shot high and wide with a good chance for Borough.

## Yeovil Town v Nuneaton Borough 30-04-1969

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Allen, Aston, Drake, Boot, Jackson, Cutler, Wright, Jacques, Foweraker.

Borough made the journey to Yeovil Town to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

Alec Jackson, a 5ft 8in bundle of soccer talent, turned in a ten feet tall performance as Borough unearthed their early season form at Yeovil last night. Skipper Jackson was the magnificent inspiration behind a Nuneaton side that turned back the clock and earned an end of the match ovation from the Huish fans.

Few teams win on the Somerset side's slope. Hardly any score three goals against one of the best defences in the league. Borough did both. They proved that on their day they can beat anyone in the league – but they deepened the mystery behind their baffling up and down form this season.

Jackson stood head and shoulders above everyone else. But he was backed up by a side that showed all of the form that sent fans' hopes soaring at the start of the season. Mickey Boot looked more like the player who was hailed as the signing of the season last August, with a tigerish midfield display. Paul Cutler got into the game early on and stayed with the rest. And top scorer Tony Jacques turned in his best display of the season as the Manor Park "disappointers" became the Manor Park magnificent.

The goals that gave Borough the points were two from Paul Cutler and one from Tony Jacques. Stan Aston put through his own net to give Yeovil their goal.

Nuneaton went in front in the eleventh minute when Alan Jones hit a free-kick into the middle from the half-way line. Jacques nodded it on and Cutler poked it into the net.

They made it two on the half-hour. Foweraker sent Jackson away and the number seven's powerful drive was parried by Yeovil goalkeeper Ken Jones for Jacques to follow up and score. The home side missed a couple of chances and their £3,000 signing Dick Plumb fluffed a golden opportunity when he shot wide with only Crump to beat. Just before half-time Plumb headed over from close in after a free-kick had been chipped over Borough's defensive wall.

But Nuneaton's cool and controlled football made Yeovil struggle and Borough improved in the second half. In the first-half Borough had the Somerset side beaten where it mattered – in front of the net. After the break Nuneaton showed their opponents why they deserved to win.

The third goal came from Cutler 15 minutes from the end. Jackson again fired goalwards, Cutler stopped it in front of the net, turned and placed the ball wide of the goalkeeper. Lol Wright had combined with Jackson to set up the move. The lanky winger was tailor made for the conditions. He held the ball, showed it to the defenders and then took them on inside the box and always looked likely to cause an upset with his unorthodox style.

Aston's own goal came seven minutes from the end. He turned and hit the ball back to Crump, but only succeeded in stranding the goalkeeper at the other side of the goal.

## Nuneaton Borough v Barnet 03-05-1969

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Allen, Aston, Drake, Boot, Cutler, Jackson, Jacques, Wright, Foweraker.

Borough welcomed Barnet to Manor Park for the final Southern League Premier Division game of the season.

A Tony Jacques equaliser 15 minutes from the end, was the signal for an all-out Borough effort to finish their Southern League campaign for the 1968-69 season with a home win.

And they very nearly did, for between this goal and the end of the game Paul Cutler headed just wide; Mickey Boot crashed a shot against a post; and goalkeeper Fred Dakin brought off a fine save from a Jacques header. In the end, however, Borough had to be content with a point.

Nuneaton had a slight edge over the London side until, in the 60th minute, Billy Meadows headed a brilliant goal from a Jimmy Lye cross to give the visitors the lead. For a while it looked as though Barnet would get away with the points, but in the 75th minute Dakin could only parry a Lol Wright shot, and Jacques was on hand to put the ball into the net.

Before Jacques' equaliser both goalkeepers had brought off fine saves, Fred Crump from Colin Powell, and Dakin from Paul Cutler, who took an Alec Jackson cross to shoot hard on the turn.

# Nuneaton Borough 1958-1970 – Part 2



## Nuneaton Borough v Bromsgrove 05-05-1969

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Allen, Aston, Drake, Boot, Jackson, Wright, Jacques, Cutler, Ashe.

Borough welcomed Bromsgrove Rovers to Manor Park for a Midland Floodlit Cup fixture.

Emphatic winners of the Midland Floodlit Cup competition, Borough collected another 13 points as a result of this win over Bromsgrove Rovers and took their total to 204 with one game to go.

Borough thoroughly deserved this success over a strong West Midland League side. Indeed, but for two brilliant saves from Chris Hooper, first from a header by Tony Jacques, who looked a winner all the way, and then from a fine Alec Jackson shot, the margin of Borough's success would have been more pronounced.

In a fast, full-of-incident first-half, Borough played the more convincing, more purposeful football, and might well have crossed over with more than a two goal lead, though the visitors once went close to scoring when Ray Howells shot against a post. Bromsgrove had more of the play after the break, but it was not until Borough had made it 3-0 that they got their goal.

Tony Jacques opened Borough's account in the 18th minute when he nipped in to shoot past Hooper after the goalkeeper had got his hands to, but failed to hold, a Lol Wright shot directed towards the far end of the net. After Fred Crump had made an excellent save from Alan Craddock, Paul Cutler made it 2-0 when he shot home a Norman Ashe cross, and in the 75th minute Stan Aston and Mickey Boot made a chance for Norman Ashe to slam a hard drive past Hooper.

Ten minutes from time, Alan Craddock picked up a loose ball to send it into the Borough net to round off the scoring.

## Nuneaton Borough v Burton Albion 07-05-1969

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Allen, Aston, Drake, Boot, Cutler, Jackson, Ashe, Jacques, Foweraker. **Sub:** Wright.

**Burton:** Surman, Finney, Bailey, Butler, Whatton, Cleevely, Brown, Price, Metcalfe, Notley, Scattergood. **Sub:** Rowlands.

Borough welcomed Burton Albion to Manor Park for a Midland Floodlit Cup fixture.

Borough's faithful hard-core ignored the England-Wales international and shrugged off the depressing conditions to cheer the Midland Floodlit Cup champions last night. The television and the rain cut the crowd to 600 – the lowest at Nuneaton for years – as Borough wound up the season with a 13 points win. They saw the Manor Park side fall behind after an incredible boob by goalkeeper Fred Crump in the fourth minute. He dived brilliantly to save on the line after Alan Jones had deflected the ball towards his own net.

But, as Crump went to throw the ball out, it slipped out of his

hands and rolled into the goal to put Burton in front. Crump hung his head in despair. Nuneaton fought their way back though, with a 42nd minute equaliser from Tony Jacques, before Lol Wright gave the crowd a two goal treat, making what could be his last appearance in Borough colours.

And at the end of the game the crowd heard Midland Floodlit Cup secretary John Wiseman describe Nuneaton's 214 point total as a record which will only be equalled by a very good side. The win maintained the Manor Park outfit's unbeaten record in the competition in a game which provided little between the goals.

Burton, boosted by their fourth minute gift goal, played well in the first 25 minutes. But they were a poor side from then on. They hardly looked like scoring a legitimate goal. It was a question of how long Borough took to make the breakthrough. And after Jacques had equalised from a long Fred Crump clearance, they added two more goals in three minutes to wrap up the win. Wright notched the first from a Paul Cutler pass in the 47th minute. And in the 50th minute he sent a glancing header just inside the post from an Alan Jones cross.

## Southern League Premier Division 1968-69

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cambridge United	42	27	5	10	72	39	59
Hillingdon Borough	42	24	10	8	68	47	58
Wimbledon	42	21	12	9	66	48	54
King's Lynn	42	20	9	13	68	60	49
Worcester City	42	19	11	12	53	47	49
Romford	42	18	12	12	58	52	48
Weymouth	42	16	15	11	52	41	47
Yeovil Town	42	16	13	13	52	50	45
Kettering Town	42	18	8	16	51	55	44
Dover	42	17	9	16	66	61	43
Nuneaton Borough	42	17	7	18	74	58	41
Barnet	42	15	10	17	72	66	40
Chelmsford City	42	17	6	19	56	58	40
Hereford United	42	15	9	18	66	62	39
Wellington Town	42	14	10	18	62	61	38
Poole Town	42	16	6	20	75	76	38
Burton Albion	42	16	5	21	55	71	37
Margate	42	14	7	21	79	90	35
Cheltenham Town	42	15	5	22	55	64	35
Bedford Town	42	11	12	19	46	63	34
Rugby Town	42	10	6	26	38	83	26
Guildford City	42	7	11	24	41	73	25

## Kidderminster Harriers — 4th Qualifying Round

Borough welcomed Kidderminster Harriers to Manor Park for a 4th Qualifying Round FA Cup tie.

Borough: Crump, Jones, R. Smith, Allen, Aston, Boot, Jackson, Deakin, Jacques, Cutler, Foweraker. Sub: Quartermain.

Kidderminster: Wilcox, Buxton, Cockcroft, C. Smith, Jewkes, Watson, Gilbert, B. Wassall, P. Wassall, Henderson, Taylor. Sub: Cocker.

When, six minutes from the end, Peter Foweraker shot into the Kidderminster net, it looked as though Borough had booked their passage into the competition proper.

Foweraker's effort was greeted with a tremendous cheer for Borough had scored the goal for which they had been striving without success for 84 minutes.

But those Nuneaton cheers turned to disappointment when, two minutes from the end, Brendan Wassall grabbed an equaliser to earn his side a replay at Aggborough.

This was the second home game in succession that Borough had had victory snatched from their grasp in the dying minutes.

That they should have been forced into a replay was entirely Borough's own fault. They should have won without a great deal of bother.

Indeed, it could have been all over bar the shouting by half-time, for so great was Borough's superiority during the first session that they should have had the game sewn up by the break.

But instead of crossing with what ought to have been a winning lead, Borough went in at half-time with no goals to show for a great deal of hard work.

While praise must be given the Harriers for defending so stubbornly in the face of heavy first-half pressure, the fact remains that Borough definitely missed their big chance during this period of almost complete domination.

Kidderminster came more into the game after the change of ends, and

though the home side still held the upper hand, the Harriers caused occasional trouble with quick breaks from defence.

Generally speaking though, the Harriers, like Borough, failed to impress with their finishing, and by midway through the second half it began to look as though a goal by either side might very well settle the issue.

And when, in the 84th minute, Peter Foweraker took a cross from Alec Jackson to shoot past Tony Wilcox, success for Borough looked very much on the cards.

But two minutes from time Brendan Wassall seized upon a rebound to send the ball into the Borough net.

## Kidderminster Harriers — 4th Qualifying Round Replay

Borough made the journey to Kidderminster Harriers for a 4th Qualifying Round FA Cup replay.

Borough: Crump, Jones, R. Smith, Allen, Quartermain, Boot, Jackson, Ashe, Jacques, Cutler, Foweraker.

By their defeat, Borough lost the chance of a visit to Third Division club Brighton on November 16 and, at the same time, failed to realise their hopes of reaching the First Round for three consecutive years.

Borough's troubles started after the game had been in progress only three minutes, when Alec Jackson tried to make a back-pass to Fred Crump and let in Peter Wassall to score an easy goal. Wassall was left with only Fred Crump to beat and made no mistake.

This was a bad start for Borough, but worse was to follow, for in the 42nd minute they lost the services of their top goalscorer Tony Jacques who, following a clash of heads when he went up to head a ball, suffered from concussion and was taken to hospital and detained.

Jacques, who was replaced by substitute Mick Keeley after the break, was receiving attention on

the touchline when the Harriers got their second goal. It was obvious that Borough, who were without Stan Aston and Peter Deakin, would have to be at their best to beat Harriers, who are a formidable side on their own ground.

Quite early on – after the Harriers had taken that three-minute lead – both Jacques and Jackson shot over the top when well placed, while just before the end Ashe fired a shot over the bar.

On the whole, however, Borough had little punch up front and Tony Wilcox in the home goal was seldom in real trouble. One or two headers, however, went close.

The Harriers, who relied on a tight defence and quick breaks upfield, deserved their success.

Borough's attacks generally broke down before a defence which covered up well, tackled resolutely, and usually got the ball when it was in the air.

Peter Wassall, who had given the Harriers that early lead, also scored the home side's second goal, when he headed in a Brian Taylor free-kick during first-half injury time. John Henderson helped the ball into the net but it had already crossed the line.

Kidderminster got their third goal seven minutes from time, Peter Wassall putting Dave Gilbert through to place the ball out of Crump's reach.

This third goal was the signal for Kidderminster supporters to start chanting "Easy, easy," while others began to sing "We do like to be beside the seaside."

This was a most unhappy day for Borough. It was a big blow to lose Tony Jacques when the score was 1-0. But the fact is that after that early set-back they never really looked like getting through to the first round. The goal touch was missing.

On the whole, however, Borough had little punch up front and Tony Wilcox in the home game was seldom in real trouble.

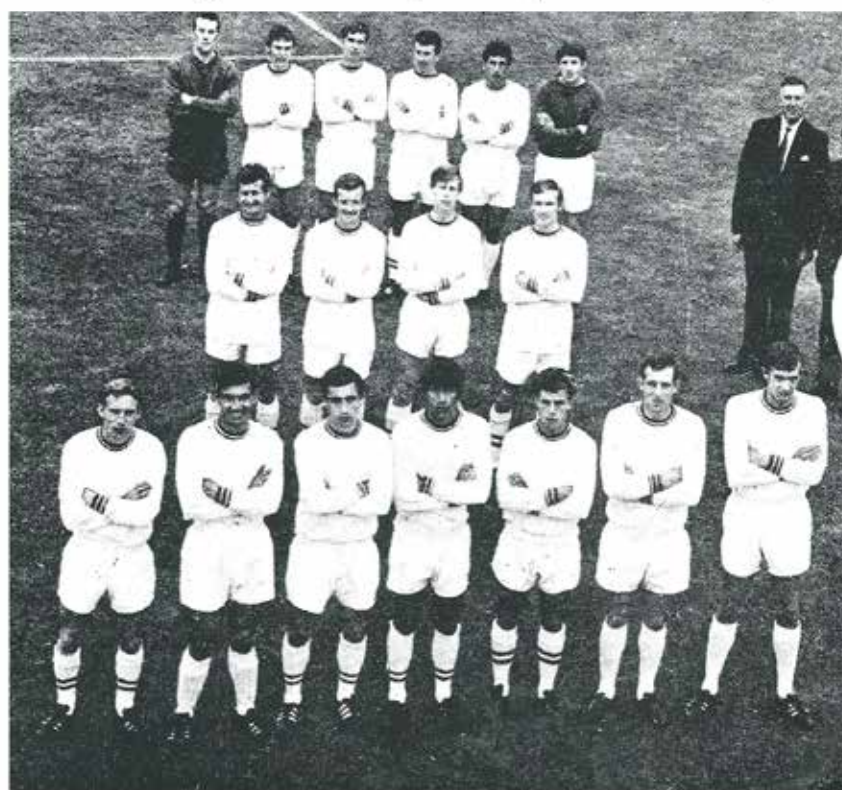


## Nuneaton Borough 1968-69

Back Row: Don May, Malcolm Allen, Stan Aston, Bobby Drake, Fred Crump, Pat Quartermain, Roger Smith, Alan Jones, Micky Boot, Bunny Larkin..

Front row: Norman Ashe, Paul Cutler, Tony Jacques, Tony Richards, Alec Jackson, Peter Foweraker, Lol Wright.

Taken on August 5th 1968 before pre-season game with Notts County.



## Nuneaton Borough 1968-69

Back Row: Fred Crump, Alan Jones, Stan Aston, Bobby Drake, Pat Quartermain, Keith Gilbert.

Middle Row: Bernard 'Bunny' Larkin, Micky Boot, Malcolm Allen, Roger Smith.

Front row: Norman Ashe, Tony Richards, Alec Jackson, Paul Cutler, Peter Foweraker, Tony Jacques, Lol Wright.

# Nuneaton Borough 1958-1970 – Part 2



## Southern League Premier Division: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1968-69

Nuneaton Scores First

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	Attendance
07.27	Dudley Town	A	PSF	0-1		
07.29	Highgate United	A	PSF	2-2	Jacques, Larkin	
07.31	Coventry City	H	PSF	2-1	Jacques, Larkin	6,118
08.02	Leicester City	H	PSF	2-1	Ashe, Wright	3,400
08.03	Bromsgrove Rovers	A	PSF	0-2		
08.05	Notts County	H	PSF	1-0	Jacques	3,867
08.10	Chelmsford City	H	L	0-1		5,543
08.12	Burton Albion	H	L	5-0	Cutler (2), Boot (2), Jones	5,321
08.17	Guildford City	A	L	3-1	Jacques (2), Cutler	1,673
08.19	Wellington Town	H	SLC 1 1st Leg	3-4	Harris (o.g.), Jacques (2)	4,886
08.24	Romford	A	L	3-2	Jacques, Jackson, Boot	2,212
08.26	Wellington Town	A	SLC 1 2nd Leg	4-1	Wright, Jacques (2), Larkin	2,719
08.31	Wimbledon	H	L	3-2	Jacques (2), Jackson	5,345
09.02	Burton Albion	A	L	0-1		3,119
09.07	Margate	A	L	1-2	Jacques	1,814
09.09	Dover	A	L	3-2	Keeley, Jacques, Foweraker	1,817
09.14	Hillingdon	H	L	3-1	Jackson, Aston, Keeley	4,400
09.16	King's Lynn	H	L	1-2	Jacques	4,178
09.18	Cheltenham Town	A	MFC	5-2	Boot, Larkin, Richards, Jacques, Cutler	1,161
09.21	Hereford United	A	L	2-2	Jackson, Foweraker	3,647
09.23	Worcester City	H	MFC	7-1	Keeley (3), Cutler (4)	4,286
09.28	Stourbridge	A	BSC 1	0-0		996
09.30	Bromsgrove Rovers	A	MFC	4-1	Jacques (2), Smith, Cutler	1,070
10.05	Romford	H	L	6-0	Jackson, Jacques (3), Cutler (2)	4,769
10.07	Tamworth	H	MFC	2-1	Larkin, Jacques	5,845
10.12	Guildford City	H	L	4-0	Jackson, Richards (2), Jacques	5,183
10.14	Corby Town	A	EAC	0-3		1,276
10.16	Worcester City	A	L	1-1	Jacques	1,489
10.19	Chelmsford City	A	L	2-3	Deakin, Boot	3,141
10.21	Cheltenham Town	H	MFC	1-1	Jacques	4,562
10.23	Stourbridge	H	BSC 1 Replay	2-1	Jacques (2)	2,691
10.26	Margate	H	L	4-4	Foweraker, Cutler (2), Deakin	4,913
11.02	Kidderminster Harriers	H	FAC 4Q	1-1	Foweraker	6,860
11.06	Kidderminster Harriers	A	FAC 4Q Replay	0-3		4,209
11.09	Tamworth	A	BSC 2	1-8	Richards	1,870
11.11	Tamworth	A	MFC	4-0	Foweraker (pen), Cutler (2), Richards	2,915
11.18	Wellington Town	H	MFC	2-1	Quartermain (pen), Cutler	2,794
11.23	Yeovil Town	H	L	1-2	Jacques	4,152
11.26	Banbury United	H	SLC 3	2-0	Deakin (pen), Smith	3,178
11.30	Cambridge United	A	L	1-3	Cutler	3,446
12.02	Lockheed Leamington	H	CC	2-2	Deakin (pen), Boot	2,585
12.07	Dover	H	L	1-0	Jackson	2,841
12.10	Burton Albion	A	MFC	1-1	Richards	796
12.13	Corby Town	H	EAC	1-2	Larkin	1,790
12.16	Lockheed Leamington	A	CC	3-1	Foweraker (pen), Cutler, Wright	500
12.21	Weymouth	H	L	1-0	Cutler	3,295
01.04	King's Lynn	A	L	2-2	Cutler, Deakin	1,660
01.06	Lockheed Leamington	A	MFC	2-1	Jacques, Richards	380
01.18	Kettering Town	A	L	0-1		2,100
01.20	Hereford United	H	CC	4-1	Smith, Jacques (2), Richards	2,636
01.25	Wimbledon	A	L	0-2		2,131
01.27	Corby Town	H	SLC 4	3-3	Aston, Larkin (pen), Jackson	3,684
02.01	Wellington Town	H	L	4-1	Jacques (3), Cutler	3,370

# Nuneaton Borough 1958-1970 – Part 2



## Southern League Premier Division: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1968-69

Nuneaton Scores First

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	Attendance
02.03	Lockheed Leamington	H	MFC	5-1	Jackson, Ashe, Cutler (2), Keeley	2,619
02.06	Weymouth	A	L	2-3	Ashe, Larkin (pen)	1,454
02.15	Netherfield	H	F	3-1	Jacques (2), Allen	3,150
02.27	Worcester City	A	MFC	1-1	Larkin (pen)	895
03.01	Poole	H	L	3-0	Cutler, Jacques, Ashe	2,894
03.03	Corby Town	A	SLC 4 Replay	2-0	Larkin, Jackson	959
03.08	Cheltenham Town	A	L	0-2		1,385
03.10	Cheltenham Town	H	SLC S-F	0-2		4,185
03.12	Banbury United	H	MFC	1-0	Foweraker	559
03.15	Cheltenham Town	H	L	3-1	Boot, Jacques, Foweraker	2,554
03.17	Banbury United	H	MFC	4-0	Jacques, Foweraker (pen), Ashe (2)	2,380
03.19	Rugby Town	H	MFC	7-2	Jacques (3), Cutler (2), Aston, Larkin	2,377
03.22	Barnet	A	L	1-2	Jacques	1,717
03.24	Kidderminster	H	CC	0-3		3,458
03.26	Rugby Town	A	MFC	0-0		403
03.29	Kettering Town	H	L	0-1		2,134
03.31	Wellington Town	A	MFC	5-2	Foweraker (3, 1pen), Jackson, Keeley	1,210
04.04	Bedford Town	A	L	2-3	Larkin (2)	2,505
04.05	Wellington Town	A	L	0-0		1,200
04.07	Bedford Town	H	L	1-1	Larkin (pen)	2,518
04.14	Worcester City	H	L	1-2	Larkin (pen)	2,281
04.17	Rugby Town	H	L	1-0	Cutler	1,507
04.19	Hillingdon Borough	A	L	1-2	Keeley	1,897
04.21	Cambridge United	H	L	0-1		2,028
04.22	Derby County	H	F	0-3		2,287
04.23	Rugby Town	A	L	2-1	Cutler, Larkin	495
04.25	Hereford United	H	L	1-0	Larkin	2,325
04.29	Poole Town	A	L	1-2	Jacques	502
04.30	Yeovil Town	A	L	3-1	Cutler (2), Jacques	
05.03	Barnet	H	L	1-1	Jacques	1,982
05.05	Bromsgrove	H	MFC	3-1	Jacques, Cutler, Ashe	2,008
05.07	Burton Albion	H	MFC	3-1	Jacques, Wright (2)	600

KEY: L = Southern League Premier Division, FAC = F.A.Cup, MFC = Midland Floodlit Cup, BSC = Birmingham Senior Cup, CC = Camkin Cup; EAC = Anglia Floodlit Cup, SLC = Southern League Cup, PSF = Pre-Season Friendly, F = Friendly

## Borough Blow – Smith Out For Ten Weeks

Roger Smith, the Borough full-back with an attacking flair, was told this week that he cannot play football for at least ten weeks. Smith learned the shattering news following a short spell in hospital at Nuneaton for observations. Doctors confirmed that he has jaundice – the complaint that made him miss the end of last season. He missed the last six weeks of last season, but was well on the way to recovery before his illness hit him again.

His absence will be a big blow to Nuneaton's hopes. For Smith was one of the stars of last season and a vital member of the squad. Smith's all action displays in the number three shirt, his overlapping runs and one hundred per cent effort earned him praise from visiting Football League managers. Dudley Kernick, in fact, said that the 24-year-old ex-winger could "do a Tony Book" and hold his own in the Football League. But Smith now faces a long fight back to fitness. He will not be able to train until at least the beginning of September.

## Borough Boss Adds Four Names To Squad

Dudley Kernick has completed a hectic week of close season signings. The Borough manager had added four new names to his squad – and also opened negotiations with another.

The four newcomers are Peter Thompson, a versatile 26-year-old from Peterborough; Alan Shenton, a left flank forward who has been a part-timer with Rotherham and Doncaster; Ray Aggio, from a player-exchange deal with Romford; and Brian Lobban, a young inside-forward from Warley. The player who could be on his way to Manor Park is a skilful, young amateur, who had been on the fringe of England international honours.

## Goodall Joins Borough

Burton Albion's Dave Goodall, rated among the best defenders in the Southern League, has joined Borough after a dispute over terms at Eton Park. Goodall was retained by Albion at the end of last season but could not reach agreement over his contract.

He was at Burton for two years, where he made the number six shirt his own. Said Dudley Kernick: "He is a specialist in that position and has had four years of Southern League Premier Division experience." The signing of Goodall will release "Player of the Year" Malcolm Allen for more constructive midfield duties.

## Hudson Treat For Local Fans

Borough fans get a pre-season appetiser on Saturday when the strong Northern League side Altrincham visit Manor Park in a practice match. The match is being tagged as a "Champion of Champions match" as both sides won respective floodlit competitions last season.

It will also be an eye-opener for the fans to see Borough's eight new men in action. Manager Dudley Kernick has promised to play all of them including his latest signing Chris Gedney, the England amateur international from Alvechurch.

And for the Sky Blue contingent from Nuneaton it will be a chance to see former Highfield Road favourite George Hudson in action once again.

Hudson played for Tranmere Rovers last season but was surprisingly given a free transfer by the league club. He was promptly snapped up by Altrincham and he now forms a double spearhead with another ex-league player Jackie Swindells. Swindells netted a record 82 goals last season and his team-up with Hudson should be a good test of Borough's defence.

## Full List

Borough's full list of new men on show will be: Dave Goodall (Burton), Peter Thompson (Peterborough), Brian Lobban (Warley), Alan Shenton (Doncaster), Ray Aggio (Romford), Ron Metcalfe (Burton), Gerry Graham (Workington) and Gedney.

Gedney played in Borough's private practice match against Boldmere St Michael's on Wednesday night. "Southern League football will bring the best out of Gedney," said Mr Kernick after completing the signing.



## Reg Bull To Stay As Chairman

Nuneaton Borough chairman, Mr Reg Bull, has changed his mind about resigning. And now he is to carry on as chairman of the club for another 12 months.

Mr Bull announced that he had offered his resignation to the board of directors.

He said he felt his 11 years as chairman was "a good innings" and that it was time for someone else to take over.

But last night a special meeting of the board was held at Manor Park. Mr Bull was asked to reconsider his decision – and as a result he withdrew his resignation.

Today Mr Bull said: "I have thought the matter over and, in the interests of the club, I will now carry on for another 12 months."

## Borough Season Ticket Boom

Nuneaton Borough's season ticket sales could be on the way to another record breaking figure. Season tickets for the new season have only been on sale for a week, but the club is already reporting "an excellent response."

Applications are pouring into the Manor Park office and secretary-manager Dudley Kernick says: "I am very pleased with the way the sales are going.

"After only a week there have been quite a few inquiries about buying season tickets for next season."

Last year Borough chalked up record receipts. Sales reached

an all-time high and were more than 25 per cent up on the previous season. Borough's turnstile admission prices for the new term have been increased to fall in line with other Southern League clubs. But season ticket prices have remained unchanged. And, as Mr Kernick points out, this does mean, in effect, "half price admission."

"It may sound gimmicky, but it's true. Season ticket holders will be watching football at half-price next season." He explained: "A ground season ticket costs £4 4s. and with about 40 games to be seen at Manor Park next season this works out at just over 2s. a game."

"This price compares with 4s. a game, which is the admission price being charged for a place on the terraces next term."

## Play The Game

To The Editor,

Yet another football season approaches and yet again the supporters of the Borough are being taken for a ride.

While comment about the players cannot be made, comments about the ground improvements can. Mr Bull resigns as chairman. He says he has had a good innings and indeed he has. But he has, however, been persuaded to reconsider his resignation.

In his eleven years as chairman, the club's real achievements are debatable. The excuse used to be. "We cannot afford it." Dare someone now say this is still the case. Ground improvements have not materialised, although we may have two new crossbars from Poland and also have to pay increased admission charges. The supporters would like to know what is happening to the finances the club should be endowed with and what exactly the directors intend to do to provide better facilities for the fans – if only to prevent the mud-baths on the terraces.

Finally, the slogan was "Be Loyal, Support The Royal Blues." The supporters have been loyal and now surely the slogan should be that the directors should be loyal with the supporters.

Many people have remarked that only eight miles away one can see First Division soccer for 5s. 6d. While true supporters scoff at the idea, many more will not. Please, gentlemen, bear that in mind and play the game with us all.

K. A. Jukes, 211 Church Road, Nuneaton

## England Amateur International Joins Boro'

Borough manager, Dudley Kernick has signed England international squad member Chris Gedney, the eighth close season newcomer at Manor Park. Gedney signed last night and then turned in an outstanding performance in Borough's private practice match against Boldmere St. Michael's.

It ended in a 3-3 draw and 22-year-old Gedney had a hand in two of the goals in the two-hour session. Gedney, who was with Alvechurch last season, has been named in the 14 strong

squad for the amateur international against France in October. He will continue as an amateur at Manor Park and hopes to play in the European Nations Cup later this coming season.

An inside or right flank forward, he recently returned from a tour of New Zealand and the Far East with the FA XI. Managed by Blackpool's Jimmy Armfield, the side included Aston Villa's £100,000 signing Bruce Rioch and Coventry's Tony Hateley. Gedney was one of only three amateurs in the party.

## Borough Wingers Join West Country Clubs

Two former Borough wingers signed for West Country clubs this week and will meet in two local "derbies" this season – on opposite sides. Peter Foweraker, released at the end of last season, has linked up with Truro Town. And Norman Ashe, also given a free transfer, has joined Truro's arch rivals, Falmouth, in the South-Western League. Foweraker comes from Plymouth.

Ashe was a favourite with the Manor Park fans and was their first "Player of the Year." He will soon be moving from the Midlands to live in Fowey, Cornwall, where he will link up with his father-in-law in the building trade.

## 1969-70

### Nuneaton Borough v Altrincham

26-07-1969

Borough: Crump, Jones, Thompson, Allen, Aston, Boot, Gedney, Metcalfe, Jacques, Jackson, Keeley.

Borough welcomed Altrincham to Manor Park for a pre-season friendly game.



Ray Aggio closes in as Altrincham keeper George Smith scrambles across his goal during the second-half of Saturday's game.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Borough's first official pre-season work out presented the "new look" squad with an experience they will not want to repeat. For they conceded the winning goal to a strong looking Altrincham side with only two minutes to go on Saturday. But Nuneaton, with seven new signings on view, did enough to show that Dudley Kernick has laid the foundations of a solid set-up during the summer.

After last year's see-saw season, his number one aim during the close season weeks has been to search for players which



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will bring him consistency. And this could be so – despite the goal that gave the Northern Leaguers a “prestige” victory on their first visit to Manor Park. Practice games rarely provide a good yardstick for the future – as Borough have proved so often in the past.

In the weeks before their great FA Cup and Southern League runners-up season they were beaten in most of their warm-ups. And before last term began they sparked against three Football League sides but spluttered through their Southern League campaign.

Most of the newcomers played well, particularly Ronnie Metcalfe whose speed as a second striker alongside Tony Jacques will upset a lot of Southern League defences. Chris Gedney had a promising first-half before he was replaced by Brian Lobban in the after-break reshuffle. Gerry Graham also enjoyed a good first-half in midfield, but marred his performance with some sloppiness in the second half.

But while most of the attention was focused on the newcomers two of last year’s regulars took the eye. Mal Allen “Player of the Year” showed that he has lost none of his skill despite the fact that he had a tough job against Altrincham’s danger man Jackie Swindells.

And Tony Jacques looked sharp up front after his summer lay-off. Another of last year’s side who impressed was Mickey Boot, who was quietly efficient as a left-back. Boot played this position well towards the end of last season and should stay there, at least until Roger Smith is able to return.

Either side could have wrapped up the game before the last-gasp winner. Chris Gedney hit a post and Aggio was only a stride or so away from a Tony Jacques cross. For Altrincham, Swindells had a shot kicked off the line by Alan Jones and Worth miskicked in front of goal when he should have scored.

The goal that decided the game followed a first-time effort from Altrincham full-back Ian Morris. Fred Crump punched out a centre and caught his knuckles against George Hudson’s leg in the process. The ball dropped into an empty space and Morris suddenly appeared to lash it into the net with Crump stranded.

## Nuneaton Borough v Coventry City 28-07-1969

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Aston, Allen, Boot, Keeley (Lobban), Graham (Shenton), Metcalfe, Jacques, Aggio, Gedney.

**Coventry:** McManus, Goodwin (Allen), Parker, Gould, Dugdale, Machin, Taylor, Joicey (Rafferty), Hateley, Paddon, Alderson.

Borough welcomed Coventry City to Manor Park for a pre-season warm-up match.

Ray Aggio, close-season signing from Romford, swept home two great goals as Borough warmed up for the big kick-off with an impressive performance against Coventry City. There was not a weak link evident as new-look Nuneaton outplayed a Sky Blues side which included first team skipper Ernie Machin and the costly Tony Hateley.

The highlight of last night’s triumph was the two-goal performance of Aggio. His outstanding ability of being able to beat a man at close quarters was seen in the 17th minute when he scored Borough’s second goal. He chested down a neat pass from Gerry Graham, wriggled past two defenders and slid the ball past the advancing Eric McManus. Throughout the 90 minutes, Aggio looked dangerous in front of goal and was always willing to have a go. His second goal came in the 68th minute after Brian Lobban had been pulled down a couple of yards outside the box. He spotted a gap left by the Sky Blues’ wall and smacked the ball home.

It took Borough just four minutes to earn the cheers of the 1,033 crowd. Graham fed Alan Jones as the full-back overlapped on the right. Jones was tripped as he cut in and from the quickly taken free-kick Aggio sent two defenders the wrong way before crossing for Chris Gedney to score with a diving header. Nuneaton were by far the better side in the first-half. They moved with more method and determination and everybody wanted the ball.

Up front, Ron Metcalfe, Tony Jacques and Gedney all showed enough to prove that they could upset even the best Southern League defences. Metcalfe was the scorer of the fourth goal five minutes from the end. He raced past hesitant City defenders, collected the ball from the right and slipped round two men to slot in an angled shot.

Borough’s defence was not really tested until the last 20 minutes. But even the brain of Machin and the famed head of Hateley failed to bring results. Fred Crump in goal was not really called upon until City fired in three sharp drives during a spell of pressure. He dealt with all three competently enough to make it clear that he is still one of the best goalkeepers in the Southern League.

In front of Crump, Malcolm Allen earned another five star rating despite two misguided back passes; Stan Aston gave nothing away and was never worried by Hateley; and full backs Jones and Mickey Boot displayed their talents as defensive and attacking players

## We’ll Be Among The Honours – Kernick

Dudley Kernick, Nuneaton Borough’s manager, last night predicted honours for his team next season. He was giving an early verdict on his team’s two trial matches against Altrincham and Coventry City.

Said Mr Kernick: “I cannot see another team in the Southern League at the moment who will beat us to the championship. “It is only early yet, I know, but I was quite satisfied with the team’s showing in these two games.

“This squad has all-round ability and I see no reason why we shouldn’t do much better than last term.”

Borough take on Leicester City in the third of their series of practice matches at Manor Park tomorrow night. Peter Thompson, who was injured in the Altrincham match, will

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definitely play and Dave Goodall, yet to make an appearance, might also be in the line-up

Leicester are expected to include several first team men. The kick-off is 7.30pm. Borough travel to Altrincham on Saturday in the return match against the Northern Premier League side and hope to reverse last Saturday's 1-0 defeat.

## Nuneaton Borough v Leicester City XI 31-07-1969

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Allen, Aston, Boot, Thompson, Lobban (Graham), Aggio, Metcalfe, Jacques (Keeley), Shenton.

Borough welcomed a Leicester City XI to Manor Park for a pre-season friendly game.

Mick Keeley stepped into the shoes of Tony Jacques last night and turned in a two goal display which sank a hard running Leicester side. The ex-Highgate amateur powered home a 55th minute header – set up by Alan Jones – and made it 2-0 in the 70th minute after winning a goal-line tussle with McKay.

The goals crowned another impressive performance from Nuneaton in a hard fought game in front of a 2,000 crowd.

Peter Thompson, back after injury, was the most impressive of the newcomers. His midfield performance stamped him as a player to watch. Ray Aggio again demonstrated his ability in tight spaces and the others slotted into a solid-looking bunch. And they were backed up by good displays from Stan Aston, Maclolm Allen and Mickey Boot.

Boot has taken over the left-back spot and has already had two games which showed glimpses of the form that made him a favourite with the terraces at the start of last term. Leicester's youngsters, watched by manager Frank O'Farrell and eager to impress, provided much tougher opposition than Coventry. They ran hard, moved well and knitted together well, despite the fact that they had some trialists on view.

Borough's first goal was sparked off by Aggio, teed up by Jones and finished off by Keeley. Aggio pushed a pass forward to Jones who went past City defender Burt and pulled the ball back from the line. The cross dropped near the far post where Keeley was given a lot of room to flash home his header. Jones also figured in the second goal. He pushed a pass to Metcalfe, whose shot was pushed loose by Leicester keeper Paul Haynes. McKay got to the ball on the line but Keeley had followed up to force it into the net. Before the end McKay shaved the Borough crossbar with a 25 yard free-kick and Broadie shot into the side netting.

## Altrincham v Nuneaton Borough 02-08-1969

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Allen, Goodall, Boot, Lobban, Graham, Thompson, Keeley, Jacques, Aggio.

Borough made the journey to Moss Lane to take on Altrincham in a pre-season friendly.

Borough's defeat did nothing to dent the faith manager Dudley Kernick has in his rebuilt Manor Park outfit. Minutes

after the defeat he allowed himself the luxury of a broad grin and said: "I am not unduly disturbed by the result." The strong point of the new look squad is its versatility, but this was stretched to the absolute limit when Nuneaton arrived with just 11 fit players.

They were virtually beaten by the pre-match circumstances and after only two minutes they were well on their way to defeat when Jackie Swindells netted for the Northern Leaguers. But they did not throw in the towel, despite the fact that they were forced back on defence for long periods by the sharp moving Robins.

Tony Jacques fluffed an easy chance early on and should have made better use of another. But two second half goals from ex-Sky Blue George Hudson made sure of a pre-season double for the Cheshire side. Mick Keeley did make it 2-1 with a Ray Aggio inspired goal, but Altrincham were good value for their win in the end.

## Nuneaton Borough v Alvechurch 04-08-1969

Borough welcomed Alvechurch to Manor Park for a pre-season friendly match.

Tony Jacques gave a ten minute demonstration of his goal power last night as Borough wound up their pre-season programme. He hit a hat-trick between the 49th and 59th minutes to pull Nuneaton from behind and put them into an unassailable position against the Midland Combination side.

All three goals bore the hallmark of an opportunist. And they came after Alvechurch had provided a lot tougher opposition than most people thought. They looked equally as good as Nuneaton in the first 45 minutes and could easily have taken the lead before half-time. Their dash made Borough look sluggish until they were given a boost when Ray Mason put them in front in the 48th minute after Fred Crump had pushed a cross from Preece onto the crossbar.

But it was a different story only a matter of minutes later. Chris Gedney playing against his old club, forced his way through and set up a chance for Jacques who picked his spot and swept the ball into the net. Eight minutes later Aggio and Thompson both climbed for a Mickey Boot free kick. Thompson glanced it off his head and Jacques ran behind the Alvechurch defence for his second goal. And only two minutes after that the Alvechurch keeper scrambled away a shot from Thompson.

Aggio went for it and was barged off the ball by Francis. But by that time Jacques had been given another glimpse of the net and goal number three went in. Jacques declared in the 66th minute and was replaced by Mick Keeley after his three goal burst. A mistake by Alvechurch keeper Smith gave Borough their fourth goal in the 82nd minute – scored by Chris Gedney, who combined well with Aggio before his shot went through the goalkeeper's legs and into the net.

The England amateur international squad member had an impressive game and must have marked himself down for a place in Saturday's curtain-raiser against Romford.



## Pen Pictures

- 1. Fred Crump:** Since he came to Manor Park three seasons ago, goalkeeper Crump has chalked up an incredible achievement. He has made more than 200 appearances – and has only missed three games. Crump a former Southern League representative player, joined Borough from Tonbridge.
- 2. Alan Jones:** Good reliable right-flank defender. Jones is a product of Borough's A team and has been with the club since he was 15. Nuneaton has been his only club and he has been a regular first-teamer for the past three seasons.
- 3. Roger Smith:** Many people rate Roger Smith too good for Southern League football. He is a young versatile player, who can play up front, in midfield or where he has now established himself, in the back four. Smith joined Borough from Walsall. At the moment he is on the sick list after a bad attack of jaundice.
- 4. Dave Goodall:** Strong tackling Goodall came to Manor Park this summer following a dispute over terms with Burton. He is a solid defender, considered by many as one of the best in the Southern League. Goodall joined Nuneaton after a long spell at Eton Park where he was a member of Burton's promotion winning team.
- 5. Stan Aston:** Born in Nuneaton and a pupil of Arbury High School. Centre-half Aston was taken on for a trial with Wolves as a teenager and was under Dudley Kernick when he signed for Hinckley Athletic. Aston played in Hinckley's promotion side before moving on to Burton. From Eton Park he went into the Football League with Hartlepool United and returned to Nuneaton to play for Borough two seasons ago.
- 6. Mickey Boot:** Twenty-one-year-old Boot joined Nuneaton last summer and immediately made a big impression with the fans. A clever midfield man, Boot was skipper of Arsenal's FA Youth Cup winning team in 1965 and also made several appearances in the Highbury side's First Division line-up. He went to South Africa on a £6,000 transfer and helped Port Elizabeth carry off the league title. In the absence of Smith, Boot has made a successful switch to the back four.
- 7. Alec Jackson:** Skipper of the Nuneaton side and a former West Bromwich Albion and Birmingham favourite. Jackson played for the Football League against Scotland in 1961 and signed for Borough from Walsall last summer.
- 8. Malcolm Allen:** Borough's longest serving player, and one of the most consistent and respected players in the Southern League. Allen, who can turn out either in midfield or in defence, is in his ninth season at Manor Park. He was one of the stars of Borough's memorable FA Cup run two and a half years ago and is the current holder of the club's player of the year award.
- 9. Tony Jacques:** Goal grabbing Jacques is Borough's costliest player. He joined the club for £2,500 at the beginning of last season from Banbury after topping the Southern League scoring charts. Jacques netted 43 goals in 61 appearances last term and on Monday night in the practice game with Alvechurch, rapped home three goals in ten minutes.

**10. Ray Aggio:** Another of manager Kernick's close-season signings, Aggio joined Nuneaton in a straight swap for Paul Cutler. He is a skilful 22-year-old inside man who for the past four seasons has turned out for Romford.

**11. Peter Thompson:** Came to Nuneaton after a special recommendation from former Borough player Billy Hails. Hails is a coach at Peterborough United where Thompson turned in some promising performances, both at left-back and up front.

**12. Ron Metcalfe:** Fast-running forward who turned out for Leicester City and Derby County. Played for Burton Albion last season and was the Eton Park outfit's leading scorer. Metcalfe signed for Nuneaton this summer after a disagreement with Burton.

**14. Chris Gedney:** Signed only two week's ago from Alvechurch. Gedney is a quick-on-the-ball front runner who toured New Zealand with an FA party during the summer and who is on the fringe of amateur international honours.

**15. Brian Lobban:** Flame-haired Lobban – who has a distinct resemblance to England's Alan Ball – was an amateur with Warley last term and also, towards the end of the last season, turned out a few times for Alvechurch. He looks promising and plays a midfield role.

**16. Gerry Graham:** Strong, well-built defender. He played for Borough in a friendly match two seasons ago against Bedworth. Graham netted some valuable goals for Worcester City, helping them to win their way back into the Southern League's Premier Division and was signed for £1,000 by Workington as a centre-forward. Another of Kernick's summer signings this year.

**17. Mick Keeley:** Amateur with Highgate United, joined Borough last season. Striker Keeley has proved to be one of Borough's most improved players and during the practice match against Leciester last week, he netted two second half goals.

### Nuneaton Borough v Romford

09-08-1969

Borough: Crump, Jones, Allen, Aston, Boot, Thompson, Aggio, Jackson, Metcalfe, Jacques, Gedney.

Borough welcomed Romford to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough saw a point snatched from their grasp in the dying minutes against Romford in a game that was more notable for its three penalties than its goal chances. It was a penalty miss that let Romford off the hook and another spot kick that gave them a point in the pressure cooker conditions. Afterwards manager Dudley Kernick hit out at the Londoner's negative attitude. He said: "They deliberately left out two forwards and had number eight Sorrell there solely to police Jacques."

There were four goals – two of them penalties – and enough incidents to set the shirt sleeved crowd buzzing in the sweltering heat. The game was more dramatic than skilful. And even if the soccer was a disappointment, the game

provided enough talking points. Paul Cutler came on as a second-half substitute for Romford and scored with his second touch of the ball.



**The first Manor Park goal of the season – and another flash of opportunism from Tony Jacques as he darts in to ram it home.**

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Ray Aggio, swapped for Cutler in a close season exchange deal, missed from the spot. And the game ended on an explosive and controversial note with Romford netting their second equaliser from the penalty spot with only three minutes to go.

It followed a melee in the box after a right wing corner. Referee Mr R. White from Kidderminster pointed to the spot and Harry Obeney collected himself a bonus for his tireless work, when he cracked it home. Afterwards Mr White said the penalty was for handball. But the Borough camp protested that the ball had brushed against Peter Thompson.

Paul Cutler, who was on the spot, said: “It hit the player’s hand. I thought it was a bit harsh,” he said.

Tony Jacques shot Borough into the lead in the 34th minute and five minutes later Aggio’s spot kick was saved by Romford keeper Andy Smith. A goal then would surely have sunk the Londoners. But in a dramatic second-half Cutler equalised, Jackson netted from another penalty and then Obeney hit his spot kick.



**Young Borough fans warm up for the new season by getting ready to cheer their favourites.**

Photo: Nuneaton Observer



**Ray Aggio, the man Borough swapped for Paul Cutler, had the privilege of leading his new team out at Manor Park when they played Romford, his old club, last week. Ray had a “happy” game but the fans were not quite so pleased with the result – a 2-2 draw. Said Ray: “The boys have a lot of quality up front and I’m sure they’ll get plenty of goals when they slip into top gear.**

Photo: Nuneaton Observer

## Worcester City v Nuneaton Borough 11-08-1969

**Worcester:** Knight, Griffiths, Stuart, Madley, Bassett, Barton, McEwan, Clements, Carson, Gould, Robinson. Sub: Hobbs.

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Goodall, Aston, Boot, Allen, Thompson, Aggio, Metcalfe, Jacques, Jackson. Sub: Keeley.

Borough made the journey to St George’s Lane for a Southern League Premier Division game against Worcester City.

Borough players walked from the pitch with their heads bowed after 90 minutes of shame, after they were completely and utterly routed, humiliated and crushed. Borough were a complete shambles as they turned in one of their worst Southern League performances for a long, long time. The sum total of Borough’s efforts during the game was a shot from Mickey Boot, four corners, a header from Tony Jacques and two chances that fell to Ray Aggio late in the game.

Borough were crude and cumbersome compared with Worcester, who were made to look like world beaters. Borough were exposed on the flanks where City’s wingers – and their full-backs, revelled in the freedom of the park. Outside right Clements helped himself to two goals, outside



left Robinson grabbed one and full backs Bassett and Griffiths both scored.

Mickey Boot and Alan Jones had nightmare matches in the full-back positions as Worcester piled on the agony. But their workload was doubled as Worcester summed up the situation and threw wave after wave down the flanks. It was almost one-way traffic as Nuneaton went from bad to worse. And it was all over when Griffiths opened the flood gates with Worcester's first goal in the 20th minute. The full-back cut past Jackson, Boot and Goodall as if they didn't exist and slammed his shot past Crump.

Clements made it 2-0 when he moved on to a Gould pass with the Borough defence again exposed and cracked home a first-time shot. Barton then hit the post before Borough had ten minutes of relief at half-time. Boot hit a left foot volley over the top one minute after the break but it was more a feeble gesture of defiance than the sign of a fight back.

It was 3-0 in the 61st minute when Bassett helped himself to a goal after the Nuneaton defence had stood and waited for the offside whistle. Six minutes later Carson steered a 30 yard pass through the wide open gap that was once called the Borough defence and Clements ran in and scored. And Worcester completed the rout with 15 minutes left when Robinson prodded home the ball after the Nuneaton rearguard had again been crucified.

Aggio had two chances to salvage some of Borough's pride in the last few minutes, but both chances went begging.

## Wimbledon v Nuneaton Borough 16-08-1969

**Wimbledon:** Guy, Martin, Willis, Collins, Law, Shreeves, Hodges, O'Rourke, Bailham, McCreedy, Cook. **Sub:** O'Mara.

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Allen, Aston, Thompson, Graham, Aggio, Metcalfe, Jacques, Keeley, Jackson. **Sub:** Boot.

Borough made the journey to Plough Lane to take on Wimbledon in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough reached out and grabbed back a handful of their lost pride with a fighting display against consistent Wimbledon. Plough Lane is a place where few visiting teams get any joy. But Nuneaton ran the Dons as close as anyone with a performance that made the Worcester display look like a bad dream.

The soft goal that put Wimbledon in front in the 12th minute was a tragedy for Fred Cump. He went for a shot from Eddie Bailham which bent at the last minute. Crump appeared to have it covered before it suddenly twisted past his groping fingers and into the net. A blow like that so early in the game would have been a set-back for any side, let alone a team that had been hammered 5-0 only six days earlier.

But Mick Keeley rattled the Dons security with an equalising goal in the 40th minute. That was the confidence booster Borough needed. They put their shakiness behind them and threw back waves of attacks as they fought for their second point of the season. Success was denied them when

Keeley had a glimpse of the goal but delayed his shot and lost the chance in the 77th minute. And it was denied them in the 80th minute when John O'Mara, a bean-pole of a man, grabbed Wimbledon's winner. He scored after O'Rourke had headed against the upright. Borough's players protested and urged the referee to consult his linesman. He did – and pointed to the centre-spot.

All of the defenders worked overtime to frustrate the Dons' fast moving forwards, led by the man of the match Eddie Bailham who can terrorise the best defences on his day. Ray Aggio worked tirelessly in midfield and Ron Metcalfe showed glimpses of the threat that he holds in his speed – particularly in the first half.

Their rhythm was upset, however, when Tony Jacques did not re-appear after the break following a knee injury. Mickey Boot came on in midfield and Gerry Graham was pushed up into the attack but he failed to make much of an impression on Roy Law and Co.

## Nuneaton Borough v Corby Town

18-08-1969

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Allen, Aston, Boot, Thompson, Graham, Aggio, Metcalfe, Keeley, Jackson. **Sub:** Goodall.

Borough welcomed Corby Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Cup first round first leg tie.

Borough, once proud pace-setters in non-league soccer, took another backward step last night in a shabby Southern League Cup tie. A 60th minute Alec Jackson penalty saved them from defeat but their chances of success in the second leg next Tuesday must be slim. They played like a tired end-of-the-season team against the Steelmen who at least showed some enterprise.

And now, after just four games, it has become painfully clear that Manor Park is in for a long hard winter unless there is a drastic transformation. Last season's squad was inconsistent, but it had flair and football ability way above what the present set-up has shown so far.

Once again, goalkeeper Fred Crump, once the most criticised of Borough players, came to the rescue with a series of saves. And Malcolm Allen showed his fighting qualities. But even he was reduced to some aimless play by the end. Crump made two daring saves before Black robbed Graham on the edge of the box and lobbed the ball goalwards. It smacked against the crossbar and came out.

Nuneaton were in real trouble in the dying seconds of the first-half when Black finally found the net to give Corby the lead. Borough's defence stood mesmerised as Harrald, Adams, Gregory and Black played the ball through. Gregory and Black played a quick one-two which left Black clear. He shot as Crump came out and the ball hit the keeper and went into the net.

Metcalfe should have equalised early in the second half after Peter Thompson had made the running. The ex-Burton

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winger, who could have made better use of the space he was given on the right flank throughout the game, beat Alexander and dragged the ball back. He beat the defence but took so much time doing it that when he eventually shot, McGugan was back on the line to clear.

It took Jackson's penalty to save some of their blushes. He was fetched down by Caughey and placed the spot kick just wide of Alexander. Even this failed to inspire the side. Corby continued to look a yard faster and the First Division side showed a lot more fight.

The final whistle must have come as a relief to the 2,500 plus crowd whose hopes have already been jolted – and the season is just eleven days old.

## Borough Called In For Extra Training

Nuneaton Borough's squad has been ordered in for extra training following the club's disappointing start to the season. The Manor Park board decided on the shock tactics after the team's 1-1 draw with Corby Town and chairman Mr Reg Bull told the players after the game. Asked about the board's decision Mr Bull said: "It follows the general displays of the team. We have not yet had a win.

"I think it is a general sharpening up that is needed and the directors feel that training each night might have good results." The squad trained last night and will do extra stints tonight and tomorrow before they tackle Hillingdon at Manor Park this Saturday.

### Nuneaton Borough v Hillingdon Borough 23-08-1969

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Aston, Goodall, Thompson, Boot, Allen, Metcalfe, Aggio, Keeley, Jackson.

Borough welcomed Hillingdon Borough to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division encounter.



**The goal that should have meant Nuneaton's first win of the season. Ron Metcalfe cracks the ball past Lowe after Mickey Boot and Ray Aggio had created the chance in the 28th minute.** Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Ever-present Fred Crump played for 60 minutes on Saturday with a broken finger – and then blamed himself for Borough's defeat. He said afterwards: "I feel sick in my stomach about it. I blame myself to the extent that I stayed on the field. But I don't think anyone else could have done any better."

Hillingdon snatched the points with two goals in two minutes later in the game when Nuneaton looked set for their first win. During the first-half in particular, Borough played some of their best soccer of the season. And when Ronnie Metcalfe shot them into a 28th minute lead their first win was on the cards. At that time they were playing like a team, although their finishing still left a lot to be desired.

Mick Keeley missed a great chance, set up by Ray Aggio, but Keeley turned in another hard-running one hundred percent performance. He needs a few goals to make him believe in himself – goals that could help him to lose the "stand-in" tag.

Mickey Boot showed without doubt that his true position is in midfield with his best display of the season and Alec Jackson showed the touches that make him one of the most exciting players in the Southern League when he is on song. But all of Borough's best football was crammed into the first-half. After the break, Hillingdon showed the brand of determination that took them to second place in the table last term.

Hillingdon's first goal was scored by John Cozens. Crump jumped above him to punch the ball away, but the ball dropped down and before Crump knew what had happened the ball was in the net. The winning goal was scored in the 85th minute by Eddie Reeve, who shot through a ruck of players with Crump not seeing the ball till late.

### Crump Out For A Month

Fred Crump will be out of action for a month after breaking a finger in Saturday's 2-1 defeat against Hillingdon.

Rugby Town have agreed to loan amateur Paul Corlett, who made 20 consecutive appearances for Rugby in the Southern League Premier Division last season.

### Corby Town v Nuneaton Borough 26-08-1969

**Corby:** Alexander, Burns, Addy, McGugan, Barratt, Cooper, Adams, Harrald, Black, Gregory, Wilson. **Sub:** Price.

**Borough:** Corlett, Jones, Aston, Goodall, Thompson, Allen, Boot, Jackson, Metcalfe, Keeley, Gedney. **Sub:** Aggio.

Borough made the journey to Occupation Road to face Corby Town in a Southern League Cup first round second leg tie.

Dazed and bewildered Paul Corlett trudged off the pitch last night after a nightmare debut for Nuneaton. Twenty-one-year-old Corlett, deputising for the injured Fred Crump, had seen five shots whizz past him as Borough crashed out of the cup with a miserable performance. There was certainly no question of the Rugby keeper being responsible for the defeat, for this was another unhappy game for Borough.

The two sides started all square after the first leg, which ended 1-1, but it took Corby only eight minutes to start the goal rush – and put Borough on the way to their second five goal defeat in a fortnight. A long pass from full-back Addy



pierced the Nuneaton rearguard. With Corlett expecting Alan Jones to stem the danger, outside-left Andy Wilson nipped in to score. After narrow escapes at both ends, the Steelmen went two up in the 23rd minute. Wilson knifed his way through the middle and although he sliced his shot the ball skidded to Alan Gregory. The inside-left looked offside as he beat Corlett, but referee K. F. Marrett pointed to the middle. Borough skipper Alec Jackson was booked for complaining about the decision.

Borough could still have been in the fight at half-time. In the 27th minute, Ron Metcalfe fluffed a great chance after racing on to a perfect pass from Chris Gedney, back in the side after injury. He outpaced Addy only to lose control of the ball at the vital time and be robbed by the advancing Alexander.

Hopes of a second half comeback were quickly scotched when in the 50th minute Gregory sped 40 yards unchallenged to fire a power-laden drive high into the rigging. Seventeen minutes later it was 4-0. Borough failed to clear a right-wing corner and George Adams blasted the ball home from an acute angle with Corlett out of position expecting a cross.

Corlett made a couple of good saves before Ken Harrald completed Borough's woe by rounding off a delightful move which again exposed a suspect defence.

None of the players emerged with any credit, and it now means that Borough, who reached the semi-final of the Southern League Cup last season, have now gone six games without a win.

## Borough Sign Mick Richards

Nuneaton have signed Telford United keeper Mick Richards, who goes into the side to face table-toppers Margate at Hartsdown Park tomorrow.

Richards, a six-foot plus keeper has spend most of his career with the Shropshire club, but did have loan spells with Rugby and Oxford United.

## Margate v Nuneaton Borough 30-08-1969

**Margate:** Sanders, Yorath, Flannagan, Ruttley, Swain, Houston, Cochrane, Ray, Ellam, Clifton, Harrison. **Sub:** Dennis.

**Borough:** Richards, Jones, Aston, Goodall, Thompson, Boot, Allen, Aggio, Jackson, Keeley, Gedney. **Sub:** Metcalfe.

Borough made the journey to Margate to play a Southern League Premier Division fixture.

High-flying Margate, Southern League goalscorers supreme, equalised with the last kick of the game against highly improved Borough. And the goal brought a storm of protest from within the Borough camp.

Dudley Kernick complained: "It was ridiculous. The referee played so much extra time, I thought it looked as though he was just waiting for Margate to score before he blew the whistle for time." Director Alf Scattergood remarked: "The

referee gave Margate a point. The game should have been finished long before it was. We deserved both points – and the referee gave them one."

Referee Mr P. D. Hunter admitted that he played eight minutes over the 90, but said: "Nuneaton wasted so much time, I was forced to play extra – it's the rules of the game. I played six minutes over in the first-half and two in the second," he said afterwards. So officially the goal was scored in the 98th minute of normal time – a cruel blow to a Borough side which fought hard, gave each other 100 per cent backing, and for most of the game, looked the better side.

So much, in fact, that the home crowd gave their team – and remember they were top of the table – the slow handclap just before half-time and again in the second half. Margate, of course, did most of the attacking, but the Borough defence, with newcomer Mick Richards having a magnificent game, was in full command. Richards, tall and commanding, was supremely confident in his handling and his positioning was first-class.

And his confidence spread through the whole side. Stan Aston and Dave Goodall gave nothing away and Alan Jones and Peter Thompson had their best games of the season. Borough were solid at the back and had flair and imagination in midfield. Mick Keeley's non-stop running up front was impressive and although he lost his duel with Bill Swain in the air, he harassed and chased for every ball and provided a constant threat to the Margate side.

The pity of it all was that Borough should have been denied their first win of the season by that 98th minute equaliser.

Borough took the lead in the 15th minute, when a goal-bound Ray Aggio shot was deflected into his own net by Flannagan. Cochrane equalised for Margate.

## Nuneaton Borough v Worcester City 01-09-1969

**Borough:** Richards, Jones, Goodall, Aston, Thompson, Allen, Boot, Aggio, Jackson, Keeley, Gedney. **Sub:** Metcalfe.

**Worcester:** Knight, Griffiths, Bassett, Stuart, Madley, McEwan, Clements, Barton, Carson, Gould, Robinson. **Sub:** Hood.

Borough welcomed Worcester City to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough won by a comfortable – if not impressive – two goal margin and manager Kernick said: "The team played according to a special plan. We kept our goal intact, were tight at the back, never looked like losing and netted two good goals to sew it up."

The first goal came after 21 minutes. Boot and Keeley worked a neat move just outside the box. Keeley, always moving and always after an opening, pushed a defence-splitting pass to Ray Aggio who calmly slotted a low shot into the back of the net. Borough playing some solid football, continued to control the game and in the 75th minute made it 2-0.

Nippy Chris Gedney was the scorer after he ran onto a quickly taken Mickey Boot free-kick to rocket a first-time volley

past keeper Bob Kinght. The victory gave Nuneaton full revenge for the 5-0 hammering handed out by Worcester at St George's Lane three weeks ago. And the victory also gave the Manor Park men a much-needed two points to aid them in their climb away from the bottom rungs of the Southern League ladder.

In front of a 2,383 crowd – the lowest at Manor Park this term – Borough turned in a far-from-entertaining performance. There was little for the fans to shout about. There was little goalmouth action. There was little good football or ball work to applaud. It was purely a give-nothing-away, attack-with-breakaways type of victory. This is not heartening from the spectator's point of view. But it's certainly heartening for the team's result charts when the plan pays off.

Borough's honours were collected at the back with goalkeeper Mick Richards giving a competent, confident display and defenders Alan Jones, Dave Goodall, Stan Aston and Peter Thompson all playing a strong and sturdy game. In the middle Malcolm Allen, Mickey Boot and Ray Aggio combined well and collected-and-carried in fine style. Skipper Alec Jackson was mediocre up front. But Keeley and Gedney made up for it with 90 minutes of non-stop chasing and effort.

## Nuneaton Borough v Wimbledon 06-09-1969

**Borough:** Richards, Jones, Aston, Goodall, Thompson, Allen, Boot, Jackson, Keeley, Aggio, Gedney. **Sub:** Metcalfe.

**Wimbledon:** Guy, Willis, Martin, Collins, Law, Shreeves, Bailham, O'Mara, O'Rourke, McCready, Cooke. **Sub:** McLeish.

Borough welcomed Wimbledon to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division fixture.



**Wimbledon goalkeeper Dickie Guy, guarded by four defenders, clutches the ball during a goalmouth incident as Borough's Mick Keeley (right) moves in to challenge.**  
Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Mickey Boot sank to his knees and held his head in disbelief in the 72nd minute of Borough's draw with Wimbledon on Saturday. The hardworking Borough midfielder man had seen another goalbound shot magnificently turned away by goalkeeper Dickie Guy. And Boot's action of despair summed up the frustration of this goalless stalemate.

The frustration which Boot suffered in seeing his string of power-packed shots being magnificently dealt with by Guy

and the frustration which the Manor Park fans had to go through as Borough failed to make an impression on the Dons' rearguard.

It was clear from the early minutes that neither side was going to give much away. Nuneaton had plenty of the attacking play, but lacked the punch up front to pierce a solid wall of red shirts. Boot gave Guy an early warning with a thundering 25-yarder which scorched the crossbar. Three more cracking efforts were foiled by the in-form Wimbledon keeper.

And it was heartbreaking for Boot, 15 minutes from the end, when he knifed his way into the Dons' penalty area only to see Guy again fling himself courageously to keep his goal intact. Allen also suffered in the same way late in the game. First one shot found its way through a packed goalmouth and ran inches wide and then from a quickly taken free-kick by Ray Aggio, Allen hit a shot which looked a certain goal. But the magnificent Guy launched himself into a save which earned thunderous applause.

Borough's defence, with Dave Goodall doing the work of two men, was also in a defiant mood. Wimbledon drew a blank time and again – but they did have a handful of good chances. A slack back pass by Stan Aston let in John O'Mara and Mick Richards had to save the situation. And the same player went close twice after the break. He hit a post after his first effort had been pushed away by Richards and a header bobbed wide with the Borough goalkeeper out of position.

Another escape for Boro' was in the 50th minute when Alan Jones headed off the line from Gerry O'Rourke. In the end a draw was a fitting result although Borough did not gain revenge for their 2-1 defeat at Plough Lane three weeks ago.

## Nuneaton Borough v Cambridge United 08-09-1969

**Borough:** Richards, Jones, Aston, Goodall, Thompson, Allen, Boot, Jackson, Keeley, Aggio (Metcalfe), Gedney.

**Cambridge:** Goy, Grant, Thompson, Wades, Baker, Hardy, Horrey, Butcher, Cassidy, Slack, Walker. **Sub:** Saunders.

Borough welcomed Cambridge United to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division game.

One moment of hesitation from Malcolm Allen wrecked Borough's hopes of taking two points from Southern League champions Cambridge United. With half-an-hour gone the usually so dependable Allen was caught in possession as he tried to turn only a few yards outside his own penalty area. Bill Cassidy switched the ball quickly across the park to Roland Horrey, who smashed a magnificent left foot shot into the top left hand corner of the net.

The goal, only the second conceded by Borough in four outings, cancelled out a 14th minute effort by Mick Keeley and jolted hopes of a home victory.

With midfield men Melvin Slack and Denis Walker operating smoothly and strikers Tony Butcher and Cassidy always a threat, the Borough defence was given a stern test, but came





through it with flying colours. And no-one deserved more praise than tiger-like Dave Goodall, who flogged himself relentlessly to prevent United from creating a goalscoring chance. Goodall, now settling down in Borough's back four, was strong in the air and always quick to tackle.

Also outstanding was Peter Thompson, rapidly taking over the Roger Smith role in the Manor Park set-up. Thompson covered a tremendous amount of ground on the left flank and was a key man in many of Borough's attacking movements. It was Thompson who played a major part in setting up Keeley's goal after 14 minutes. He took a throw-in deep in Cambridge territory, moved on to the return ball from Alec Jackson and crossed accurately for Keeley to score with a perfectly placed header.

After this breakthrough, however, Cambridge gradually got on top and had the edge in the middle. Yet although the champions promised so much, it was to Nuneaton's credit that they restricted them to only a couple of chances. In the 27th minute Cassidy wriggled through the middle. His low shot was partially blocked by the diving Mick Richards, and Thompson headed to safety as the ball bobbed goalwards.

Seconds later, Nuneaton's back division had its only real moment of panic when Terry Eades had two snap shots blocked after Richards had misjudged a corner, and then Alan Jones kicked off the line from Cassidy.

The match was always tough and fast, but tempers were never lost, and United centre-half Gerry Baker was unfortunate to get booked for a foul on Keeley.

## Jacques And Crump Progress

Top scorer Tony Jacques and goalkeeper Fred Crump are both making slow progress with the injuries that have kept them out of the side. Crump, who broke a finger against Hillingdon, has had the strapping taken from his hand and is now undergoing physiotherapy.

Jacques, who ruptured the ligament which hold the shinbone in a collision with Wimbledon goalkeeper Dickie Guy, has had the plaster removed from his leg, and he too, faces an intensive period of physiotherapy.

### Bath City v Nuneaton Borough 13-09-1969

**Borough:** Richards, Jones, Goodall, Aston, Thompson, Allen, Boot, Aggio, Jackson, Keeley, Graham.

Borough made the journey to Twerton Park to play Bath City in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough, one time Southern League crowd pleasers, back-pedalled their way to defeat in a grim struggle at Bath on Saturday. They tried to build a 90 minute extension to their four game unbeaten run on defence – and failed. All of the drama of the match was crystallised into a few fleeting seconds just after half-time when City scored the goal that clinched the points. Goalkeeper Mick Richards went up for a corner with City forwards Archie Thornburn and Dave Taylor.

He took the ball, lost it – and was then penalised for an infringement against Taylor.

And, from the indirect free-kick on Borough's six yard line, Bath skipper Wilf Carter scored the goal that made the difference. It was a scrappy goal to win a scrappy game which had few incidents, little excitement and even less good football. Nuneaton made their defensive intentions abundantly clear from the outset and Bath appeared unable to counter them, until the goal.

The clash was just a boring tactical exercise rather than a full-blooded battle between two sides who need points to move up the table. Borough had planned for most of the possibilities and the players carried out their negative instructions to the letter.

The real victim was the game. And the culprit, the defensive disease that has crept down from the top into non-league soccer in the past few years. Fewer away teams – or their managers – have the courage to try to dictate the game. Instead they hand over the initiative on a plate and shut up shop. The reason for this is fear – fear of losing as the pressures and incentives to win increase.

Last season, Borough notched 159 goals and drew an average crowd of around 4,000. It could be that before this season is out, the fans will look back and long for those times.

### Nuneaton Borough v Bromsgrove Rovers 15-09-1969

**Borough:** Haines, Jones, Goodall, Aston, Kavanagh, Boot, Allen, Aggio, Keeley, Metcalfe, Thompson. **Sub:** Lobban.

**Bromsgrove:** Twell, Isherwood, Gwynne, Shepherd, Wood, Thompson, Boswell, Hellawell, Howell, Hackett, Edwards. **Sub:** Craddock.

Borough welcomed Bromsgrove Rovers to Manor Park for a Midland Floodlit Cup game.

Malcolm Allen highlighted a man of the match performance with the goal of the season as Borough chalked up 14 Midland Floodlit Cup points. Goals from the cultured midfield player are few and far between. But last night's effort was one well worth waiting up for. Ray Aggio forced his way past three defenders before he pulled the ball back to Allen on the edge of the 18-yard box.

Borough's longest serving player thundered it first time into the net to cancel out Bromsgrove's early goal and put Borough onto the victory trail. It crowned Allen's best performance of the season so far.

A mistake by young Leicester City goalkeeper Paul Haines, loaned to Nuneaton for the match, presented Rovers with the lead. He reached a snap shot from Pat Edwards only for the ball to hit his chest and rebound to Ray Howell who slipped it home. Two minutes after Allen had levelled the game, Bromsgrove centre-half John Wood put through his own goal. Aggio back-heeled a Metcalfe centre after the ex-Romford forward had sparked off the attack. The ball hit Wood and went into the net.

That was the score after a refreshingly open first-half which saw more shots peppered goalwards than in Nuneaton's four previous Southern League outings put together. It was another advert for the competition that puts the emphasis on scoring goals rather than preventing them.

The fans did not have to wait long in the second half for the goal that put the match out of the reach of the West Midland Leaguers. Ex-Birmingham player Bobby Thompson brought down Ron Metcalfe in the box and Aggio sent Twell the wrong way with his spot kick. Twell saved at Metcalfe's feet before Wood again put through his own net to give Borough their fourth and final goal.

He was hemmed in as another Aggio centre flashed across the goalmouth. It struck him and rolled in – and Nuneaton had registered twice as many goals than in any other match this season. A few minutes later a header from Rovers' second-half substitute Alan Craddock was pushed over the top by Haines as it dropped towards the underside of the crossbar. With just three minutes to go another effort from Craddock bounced on to the crossbar as Rovers plugged away in the knowledge that each goal was worth a point.



## Busy Life Of John Clifton

Borough groundsman John Clifton faces a five mile walk before each Southern League game is staged at Manor Park – laning the pitch. That's why it looks so good on Saturday afternoon and that's why John Clifton can say without fear of contradiction: "Our playing area is equal to any in the Southern League."

It takes three hours to "lane" the 112 yards by 80 yards surface. And the job is done before every major game.

John Clifton has a double role with the club. As well as being groundsman he is also assistant to commercial manager Bert Neville on the money raising side.

About the ground, he says: "We were a little disappointed with the surface at the start of the season. It was re-seeded and fertilised during the summer, but it needed rain. And when the rain did come it brought the surface up to the standard we like to keep." It's a seven days a week job. And his real work starts after each game when the fans have drifted home.

Soccer pitches have to be handled with care. That's why a loudspeaker announcement always asks the fans to keep off the surface at the end of the games. "We are not being funny," says John. "It is for the good of the pitch. People can do a lot of damage."

## Nuneaton Borough v Weymouth

20-09-1969

**Borough:** Richards, Jones, Goodall, Aston, Boot, Jackson, Allen, Aggio, Thompson, Metcalfe, Keeley. **Sub:** Lobban.

**Weymouth:** Clark, Glover, Rounsevell, Barry, Hobson, Hall, Muir, Kearns, Allen, Etheridge, Bennett. **Sub:** Jackson.

Borough welcomed Weymouth to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division fixture.

Borough slumped to another low in an already trouble-torn season when the fans registered their protest just before the end of Saturday's grim goalless struggle against Weymouth. A slow handclap rippled from the stand and echoed around the ground. And it wasn't just a small section who wanted to show off. It was virtually the whole crowd making it crystal clear what they thought of the game.

And it was another warning light to the club that until a few weeks ago could boast the highest crowds in non-league soccer. But the gates have slumped and Saturday's 2,116 was the lowest league attendance of the season and one of the smallest at a Saturday game for a long time. And if the match is anything to go by there is nothing to suggest that the missing fans will be coaxed to return.

Weymouth were quite happy to settle for a point and Nuneaton, despite having chances, were unable to force home any sort of advantage. All it did was to highlight the Manor Park side's urgent need for a boost in what should be the goalscoring department. It also provided them with another injury problem when Mick Keeley was helped off just before half-time with a badly bruised ankle.

Nuneaton had four good chances, but failed each time. Metcalfe had one, Aggio two and Alec Jackson one, when a goal would almost certainly have decided the matter. It wasn't that the game was one of those all-out defensive tussles. It was simply a case of the forwards just being unable to find the net.

Goodall is a 100 per center, whichever way the game is going, and it was his all-out effort that made him man of the match. Goalkeeper Mick Richards also turned in another solid performance that demonstrated his strength in the air. And Stan Aston gave another tough tackling performance and he and Goodall subdued Weymouth's twin threat of top scorer Peter Kearns and ex-Poole striker Trevor Allen.

## Telford United v Nuneaton Borough

22-09-1969

**Telford:** Irvine, Whitehouse, Harris, Ball, Flowers, Ray, Fudge, Hart, Bentley, Murray, Jagger. **Sub:** Croft.

**Borough:** Richards, Jones, Goodall, Aston, Thompson, Boot, Allen, Aggio, Lobban, Metcalfe, Farmer. **Sub:** Jackson.

Borough made the journey to the Buck's Head for a Southern League Premier Division game.

Jack Bentley, bearded goal wizard of the Southern League circuit, destroyed Borough's hopes with two moments of

# Nuneaton Borough 1958-1970 – Part 2



magic at Telford last night. Bentley, rated by many as the best centre-forward in the Premier Division, scored one goal and set up another – inside the space of two minutes.

In the 31st minute he moved on to a George Jagger centre and, instead of heading goalwards, gently nodded the ball down for Jimmy Murray to score. Before Nuneaton had time to catch their breath, he struck again. He beat Stan Aston and Peter Thompson and hammered in an angled drive from the edge of the 18-yard box into the roof of the net.

They were goals that Telford threatened from the start. And they looked as if they would signal the start of a goal rush as Telford piled on the pressure. Nuneaton's already over-worked defence was under constant pressure in the first half hour and the home side should have been two up before Bentley took a hand.

But Borough hauled themselves back into the game just before half-time and staged a stirring second-half rally. Four minutes before the break Telford keeper Bobby Irvine, who looked shaky in the air throughout the game, failed to cut out a Metcalfe corner. The ball dropped into a goalmouth scramble before Dave Goodall managed to force it over the line to knock Telford out of their confident victory stride.

The Manor Park side had what looked a perfectly good goal disallowed from Ray Aggio and protested that they should have had a penalty when Alec Jackson was brought down. They eventually had to concede defeat to an 87th minute shot from Mickey Fudge that was deflected into the net off Peter Thompson.

Borough showed some determination when 2-1 down. The only trouble is – determination will not solve the problems. What they need is a goalscorer. Telford are in the same spot in the table as Nuneaton – but they have Jack Bentley.

## **Barnet v Nuneaton Borough** 27-09-1969

**Barnet:** McClelland, Lye, Jenkins, Ward, Embery, King, Powell, George, Meadows, Eason, Gregory. **Sub:** Lawler.

**Borough:** Richards, Jones, Goodall, Aston, Thompson, Boot, Allen, Metcalfe, Aggio, Keeley, Jackson. **Sub:** Lobban.

Borough made the journey to Underhill to play Barnet in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough showed exactly why they are struggling. They had the North Londoners on the run, but could not find the net for the precious goal that would have given them a well-deserved point and a much-needed boost.

After Dave Goodall had pulled back a goal to make it 2-1 in the 28th minute, Nuneaton had enough of the play and enough of the pressure to have forced an equaliser. They didn't because there was no-one up front with the sharpness inside the box or the general all-round goal flair to really rattle the home side's defence.

Goodall's goal emphasised the need. It was the second the defender had scored in a week from a set piece. This time

Ray Aggio glanced on a Malcolm Allen free-kick and Goodall scored. It came only seconds after Bill Meadows had made it 2-0 for Barnet and sparked off the revival that should have given Borough a point. Barnet were a very ordinary side. Their goal reputation rests heavily on the shoulders of twin strikers Meadows and Les Eason and these two were held by a determined Borough defence.

Most of Borough's goal-bound efforts were fired in from outside the box – with a fair percentage of them from Mickey Boot. That is Nuneaton's trouble. As soon as they get anywhere near their opponents' 18 yard box they run out of ideas and firepower and their moves break down.

The home side went ahead in the 18th minute when George and Eason engineered an opening for Powell to score. Barnet's fans thought this was the signal for a goal rush. They were wrong. The longer the game went on the more obvious it became that Nuneaton had a point there for the taking.

Borough showed more fight after the break – but the same lack of flair up front. And it wasn't until the 68th minute that the game suddenly burst into life with two rapid goals. George should have scored for Barnet. He missed the opening but crossed for Eason who headed the ball against Mick Richards. As it bobbed loose, Meadows darted in and rammed it into the net from just a few yards out.

But then Dave Goodall, whose aggression and determination labels him as one of the best close season signings, altered the course of the game with his goal straight from the kick-off. But Nuneaton could not affect the result as their powder puff up front efforts let them down time and again.

## **Nuneaton Borough v Burton Albion** 29-09-1969

**Borough:** Richards, Jones, Goodall, Aston, Kavanagh, Allen, Boot, Aggio, Ballard, Thompson, Gedney.

Borough welcomed Burton Albion to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division match.

Borough maintained their Floodlit Cup goal touch with a 12 points win. They have not been beaten in the Floodlit Cup for more than a year and hold the title. But last night's display was hardly a championship style performance.

Nuneaton did enough to deserve the points and won easily in the end. But the goals – both scored by Chris Gedney – just about made up for a mediocre first-half. Gedney, back in action after his ankle injury, got his goals in an eight minute spell just after the break.

The first, in the 48th minute, was made by a back-heel from triallist Geoff Ballard from Birmingham, who played up front alongside Peter Thompson. Ballard's unexpected move left Gedney with yards of room as the ball came to him across the goalmouth. He snapped up the chance with a right foot drive that left Albion keeper Fred Potter stranded. The second, in the 56th minute, was not as clear cut. It was the result of Gedney's persistence. He tangled with three Burton players

just inside their 18 yard box, came out with the ball and shot as he was tackled. It flew goalwards and dropped into the net behind Potter for Gedney's third goal of the season. From then on Borough were home and dry.

## Kernick To Talk Terms With Player

Dudley Kernick, whose number one need is for someone to boost the goals department, could pull off a new signing next week. He has narrowed his search down to one player, has agreed terms with the Football League club concerned and meets the player, who is available at the right price, for further talks.

In the past fortnight, Dudley Kernick has made inquiries about five players, including Notts County forward Richie Barker who made his name in the Southern League. Barker appears to be out of Borough's reach – but there is a chance that a newcomer could trot out at Manor Park next Saturday.

## Borough Chairman Ends Speculation

Nuneaton Borough chairman Mr Reg Bull this week ended the rumour and speculation that has surrounded the club since the start of the season. In an exclusive interview he said: "We are having a job to break even. Our financial position is nothing like as good as it was."

And he added: "The annual meeting is due any time now. We shall almost certainly show a loss or very close to it."

Poor playing performances and falling gates have taken their toll. And sales of pool tickets in Nuneaton itself have nose-dived from 20,000 to around the 9,000 mark.

"The pool is not bringing in the money – but from inquiries we have made at other clubs this appears to be general," said the chairman. "Although we are making every effort to increase the sale, competition is so keen. If the sales went up to 20,000 in the town we would be doing an awful lot better.

"We are caught in a vicious circle. When the team is not doing well, we do not sell the tickets in Nuneaton."

Borough's pool, which embraces many smaller clubs, was once hailed as one of the top money spinners outside the Football League. It was mainly because of this that the club was able to announce a £14,000 profit last season. "I should say that this £14,000 is pretty well all gone," said Mr Bull. He explained: "Last season we allocated £8,000 for transfers and signing on fees. This was used.

"We then purchased the land running parallel to the Social Club for new development offices, the plans for which have been approved.

"And we also paid compensation to the holder of the land behind the stand on the canal side of the ground.

"It still belongs to the Corporation but we have paid

compensation to get possession of the land. This does not leave a lot."

Negotiations have also gone ahead for the purchase of the freehold of Manor Park: "It's a question of the conditions of the purchase being agreed with the Corporation."

## Development plans

All of these negotiations and the purchase of extra land is tied up with the board's plans for developing the ground. Nearly two years ago, the directors announced a £150,000 phased plan to make Manor Park one of the best equipped grounds in Non-League football.

"What we wanted to do was to show the public that we have an overall plan for ground improvements. I have been to so many football grounds that are just patchwork efforts.

"It was so we could say 'this is what the ground is going to look like when we have finished it' but I always said that the first job was to purchase the ground."

The club was criticised for announcing the plans and then doing nothing about it. "We decided that the team was our first priority and that's why we spent the £8,000," said the chairman. About the team itself, he said: "We hoped that, by spending £8,000, this would have provided us with a successful side and the nucleus of a good side for this season.

## Not materialised

"Having spent this money we did expect the team to do much better than it has done. We thought if we spent it last year we would be okay this year. But this hasn't materialised."

So far this season, the team has been a great disappointment. They are near the bottom-rung of the Southern League and attendances at Saturday games have dropped to around 2,000 – half of last season's average. Said Mr Bull: "We are very concerned about the poor playing record – we don't want to go down. We can understand the attitude of the spectators. We are just as frustrated as they are.

"Three or four key men have been injured. Obviously we are after another player. But we cannot take the public into our confidence until we have got him.

"He is a striker to play with Tony Jacques when he is fit and to strengthen the forward line in the mean-time. But we haven't got money to throw about. If he costs us £2,000 it would put us in the red. It's a question of finance – plus the fact that the players we signed have not come up to expectations this season. Having spent £8,000 we did expect the team to do much better than it has done.

"We have had awfully bad luck with injuries. Nevertheless, I don't think we had got quite adequate reserves – that's the only way I can put it."

Last season, the team paid its way with the largest gates in non-league soccer – an average of 4,000 a game. But Mr Bull pointed out: "Our last Southern League home gate, before



today, was 2,116 which brought in £242 – this doesn't pay the wage bill. It has to last us two weeks."

And he ended the interview with the words: "We are obviously worried about the financial position. But we are doing what we can."

## Borough Reach Deadlock In Gadston Talks

Nuneaton Borough have reached deadlock in their talks with Bristol Rovers' forward Joe Gadston. But they have not given up hope of coaxing the 23-year-old former Cheltenham Town striker to Manor Park.

Said Borough manager Dudley Kernick: "He is coming here for further talks on Monday. I am still hoping we can arrange the money to complete the transfer."

Nuneaton and Bristol agreed on a fee – around the £1,500 mark. It was when they discussed terms with the player that the deal reached stalemate.

## Nuneaton Borough v Margate 04-10-1969

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Kavanagh, Goodall, Aston, Allen, Jackson, Aggio, Thompson, Metcalfe, Gedney. **Sub:** Lobban.

**Margate:** Sanders, Yorath, Flannagan, Rutley, Swain, Clifton, Moore, Houston, Ray, Smith, Cochrane. **Sub:** Harrison.

Borough welcomed Margate to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough searching for an unbeaten spell to lift them up the table, made hard work of an easy task on Saturday. They need a convincing win to give them a shot in the arm and make them believe in themselves.

It took a Ron Metcalfe 27th minute goal to put Nuneaton on the victory trail. A second-half own goal from Margate defender Brian Clifton confirmed the result.

Margate, uncertain and shaky in defence, should have been torn to ribbons; despite the fact that the visitors packed seven and eight men back in their box. Nuneaton were adventurous, had by far the bulk of the attacking play and moved forward almost at will. But it was the same old story – no finish. That is why Dudley Kernick is after Bristol Rovers' forward Joe Gadston and why the club is prepared to go into the red to make the signing. Tony Jacques, watching from the stand, must have been itching to get out on the field.

Borough should have widened the scorline to ravine-like lengths before half-time. Instead they were just 1-0 up. And even when Clifton steered the ball into his own net the Kent side's goal reputation still hung over the game. It should have been all over, but it wasn't, and Stan Aston rescued Nuneaton on the line from Margate centre-forward John Ray after Fred Crump had missed a cross.

Hughie Cochrane then shot against the foot of a post. If either of these had gone in the Manor Park side could have paid a high price for their own shortcomings in front of the net.

## Nuneaton Borough v Lower Gornal 06-10-1969

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Goodall, Aston, Boot, Allen, Aggio, Jackson, Metcalfe, Thompson, Gedney. **Sub:** Lobban.

Borough welcomed Lower Gornal to Manor Park for a Birmingham Senior Cup second round tie.

Ron Metcalfe staged his own three goal show as Borough cruised into the third round. The ex-Burton winger, signed as a second striker, notched a hat-trick; had a hand in the other goal; and had another one disallowed as Gornal were brushed aside. His first goal was spectacular, his second opportunist and his third a stunning end to a simple move.

Metcalfe notched his first goal in the fourth minute, and was one of the best solo efforts seen at Manor Park for a long time. He picked up a pass ten yards inside Gornal's half, burst in between two defenders, left another one standing as he switched into top gear and slotted the ball home.

His second in the 68th minute, followed an Alec Jackson-Malcolm Allen move. Allen drove the ball goalwards, it glanced from a defender's boot and Metcalfe snapped up the chance. It was the sort of goal that made a mockery of the tale of missed chances that Borough have built up in their Southern League games this season. And his third, with 12 minutes to go, was devastating in its simplicity. Fred Crump took a back pass from Stan Aston and booted the ball upfield. Rickaby tried to head clear but glanced it on to Metcalfe who, quick as a flash, hammered it past Hackett into the net. Even the referee applauded.

In between his first and second goals, Metcalfe played his part in the penalty that was converted by Ray Aggio in the 22nd minute. Metcalfe moved on to a through ball and shot under the keeper as he came out. The effort rolled wide but Hackett sent Metcalfe sprawling and the referee pointed to the spot.

## Gadston Turns Down Borough

Bristol Rovers' forward Joe Gadston, who has figured in three weeks of transfer talks, has turned down a move to Manor Park. He told Borough in a letter: "I have decided to stay with Bristol Rovers and try to regain my place back in the first team."

## Crawley Town v Nuneaton Borough 11-10-1969

**Crawley:** Maggs, McMullen, Tharme, Cockell, Leedham, Bragg, Haining, Basey, Goodgame, Livesey, Blaser. **Sub:** Houghton.

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Goodall, Aston, Boot, Allen, Aggio, Jackson, Metcalfe, Thompson, Gedney. **Sub:** Lobban.

Borough made the journey to face Crawley Town in a Southern League Premier Division fixture.

Borough staged another sad 90-minute episode in their season of trouble with a display at Crawley that flashed out the Manor Park message loud and clear. That message



is simply this: Improve or become the Aston Villa of the Southern League, a club with big ideas and bad results.

This was highlighted when Crawley – one of the worst Southern League sides Borough have met this season – walked away with the points. Forget the five-goal scoreline and the fact that Nuneaton scored two second half goals in what looked on paper to be a thriller. It wasn't.

On Saturday's display Crawley are in for a titanic struggle to retain their grip on the promotion they earned last season. Where does that leave Borough? On paper, they should not be where they are in the league table. In practice, they are down among the also rans and are likely to stay there. They will stay there until they find their goal touch or unearth that brand of fighting spirit that has carried a lot of sides out of trouble in the past.

On a granite hard Town Meadow surface Crawley were prepared to put that little extra in their tackles and challenges to win the ball – that's basically why they won. Football wise, Nuneaton packed more all-round skill. But, whereas Crawley pumped the ball goalwards when they had a chance, Borough took too much time; used three passes when one would do.

Peter Thompson missed a golden chance when home keeper Maggs palmed out a Metcalfe shot to his feet. He shot wide.

Crawley full-back Tharme opened the scoring with an outside the box effort which Fred Crump could have reached. It wasn't in the piledriver department but it went off Crump's outstretched fingers as he flung himself across the line and found its way into the far corner.

Goodgame made it 2-0 before Alec Jackson netted a penalty. Goodgame again stretched Crawley's lead to two goals and, with seven minutes to go, Malcolm Allen notched Borough's second goal. In the final minutes Nuneaton's pressure deserved an equaliser and Crawley were glad to hear the final whistle.

## Nuneaton Borough v Stafford Rangers 13-10-1969

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Aston, Allen, Thompson, Boot, Lobban, Jackson, Ballard, Keeley, Gedney. **Sub:** Kavanagh.

**Stafford:** Quigley, Chadwick, Meadows, Sergeant, Windsor, Machin, Bailey, G. Jones, Williams, Morgan, Latham. **Sub:** Taylor.

Borough welcomed Stafford Rangers to Manor Park to play a Midland Floodlit Cup game.

Brian Lobban, shadow member of the Borough first-team squad, carved himself a moment to remember as Borough moved to the top of the Floodlit Cup league table. The red-haired ex-Warley amateur whose major role has been on the substitute's bench, scored a magnificent goal – one of the best seen at Manor Park in years.

It was the sort of goal players dream about and fans remember. Malcolm Allen hit a free-kick towards the far post, Stan Aston challenged for it with a defender and it was nodded back into the middle. There was Lobban, half facing his own goal – and

he whipped in a tremendous perfectly executed scissor kick which left Stafford goalkeeper Quigley standing on his line. The goal was the highlight of a game that contained much that has been missing in Borough's Southern League matches.

The goal came after 25 minutes of speedy end to end soccer which kept the 2,000 plus crowd on its toes. In the second half the match spluttered along in patches but it was a satisfactory night's work for Nuneaton. Anything like the football they played last night would have brought them two points at Crawley on Saturday.

Borough's second goal came in the 78th minute and was scored by skipper Alec Jackson with a touch of class. He emerged from a ruck of players, easily beat one defender when most players would have shot and drove the ball into the net. That goal clinched the game. For Northern League Stafford, despite some scrappy raids, were held in a tight grip by the Borough defenders.

Stafford's star player Ray Williams, watched by scouts from three Football League clubs, hardly had a chance to shine and in the end, the Manor Park side chalked up a comfortable win. They crowned it with a goal in the dying seconds. Lobban and Thompson worked a perfect one-two which left Lobban with a shooting chance. He hammered the ball goalwards and Stafford keeper Quigley pulled off a fine save. But he could not hold the shot and it went loose to Chris Gedney who followed up to score.

## Chapman Agrees To Join Borough

Ex-Port Vale and Mansfield forward Roy Chapman sprung a surprise when he said he had had a change of heart and wanted to join Nuneaton. Yesterday Chapman, who is top scorer with Chester, turned down a move to Manor Park. He said he definitely wanted to stay in the Football League. But now Chapman is on his way to Manor Park and will meet Dudley Kernick prior to tonight's friendly against Crystal Palace.

"He could play," said the Borough manager. Manor Park could be a hive of transfer activity. For Borough have been given permission to play Crystal Palace youngster Alan Morton. "I could sign both of them," said Kernick.

## Nuneaton Borough v Crystal Palace XI 17-10-1969

Borough welcomed a Crystal Palace XI to Manor Park for a friendly encounter.

Roy Chapman announced his transfer to Borough when he netted after just 27 minutes of this six goal "shop window" friendly against Crystal Palace. The powerful ex-Port Vale and Mansfield striker who was signed from Chester before the kick-off, hammered in his goal, whetted the appetite of the fans and then went off at half-time. But he did enough to show that he could be the man to solve the up front problem that has bugged the club since the start of the season

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Chapman is 6ft. 2in., 12st. 10lb., and will add much needed power to the front line – and the way he took his goal showed that he is extremely mobile for a man of his size.

With the crowd's attentions focussed on Chapman and the other new faces in the side, the current squad members were reduced to the role of extras. Borough had Chapman, guest player Alan Morton and youngsters Jim Flannagan and Liam McLoughlin on view against the Londoners. And Morton, on loan from Crystal Palace to Stockport, caught the eye with two goals. He, too, could be joining the Manor Park ranks.

His performance impressed Borough as did that of ex-Leicester City and Yeovil winger Jim Flannagan who staged a tigerish display at No. 11. Young Scot Liam McLoughlin, who came on in the second half for Chapman, looked out of his depth against the Palace defence.

Nuneaton went into a sixth minute lead with a smooth move rounded off in perfect style by Brian Lobban. The ball went from Jackson to Thompson to Boot to Jackson, back to Boot and on to Lobban, who slotted it home. Then came the goal that raised the biggest cheer. A challenge from Morton upset the Palace defence and Chapman was there to hammer the ball home.

Just before half-time Morton tried a shot which the Londoners' keeper Parsons collected and then dropped over the line. Oliver reduced the arrears soon after the break before Morton moved on to a Lobban through pass and notched a spectacular goal to make it 4-1. Mist, which rolled over the pitch from the canal side, threatened the game midway through the second half.

Ten minutes from the end Koo netted Palace's second goal with a left foot drive and just before time Crump saved a point blank range effort from Harland.

## Stourbridge v Nuneaton Borough 20-10-1969

**Stourbridge:** Edwards, Bradshaw, Davis, Taylor, Stanley, McGrath, Crampton, Parkin, Bates, Bell, Cottrill. **Sub:** Johnson.

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Allen, Aston, Thompson, Boot, Lobban, Jackson, Chapman, Morton, Flannagan. **Sub:** Goodall

Borough travelled to Amblecote to face Stourbridge in a Camkin Cup tie.

Stourbridge handed Borough an FA Cup warning as Nuneaton came down with a bump on the wrong side of a seven goal see-saw encounter. Stourbridge are up with Tamworth among the top brass in the West Midland League, and, if anything, Tamworth are a better balanced side.

Stourbridge went in front in the 18th minute when Cottrill drove a low centre into the middle from the left wing and Bates connected first time to steer it into the net. Less than two minutes later Bradshaw handled an attempted Flannagan centre and Alec Jackson slotted home the equaliser from the penalty spot.

Borough then took the lead with a spectacular goal from

Mickey Boot – by far the best of the seven. Flannagan pushed a pass down the line to Morton who found Jackson in the middle. The Nuneaton skipper rolled it forward for Boot who sent a left foot drive scorching into the back of the net.

At this stage it looked as if Borough had weathered the home side's fierce attacking spell and would go on to win. But, in injury time of the first-half, Malcolm Allen tackled Crampton in the box. The referee again pointed to the spot and Crampton converted the penalty.

The game see-sawed back and forth for another 35 minutes before an unfortunate Stan Aston own goal put Stourbridge back in front. Crampton drove the ball across the Borough goal. Crump missed it and Aston, only a couple of yards from the line and facing the net, turned it in.

A Roger Parkin volley five minutes later signalled the death knell for Nuneaton's hopes. In the dying minutes the Manor Park side went for an equaliser and Alan Morton netted after Roy Chapman had nodded a free-kick across the net. It was too late. The goal came at the end of normal time and, after another three and a half minutes the game ended.

## Kernick – Work Hard Or Go

Dudley Kernick has handed his players a “work hard or go” warning, eleven days before they face Tamworth in the FA Cup. After last night's defeat at Stourbridge, he said: “If they haven't got the appetite to work hard and keep going for 90 minutes, then they have got to go.” He also revealed that he is planning to unload some of his squad. “Clubs have been circularised saying that I am willing to listen to offers for certain players,” he said.

## Stafford Rangers v Nuneaton Borough 22-10-1969

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Aston, Goodall, Thompson, Allen, Boot, Jackson, Jacques, Chapman, Aggio. **Sub:** Metcalfe.

Borough made the journey to Marston Road to take on Stafford Rangers in a Midland Floodlit Cup game.

The game was a hard-fought, see-saw tussle with both sides having their fair share of the play and both sides having little to offer up front. In the Borough front-line Alec Jackson and Ray Aggio were disappointing. But number nine Tony Jacques, playing his first game since he was put out with a knee injury in August, gave a pleasing performance.

Jacques came through with flying colours. His knee stood up to the test well and his goal grabbing head almost celebrated his come-back by finding the net. In the 75th minute Aggio swung over a cross from the right and Jacques dived in to glance a header just past the post. Ironically it was Roy Chapman – signed to take over from Jacques on the striking front – who scored Borough's goal.

With 19 minutes gone, the Nuneaton outfit won a free-kick on the half-way line. Stan Aston took the kick and floated it

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towards the far post. Chapman beat centre-half Windsor to the ball for the first-time in the game and sent his header over Quigley and into the net. The fast-moving Stafford side hit back – and equalised within a minute. Their goal also came from a free-kick. They won the kick 25 yards out for a foul. Jones shot direct for goal with a hard, low drive, and it found its way past Crump, deflected off the Borough defensive wall.

Nuneaton, who beat Stafford 3-0 at Manor Park last week, could easily have chalked up another hatful of points with a victory. Borough might have won the game, but had a Goodall effort ruled out with only eight minutes to play, with the referee ruling that Goodall had pulled back a defender before he crashed the ball into the net.

## Cambridge United v Nuneaton Borough 25-10-1969

**Cambridge:** Barker, Slack, Grant, Walker, Eades, Meldrum, Leggett, Butcher, Cassidy, Gregson, Harris. **Sub:** J. Thompson.

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, P. Thompson, Goodall, Aston, Boot, Jackson, Allen, Chapman, Metcalfe, Gedney. **Sub:** Lobban.

Borough travelled to the Abbey Stadium to play Cambridge United in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Benevolent Borough presented Cambridge United with two more points towards their second successive title bid, and plunged themselves into deeper trouble down among the strugglers. This win increased the tempo of United's challenge and pushed them up among the pacesetters. It sent Nuneaton tumbling into the relegation zone. Slack play gave United two goals inside 23 minutes and they went on to punish more of the Manor Park side's blunders and cruise home.

There was one period just before half-time when Borough did everything but score. They hit the woodwork, had one effort saved on the line and should have been back in the game. But, as soon as that was over, the result was a foregone conclusion. Cambridge regained their grip and Nuneaton were crushed.

United winger George Harris, signed in a £600 double deal which also took defender Colin Meldrum to the Abbey Stadium from Reading, must have a low opinion of Southern League defences. He scored three goals and could have had two more as Borough laid down the welcome mat for his Southern League debut.

Alan Jones hesitated to a crossfield pass to give him his first goal. Fred Crump dropped the ball at his feet for another, and an erratic Alec Jackson pass led to his third. This sort of slackness hits all teams once in while. For a team in Borough's predicament it is fatal.

Cambridge's other two goals came from Bill Cassidy and Don Walker. Cassidy side-footed a Tony Butcher header into the net and Walker scored after he had raced 40 yards on to a Mel Slack return pass. When he picked up the ball, the Nuneaton defence parted. He was given yards of room inside the penalty area to pick his spot

Skipper Alec Jackson scored what can only be described as a consolation goal for Nuneaton when he netted from the penalty spot after Chris Gedney had been brought down.

## Nuneaton Borough v Bedworth United 27-10-1969

**Borough:** Crump, Keeley (Lobban), Aston, Goodall, Smith (Metcalfe), Allen (Flanagan), Boot, Aggio, Chapman, Jacques, Jackson.

**Bedworth:** Pickard, Sheppard (Kendall), Busby (Ball), Knox, Heal, Anderson, Storer, Liggins, Barden (Blower), Warrington, James.

Borough welcomed Bedworth United to Manor Park for a friendly encounter.

Along with the recent return to fitness of Tony Jacques, who notched a hat-trick, Borough were able to welcome back Roger Smith, who was struck down with a second bout of jaundice in March. Smith recaptured some of the form which impressed Football League managers and made him one of the best full-backs in the Southern League.

Bedworth won some friends with their gritty display, which saw them hit back strongly after going 3-0 down just after the break. In fact, the Greenbacks had an incredible spell between the 72nd and 79th minutes when they pulled a goal back, missed an open goal and then hit the crossbar.

Tony Jacques opened the scoring in the 17th minute when he hit home a shot which came back off the upright following a Chapman header. The Borough striker got a second after 29 minutes when he dived to head in an Aggio cross. Ten minutes after the break Roy Chapman made the score 3-0 when he cracked a left-foot shot past Pickard after Aggio had beaten three defenders.

Bedworth hit back with a goal after 72 minutes when Anderson slammed in the best goal of the game – a 25-yard rocket. Jackson restored Borough's three goal advantage with an unexpected shot which Pickard could only help into the net. Bedworth pulled another goal back on 80 minutes when Blower beat Crump from close range at the second attempt. Three minute later Jacques completed his hat-trick after Tony Heal had tried to head back to Pickard.

The scoring was rounded off with two goals in less than a minute as Jim Flannagan scored with a delightful volley as the Bedworth defence stood appealing for offside. Sheppard scored for Bedworth when he raced past a hesitant Borough defence and smacked in a low drive.

## Morton Expected To Sign

Borough were all set to pull off a Cup day deal when Crystal Palace striker Alan Morton was due to travel to Manor Park to sign for Nuneaton. He met Borough manager before the Tamworth FA Cup tie and is expected to join the club on loan until the end of the season.

Morton was on loan at Stockport County at the start of the season, but wanted to move nearer to home.





## Mick Keeley Signs For Rugby Town

Mick Keeley, Borough's never-say-die utility player, has signed for Southern League First Division outfit Rugby Town. Today manager Dudley Kernick announced: "There could be other departures in the near future."

He added: "I have given this squad a chance and they have let me down. Obviously I have now got to make changes."

Keeley, 23, was in his third season with Nuneaton. During his first year he was an amateur, but he signed professional when Borough met Exeter in the FA Cup in December 1967.

## Bert Neville Resigns

Bert Neville, Nuneaton Borough Football Club's commercial manager, has handed in his resignation after eight months in charge of the club's money raising pool.

Said club chairman, Mr Reg Bull: "I had a talk with him and he felt it was not really his 'cup of tea.' He has been a very good servant to the Borough and it was his own feeling that he wasn't the man for this particular job."

Bert took over as commercial manager at Manor Park last March following the sudden death of Eddie Aspinall. Before that, he was connected with the club for many years as programme editor.

## Chairman - We Must Have Success

Nuneaton Borough chairman, Mr Reg Bull, met the Manor Park squad last night to pass on a "We are concerned about the lack of success" message from the Board.

Borough are out of the FA Cup, third from bottom of the Southern League Premier Division and their gates have halved. Said the chairman: "We are determined as far as we can, that Nuneaton Borough are not going to be relegated.

"The directors are concerned. We have been knocked out of the FA Cup at the first attempt. The only competitions we have left are the FA Trophy, the Midland Floodlit Cup and the Southern League."

The FA Trophy provides the club with their last chance of glory in a season that has, so far, been full of setbacks.

Added Mr Bull: "We shall have to take drastic steps to ensure that we have a good run in the FA Trophy and more success in the league." He said he saw the players to point out the directors' concern and to ask for any suggestions they may have to rectify the position.

"If there are any constructive suggestions we will act upon them," commented the chairman.

## Romford v Nuneaton Borough

08-11-1969

**Romford:** A. Smith, Read, King, Obeney, Andrew, Sorrell, Sanders, Barnett, Flatt, Cutler, Tapping. **Sub:** Gibbs.

**Borough:** Crump, R. Smith, Thompson, Allen, Aston, Boot, Aggio, Morton, Jacques, Chapman, Jackson. **Sub:** Lobban.

Borough made the journey to the Brooklands to play Romford in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough left Romford on Saturday with nothing to suggest that they have turned the corner. And they face an uphill fight to dig their way out of trouble.

Nuneaton were on their way to defeat by half-time in a match affected more by the conditions than its football content. They conceded their first-half goals against a strong, biting wind. But they could not use it to their advantage in the second half.

Earlier in the season Dudley Kernick was worried about his goal power. Jacques then came back and Chapman was signed from Chester. The front line now wears a more goal-hungry look – but the problems have shifted to the defence.

Alan Morton, borrowed from Crystal Palace to add more strength up front, had a quiet debut. But Paul Cutler, in the Romford number ten shirt, turned in the sort of display that makes his surprise move from Manor Park even more baffling.

Romford went ahead in the 13th minute with a penalty from Obeney. The spot kick followed a Flatt header against the crossbar and in the scramble that followed Allen appeared to handle. Seconds later Boot fired wide after Chapman had headed down an Aggio centre, but Borough were on level terms in the 19th minute when Chapman challenged Smith to a Morton centre and the ball went out to Jacques, whose shot hit Reed on the line and the ball went into the net.

Nine minutes later Romford were back in front when Sanders and Sorrell set up a chance for Tapping. He slipped Roger Smith and lashed the ball into the roof of the net for a spectacular goal. Romford went 3-1 up in the 38th minute when Slack ran on to a header from Barnett. Slack's shot hit Allen as he ran back toward the line and it went in.

Flatt scored Romford's fourth goal in the 75th minute after Crump had blocked a shot from Barnett. Three minutes later Obeney headed off the line from Jacques before Chapman scored for Borough in the dying seconds.

## Nuneaton Borough v Telford United

10-11-1969

**Borough:** Crump, Smith, Aston, Allen, Kavanagh, Thompson, Boot, Jackson, Jacques, Chapman, Gedney. **Sub:** Metcalfe.

Borough welcomed Telford United to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division game.

It was another unhappy match for Fred Crump, the man who had to shoulder most of the blame for Borough's FA Cup defeat by Tamworth. The game was not two minutes old when United were awarded a free-kick 25 yards out. Jack Bentley chipped

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the ball over the wall of blue shirts, but there was no danger as Crump moved off his line to collect. Crump seemed to have the ball in his arms when it slipped free and Mickey Fudge was on the spot to take advantage for a simple goal.

Although it was his only mistake of the match it was enough to earn another black mark and spark off more discontent from the 1,250 spectators – easily the lowest gate of the season. Borough desperately needing a convincing performance to boost their sagging morale, never looked capable of hitting back.

Telford had a two-goal lead after 31 minutes when Bentley scored. Four Borough defenders failed to win the ball in tackles on the edge of the penalty area and Fudge slipped it through for Bentley to beat Crump with a low left foot shot.

No-one can deny that Borough tried desperately hard to put matters right. But they often looked like a team of strangers. And the harder they fought the more disorganised they became. In attack Alec Jackson gave everything he had. Chapman also tried hard with little success and Tony Jacques should have made better use of two snap chances which came his way in the second half.

Telford's lively front runner Jack Bentley proved to be more than a handful for erratic Stan Aston and Borough's defence often looked suspect. And in general the Shropshire outfit, despite the absence of ex-Wolves stars Ron Flowers and Jimmy Murray, operated more smoothly in all departments.

## Fifth Division – Borough Boss Optimistic

Dudley Kernick greeted the speculation about a new Fifth Division of the Football League with the words: "I think everyone should be optimistic." He added: "In the last few years things like the Northern Premier League and the Non-League Cup have been mooted and then become actualities."

The news that gives fresh hope for the Northern and Southern League clubs broke yesterday when a story was circulated about secret talks at top level. They centred upon a plan to bring 13 Southern Premier League clubs and nine Northern League clubs together in a Football Alliance – a subsidiary of the Football League or a Fifth Division.

Football League secretary Alan Hardaker said: "I cannot confirm reports that a Fifth Division is planned." But he did not deny that talks had taken place and did not discount the idea as just another rumour.

It was met with a mixed reaction from the clubs, but Northern League chairman Peter Swales revealed that talks have been taking place between St Anne's officials and his non-league colleagues. The one major drawback, could be that it does not guarantee promotion to the Fourth Division. But it is a step in the right direction, progress towards a hope that the non-league clubs have cherished for a long time. It may not open the door to Football League status, but teams in the Football Alliance would have a far better chance of entry than they have at the present time...

## Nuneaton Borough v Dover

15-11-1969

**Borough:** Crump, Smith, Allen, Aston, Thompson, Jackson, Boot, Morton, Jacques, Chapman, Gedney. **Sub:** Metcalfe.

**Dover:** Price, Cartwright, Hall, Morgan, Arnott, Hurley, Chandler, Clewlow, Stratton, Foster, Fursden. **Sub:** Horton.

Borough welcomed Dover to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough took the first steps of the stiff, uphill climb facing them when they swept aside Dover with new-found zest at rain-soaked Manor Park. The narrow scoreline does not paint a true picture of the hectic time Dover had in defence as Borough showed more decisiveness in all departments.

With more deadly finishing and a little luck Borough could have made the points safe before half time and won comfortably. Roy Chapman, who has undoubtedly strengthened the front line, scored the only goal of the match in the 37th minute with a sharp header from Chris Gedney's cross. But this goal could have completed his hat-trick. Earlier he had seen one shot cleared off the line by Chris Hurley and shortly after this he failed to connect properly in front of goal from another Gedney centre.

The persistent Chapman was out of luck with a snap shot following an Alec Jackson free-kick and a flashing header was only fractionally wide of the target. He was the main threat to Dover and his strike partner Tony Jacques was rarely in the picture until the last 20 minutes.

Borough, desperately needing a good win to halt the slide and boost their confidence, started well but after the first 25 minutes it looked as if they were going to slip back into a rut. For a 10-minute spell they lost their control and passes went astray. The goal, however, was the tonic needed for the Royal Blues to regain their composure. After the break the pattern was the same with Borough doing the bulk of the attacking. And it was refreshing to see so many attempts at goal.

Only a five-star performance from Dover goalkeeper Bill Price foiled the now eager home forwards. He pulled off flying saves from Jacques, Alan Morton and the shoot-on-sight Mickey Boot. It was skipper Alec Jackson who made such a difference to Nuneaton. He silenced his critics with 90 minutes of non-stop running and prompting which had Dover in a spin.

## Lockheed v Nuneaton Boro'

18-11-1969

**Lockheed:** Steane, Cassidy, Lawton, Shrimpton, Roberts, Pyle, Harr, Farr, Whitehead, Taylor, Brady. **Sub:** Palmer.

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Smith, Allen, Aston, Boot, Metcalfe, Jackson, Jacques, Chapman, Lobban. **Sub:** Gedney.

Borough made the journey to The Windmill Ground to face Lockheed in a Midland Floodlit Cup game.

Borough used Lockheed as a three-goal stepping stone to clamber back into the Midland Floodlit Cup top-spot. Their 3-0 interval lead made the second half a foregone conclusion

# Nuneaton Borough 1958-1970 – Part 2



– despite the fact that Lockheed fluffed the chances that fell their way. And Borough now lead the table by seven points from Telford, the team that tarnished their unbeaten record with a 2-0 win at Manor Park last Monday.

The game was hardly two minutes old when the Leamington side's defence was opened up and Chapman moved onto a Jackson pass to put the Manor Park men in front. Lockheed keeper Bob Steane was stranded at the near post as Jackson slid the ball across the goal for Chapman to side-foot home. Fifteen minutes later Mickey Boot surprised Steane with a goal-bound shot from the right wing as everyone expected a centre. Steane was late to spot the danger. He managed to get his hands to the ball but it was already over the line.

Brady missed a chance for Lockheed and Lawton tossed away another opportunity before Jacques made it 3-0. Mickey Boot floated the ball onto the head of Roy Chapman. He nodded it across the goal and Jacques launched himself into a somersault and scored with a bicycle kick.

Prompted by the talent of skipper Alec Jackson in midfield, Borough showed a confidence that they have not often produced this season and proceeded to wrap up the points.

Lockheed's goal was scored by Brady with only three minutes to go. He moved onto a pass from Farr and hammered the ball high into the net after Crump had made a vain attempt to punch it out.

While Jackson earned applause for his midfield performance Nuneaton-born Dennis Taylor was a hard-worker for Lockheed in a similar role. He set up three chances which were all squandered – but Lockheed never looked like retaining their unbeaten record in the Floodlit Cup.

## Weymouth v Nuneaton Borough 22-11-1969

**Weymouth:** Clarke, Rounsevell, Muir, Barry, Hobson, Hall, Dixon, Etheridge, T. Allen, Kearns, Bennett. **Sub:** Ryde.

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Smith, Allen, Aston, Boot, Metcalfe, Jackson, Jacques, Morton, Aggio. **Sub:** Goodall.

Borough made the journey to The Rec to face Weymouth in a Southern League Premier Division game.

A defensive lapse; an incredible goal; and the worst pitch in the Southern League all contributed towards Borough's downfall. Before the game Roy Chapman cried off with tonsillitis, Ron Metcalfe's car broke down and he had to join the team at Oxford; and the coach trip took nearly six hours.

When the match began Borough dominated it for ten minutes, conceded a goal, fought back and then saw their hopes explode with a fantastic gift of a goal. It sounds like the biggest hard luck story of all time – but it's true. The Manor Park side worked hard for nothing and left Dorset wondering what they have to do to shake off their struggling tag.

When you are down nothing goes right. And that's the spot in which Nuneaton found themselves on a mud-bath of a pitch they call the Rec. After the bone hard grounds of the

past few weeks they found themselves on a stamina-sapping quagmire. But they shook off the effects of their journey and knuckled down to their task.

Tony Jacques missed a great chance; Alec Jackson shot inches wide, and Roger Smith hit the woodwork, before the game twisted. Mickey Boot lost possession in midfield, Weymouth striker Trevor Allen shrugged off a Stan Aston challenge and sent in a shot which was prodded home by Dixon. Weymouth were foiled by bad finishing and a couple of brave saves from Fred Crump, as the goal rubbed out Nuneaton's early promise.

But the home side failed to increase their lead and at half-time Borough were still looking good for a point. Borough made a fight of it after the break with a fighting rally that kept the Terras on their toes and turned the match into an end-to-end tussle. Both sides supplied football that belied the awful conditions, although Weymouth looked a lot tighter under pressure. They had a goal – and time – on their side.

Even so, the Dorset side's lead looked far from secure – until the 67th minute. That was when the pitch played a vicious trick and presented Fred Crump with another shattering psychological blow. Weymouth midfielder Keith Etheridge punted the ball aimlessly down field with no apparent danger. Crump had one of two alternatives as the ball floated towards him; to leave his line and take it before it bounced, or stay and gather it on the bounce. He chose a suicidal half-way measure; and the ball instead of being cushioned by the clinging mud, reared off the pitch and went over his head.

## Nuneaton Borough v Hednesford 24-11-1969

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Smith, Allen, Aston, Boot, Metcalfe, Jackson, Jacques, Chapman, Aggio. **Sub:** Morton.

**Hednesford:** Hill, Redmond, Sharples, Babb, Butler, Palin, Lycett, Williams, Percival, Horton, Campbell. **Sub:** Rushworth.

Borough welcomed Hednesford to Manor Park for a Birmingham Senior Cup third round tie.

Borough reached another crisis point last night with a shambles of a performance that plunged their Senior Cup hopes to rock bottom. They were held – almost humbled – by shoe-string West Midland League side Hednesford in one of their worst displays of the season. And their hopes of success at the Staffordshire side's Cross Keys ground are slim. Only two teams have won their in the past 20 months.

In a poor game, Hednesford supplied most of the soccer, operated better as a team and showed more fight, urgency and determination. In a nutshell, they should have won.

The visitors also had to fight back from a goal down after Alec Jackson opened the scoring for Borough in the sixth minute. Hednesford equalised in the 67th minute through Barry Williams and looked far more likely to snatch a win than Borough. Nuneaton were shaky in defence, sloppy up front – and left huge midfield gaps that Hednesford used to assemble their raids.



Only two players emerged with any credit, goalkeeper Fred Crump and all-action full-back Roger Smith. Add the name of Malcolm Allen, who worked hard in defence, and you have a trio that provided the sum total of Nuneaton's resistance.

Just before half-time Percival popped up with the miss of the match. An overhead kick from Horton found him standing under the crossbar. It looked impossible to miss but he shot over. A couple of minutes after the break Jacques was put clear for Nuneaton with only the goalkeeper to beat. Hill left his line to drop at the centre-forward's feet. It continued – with more action in Borough's penalty area than in the Hednesford danger zone – until the equaliser.

Hednesford player-manager Grenville Palin floated a free-kick into the Nuneaton goalmouth and top scorer Barry Williams nodded it home. He was virtually unchallenged and was able to pinpoint his header with ease. Crump saved from Williams three minutes later when the Hednesford goal ace looked certain to score and then Jacques headed over from Borough's best move of the second half.

## Kernick Takes Charge Of Pool

Nuneaton Borough team manager Dudley Kernick has taken charge of the Manor Park money raising pool to head a financial rescue operation. Said club chairman, Mr Reg Bull: "He has taken charge in the absence of a commercial manager and will do the two jobs on a temporary basis."

This follows the resignation of Bert Neville who left the club after eight months as pools chief.

## New Director For Borough

Businessman, Mr Ernest Davenport, managing director of P and D Stores, Queen's Road, Nuneaton, was last night co-opted on to the board of Nuneaton Borough Football Club. Nuneaton born Mr Davenport lives at The Close, Hartshill, and has been a vice-president of the football club for the past three years.

He said today: "It was a pleasant surprise when I was asked to join. I am looking forward to working with the other directors."

## Nuneaton Borough v Oxford City 01-12-1969

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Smith, Allen, Aston, Boot, Metcalfe, Jackson, Jacques, Chapman, Flannagan. **Sub:** Lobban.

**Oxford:** Harris, Pullin, Tomkins, Mitchell, White, Beesley, Moffatt, Eatwell, Wise, Booker, Wiffin. **Sub:** McRae.

Borough welcomed Oxford City to Manor Park for the first round of the President's Cup.

Borough took a six goal stroll into the next round with three goals in each half at Manor Park last night. The Isthmian

League side who face Swansea in the second round of the FA Cup on Saturday, fielded a weakened side with only three first-teamers in their line-up.

Borough went ahead in the second minute when Jim Flannagan banged home a Ron Metcalfe cross from just inside the 18 yard box. The Manor Park side were 2-0 in front after 11 minutes with a goal engineered by Roger Smith and scored by Roy Chapman. Smith sprinted into the Oxford danger zone, slipped past one defender and coolly back-heeled to Chapman, who drove the ball home.

Moffatt should have pulled one back for the visitors before Alec Jackson netted from the penalty spot after Chapman had been hauled down by White. The game was virtually over and it became a question of how many Nuneaton would score. Flannagan almost made it 4-0 with the last kick of the first-half.

Nuneaton started the second half with a goal rush after Oxford had a glimpse of a goal when Crump saved a header from Booker. Alec Jackson, Borough's leading scorer, notched his second penalty of the game after 53 minutes following a handling offence. Seven minutes later Tony Jacques, who had an unhappy match, ended his goal famine with Nuneaton's fifth after a Chapman pass. And Chapman himself made it 6-0 with his second goal of the game in the 67th minute after Mickey Boot had made the running from a Jacques pass.

## Dover v Nuneaton Borough 06-12-1969

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Smith, Allen, Aston, Goodall, Metcalfe, Jackson, Morton, Chapman, Flannagan.

Borough made the journey to The Crabble to play Dover in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Dover fought back from being a goal down to snatch a win and the Manor Park outfit, despite a fighting performance, are still rooted just one step above the bottom of the Premier Division table.

Nuneaton's chances hinged on two critical periods – they survived one but lost out during the second. The first critical period was the 15 minutes after the start when their defensive strategy was tested to the full as Dover went after an early goal. That period of the game is always critical for a side that has made a long trip. They survived it – and then Roy Chapman gave them the boost of an 18th minute on-the-break goal following a goal line scramble.

The second vital stage was after the break, a 20 minute period when Dover threw everything at Nuneaton to salvage a goal. This time Borough did not survive. Dover had to go all out to cancel the lead and they charged forward time and again. Fred Crump pulled off a string of saves, Alan Jones kicked one effort off the line and one shot struck Dave Goodall on the head and glanced on to the crossbar. And, just when it looked as if Nuneaton had survived, Dover again whipped up the panic and struck twice in four minutes.

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The defence failed to cut out a short pass to Stratton. His shot was blocked by Crump and Marley pounced on the rebound to equalise. Dover's winner came after the ball ran loose in the penalty box. Full back Cartwright decided on a hopeful shot at goal. The ball curled through the packed goalmouth and tucked itself just inside the upright. Crump did not see it until it was too late – and that was it. Borough's chance had gone.

Despite a Nuneaton rally in the last ten minutes when they forced a string of corners, Dover kept their heads and won. And so Nuneaton, who had glimpsed success in a game no-one expected them to win, failed to upset the formbooks.

## Burton Albion v Nuneaton Borough 26-12-1969

**Burton:** Chobowski, King, Watton, Cleevely, Butler, Bailey, Marshall, Sweeney, Brown, Bostock, Scattergood. **Sub:** Thomas.

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Smith, Goodall, Aston, Boot, Jackson, Morton, Jacques, Thompson, Chapman. **Sub:** Lobban.

Borough made the journey to Eton Park to play Burton Albion in a Southern League Premier Division match.

Borough shook off a first minute goal and survived desperate last ditch Burton pressure to salvage a point. After Albion had equalised in the 86th minute of a free kick riddled second half they pounded the Nuneaton goal as they went for the winner.

Fred Crump pushed one effort around the post and blocked two shots with his body as the game went into injury time and Borough clung on to a point.

As soon as Borough went ahead they lost their grip. Instead of pressing home their advantage when they had the home side groggy they allowed Burton to hit back.

Burton took the lead from their first attack, inside the first 60 seconds. Goodall tackled Bostock for a corner and the flag kick bobbed around the Borough box before it went loose to Marshall, who half-volleyed it home from just outside the penalty area. Nuneaton's hopes brightened in the 11th minute when they equalised through Tony Jacques. He nodded goalwards from an Alan Morton centre, and although home keeper Chobowski got his hand to the ball, he could not prevent it crossing the line.

Sweeney headed against an upright in the 58th minute, but two minutes later Borough took the lead. Chapman had a header kicked from near the line and the ball went out to Boot. He slipped it back to Chapman whose shot was pushed along the line by Chobowski, but only to Jacques, who followed up to bang it home.

Borough fell back to protect their lead and resorted to strong arm tactics, which eventually brought about their downfall when Boot was involved in a tussle with Sweeney and was booked. From the free-kick Ian King swung the ball into the middle and it was deflected as Borough moved out in a bid to catch Burton offside. The move succeeded in leaving Cleevely clear with the ball. He stabbed at it and it went to Brown who rammed it home.

## Hednesford Town v Nuneaton Borough 30-12-1969

**Borough:** Crump, Thompson, Smith, Goodall, Aston, Boot, Morton, Lobban, Jacques, Chapman, Jackson.

Borough travelled to the Cross Keys to play Hednesford Town in a Birmingham Senior Cup third round tie.

Borough collected a three-goal humbling as they chose their final match of 1969 for one of their worst displays of the season, amidst the swirling snow-flurries. Borough looked a class below their hard-running West Midland League opponents. Their disjointed, dispirited and rock bottom performance produced little hope for the future as they moved into the struggling seventies.

Hednesford were streets in front of Borough as a team. They showed much more individual talent and far more fighting spirit. Only Mickey Boot and Dave Goodall emerged from the wreckage with any pride. Boot, operating in a deep defensive role, for most of the match, was head and shoulders above his colleagues. And Goodall's spirit and all-out effort kept him going while the majority of the side flagged and faded.

Goalkeeper Fred Crump can add his name to these two – he could not be blamed for any of the goals and made a number of daring saves.

Borough were trailing 1-0 when Alec Jackson fired over the top after he had forced his way through. A few minutes earlier a shot from Peter Thompson hit goalkeeper Hill and flew into the air before the goalkeeper grabbed it at his second attempt. That was the sum total of Borough's threat.

Only two teams have won at the Cross Keys in 40 matches – and Borough never looked like making it three. They survived a tremendous spell of early pressure. And the home side could have been three goals in front before they took the lead with a 16th minute Dave Goodall own goal. Winger Campbell fired the ball hard and low across the goal and Goodall turned into his own net.

After an early second half rally from the visitors Hednesford regained command and made the score 2-0 in the 62nd minute. Brian Horton moved in between Goodall and Boot, shook off a half challenge from Aston and slammed the ball home. The grim struggle continued until Horton notched his second and Hednesford's third in the dying seconds of the game.

## King's Lynn v Nuneaton Borough 03-01-1970

**King's Lynn:** Wingfield, Radcliffe, Sharp, Brooks, Porter, Wright, Savino, Coughlin, Lindsay, Jenkins, Clarke. **Sub:** Davies.

**Borough:** Crump, Thompson, Smith, Goodall, Aston, Boot, Jackson, Lobban, Jacques, Chapman, Flannagan. **Sub:** Allen.

Borough travelled to The Walks to take on King's Lynn in a Southern League Premier Division contest.

Borough stumbled into the seventies in the sickening grip of a relegation threat that tightened against King's Lynn. And their



position is desperate as they turn into the second half of the season only one place above bottom spot. But Saturday's display in Norfolk did raise a glimmer of hope – despite the 3-1 scoreline. They played well enough to have won, or at least deserved a point, despite the decisive looking 3-1 scoreline.

The Manor Park side dominated much of the match, particularly in the second half when they turned in some of their best soccer for a long time. Roy Chapman hit the crossbar and they had a goal disallowed as they forced a series of corners and gained command.

At one stage the home side's defence was pressurised into shakiness and goalmouth scrambles, but Borough were not sharp enough in the box to cash in. And, after Nuneaton had tossed away the kind of half-chances that win matches, Lynn were handed two late and decisive goals on a plate.

Coughlin broke out with the ball and sent away Clarke, whose centre floated across the goalmouth and on to the unmarked head of Malcolm Lindsay, who nodded it home from the far post. That was in the 79th minute. The second, five minutes later, caught Borough napping from a quickly taken free-kick by Lynn's player-manager Reg Davies, who pushed a free-kick square to Brooks. He netted and signalled the end of Borough's hopes.

Chapman should have scored in the dying minutes, but it was more a last gesture of defiance than a chance for Borough to get back into the game. By that time it was too late.

Before the Nuneaton pressure and Lynn's two late goals, Coughlin had given the home side a 29th minute lead with a scorching 30-yard free-kick. Nuneaton equalised in the 48th minute with an own goal from Linnets' captain Mick Wright. It followed a free-kick from the hard working Mickey Boot and a challenge on Wright from the burly Roy Chapman.

## Tamworth v Nuneaton Borough 05-01-1970

**Tamworth:** Crosby, Smith, Cox, Seedhouse, Newton, Hall, Tindall, Morrow, Holmes, Jessop, Hope. **Sub:** Ratcliffe.

**Borough:** Crump, Thompson, Allen, Boot, Smith, Sheasby, Lobban, Metcalfe, Jacques, Chapman, Jackson. **Sub:** Flannagan.

Borough made the journey to Tamworth to play a Midland Floodlit Cup game.

Fred Crump turned in a heroic performance, making a string of superb saves, and prevented a double figure goal riot.

Tamworth tore Borough apart and their Floodlit Cup record was left in pieces by a far, far better team. Borough were totally outplayed, out run and out fought in another humiliation against a West Midland League outfit.

Nuneaton had too many weaknesses to stand any chance and were two goals down in the first 11 minutes. The writing was on the wall after just 50 seconds when Holmes netted from what looked like an offside position, after Cox, Jessop

and Hall had set up the opening. Eleven minutes later Allen failed to clear and Tommy Morrow cracked the ball past Crump for goal number two. Borough's three first-half efforts all came from Chapman. And, early in the second half, ex-Nuneaton winger Roger Hope made it 3-0 when he waltzed around Thompson and fired into the roof of the net.

Five minutes later Tamworth full-back Bob Newton hit a back pass into his own net for Borough's consolation goal. But Morrow stretched the scoreline to 4-1 in the 74th minute when he was left completely unmarked after Hall had shrewdly set up the chance. Three minutes after that Tindall chalked up the fifth and final goal when he slammed the ball home from a quickly taken free-kick while Borough tried to set up a defensive barrier.

To cap it all, Roy Chapman and Tony Jacques were booked. Chapman after five minutes and Jacques 12 minutes from time. It was a complete and shattering blow for Borough only six days before they face Gloucestershire side Stonehouse in a vital Non-League Cup first round tie.

## Borough's Financial Position Serious

Nuneaton Borough Football Club's financial position is more serious than this week's balance sheet shock suggests. For the balance sheet, which showed a staggering loss of £16,000 last year, was for the 12 months that ended on May 31, 1969. Since that time the position has deteriorated. Revenue from the money raising pool has dropped even more and income from the gates has halved. The Manor Park club has entered 1970 with an on-the-field battle against relegation and a behind-the-scenes struggle to make ends meet.

That £16,000 loss has swallowed up the 1968 profit of £14,000 and the club is now in the red to the order of £2,000 plus. Most staggering news from the balance sheet is the virtual collapse of the pool. Income from this source nose-dived from £30,000 in 1968 to £4,000 last year.

Only two years ago, the club boasted the biggest cash raising network outside the Football League with a set-up that embraced 21 other clubs.

Chairman Mr Reg Bull gave a warning of the eclipse of the pool sales three months ago when he said that sales of tickets in Nuneaton alone had dropped from 20,000 to 9,000. Between May 1968 and May 1969 the club had the highest attendances in the Southern League – and therefore the highest receipts. But this season crowds have hovered around the 1,600 mark, less than half of last year's level – and the situation is grave whichever way it is viewed.

The news of the loss "leaked" out on Thursday morning, although the annual meeting is not due to be held until February 3. And Mr Bull said he would make a detailed report to the shareholders at the February meeting.

The situation may not have reached Burton Albion proportions but, unless there is a rapid rise in pool sales and

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a tremendous improvement in the team, the club could find itself at the crossroads.

Instead of marching forward into the seventies as a non-league pacesetter, it could trail behind the other teams on the end of a shoestring that is getting shorter.

## Nuneaton Borough v Brentwood 17-01-1970

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Smith, Goodall, Aston, Allen, Morton, Boot, Jacques, Chapman, Jackson. **Sub:** Thompson.

**Brentwood:** Dunbar, Maynard, Butterfield, Delea, Loughton, O'Connell, Dilsworth, Stevenson, Moy, Diggins, Halliday. **Sub:** Adams.

Borough welcomed Brentwood to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division fixture.

Skipper Alec Jackson was jeered by the fans nearly every time he touched the ball on Saturday. He was the number one target for the Manor Park “knockers” as Dudley Kernick’s men fought every inch of the way for two badly needed points. But Jackson, left out of the side last week for the first time since he moved to Nuneaton, had the last laugh over his critics.

He set up both the second half goals which sank stylish Brentwood and gave his team-mates the confidence booster they have been seeking in their bid to climb away from the bottom rungs of the Southern League ladder. Jackson’s emotions were summed up in the 63rd minute with a gesture of defiance to the crowd at the Cock and Bear end after he had coolly set up a goal for Roy Chapman.

Prospects looked bright for Borough when they went ahead in the 15th minute with one of the best goals seen at Manor Park for a long time. Man-of-the-match Roger Smith beat three men in a superb run which took him from his own penalty area deep into Brentwood territory. He slipped the ball inside to Tony Jacques and the home striker gave Billy Dunbar no chance with his crisp, low drive.

But the lead only lasted for three minutes. The Southerners levelled with a soft goal from right winger Eddie Dilsworth. He beat Stan Aston and Dave Goodall and scored from an acute angle with Fred Crump anticipating a cross. After this set back Borough lost the initiative and Brentwood went ahead three minutes from half-time when Barry Diggins scored a neat goal from a Ken Halliday cross.

In the early stages of the second half Borough looked ragged. They showed nothing to suggest they could lift their game until two goals in three minutes made them a different side. The goal Jackson made for Chapman had an element of luck about it. As the number 10 shot he miskicked but to the amazement of everyone on the ground the ball dropped gently into the net. Then in the 66th minute Alan Morton clinched the issue with a smart header from an accurate pass to the far post from Jackson.

From then on Brentwood never looked like rescuing the game. But to their credit they always played open, attacking football, in a fast exciting affair.

## Nuneaton Borough v Yeovil Town 19-01-1970

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Kavanagh, Goodall, Aston, Allen, Morton, Boot, Jacques, Chapman, Jackson. **Sub:** Thompson.

**Yeovil:** Jones, Harritty, Smith, Hughes, Dixon, Harris, Housley, Plumb, Davies, Thompson, Weller. **Sub:** Myers.

Borough welcomed Yeovil Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

The promise of better things to come following Saturday’s spirited fight-back against Brentwood was just a pipe-dream as Borough slumped to yet another defeat. After giving their faithful supporters hope that at long last they were on the mend they turned in a real sub-standard performance.

Borough’s problems stemmed from midfield where Mickey Boot and Malcolm Allen failed to make any impression and there was a marked lack of cohesion between the defence and the attack. Although the forwards didn’t get anything like an adequate service when they were in possession they were nowhere near sharp enough and were sadly lacking in ideas.

The chief culprit was Roy Chapman, who might have had a hat-trick, but failed to take advantage of some clear-cut openings. He did hit the bar shortly after the interval from a Malcolm Allen short free-kick, but apart from that his shooting was way off target.

Borough received a shock five minutes after the interval when Thompson was given yards of space on the left and as he cut in Crump could only parry the shot and Housley followed up smartly to push it into the empty net. Borough had chances to get back on terms but they fell mainly to Chapman who had obviously left his shooting boots at home. Then, with 15 minutes to go he made the miss of the night. Alan Morton cut in along the bye-line and pulled the ball back to him on the edge of the six yard box. But incredibly the Borough striker side-footed the ball over the bar.

This proved to be Borough’s last chance to snatch a point for five minutes from the end the visitors settled the issue with a fine goal from ex-Bristol Rovers’ player Dick Plumb.

## Hillingdon Borough v Nuneaton Borough 24-01-1970

**Hillingdon:** Lowe, Batt, Langley, Reeve, Newcombe, Moore, Carter, Cozens, Terry, Bishop, Watson. **Sub:** Vafiadis.

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Smith, Goodall, Aston, Allen, Morton, Boot, Jacques, Chapman, Lobban. **Sub:** Thompson.

Borough travelled to the Leas Stadium to play Hillingdon Borough in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Dudley Kernick stood, stern-faced, on the terraces as his side was sent crashing to another dismal defeat. But after the match the Nuneaton manager said: “Don’t write us off yet. We can still pull out of trouble.”

It was a sad display by a dispirited, disjointed, dejected looking side. True, Borough did have plenty of the play. True,



Borough could have notched a couple of goals. But the sad fact was that Borough were so fairly and squarely beaten, so out-played, so torn apart by a Hillingdon team who hardly needed to extend themselves.

For the opening half-an-hour Nuneaton played quite well. For the rest of the game, though, they were nothing more than second best. Hillingdon's lively, goal-hungry attack kept the Nuneaton defence at full-stretch. But there were still plenty of gaps to be found.

The man who continually broke through was number eight John Cozens. And he took full advantage of the situation to slam home five goals. He opened the scoring in the 25th minute, popped in a second just before half-time and added three more after the interval as Nuneaton crumpled. Hillingdon's other goalscorer was left-winger Trevor Watson. He gave Alan Jones plenty of trouble and found the net with a hard cross-shot after 64 minutes.

Nuneaton's defence offered weak resistance with even old reliables Roger Smith and Malcolm Allen looking sluggish. Stan Aston gave a poor performance in the middle. He was too often caught out of position and too easily beaten.

Dave Goodall, also, had a far from happy game. According to pre-match plans he should have kept a close rein on striker Cozens. But the Borough man sadly fell down in this task, and was left standing time and again by quick-on-the-ball Cozens.

Between the posts, Fred Crump could not be faulted. Even so, to have six goals put past him was not Crump's idea of a happy match. Brian Lobban and Mickey Boot both worked hard in the middle of the park.

Hillingdon fully deserved their win – although the goal-margin was on the complimentary side. On the run of play there was not six goals' difference between the two sides, but Hillingdon were far superior and gave Nuneaton a lesson in goalscoring.

## Nuneaton Borough v Kettering Town 26-01-1970

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Aston, Allen, Kavanagh, Boot, Smith, Jackson, Jacques, Chapman, Morton. **Sub:** Thompson.

**Kettering:** Harvey, Daldy, Evans, Peck, Maurice Goodall, Mick Goodall, Walden, Gully, Webster, Crawford, Lawman.

Borough welcomed Kettering Town to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division fixture.

Mickey Boot, the most unpredictable player at Manor Park, shrugged off his recent indifferent form last night to lead Borough to a confidence-boosting triumph. He scored his first league goal of the season with less than three minutes gone – and went on to play the kind of dominating midfield role that was always expected from him during his early days at Nuneaton.

In the first half Borough probably played better than they have done for months and Kettering, despite their recent run of success, were made to look more like the relegation candidates. There was no doubt that Dudley Kernick's

decision to switch Roger Smith from the back four to midfield helped to put the side back on its feet.

Both of Borough's goals came at vital times. The players had not broken into a sweat before the home side went ahead. Kettering's defence was more concerned with the threat of Tony Jacques and Roy Chapmen as full back Alan Jones crossed from the right. But the ball dropped to the near post and Boot, racing in unmarked, guided a perfect header over his left shoulder and into the net.

The goal which made sure of two precious points came on the stroke of half-time. Alec Jackson centred from the right and Chapman forced the ball home from close range. In between times Jacques (twice) and Chapman had missed chances and Smith and Jones had tested goalkeeper Harvey.

Alec Jackson, a man whose form is as unpredictable as the English weather, posed a big headache for the visitors and always had the beating of Ken Evans. He was marked much tighter after the break and wandered to an inside forward position allowing Smith to go outside.

In defence Alan Jones and Malcolm Allen were the stars. Allen, who took over from Dave Goodall, did a fine job as sweeper. Kettering's main threat came from former Ipswich and England centre-forward Ray Crawford.

## Pools Merger Could Wipe Out Deficit

Nuneaton Borough have joined Birmingham City in a mammoth pools merger that could steer the club back to financial security and wipe out the £2,000 deficit. Dudley Kernick, who has taken temporary charge of the Manor Park money-raising scheme, described the merger as the 'biggest step taken by the club.'

Borough's pool which embraces 38 smaller clubs has linked up with the West Midlands Clubs Pool, based at St Andrew's. The new set-up will be called Allied Clubs Pool with a weekly pay-out of £3,000 in cash prizes. And the go-ahead for its sales drive has been set for February 16. Yesterday's official announcement followed three months of "hush hush" talks between the two organisations.

The plan was put to the member clubs of the Nuneaton pool last Wednesday and explained to the club's ticket selling agents at a Manor Park meeting on Thursday night. More than 60 clubs throughout the Midlands are in the new set-up and the pool will be one of the largest in the country.

It will be run by a joint committee from Borough and Birmingham City with Dudley Kernick heading the Nuneaton end of the deal and City commercial manager Dennis Gilbert looking after the St Andrew's part.

And the Borough Football Club will be able to concentrate solely on the Nuneaton area instead of having to worry about the high administrative and distribution costs of the present Nuneaton scheme.

Said Dudley Kernick: "We will have a completely new ticket



# Nuneaton Borough 1958-1970 – Part 2



with £3,000 worth of cash prizes each week and nightly bingo with the numbers in the Evening Tribune.”

He added: “I think this is a forerunner of things to come. It is time football clubs realised that they cannot stand alone. We certainly cannot afford to stand alone any more with overheads increasing week by week.

“We could not afford to carry on any longer with our high prize money. Reducing the prize money would be a detrimental step – we can’t do that.”

In 1968 the revenue from the Nuneaton pool climbed to an all-time high of £30,000. Last year it dropped to £4,000. Trouble was, as it expanded, running costs and overheads increased and the ticket sales did not justify the expansion.

Added the Borough team manager-cum-cash-raiser-in-chief: “Given an average amount of effort I can foresee our balance sheet showing a far rosier picture than it does now.”

## Nuneaton Borough v Hereford United 07-02-1970

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Thompson, Allen, Aston, Boot, Jackson, Smith, Jacques, Chapman, Morton. **Sub:** Lobban.

**Hereford:** Davies, Bird, Tomms, Jones, Brown, Mullen, Summerhayes, Round, Charles, Tyler, Punter. **Sub:** Scarrott.

Borough welcomed Hereford United to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division game.

Tony Jacques stepped back into the goalscoring spotlight on Saturday with a second-half hat-trick that gave Borough two more points in their beat-the-drop campaign. The Nuneaton centre-forward was discarded by Hereford as a wing-half at the start of his Southern League career.

Jacques changed the whole picture of the game with a header, a right foot drive and a deflection. And Borough are now tugging at the shirt tails of Gloucester City, the team they must leap-frog to stand a chance of survival. Jacques’ three goal performance highlighted a game that was more conspicuous for individual contributions than collective ideas.

John Charles, the Welsh giant whose soccer boots have made him as famous as Snowdon, helped to set up his side’s two goals. And Alec Jackson, a pint-sized bundle of soccer skill, laid on two chances for Jacques. Nuneaton played better in the second half when the wind was against them than they did before the break with it at their backs.

But it took a two goal burst from Jacques between the 54th and 58th minutes to secure Borough’s position. Jacques then put a damper on Hereford’s hopes with his third goal in the dying seconds of the game.

With the ball playing tricks in the wind, the game had more than its share of missed tackles and bad passes. And Nuneaton had a tendency to be indecisive in some of their middle of the park challenges. Consequently, Hereford won more of the loose ball skirmishes but relied a lot on their “look for Charles” tactics in the air when the ball was better

used along the ground. Even so, the game will go down as one of the better ones seen at Manor Park this season. The result was a heartening boost for Borough’s hopes of staying in the top flight. The solution to this problem lies in their own hands – and it’s no good hoping that the other strugglers will slip up.

Stan Round put Hereford ahead in the 12th minute before Alan Morton equalised with a spectacular effort. Tony Jacques grabbed two goals in four minutes early in the second half and added a third two minutes from time. Brian Punter notched United’s second in the 86th minute.

## Nuneaton Borough v Lockheed 16-02-1970

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Allen, Aston, Kavanagh, Thompson, Boot, Jackson, Chapman, Jacques, Morton. **Sub:** Lobban.

**Lockheed:** Steane, Cassidy, Shrimpton, Pyle, Lawton, Palmer, Scott, Taylor, Fawell, Whitehead, Brady. **Sub:** Hall.

Borough welcomed Lockheed to Manor Park to play a Midland Floodlit Cup game.

Impish Alec Jackson added an artist’s touch to a three goal show on the Arctic landscape of Manor Park. He played a part in all three goals that sank Lockheed and hoisted Borough back into a challenging position in the table. A lot of the soccer was slip and slide stuff, the conditions were atrocious. But the goals were gems – worthy of a much better setting.

Two came from Tony Jacques and one from Roy Chapman. All three were smartly set up. And there was one common denominator – winger Jackson.

The three goals rescued the game from obscurity – a game many people would argue should not have been played at all. In parts the pitch was boot deep in snow. And ice patches formed in the ridges where the lines had been swept clear.

That did not deter Lockheed in the first 20 minutes. They made a promising start and striker Ken Whitehead hit the post when he was put clear early on. But the Leamington side’s energy and dash subsided as the game wore on. They had willing workers – but no-one with that little bit extra at the critical time. Borough had this – in the shape of Jackson and Jacques. And they displayed it in the 35th and 39th minutes with the first two goals.

The 35th minute effort was a superb lesson in simplicity and quick thinking. Kavanagh dummied to find Jackson in a straight line with the net. He sent up a flurry of snow with an inch perfect chip that found Jacques. The centre-forward nodded the ball out of the hands of goalkeeper Steane and into the net. Goal number two came when Chapman swept a great pass out to Jackson, who in turn dropped it at the near post where Jacques again beat Steane with his head.

Roy Chapman sealed Lockheed’s fate with Nuneaton’s third goal in the 62nd minute. It followed an impressive Nuneaton build-up as the ball went from Jackson to Jacques, on to Thompson, and then to Chapman who prodded it home.



## Nuneaton Borough v Poole Town 21-02-1970

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Allen, Aston, Kavanagh, Boot, Smith, Jackson, Jacques, Chapman, Morton. **Sub:** Thompson.

**Poole:** Buck, Brewster, Balsom, Wilkinson, I. Brown, Taylor, Downs, Pring, J. Brown, Ferns, Hodgson. **Sub:** Murphy.

Borough welcomed Poole Town to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division encounter.

Nuneaton Borough will be playing in the First Division of the Southern League next season – that is the message which rings out loud and clear after Saturday's dismal defeat. It was a game Borough had to win to close the relegation gap, a vital "four pointer" between two strugglers. They lost. And the gap is slowly widening into a gulf that only a soccer miracle can bridge. Between now and the end of the season they have to play like champions to escape.

On Saturday's performance they are already doomed. Things will get worse before they get better. And it's no good saying: "It can't happen to us." It will.

Too many players, for one reason or another, are not pulling their weight. The team has lost its foundation – it has no character. Established players like Malcolm Allen and Roger Smith have been reduced to mediocrity, and the side did not wake up until the second half when it was too late.

Borough were strangely suspect to the most elementary tactic employed by all away sides – the quick break. Twice they pushed forward, exposed themselves completely at the back – and twice the Dorset side scored. The onus is always on the home side to attack – and Nuneaton were always trailing.

Only two players emerged with any credit, tough-tackling amateur full-back Gerry Kavanagh, who has not had time to be affected by the lethargic disease that has spread through the team, and Micky Boot, who with Smith just a shadow of his true self, was left to plug away on his own.

Poole took the lead with an 11th minute penalty from Hodgson. And Borough were exposed when Downs and John Brown hit their other two after the break. Chapman made it 2-1 and Jacques pegged the scoreline back to 3-2. But in spite of an improvement in effort from Nuneaton and a couple of near misses, Poole more than deserved their points.

## Bromsgrove Rovers v Nuneaton Borough 23-02-1970

**Bromsgrove:** Hooper, Gwynne, Wood, Nicholls, Field, Isherwood, Boswell, J. Hellawell, Hackett, Craddock, Howell.

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Allen, Aston, Kavanagh, Boot, Smith, Jackson, Jacques, Chapman, Lobban.

Borough made the journey to the Victoria Ground to play Bromsgrove Rovers in a Midland Floodlit Cup game.

Borough clung on grimly to a goalless draw to earn five points and keep alive their Midland Floodlit Cup championship hopes. But they were fortunate to survive. They were forced

back for three parts of the game and Rovers threatened to run them off their feet in the first-half.

Nuneaton withstood a barrage of Bromsgrove pressure before the break when the defence showed signs of panic and had trouble clearing the danger area. After the interval they improved, but there was nothing in the performance to suggest that they have turned the corner. The same problems were there.

During the first 45 minutes, the Manor Park side breathlessly threw back waves of attacks. Bromsgrove's dash and drive had them sagging at their knees. Fortunately, Gil Merrick's Floodlit Cup League leaders could not match their speedy build-ups and first-time tackling with the killer punch.

But they still managed to expose flaws in the Nuneaton set-up, especially in midfield where Boot and Smith were overshadowed by Isherwood and Boswell. Hard-working Isherwood had a storming game in the number four shirt.

Individual failings again led to collective chaos for Dudley Kernick's men. And it wasn't until the latter stages of the game that they had a worthwhile goal attempt – and two chances to win the match. While the defence worked hard, Roger Smith and Mickey Boot struggled in midfield, but they were not helped by poor running up front.

Jackson and Chapman each had a chance to win the match. Apart from that, they were ineffective. Chapman was slow and Jackson greedy. And Tony Jacques, cut off from the lifeline of service he needs, had to wage a lone and frustrating battle – all round, it was another unhappy night for Borough.

## Rugby Town v Nuneaton Borough 25-02-1970

**Rugby:** D. Jones, Clarke, Thomas, Walker, Knox, Hopkin, Riley, Keeley, Adcock, Matthews, Ward.

**Borough:** Crump, A. Jones, Kavanagh, Allen, Aston, Boot, Jackson, Thompson, Jacques, Chapman, Smith (Metcalf).

Borough made the journey to Oakfield to take on Rugby Town in a Midland Floodlit Cup game.

Mick Keeley had the last laugh in this humiliation at a virtually deserted Oakfield last night. For the man handed by Borough on a plate to Rugby earned the cheers while Dudley Kernick's men collected the jeers. And there was ample justification. Borough had nobody to match the strong-running, big-hearted Keeley, who helped himself to one goal and made another.

The home side were heartened by an Aston error after 12 minutes. In attempting to push the ball back to Crump the number five merely rolled it into the path of the eager Graham Adcock, who gratefully accepted the gift.

There was a touch of desperation when Mickey Boot blazed high over the bar after five or six passes had given Rugby time to cover. On the hour Keeley turned inside the box to ram home a low drive which caught Crump unsuspected. It was a goal the Manor Park reject had always promised.



At long last Nuneaton started to perform like a Premier Division outfit. A smooth five-man move nearly did the trick, then Stan Aston cut the arrears with a header when Chapman nodded on a left wing corner. But Keeley quickly struck again. He was brought down as he knifed through, and Jimmy Knox hammered the penalty high into the net. Invited to rub it in by the pathetically small crowd of 304, Rugby exposed glaring gaps in midfield and the insecurity of those behind them.

Ronnie Metcalfe came on for Roger Smith with 14 minutes left. There was some refreshing determination in his running, yet Borough were already doomed to defeat when Howard Riley cracked in a stunning 30-yarder which caught Crump off his line as it flashed into the top corner.

A 4-1 scoreline is convincing by any standards. Yet the result served only to emphasise Borough's problems, for it was inflicted by a side whose basic skills were inferior.

## Borough's Fate Uncertain

### Could Be June Before Position Is Clear

Nuneaton Borough could find themselves having to wait until June to learn their fate as crisis and confusion continues to hit the Southern League scene. If the Manor Park side finish in the relegation department – and they need a vast improvement to avoid it – everything will depend on the League's annual meeting in London.

The “who goes down and who comes up” position will then be cleared. As it is, the position is far from clear – and becoming even more confused. Burton Albion has resigned, Chelmsford and Brentwood intend to merge. And this week came the news that Bedford Town may have to go into liquidation. The Eagles, £55,000 in debt have called a public crisis meeting for next Wednesday. They have already said that they may be forced to wind up.

Add to this the fact that Wisbech have already opted out of the first division and the situation becomes almost chaotic. To make sure of keeping out of the chaos that could develop, Borough have to clear the bottom four.

As things stand at the moment, Burton have resigned, so the natural step is a three down, four up decision which would leave two vacancies in the first division. If the Brentwood-Chelmsford amalgamation goes ahead the league could decide to relegate two clubs and promote four.

On the other hand, the league could continue its natural four up-four down policy and fill the first division vacancies with new clubs. It all depends on the meeting in June.

And it could be that the troubles of the other clubs will save Borough from relegation. Burton Albion were saved three years ago when Stevenage dropped out. Nuneaton could pull themselves out of it – but they have to close a six-point gap to overhaul Poole Town, who are currently fifth from bottom. This side is not currently playing well enough to do that and the defence need stiffening and the attack needs more punch.

## Borough Board Has “Free And Frank’ Talk With Players

Nuneaton Borough's board of directors called a “no holds barred” meeting before Saturday's trip to Kettering to talk about the club's fight to avoid relegation.

Club chairman Mr Reg Bull said today: “We called in the players for a discussion because of the precarious position and to see if we could iron things out.”

The meeting was held at the ground on Friday night and attended by all of the players – apart from Alan Morton, who lives in London.

Added Mr Bull: “We had a free and frank discussion and told them that they must get a greater sense of urgency into their play. We think that was the time to do it.

“Unfortunately on Saturday the defence had to be re-organised and it is obvious to me that the defence failed.”

The side did show a greater determination against the Poppies – but it was not good enough. They lost 3-1 and slipped further behind in the relegation struggle.

### Kettering Town v Nuneaton Borough 28-02-1970

**Kettering:** Harvey, J. Daldy, Evans, Gammon, Reed, Peck, Walden, Crawford, B. Daldy, M Goodall, Lawman. **Sub:** Gully.

**Borough:** Crump, Smith, Kavanagh, D. Goodall, Jones, Allen, Jackson, Boot, Jacques, Morton, Metcalfe. **Sub:** Chapman.

Borough made the journey to Rockingham Road to take on Kettering Town in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Following a Friday night “pep talk” Dudley Kernick sprang some surprises and reshuffled his side and there were some shocks for the Nuneaton fans who made the journey. Full back Alan Jones was at centre-half with Dave Goodall alongside him in the back four. Roger Smith dropped back to number two, Malcolm Allen moved up into midfield, Alan Morton and Ron Metcalfe returned up front and £1,500 October buy, Roy Chapman, was substitute.

The other surprise was that the side showed an improvement, but not enough of an improvement to take a point. And Poole and Gloucester both drew to put the Manor Park side deeper in trouble. Borough were beaten by two goals from a player who showed that he hasn't lost his touch – ex-England star Ray Crawford. His goals, after Nuneaton had fought back from behind, changed the game and shattered what hopes Borough had of a precious point.

Kettering took the lead when Barry Daldy outjumped Fred Crump to head home a Steve Gammon free-kick. Mickey Boot cancelled that goal out with a left-foot drive three minutes later. Up to that point, Borough had shown more spirit, confidence and cohesion than they have displayed in recent weeks. But it was all over for them when Crawford swooped.

He rammed home his first goal just before half-time after Crump had palmed out a Lawman power drive from the foot

of the near post. It was the sort most strikers gobble up. But his second had style – the ball was chipped forward by Lawman, headed on by Daldy and Crawford broke clear on the blind side. He drew Crump and drove the ball home with ice-cool precision. Alan Morton had a chance to pull back one of the goals when he ran in unchallenged to an Alec Jackson cross and headed wide with six minutes to go. By that time, however, the damage had been done.

The Alan Jones experiment was not a success. Jones has given great service as a full-back, but is not a centre-half. Nuneaton's defence was open to the high ball and Dudley Kernick will have to look elsewhere to implement his tightening up plans.

## Nuneaton Borough v Bath City

02-03-1970

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Allen, Aston, Kavanagh, Boot, Smith, Jackson, Jacques, Chapman, Morton. **Sub:** Lobban.

**Bath City:** McCauley, Faulkes, Carter, Harris, T. Taylor, Gough, Swift, Elliott, Clarke, D. Taylor, Allen. **Sub:** Rhodes.

Borough welcomed Bath City to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough showed some fighting spirit and gave Bath a 3-0 thumping. The game heralded Gerry Kavanagh's first goal for the club. Bath – given no scope near goal – fought a tremendous battle for midfield supremacy and they succeeded to a certain extent when Borough were hesitant and jittery – afraid of their own mistakes. Yet Bath desperately lacked the will to win – Borough's trump card on a bitter, freezing night in front of a sparse crowd.

Borough won because they fought hard; because they had flair in midfield as well as grit – that's why they scored three goals. They were given the incentive of a quick goal – a sixth minute close range effort from Roy Chapman. But where they held the upper hand was in Mickey Boot and Roger Smith. The pair did not assert the midfield grip that the scoreline suggests. But Boot's immaculate distribution and Smith's positive straight running had Bath back-peddalling at vital times.

City's frustration built up as the game went on. Swift and Carter were booked for reckless tackles as Nuneaton pushed forward on their goalward surge. Chapman should have scored when he headed straight at goalkeeper McCauley, Morton blazed over from a pin-point Jacques header and Boot also went close after the keeper fumbled.

Borough's first goal had an element of luck about it, the third came from a scramble – but the second was a real gem. And all three can make a whole world of difference to Nuneaton. Chapman hooked in the first after the bounce of the ball had beaten Bath defender Harris. Kavanagh grabbed his first goal for the club when he had two attempts in a goalmouth scramble. But the second goal overshadowed the others. Smith sent a 40-yard pass to the feet of Morton. He shrugged off a combined challenge from Faulkes and Sift to score – it was so simple.



**Full back Gerry Kavanagh swoops in on a goalmouth scramble to score Borough's third goal with ten minutes to go – his first goal for the club**

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

## To The Editor

Many people will have read in the Evening Tribune, that Nuneaton Borough have lost yet another match. This has become all too common and indeed it is now surprising to hear that they have won. What is so ironical about the Rugby game is that an ex-Borough player played the lion's part in defeating them.

This made me wonder how many players that Mr Kernick has "kicked out" are now playing in teams better than the Borough, and indeed, player to player, are better than those that replaced them. Richards, Ashe, Thompson, Crawley, Cutler, Wright, to mention a few of the more recent ones.

Fair enough, it might be said, if the new team is any better. And yet this present team is one of the worst Borough teams for years, including the one that Mr Kernick inherited from Fred Badham. With the exception of three players, Malcolm Allen, Alan Jones and Roger Smith, and perhaps Tony Jacques, the whole team could go in my opinion. There would be something wrong if Jacques didn't play well after costing so much money.

Of the other three, two were there before Kernick arrived, and only Roger Smith has emerged with any credit of Kernick's other signings that haven't grown out of favour and been transferred. Which brings me to my main point.

We read that Borough are thousands of pounds in the red. Never has a Borough manager spent so much money in trying to reform a team. Yet what happened when Mr Kernick began his first full season as manager? He gave free transfers to five or six players whom he, in his infinite wisdom, did not consider good enough.

Now at least three of those players are in teams which would probably thrash the living daylights out of Borough's present team, even in so-called lower leagues. And his greatest mistake of all? A certain young man, aged about 20, was thrown out as being no good.

On a free transfer he persisted and managed to get back into

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the Fourth Division of the Football League. He was a first team regular when it was promoted to the Third Division, and it was no fault of his when they were relegated the season after. This season he was the club's leading goalscorer, and in the top six goalscorers in the Fourth Division.

Recently we read that a certain player, Terry Bell, has been transferred from Hartlepool United to Reading for £8,000. This is one and the same player who wasn't good enough for Kernick! I said it then and I say now, or rather repeat that now well-known criticism of Mr K by another Borough supporter: "Dudley Kernick doesn't know a good footballer from a bag of chips."

Looking at Borough's present position, and the facts just given. I fail to see how Mr Kernick himself can disagree.

True Blue Of Long Standing  
(Name and address supplied)

## Hereford United v Nuneaton Borough 14-03-1970

**Hereford:** Davies, Bird, Timms, Jones, Brown, Mullen, Summerhayes, Tyler, Round, Lloyd, Punter. **Sub:** Lewis.

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Kavanagh, Allen, Aston, Boot, Jackson, Smith, Jacques, Morton, Chapman. **Sub:** Thompson.

Borough made the journey to Edgar Street to face Hereford United in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Stand in Clive Lloyd pushed Borough deeper down the rocky stairway that leads out of the Southern League top flight. Lloyd, brought in after an unsuccessful fitness test on John Charles, netted both goals in a ragged game. Time is now running out for the Manor Park side. They are no longer just struggling. They are embedded in a rut. And their position was made worse when Gloucester and Crawley, their partners in the problem zone, both won at home.

The defeat was not due to any brilliance on Hereford's part or lack of effort from Nuneaton. It was just another 90 minute extension to many weeks of struggle and strife. Lloyd lengthened the odds against Borough with an eighth minute effort. and he made certain of United's win with the second goal ten minutes from the end.

Jacques missed a chance before Lloyd scored. And, in between his goals, Jackson hit the crossbar and Chapman had a close range header saved on the line.

Borough are in a rut. Relegation is no longer on the horizon – it comes closer each week. And it carries with it the mental and psychological problems that this entails. Nuneaton are not a good side playing badly. They are a struggling team fighting for survival.

In the second half the game deteriorated. It became as ragged as the untidy Edgar Street surface of porridge-like mud. And the crowd, Hereford's lowest of the season had cause to moan. As for Borough, they had players willing to fight - summed up by full back Gerry Kavanagh. He makes up for his deficiencies with loads of determination. Malcolm

Allen and Stan Aston also had to work overtime in the middle of the back line, but there was no-one to match the sparkle of Dudley Tyler. He was not at his best, but still looks a great prospect. And there was another thing Nuneaton could not match – Hereford's teamwork and confidence.

## Nuneaton Borough v Tamworth

16-03-1970

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Allen, Aston, Kavanagh, Boot, Smith, Metcalfe, Jacques, Morton, Thompson. **Sub:** Lobban.

Borough welcomed Tamworth to Manor Park to play a Midland Floodlit League game.

Tamworth, the side that started Borough's slide, accelerated their plunge to rock bottom last night. They wrote another episode in the continuing struggles of Dudley Kernick's men when they chalked up a hat-trick of wins over Nuneaton this season. The West Midland League side's 4-2 FA Cup win put the skids under Borough last November.

Tamworth set about Nuneaton with spirit and determination – two assets that Nuneaton lacked after a penalty decision had knocked the bottom out of their game. It came with the score at 1-1, after Nuneaton had fought back to equalise. Fred Crump punched out a Roger Hope effort only to see Birmingham referee Mr J. Rees point to the penalty spot. Hall scored with his spot-kick.

Borough had their chances as they had two efforts kicked off the line and Tony Jacques saw a shot hit the post and come out. Jacques screwed another effort wide from close in, Morton had two efforts brilliantly saved by John Crosby – but the whole series of incidents echoed the old story. When you are down nothing goes right.

Tamworth took the lead in the seventh minute when Tommy Morrow mishit a shot from the edge of the 18 yard box. It went across to Ray Holmes who banged it home. Seedhouse kicked off the line from Jacques and Thompson shot inches wide before he equalised on the half-hour. Thompson swept the ball past Crosby after Jacques had set up the pass.

It was a well deserved equaliser and Nuneaton could easily have gone ahead before the penalty incident restored Tamworth's lead and put them on the victory trail. Jacques should have scored in the 60th minute. Three minutes later Holmes struck again. He waltzed past Kavanagh, dribbled around Crump and then did a cartwheel of joy as the ball sped across the line.

So, from a possible 2-2 situation, Borough found themselves 3-1 down. And their pedestrian soccer stifled their hopes as the game wore on. Tamworth were positive and direct, while Nuneaton pushed the ball square and out to the flanks. With ten minutes to go, the second penalty of the game presented Nuneaton with a glimmer of hope. Newton handled as he challenged Metcalfe. Gerry Kavanagh took an almighty Freddie Truman type run-up before banging an unstoppable shot past Crosby.



## Telford United v Nuneaton Borough 18-03-1970

**Telford:** Richards, Reynolds, Whitehouse, Ray, Ball, Hart, Fudge, Owen, Bentley, Murray, Harris. **Sub:** Jagger.

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Kavanagh, Allen, Aston, Goodall, Metcalfe, Boot, Chapman, Lobban, Thompson. **Sub:** Jackson.

Borough travelled to the Buck's Head to face Telford United in a Midland Floodlit Cup game.

An amazing three goals in an eight minute second half revival put Borough back in with a chance of retaining their Midland Floodlit Cup crown last night after they trailed 2-0.

Telford took the lead in the 13th minute when ex-Borough man Brian Hart chipped a neat pass through to John Ray as Borough's rearguard played for offside. Although Crump halted Ray, outside-left Alan Harris was on hand to roll the ball into the empty net.

Before the interval Harris missed two great chances of increasing Telford's lead but Thompson and Boot had good openings for Nuneaton. The pattern did not alter after the change of ends. Goodall cleared off the line from Mickey Fudge, Crump had to throw himself at Ray's feet and then, in the 60th minute Telford went 2-0 up. Harris scored a simple header after Owen had beaten Goodall on the left and made the chance.

With only 20 minutes remaining Borough looked down and out, but a gem of a goal from Mickey Boot transformed the picture, and with new-found heart Borough hit back to clinch a 13 point triumph. Boot worked a quick free-kick on the right with full-back Alan Jones before moving inside to crack home a low shot from 25 yards out.

Only 90 seconds later Nuneaton were level. Jones and Malcolm Allen combined but Roy Chapman missed the ball as it shot across the goalmouth. Peter Thompson, however, did remarkably well to keep it in play and return it low into the middle where Chapman side-footed into an open goal from two yards out.

Telford stormed back on the attack but had a further shock in the 79th minute when Chapman snatched a dramatic winner. Jones again took a hand. He lofted a high cross to the near post and Richards was too slow in spotting the danger as Chapman darted forward to head home.

## Nuneaton Borough v Gloucester City 21-03-1970

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Kavanagh, Allen, Aston, Goodall, Horton, Boot, Chapman, Smith, Thompson. **Sub:** Lobban.

**Gloucester:** Jones, Vale, Page-Jones, Anderson, McQuarrie, McColl, Rice, Ferns, Williams, Stevens, Fraser. **Sub:** McIntosh.

Borough welcomed Gloucester City to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division encounter.

Borough clung to a precious 32nd minute Roy Chapman goal to beat Gloucester – the side they must catch to stand a chance of staying up. But City showed how tough it was going to be. Their determined display deserved a better fate.

And Gloucester's programme between now and the end of the season holds a warning to Nuneaton. They have ten games to go – eight of them at home. Borough have eleven matches left and five are away.

So Borough must bank on a Gloucester failure and a near-championship style finish to keep them up. They are in a grim spot. The fact that they took both points on Saturday was heartening. The way they did it was unimaginative. Again it was their failure to control and dominate the middle of the park that almost led to a defeat that would have been a disaster.

Borough had a defensive look about them from the start. But when players were pulled back to help out, they were unable to springboard speedy breaks to upset the visitors. Determination by Mickey Boot, good refereeing by Cambridge official Mr Frank Burling and the coolness of Roy Chapman carved out the decisive goal.

The referee waved play on after Boot had been fouled by Anderson. Boot played Chapman clear and he calmly stroked the ball over the line. Boot also brought out a great save from Gloucester keeper Jones with a thunderous left-foot explosion of a shot. Jones pushed it over the top with a tremendous reflex save.

That was a rare high spot, but Borough conceded a series of goalmouth scrambles to City and were the worst offenders in a free-kick ridden first-half. All told, Mr Burling blew for 30 free-kicks – 21 of them against Nuneaton and nearly half of them were given away by Roger Smith. Smith, only a shadow of the player he was, sums up Nuneaton's decline with his fall from near-brilliance to mediocrity after his illness.

He is not the worst player by any means, but he does provide a yardstick by which to measure the club's fall from grace. The whole side needs a rapid injection of the sparkle, skill and enthusiasm that was once a hallmark of Roger Smith's play. That could save them.

## Nuneaton Borough v Rugby Town 25-03-1970

Borough welcomed Rugby Town to Manor Park to play a Midland Floodlit Cup game.

Malcolm Allen, the player who has experienced nearly 10 years of ups and downs at Manor Park, cracked home one of his rare goals last night as Borough struggled dismally to make an impression against Rugby. Allen's well-taken 55th minute equaliser sparked off a brief Nuneaton revival, but in the end it was not enough to keep alive the club's hopes of retaining the Midland Floodlit Cup trophy. And the simple truth, after another night of frustration for the hard-core of supporters was that Borough did not deserve to win, even though Rugby provided only mediocre opposition.

Throughout 90 boring minutes Dudley Kernick's men were completely void of method, ideas and urgency and it was not surprising that the sparse crowd of 841 had almost halved before the final whistle. Despite having more of the attacking play, Borough's approach work was so predictable and



laboriously slow that the match lacked bite and incidents. And, but for the more entertaining performance of popular Leicester referee Roger Kirkpatrick the ground would probably have been deserted after the interval.

The defence was generally solid with lion-hearted Dave Goodall and Gerry Kavanagh giving nothing away. But the efforts to find a way through the visitors' rearguard became tedious. Pass after pass failed to find its target and to make matters worse strikers Roy Chapman and Tony Jacques chose the same night to lose their goal punch.

Rugby went ahead in the 32nd minute. Graham Adcock outjumped Stan Aston to head past the astonished Fred Crump after Hopkin had done well to get in his cross from the left. For the remainder of the first-half Rugby threw back Borough's raids with little trouble. The only escape they had was when a brilliant 25-yarder from Mickey Boot crashed against the crossbar with goalkeeper Dave Jones hopelessly beaten.

Boot was the one Borough player who looked likely to break down the Rugby resistance. He laid on the pin-point pass which resulted in Allen crashing home an angled shot with Jones out of position and in the 58th minute he beat Rugby's offside trap with a timely chip, allowing Jacques to move forward and lob over the advancing keeper.

This two goals in three minutes burst should have been the signal for Borough to take a firm grip on the proceedings. But no. In the 71st minute Smith failed to halt lively winger Dave Matthews whose low cross was slipped home by Neil Armstrong. With 12 minutes left Ron Metcalfe substituted for Peter Thompson who had hardly made his presence felt for Borough. The switch made no difference.

## Borough Shake-up

### Allen Will Take Charge Of Team

Nuneaton Borough Football Club has re-shuffled its Manor Park set-up with Dudley Kernick handing over the team duties to Malcolm Allen and taking over as full-time commercial manager. Allen, the club's longest serving player, will become player-coach as the team fights against relegation between now and the end of the season.

Dudley Kernick will head the financial rescue operation – launched when Borough amalgamated its pool with Birmingham City at the beginning of February. In a statement, Mr Kernick said there was a "giant sized task" to be tackled on the commercial side.

He has been working as secretary-manager, coach and commercial manager and said that he felt he "could not do justice to the club in all these vital functions." His full statement reads: "As the man on the spot when Mr Bert Neville resigned as commercial manager in November, I was asked by the directors to take charge of the pools organisation.

"And when the adverse balance sheet was announced at the

annual meeting it was fairly obvious that there was a giant sized task to be done on the commercial side of the club.

"Unfortunately the playing side also had its problems. Weather, illness and other enforced match cancellations had increased the secretarial duties, so much so that I felt I could not do justice to the club in all these very vital functions.

"So, in order to effect the smooth – and I hope successful, running of the club I suggested to the board that it may be advantageous if I were allowed to concentrate fully on club administration.

"I suggested that Malcolm Allen be responsible for the playing side. This was agreed to and as captain of the team Malcolm is in an ideal position to take over."

Dudley Kernick's contract as team manager was not due to end until 1972. He took over at the end of 1965 – the season before the club's run to the Third Round of the FA Cup. It is understood there may be further developments at Manor Park following stories, as yet unconfirmed, that a group of businessmen want to help the club out of its difficulties.

### Pooler Town v Nuneaton Borough

28-03-1970

**Pooler:** Buck, Brewster, Taylor, Hyden, I. Brown, Ferns, Down, Wilkinson, J. Brown, Pring, Hodgson. **Sub:** Shergold.

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Goodall, Aston, Kavanagh, Boot, Smith, Jackson, Chapman, Jacques, Morton. **Sub:** Metcalfe.

Borough made the journey to meet Pooler Town in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Pooler's leading goalscorer Ken Hodgson and centre-forward John Brown wrecked Borough's hopes with two late goals – and left them with a mammoth survival task. But they turned in a spirited performance in their first game under Malcolm Allen, appointed player-coach two days ago.

Allen swapped his number six shirt for a place on the trainers bench while Borough staged a display that looked like bringing them a point before Hodgson and Brown struck.

Pooler made the early running and centre-half Irvine Brown headed away a Jackson centre after Kavanagh had latched on to a bad pass from Eyden. A tangle was sorted out in the Pooler goalmouth before the Dorset side broke out to win a corner. From the flag-kick Crump saved John Brown's overhead kick.

Borough more than held their own, but neither side had a glimpse of goal in the first 15 minutes. Borough had made an energetic start, but Pooler went on the offensive and the game became more even with neither side being able to get on top.

Play became scrappy towards half-time, although Borough continued to have a fair share of the attacking play, but neither side looked capable of breaking the deadlock. Just before the break Crump pulled off a courageous save when he dropped on the ball as Brown raced in. And then Ferns fired over the top with a 25-yard left-foot drive.



Crump was called into action at the start of the second half, smothering a lob from Taylor as Brown raced in to challenge. Boot then brought a good save from Buck, who dived to keep out a first time shot following a Jackson free-kick. Crump made a good save from a corner before Boot set up a chance for Chapman. The number ten put the ball behind.

The Manor Park side began to improve and Jackson beat Taylor and clipped the ball through to Jacques. The centre-forward's header went across the goalmouth to Chapman, whose shot cannoned off Brown for a corner. Borough almost took the lead when Buck managed to save a header from Jacques on the goal-line – it looked a goal all the way.

Poole came more into the game as the game progressed and in the 78th minute Hodgson headed them in front from a Wilkinson free-kick. Centre-forward John Brown netted Poole's second goal with just two minutes to go.

## Nuneaton Borough v Telford United 30-03-1970

Borough welcomed Telford United to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division game.

A 26th minute penalty plunged Borough deeper into the Southern League crisis department yesterday – and could have signalled the death knell to their Premier Division survival hopes. The penalty won a drab, sleet-lashed tussle after Gerry Kavanagh had handled as he moved on to a throw from goalkeeper Fred Crump. Mickey Fudge slotted home the penalty. And the message from Manor Park was loud and clear: The staff re-shuffle is not going to save the club.

Malcolm Allen has been presented with an almost impossible task. Although the team is prepared to fight for him, he is rapidly running out of time. Allen was given a mammoth job when he took over as player-coach. After two Easter defeats he now needs a soccer miracle. When a club is struggling nothing seems to go right. And that just about sums up yesterday's game.

For 25 minutes Borough were the better side. They tried to make things work for them – until the penalty knocked the bottom out of their game. From then on, they struggled to get back. Telford were no better and the match deteriorated into a scrappy shambles as Borough's hopes ebbed away.

They did try to save the game, but their attacks, although frequent, did not lead to the sort of pressure needed to force the Telford defence into mistakes. Ron Flowers and Co. always looked in control of the situation as the wind drove sleet into their faces after the break and made conditions even worse.

There were appeals for a penalty when Telford full-back Whitehouse stopped a header from Alan Morton on the line. The referee waved play on. And Mickey Boot raised Nuneaton's hopes with a tremendous 25 yard power drive which brought out a great save from visitors' goalkeeper Bobby Irvine.

But for the most part Nuneaton struggled. They are in too much trouble. Malcolm Allen may be able to transform them into one hundred per centers – but even that is not enough.

## Nuneaton Borough v Burton Albion 31-03-1970

**Borough (from):** Crump, Jones, Kavanagh, Allen, Smith, Boot, Aston, Jackson, Jacques, Goodall, Morton, Lobban, Chapman, Metcalfe.

**Burton (from):** Potter, Norman, Watton, Cleveley, Hickton, McKay, Flanagan, Ainger, Waller, Sweeney, Scattergood, Marshall.

Borough welcomed Burton Albion to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division encounter.

Nuneaton gave their loyal fans a glimmer of hope in the fight against relegation when they took both points from their game with fellow strugglers Burton. Those who braved the bitterly cold night must have been warmed as a fighting Borough turned in their best performance for some weeks.

True Burton are firmly entrenched at the foot of the table, but the manner in which the Nuneaton side took control must still give them hope that they can avoid the drop. Borough close marked the visitors' strikers out of the game and with Boot and Allen both having fine games in midfield they were in control right from the off.

With a snowstorm raging across Manor Park the visitors ought to have gone in front straight from the kick-off. Goodall slipped as he challenged for the ball in midfield and Ainger raced clear to slip the ball past the advancing Crump only to see his shot strike a post and bounce out.

This was to be Burton's only real chance of the night, for the Borough rearguard completely shut them out for the remainder of the game. Then, Borough completely destroyed Burton with two goals in two minutes midway through the first-half. Both were magnificent efforts, the first a fine example of opportunism and the second the result of a perfectly executed right wing movement.

With 17 minutes gone the Burton defence failed to clear a corner and the ball ran to Boot some 20 yards from goal who fired a tremendous drive into the roof of the net that Potter probably didn't even see. Straight from the kick-off Jackson and Smith worked a neat move on the right and Morton rose above two defenders to nod Smith's centre into the bottom of the net.

This gave Borough a great lift and they started to show the confidence that is all too often missing when a side is in trouble. On the hour leading scorer Tony Jacques made things absolutely safe when he fired home Borough's third goal with a low shot to Potter's right.

## Yeovil Town v Nuneaton Borough 04-04-1970

**Yeovil:** Clarke, Herrity, F. Smith, Myers, Harrie, Hughes, Housley, Plumb, Davies, K. Thompson, Clancy. **Sub:** Weller.

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Kavanagh, Boot, Aston, Goodall, Jackson, Allen, Jacques, Morton, R. Smith. **Sub:** Metcalfe.

Borough travelled to The Huish to play Yeovil Town in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Top of the table Yeovil pushed Borough closer to the relegation edge with a middle of the table performance.





The Somerset side were not impressive – they did not shape up like a side leading the race for the Southern League championship. Unfortunately the Borough wear their struggling label well, and in consequence, the game did not get off the floor. It was won by defensive errors rather than creative ability, and Nuneaton made all the mistakes.

Their display was a carbon copy of many other tedious Saturday afternoons in their season of troubles. They fought hard, showed promise, gave away a goal – and faded out of the picture. This time their spirit was sapped by two goals in as many minutes early in the second half.

The last four games have shown that Allen has accepted an impossible task. He cannot repair the damage of two thirds of a season in five short weeks. Nuneaton made too many mistakes at the back against Yeovil. And they were ineffective up front when they tried to shake them off. Their one glimpse of success came in the 20th minute. A stupendous diving save from Yeovil keeper Tony Clarke cancelled out a power drive from Tony Jacques.

A goal at that stage would have given them a chance. But the incident was eclipsed by the blunders that followed. Stan Aston was at fault for the first goal in the 33rd minute. Yeovil goal ace Dick Plumb was given a free header from just outside the six yard box. Alan Jones put the ball through his own net with Fred Crump stuck on his line for the home side's second goal. And Dave Goodall failed to pick up Cliff Myers who headed in a near post free kick in the 60th minute for the third and final goal.

The last two Yeovil goals came inside two minutes. They followed a spell of hopeful play from Borough – and ended all hope they had of saving the game.

## Nuneaton Borough v Barnet 08-04-1970

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Aston, Goodall, Kavanagh, Allen, Boot, Smith, Metcalfe, Jacques, Morton. **Sub:** Jackson.

Borough welcomed Barnet to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division match.

Barnet striker Billy Meadows swooped in to snatch a superb 75th minute equaliser last night – a goal that has virtually doomed Borough to relegation. The lively number nine moved smartly to meet a right wing cross from Colin Powell and gave Fred Crump no chance as he tucked his header just inside the post. But Nuneaton could not complain about the result. They had been run ragged in the second half by a classy Barnet outfit despite the tonic of an early Tony Jacques goal.

In the first half Borough looked capable of gaining their first-ever victory over Barnet. They matched the approach work of the Londoners and were given an 11th minute boost when Jacques moved on to an Alan Morton pass and calmly lobbed the ball over goalkeeper Jim Lye and into the net.

Alan Morton was in great form up front while on the right flank the speed of Ron Metcalfe had Pete Jenkins in dire

trouble. Both goals had several uneasy moments. Jacques failed to pack enough power into his shot following a Metcalfe burst and then the same player rose high above the visitors defence to meet a corner only to see his header skid tantalisingly across the face of the net.

The change of ends brought a complete change of fortunes for the Manor Park men. They were penned in their own half for long spells as Barnet took over and peppered their goal with shot after shot.

Lion-hearted Dave Goodall tore into every tackle with stirring determination and proved once again that he will battle every inch of the way. Amateur Gerry Kavanagh was another solid defender but his use of the ball failed to match his ability as a stopper.

It was no surprise then Meadows levelled the scores 15 minutes from the end. It had been on the cards with every Barnet attack in the second half. Yet less than 60 seconds after this goal Metcalfe wasted a chance that could have given Borough both points – and a fighting chance of Premier Division survival.

## New Hope For Borough

Nuneaton Borough were given a last gasp chance of avoiding relegation when Brentwood Town announced that they have officially resigned from the Southern League. Brentwood will wind up in May – after just one season in the top flight.

The directors and officials will take over the running of nearby Chelmsford City. This means that only three clubs may be relegated from the Premier Division. And if Borough can overhaul Gloucester they will stand a chance of staying up. Chelmsford player-manager Geoff Walker has already been told that his services will not be required next season.

His place will be taken by Dave Bumpstead, who at present has a say in the selection of both the Brentwood and Chelmsford teams. Chelmsford have also decided to operate with a complete staff of part-time players next term. At present six of their staff are full-time.

## Nuneaton Borough v Chelmsford City 13-04-1970

**Borough (from):** Crump, Jones, Aston, Goodall, Kavanagh, Allen, Boot, Smith, Jackson, Jacques, Chapman, Morton.

Borough welcomed Chelmsford City to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough built up a 2-0 lead and then tossed it away in a game that was nearly a carbon copy of the Non League Cup tie between the two sides. In the end the Manor Park side had to come back from behind to clutch a point and cling to their fading hopes of avoiding the disaster of a drop into the First Division. Hereford referee Mr Ron Marshall made some astonishing decisions as the game swayed back and forth, including the controversial decision minutes from the end when he disallowed a Borough goal from Chapman because

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the City wall wasn't ten yards away – but Borough can hardly heap the blame on one man.

To toss away two goals in a sudden death cup tie is bad enough. To stage a repeat performance when their search for points has been stretched to its critical limit is almost unbelievable. Borough were denied what could have been a winning goal in the closing minutes when Roy Chapman netted following a free-kick.

Borough also tossed away a gilt edged chance when Tony Jacques, once so deadly on half-chances, fired over the top from a few yards out. But despite the misses, the six goals and 90 minutes of see-saw soccer, the one over-riding factor is that the Manor Park side dropped another home point. And home points are worth their weight in diamonds as Nuneaton fight against what they refuse to believe is the inevitable.

Borough took the lead in the 12th minute with an Alec Jackson penalty after Morton had been brought down. Roy Chapman lobbed home a Morton pass 11 minutes later to put Borough 2-0 up. City equalised with two goals inside three minutes. Price played a pass through a static Borough defence for Doyle to snap up the first, and three minutes later Nuneaton made the fatal mistake of waiting for an offside whistle when Smee notched the equaliser.

Early in the second half they did the same thing again. This time Price was given shooting space and his effort was deflected and went in off an upright. The match was transformed. It appeared to have slipped away from Nuneaton's grasp, but Chapman made it 3-3 with a header from a Kavanagh free-kick in the 72nd minute.

Two minutes later Jacques earned himself the miss of the match tag and the controversial free-kick incident rounded off the dying seconds.

## Retained List

Nuneaton Borough, clinging to a faint hope of avoiding the drop, have offered terms to nine members of the 13-strong professional squad. But some of them will be asked to take a wage cut – and that means they are free to have talks with other clubs.

One of the players said: "I think some of the players who have been offered less money will want to leave the club."

The nine who have been offered terms are: Fred Crump, Alan Jones, Stan Aston, Mickey Boot, Roger Smith, Alec Jackson, Tony Jacques, Alan Morton and player-coach Malcolm Allen. Winger Ron Metcalfe and Peter Thompson have both been given free transfers. The other two professionals, Roy Chapman and Dave Goodall, already have contract agreements for next year. Borough also have two amateurs on the books – Gerry Kavanagh and Brian Lobban.

One surprising point about the retained list as it stands is that the expected clear out of staff following the dismal season, has not materialised.

## Nuneaton Borough v Hereford United 16-04-1970

**Borough (from): Crump, Jones, Goodall, Chapman, Kavanagh, Boot, Smith, Metcalfe, Jacques, Morton, Lobban. Sub: Aston.**

Borough welcomed Hereford United to Manor Park to play a President's Cup semi-final game.

Dudley Tyler – current golden boy of the Southern League circuit – destroyed Borough's President's Cup hopes in a 90 second spell. Tyler, rated in the £10,000 bracket by Hereford player-manager John Charles, set up one goal and scored another as United moved into the final. The goals rescued a drab, untidy game as both teams battled against an end of the season atmosphere in a match Nuneaton could afford to lose.

In the 74th minute Tyler set up a chance for Harris to score United's first goal. Straight from the re-start, he picked up a pass, took on the Borough defence, and fired in an angled drive. The ball went high into the net with a tangle of Nuneaton players on the goal-line. And the goal signalled the end of Borough's chances.

They staged a late rally and had the chances to save the tie. Mickey Boot had two goalbound efforts blocked and Alan Morton hit the crossbar before Dave Goodall netted almost on time. Goodall glanced a header into the net from a Roger Smith free-kick – the last move of the match. The whistle went seconds later.

Most of the match was untidy with little to raise any enthusiasm from the sparse crowd. The tie was irrelevant before it started and uninspiring when it began. Player-manager Malcolm Allen pulled off one surprise when he moved goalscorer Roy Chapman back to the centre-half spot. Chapman turned in a solid performance and may well retain the number five shirt for Saturday's trip to Chelmsford.

## Chelmsford City v Nuneaton Borough 18-04-1970

**Borough: Crump, Jones, Kavanagh, Boot, Aston, Godall, Jackson, Allen, Morton, Chapman, Smith.**

Borough made the journey to New Writtle Street to take on Chelmsford City in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough, fighting for their Premier Division lives, turned in an inspiring point-winning performance at Chelmsford. Malcolm Allen's men were full of fight and vigour, and it was a fine creditable away from home showing. Borough went close several times up front, although they were rather lucky not to have a second-half penalty against them.

Borough moved into the attack from the kick-off, and Boot found Allen in a gap on the left. Allen's through pass, intended for Chapman was cut out by Harrity. Chelmsford hit back and mounted a neat raid. Harrity overlapped and slipped the ball to Price. The wingman's dangerous looking cross was hooked clear by Jones.

Boot hit a volley high and wide and was then called into



action at the back to cut out Smee. Goodall robbed Price with a sliding tackle and Borough swept into the attack. Smith had a crack at goal, but his effort was deflected into the air but Morton was beaten to the ball by the high-jumping Costello.

There was little to choose between the two sides with play swinging from end to end. Smee went close following a Thornley cross and then Aston had to hook the ball over for a corner after Smee had forced the ball past Crump. Alan Morton wasted a chance for Borough following good work by Jackson, who got the ball over from the bye-line, but Morton failed to control it and West tidied up.

The second half was nip and tuck with both sides having a share of the play. Morton had a chance when Wilkie mishandled and then had a shot deflected away for a corner. Chelmsford then stormed upfield and were unlucky not to get a penalty when Jones brought down a Smee cross with his forearm.

## Allen Given 12 Month Contract

Malcolm Allen, once the number one target for the Manor Park boo-boys, has been given the job of salvaging the wreckage of Nuneaton Borough Football Club. Allen, the club's longest serving player, lost his "caretaker" label this week when he was appointed player manager for the next 12 months.

He will continue on a part-time basis and have sole control over the playing side of the club – and his major job will be to rebuild a squad shattered by this season's setbacks.

An indication of the job he faces was given on Thursday night when only 772 fans turned up to see a lifeless – and totally irrelevant – President's Cup semi-final against Hereford United.

## Nuneaton Borough v Crawley Town 20-04-1970

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Kavanagh, Goodall, Aston, Allen, Jackson, Smith, Chapman, Boot, Morton. **Sub:** Jacques.

**Crawley:** Maggs, Cockell, Thorne, Leck, Leedham, Bragg, Blaber, Haining, Fowcett, Livesey, Basey. **Sub:** McMullen.

Borough welcomed Crawley Town to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough tossed away a stack of goal-scoring chances, but they still came through with flying colours. For it was another fine, heartening display from Borough. And it was another two points tucked safely in the survival bag. Roy Chapman, Alec Jackson and Tony Jacques all found the net as Nuneaton strode and strutted their way to victory. Crawley, already doomed to relegation, hardly had a look in and were never in with even the faintest chance of upsetting Borough's hopes.

The crowd, of only 1,228, had a rare treat of highly entertaining and inspiring soccer and they lapped it up. Borough, following on their great performance at Chelmsford, gave a pleasing show. Once again it was a fighting, full-of-effort team display

that pulled it off. The Manor Park men looked as though they really did want to play and really did want to win.

Now Borough – after all the upsets and disappointments of the season – can surely escape relegation. Borough were a little slap-happy up front. And if only they had cashed in on their goal openings Borough could have easily chalked up an eight or nine goal romp. If Borough had started to play so well and to play for each other so much earlier in the term there would have been no need to talk of relegation.

The drop into the First Division is still a possibility, and every single point from now until the last game of the campaign is vital. Crawley offered no serious threat in last night's match. They had a good goalkeeper in John Maggs and star performer at No. 10 in ex-Chelsea and Brighton man Charlie Livesey. But only once when a curling cross from Livesey bounced off an upright did the Southerners look at all like scoring.

Borough had skipper Mickey Boot, player-manager Malcolm Allen and skilful Roger Smith all in tip-top form. Alan Morton, also gave a creditable account of himself.

Borough opened the scoring in the ninth minute. Smith swung over a low centre, the ball spun off a defender's legs and Roy Chapman turned on it to smack home a well directed shot. Goal number two came five minutes before the interval. Jones lobbed in a cross, Chapman back-headed it, and Jackson ran on to plant a right foot drive past the helpless Maggs.

Jacques, who substituted for Morton, had only been on the field for 12 minutes when he slotted home Borough's third goal. He nodded the ball neatly into the back of the net off an Alan Jones' free kick with the Crawley defence standing.

## Brentwood v Nuneaton Borough 25-04-1970

**Brentwood:** Dunbar, D. Jones, Butterfield, Maynard, Snowden, O'Connell, Diggins, Stevenson, Loughton, Dilsworth, Halliday. **Sub:** Adams.

**Borough:** Crump, A. Jones, Smith, Goodall, Aston, Boot, Lobban, Allen, Jacques, Jackson, Chapman. **Sub:** Thompson.

Borough made the journey to Brentwood to play a Southern League Premier Division fixture.

A dejected and weary Borough side trudged from the rainsoaked Brentwood pitch on Saturday reflecting sadly on the game in which luck completely deserted them. At a crucial time when Borough needed all the breaks going, little went right for them. As so often happens to a struggling side, the luck, a vital element in any game, went the other way.

And it is going to take a heaven-sent change of fortune to save Nuneaton from the drop which could set them back at least five years in their ambitions for Football League status. On another day Malcolm Allen's team could produce the same performance and win by two or three goals.

Brentwood's early break through knocked Nuneaton out of their stride for most of the first-half. Big striker Eddie Dilsworth won a tackle on the 18-yard line, moved forward and cracked a shot against a post. The ball rebounded, struck Ken Halliday in



the face and flew into the net. Dilsworth proved to be the most forceful and dangerous forward on view. His powerful running had Borough's defence reeling on a number of occasions and it took two fine saves from Fred Crump to prevent him from getting his name on the score-sheet.

As half-time approached the visitors slowly started to show more zest up front. Brentwood were fortunate not to concede a penalty when a defender handled a Tony Jacques header. Dunbar was the most surprised player on the field when he stopped a close-range Roy Chapman shot, and the same Borough man went agonisingly close with a delicate header.

But instead of continuing the pressure after the break Borough allowed their opponents to seal the issue. Halliday hit over a low cross from the right which Mick Loughton turned smartly inside the near post with partially unsighted Crump going down too late.

Borough attacked strongly in the final 20 minutes and did everything but find the net. Add to these at least half-a-dozen more near misses and you can imagine the frustration Borough met. As the players agreed afterwards. "All we can do now is win our last two games – and hope."

## Gloucester City v Nuneaton Borough 27-04-1970

**Gloucester:** Jones, Vale, Anderson, Biggart, Page-Jones, Ferns, McCool, Fraser, McQuarrie, Stevens, Hurford. **Sub:** Rodgeron.

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Aston, Goodall, Kavanagh, Boot, Allen, Smith, Lobban, Jacques, Chapman. **Sub:** Thompson.

Borough made the journey to Horton Road to take on Gloucester City in a Southern League Premier Division game.

A mud stain at the foot of one of the Gloucester goalposts could stand as a memorial to Nuneaton Borough's Premier Division status. It was put there by Tony Jacques in the 22nd minute of a drab relegation clash on a dirtbowl of a pitch last night. And it summed up Nuneaton's season as they cling by their fingernails to a last faint glimmer of hope. Borough were 1-0 in front when Roger Smith suddenly unearthed a glimpse of the skills that made him such a fine player last season.

He went past one defender in a solo run, burst in between two others and pulled the ball back across the middle for Jacques. The centre-forward shot first time, but the ball hit the base of an upright and rebounded out of play. Smith could have shot himself, Jacques could have moved sooner – but an inch or two either way and Nuneaton's hopes of beating the drop would have shown a one point improvement. As it is they are still one point behind Gloucester with one game left. Gloucester have two matches to play – both at home.

But Borough's chances are, to say the least, slim. They are dangling over the relegation precipice with Gloucester ready to cut their lifeline. That 22nd minute incident could have made all of the difference. It would have given them a chance.

Only three minutes later Gloucester equalised. Borough's

defence stood as the ball was switched out to Dave Hurford after a corner had been partially cleared. He nodded it past a stranded Fred Crump.

Nuneaton had taken the lead in the 13th minute from one of the best moves of the night. The ball went from Lobban to Smith, on to Chapman and back to Jacques, who lobbed it into the net. But the goals and the if and but situation failed to lift what was a miserable game between two poor sides.

For two sides locked in such a dramatic and precarious position there was a surprising lack of urgency and determination about the game. Much of the game was aimless and thoughtless. The ball was shunted around the pitch with neither side able to string together more than three passes at a time. Gloucester knew they had to avoid defeat. Nuneaton knew that a win could make all of the difference.

## Burton Albion v Nuneaton Borough 30-04-1970

Borough made the journey to Eton Park to take on Burton Albion in a Midland Floodlit Cup game.

This was a mediocre clash between two sides destined for the First Division of the Southern League next season, and was played in front of a pathetically low crowd of 239 people. Both sides should have scored before Borough netted their 87th minute winner. But they had similar problems. They were not positive enough.

Neither side had the sharpness and drive up front to match the energy in midfield. Perhaps that is why they are booked for Merthyr, Barry and Tonbridge.

After an indifferent 15 minutes Nuneaton almost presented Burton with a gift goal. The young goalkeeper Allsopp, playing his third game for Albion, pulled off a fine save from Peter Thompson. He dived and clutched the ball as Thompson tried to steer his shot just inside the far post, after Chapman had set up the chance from a Kavanagh centre.

Both teams followed a similar pattern in the second half as the ball was continually played across the park with no sign of a goal on the horizon. As the match went into its closing stages Allsopp pulled off a superb save from Roger Smith and then stopped a point-blank range effort from Lobban.

Just when a goalless draw seemed inevitable, Jacques struck to break the deadlock and clinch the points. Fred Crump hit a free-kick down the middle, Chapman glanced the ball on to Jacques, and the centre-forward outstripped two Burton defenders before hitting a well-placed shot past Allsopp.

## Borough Relegated

### "It's Not The End Of The World" – Allen

Malcolm Allen, player-manager of relegated Nuneaton Borough, said today: "This is not the end of the world for football in Nuneaton."

Borough were pushed down last night when Gloucester City

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beat Hereford United 2-0 at home. And Allen, put in charge of the team at Easter, now faces the job of bringing them back. He is confident that Nuneaton can fight their way back into the top flight: "It is not going to be easy," he said. "Obviously we have to work hard.

"But I feel we will come straight back next year. We will not just be after promotion – we will be looking to win the league."

Nuneaton wind up their season with a home game against King's Lynn – a game that has had all the drama taken out of it by last night's result. Player-manager Allen has named the same squad that travelled to Burton last night and came away with a 1-0 win.

## Nuneaton Borough v King's Lynn 02-05-1970

**Borough:** Crump, Jones, Kavanagh, Boot, Aston, Goodall, Jackson, Allen, Smith, Chapman, Lobban. **Sub:** Thompson.

**King's Lynn:** Wingfield, Haskins, Sharp, Brookes, Porter, Wright, Rudd, Kerr, Coughlin, Jenkins, Clarke. **Sub:** Davies.

Borough welcomed King's Lynn to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division fixture.

In just 45 sizzling minutes on Saturday, Borough made a mockery of their relegation fate – and proved that their rightful place is in the Premier Division. They sent out a "We'll be back" message to the die-hards on the Manor Park terraces with a stirring second half recovery and the sort of form they had been desperately seeking in the previous six weeks to save themselves from the drop.

Borough picked themselves off the floor and cheered the fans by storming back for a thoroughly deserved victory. They equalised less than three minutes after the break and went on to shatter the Linnets with a brand of zest and finishing that was too often missing during the season.

But throughout the first half it looked as if Malcolm Allen and his men were going to end the 1969-70 season with the sort of sluggish display that put them in their relegation predicament. During this period they lacked smoothness in the teamwork and penetrating power up front.

Diminutive striker Brian Jenkins, who moved to The Walks after a short, unsettled stay at Nuneaton, took only seven minutes to put Lynn in front. He swivelled neatly in a crowded penalty area to beat Fred Cump after right winger Keith Rudd had seen his shot blocked near the line by Dave Goodall.

The change of ends, however, brought a complete change in the picture – but ironically the goal which started Lynn's side was a fluke. Brian Lobban was pushed off the ball – one of the many free-kicks given against the visitors – and Boot took the kick, about 30 yards out.

His curving centre was aimed for tall Stan Aston who had moved forward but Aston deceived the Lynn defence by ducking his head and the ball dropped just inside the far post. There was no element of luck about the two goals which floored Lynn. In the 64th minute Roger Smith used

all his artistry to get in a cross from the left. The ball was only partially cleared and Boot, loitering on the edge of the box, volleyed home a great left foot shot into the net giving goalkeeper Ken Wingfield no chance.

Fifteen minutes from the end Smith set off on a weaving run which pierced the Linnets' defence and scored with a low shot which rolled just inside the post.

It would be easy to say that Lynn had nothing to play for, but it was clear that they were out to win. They just had no answer to Borough's second-half showing.

Aston was involved in a rugged duel with visitors' striker Dave Coughlin and it was no surprise when the two players were booked in the 79th minute by Redditch official Mr G. Trout.

## Southern League Premier Division 1969-70

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cambridge United	42	26	6	10	84	50	58
Yeovil Town	42	25	7	10	78	48	57
Chelmsford City	42	20	11	11	76	58	51
Weymouth	42	18	14	10	59	37	50
Wimbledon	42	19	12	11	64	52	50
Hillingdon Borough	42	19	12	11	56	50	50
Barnet	42	16	15	11	71	54	47
Telford United	42	18	10	14	61	62	46
Brentwood Town	42	16	13	13	61	38	45
Hereford United	42	18	9	15	74	65	45
Bath City	42	18	8	16	63	55	44
King's Lynn	42	16	11	15	72	68	43
Margate	42	17	8	17	70	64	42
Dover	42	15	10	17	51	50	40
Kettering Town	42	18	3	21	64	75	39
Worcester City	42	14	10	18	35	44	38
Romford	42	13	11	18	50	62	37
Poole Town	42	8	19	15	48	57	35
Gloucester City	42	12	9	21	53	73	33
Nuneaton Borough	42	11	10	21	52	74	32
Crawley Town	42	6	15	21	53	101	27
Burton Albion	42	3	9	30	24	82	15



## Jackson Leaves Borough

Alec Jackson, skipper of Nuneaton Borough until the end of last season, has left the club. Jackson, signed from Walsall in the 1968 close season and immediately handed the captaincy refused the terms he was offered for next season.

Said player-manager Malcolm Allen: "I could not offer him the same terms as last year. He was not prepared to accept, so we agreed that he would be given a free transfer."

Jackson, who played top bracket soccer for West Brom and Birmingham, joins Peter Thompson and Ron Metcalfe on the open market. But Nuneaton top scorer Tony Jacques, signed from Banbury in 1968 for £2,500, has agreed terms for next season. "He agreed on Thursday night," said Allen. "And he will sign as soon as the contracts are drawn up."

Striker Alan Morton, on loan from Crystal Palace, is the only member of the present squad who has not yet sorted out his future. He has been offered terms, but his decision will be influenced by Malcolm Allen's "everyone must train at Manor Park policy." Morton lives in London and Crystal Palace still hold his Football League registration.

## Wilkinson To Sign For Borough?

Malcolm Allen is all set to clinch his first signing when Poole Town defender Ernie Wilkinson travels to Manor Park for final talks next week. Wilkinson, a 22-year-old back four defender, is expected to sign on Tuesday night. He has already said he is prepared to live and work in Nuneaton. Player-manager Allen was impressed with Wilkinson when he played against Borough a few weeks ago.

Says the Borough team boss: "He is the sort of player who can win the ball at the back – and this is what we want."

Wilkinson made a number of Central League appearances for Arsenal. He was in the same Gunners' team that was skippered by Mickey Boot. He has played in midfield for Poole, but Allen wants him to operate in the middle of the back four. If the deal goes through, Allen will have taken the first step in his team rebuilding plans – plans which also include two wingers, a striker and a midfield operator.

Wilkinson, who comes from Chesterfield, has attracted interest from a Third Division club during his one season with the Dorset club. "I heard he was available and remembered him quite well. He had a useful game against us."

### Aston Fined

Nuneaton Borough centre-half Stan Aston has been fined £10 and given a two weeks suspended sentence by an FA disciplinary committee. Aston, who was booked three times last season, was given the decision when he attended a disciplinary hearing in Birmingham.

He collected his third caution in Borough's final game of the season against King's Lynn at Manor Park.

## Allen Signs Brian Punter

Hereford United forward Brian Punter has signed for Nuneaton Borough, becoming Malcolm Allen's second close season capture. Punter, who almost joined Borough two years ago, is expected to take over the number seven shirt, but he has played at centre-forward and in midfield.

During his five seasons with Hereford he scored nearly one hundred goals and was top scorer for two seasons. A ligament injury held up his signing for Nuneaton in 1968 and the deal was never completed: "It just petered out," said Punter.

Punter, who lives in Wolverhpton, was described by Allen as a "squad member" – the type of player who can operate in two or three positions. Following the signings of Punter – and centre-half Ernie Wilkinson – the Borough boss is now looking for two more forwards and a midfield player.

## Borough Saved

### Cambridge United Elected To Football League

Cambridge United's breakthrough to the Football League has saved Nuneaton Borough from relegation to the First Division of the Southern League.

At the Southern League's annual meeting in London, the clubs decided, on a unanimous vote, to relegate the bottom two clubs, Crawley Town and Burton Albion. Burton have already resigned. Their application for re-entry is being heard later. After the decision which saved Borough from the drop, Manor Park player-manager Malcolm Allen said: "I am delighted for Nuneaton's sake. It means we are still in the Premier Division – where we should be.

"We have the facilities, the crowd and the potential. And I know that 99 per cent of the clubs wanted us to stay in the Premier Division." He added: "I am also delighted for Cambridge United. They have proved that the door is open if a club is progressive enough."

The voting in of Cambridge United to the Football League was made at the annual meeting of the league at London's Cafe Royal.

The position was put to the clubs by league chairman Mr John Nash, of Kettering. He told them that in the light of Cambridge United's election the management committee recommended that only two clubs should go down.

Cambridge, who have won the Southern League championship in the past two years, received 31 votes. And the team they oust from the league is struggling Bradford (Park Avenue) who had only 17 votes.

Cambridge United's ground, the Abbey Stadium, is considered to be up to league requirements and the club run a staff of 18 full time professionals, managed by Bill Leivers.

In his two seasons with the club, Mr Leivers has injected a spirit of professionalism throughout the club facilities.



**Tamworth centre-forward Ray Holmes, third from the right, shows his delight at putting Tamworth ahead after only five minutes.**  
Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

a competition that can bring national fame and financial rewards.

At three o'clock the stage was set for them to reach out and grab a slice of glory. They were at home, one step away from the "big time" and up against a team they knew.

But that step became a gulf as the match wore on. And for the second season in succession a West Midland League club crushed their hopes.

If Fred Crump was the saddest man at Manor Park, Roger Hope was the happiest. He netted the goals that turned the game and twisted it away from Borough's grasp with the equaliser and the one that gave Tamworth a 3-2 lead.

The football hardly lived up to the excitement in a game littered with free kicks. But the shadow of the FA Cup adds its own thrills.

Arguments will rage. People will say that Crump had "one of those days," others will add that Nuneaton were just unlucky when Chapman hit the post just before half-time. They will point out that Borough should have gone on to win when they were 2-1 up.

But a side can only play as well as the opposition allows. Tamworth were given the chances to win – and they took them.

That's why the Kettlebrook club's fixture list contains a First Round Cup date and why Borough face one of their most critical spells for some time. Instead of marching forward to glory, they have to fall back on the job of lifting themselves out of the Southern League danger zone.

Their one great chance to win back the fans and rebuild their confidence has gone – swallowed up in the after-match misery of defeat in a "sudden death" cup tie.

Rotherham and Swansea seemed an age ago when the final whistle sounded Borough's FA Cup death knell at twenty minutes to five on Saturday.

## Tamworth — 4th Qualifying Round

Borough welcomed Tamworth to Manor Park for a 4th Qualifying Round FA Cup tie.

Borough: Crump, Smith, Thompson, Goodall, Aston, Boot, Jackson, Allen, Jacques, Chapman, Aggio. Sub: Lobban.

Tamworth: Crosby, Bache, Newton, Smith, Eden, Drury, Hope, Hall, Holmes, Jessop, Morrow. Sub: Cox.

A nightmare performance from Fred Crump played a major part in the defeat that hit Nuneaton with a sickening blow in a season of set-backs. Borough's FA Cup hopes disappeared in a whirlpool of misery. And Borough's big chance of cash and glory exploded.

Crump failed to hold a fifth minute free-kick which presented Ray Holmes with Tamworth's first; he punched a cross to Roger Hope's feet for their third and dived over a low Holmes centre for Hall to score their fourth.

And the FA Cup magic that can turn a struggling side into a successful one in 90 minutes turned sour on Nuneaton.

It turned sour after the Manor Park side had shrugged off the shock of

a fifth minute Tamworth goal and fought back to take the lead. But mistakes are made under pressure. And the West Midland Leaguers deserve a tremendous amount of credit for their persistence.

They had the psychological uplift of an early goal followed by the sudden realisation that defeat stared them in the face – yet they still plugged away.

It was this refusal to accept defeat, their team spirit and well balanced outlook that kept them going under periods of pressure from Borough.

Nuneaton moved forward far more often – but Tamworth were smart on the break and more direct in their approach to goal. Even so, without Crump's blunders Borough could have at least earned themselves a replay.

It was a see-saw match of jubilation and despair for the Manor Park side – despair when Tamworth went in front and jubilation when Roy Chapman notched two goals in 13 minutes to put them in front.

But it ended in the emptiness and "if and but" atmosphere which settles on a club that has been knocked out of



## Ellesmere Port Town — 3rd Qualifying Round

Borough welcomed Ellesmere Port Town to Manor Park for a 3rd Qualifying Round FA Trophy tie.

Borough: Crump, Jones, Smith, Goodall, Aston, Boot, Morton, Jackson, Jacques, Chapman, Flannagan. Sub: Thompson.

Ellesmere Port: Griffiths, Robertson, Macreth, P. Jones, Clarke, Holah, Hancox, Hughes, Blackhall, Morris, Stanford. Sub: Crampton.

Roy Chapman and Tony Jacques unleashed £4,000 worth of goal-power against Ellesmere Port to rocket Borough into the first round of the Non League Cup.

Chapman notched a hat-trick inside 25 minutes to signal the end of Ellesmere's hopes. He assisted with two more of the goals as he moved to the top of the Manor Park goal charts with 13 goals in ten games. And Jacques bounced back to form with three well taken goals to end his lean spell.

The game was all over inside 25 minutes with three KO blows from Chapman. Jacques opened his account just before half-time and collected two more in the second half. And Roger Smith stretched the scoreline to seven goal proportions with an incredible effort from a corner kick.

Borough completely outclassed their Cheshire League opponents who offered only a handful of goal shots as token resistance to the goal hungry home side.

Borough had the boost of a fifth minute goal to wipe away the tension of their most important match of the season. It was the only one of the seven that was presented on a plate. Roy Chapman hardly had to lift his heels off the floor to nod home Roger Smith's corner.

Ellesmere's 17-year-old goalkeeper Frank Griffiths, playing in his third game for the club, had little chance with the others, including Smith's corner kick effort.

Nuneaton were superior to the Merseysiders in every department and

the visitors looked a tired and spent outfit as Borough moved forward time and again in the dying minutes.

Jacques and Chapman stole the limelight with their goal exploits. But it was also a good day for tireless Roger Smith and Mickey Boot in midfield.

Boot has turned in some indifferent displays so far this season and was dropped from the side at Dover. On Saturday, he looked more like the player he really is.

In short – the Non-League Cup, supported all along by manager Dudley Kernick, provided some welcome relief from the gloom of the past four months.

### Stonehouse Wrangle

The Football Association's Non-League Cup committee is to look into the semi-professional status of Stonehouse, Borough's opponents in the first round.

It will investigate claims that the Gloucestershire County League champions are not eligible for the competition because their playing staff does not include professionals.

An FA spokesman said last night: "We have heard about this, but all I can say is that the match is being played."

Stonehouse have already beaten Barry Town, Bilston and Brierley Hill Alliance to reach the first round of the competition.

### Stonehouse — 1st Round

Borough welcomed Stonehouse to Manor Park for a 1st Round FA Trophy tie.

Borough: Crump, Jones, Goodall, Aston, Smith, Allen, Boot, Morton, Jacques, Chapman, Metcalfe. Sub: Thompson.

Stonehouse: Bearpark, Cabb, Poulton, Tomlinson, Murray, Watts, Casey, Palmer, Green, Boseley, Wilkes. Sub: Gregory.

Alan Jones, the full back with the

golden goal touch, powered Borough along the Non-League Cup victory trail with a tension breaker on Saturday.

Jones, a pillar of consistency during his one-club career, has netted only three goals in his first team career. The first one earned Borough a 1-1 draw at Macclesfield during their 1966-67 FA Cup run – the run that ended at Rotherham.

His third came after 30 minutes against Stonehouse to put Borough in front against the Gloucestershire side and paved the way for the first round win.

It followed a spell of one-way traffic from Nuneaton and released some of the tension and frustration that had started to build up.

Until Jones netted, the Royal Blues had dominated their opponents in every department except in front of goal.

They moved forward almost at will, without being able to produce the threatened goal glut to swamp Stonehouse in the clinging mud and pouring rain.

Stonehouse were outplayed, but it took a 60th minute "freak" goal to seal Nuneaton's superiority after Jones had paved the way.

An Alan Morton effort was heading across the goalmouth and wide when it struck Stonehouse defender Barry Tomlinson and rolled over the line.

That goal ruled out any hopes the visitors had of turning the game. Until it went in, there was always the chance that they would break and grab a shock goal.

And Nuneaton's place in the last 32 on the Wembley trail was assured when Ron Metcalfe rounded off a half-saved shot from Morton for the third goal after 82 minutes.

But the real Manor Park hero was Stonehouse goalkeeper Ian Bearpark who staged a display of acrobatics in the mud that thwarted Nuneaton time and again.

He pulled off a series of magnificent



saves and prevented a repeat of Borough's 7-0 rout against Ellesmere Port in the final qualifying round.

Bearpark was the man of the match. He provided the high spots for the 1,600 crowd huddled under the stands in the constant downpour.

And he inspired his fellow defenders to a fighting display against the odds as they were forced back into their own 18 yard box for most of the match.

Borough were good in their build-ups, but not positive enough when they moved into the danger zone. But their all-round football showed a great improvement. They played the ball out on the flanks in a bid to expose Stonehouse's vulnerable full back spots and were vastly improved in midfield.

Mickey Boot and Malcolm Allen confirmed that they are Nuneaton's No. 1 midfield players, despite some carelessness – particularly from Boot.

But everything turned out well in the end and Stonehouse became another Borough stepping stone on the road that has only four hurdles before Wembley.

## Chelmsford City – 2nd Round

Borough made the journey to New Writtle Street to take on Chelmsford City in the 2nd Round of the FA Trophy.

Chelmsford: Wilkie, Honeywood, B. Smith, Fogg, Harrity, West, Price, Amato, Andrews, Waldon, Thornley. Sub: Costello.

Borough: Crump, Jones, Thompson, Allen, Aston, Boot, Jackson, R. Smith, Jacques, Chapman, Morton. Sub: Lobban.

Borough crammed the inconsistency of a whole season into one game at Chelmsford on Saturday and crashed off the Non-League Cup trail.

They plunged from the peak of a two-goal lead to a defeat that closed the door on their last chance of glory and signalled the end of a dream.

Nuneaton went down fighting in a clash which contained all that is good in cup tie soccer – a see-saw struggle with

action galore in the goalmouths. It was fought at a cracking pace and climaxed by a nail-biting finish as the Manor Park side threw everyone forward in search of a replay. But no after match inquest can compensate or provide consolation for the fact that they were two goals up and lost.

In the 25th minute Tony Jacques notched Nuneaton's second goal and raised his arms in triumph and joy as he was mobbed by his delighted teammates. Borough were on their way into the last 16 and Wembley was just around the corner.

Borough's plan was to contain City and hit them with long ball counter-attacks – a plan geared to force a replay. It worked beyond their wildest dreams as they stunned the home side and went in front. Once they had gone ahead, however, they were unable to take command and settle on their lead. They hardly had time to realise that the match was within their grasp before Chelmsford hit back and demolished the lead with two goals in a two minute spell.

And, from strolling along in a comfortable position, Borough found themselves in desperate straits. It could have been 4-2 to the home side before

the break. The match was completely transformed and with only 12 minutes of the second half gone, the home side struck again.

From then on until the final whistle the fans were treated to a ding-dong tussle as the game swayed from end to end.

Five minutes from time Alec Jackson hit a left foot scorcher from the edge of the 18-yard box. It looked a goal all the way before it whistled past the wrong side of a post.

Before that Roy Chapman and Peter Thompson had both failed to connect in goalmouth scrambles as Nuneaton threw almost everyone forward.

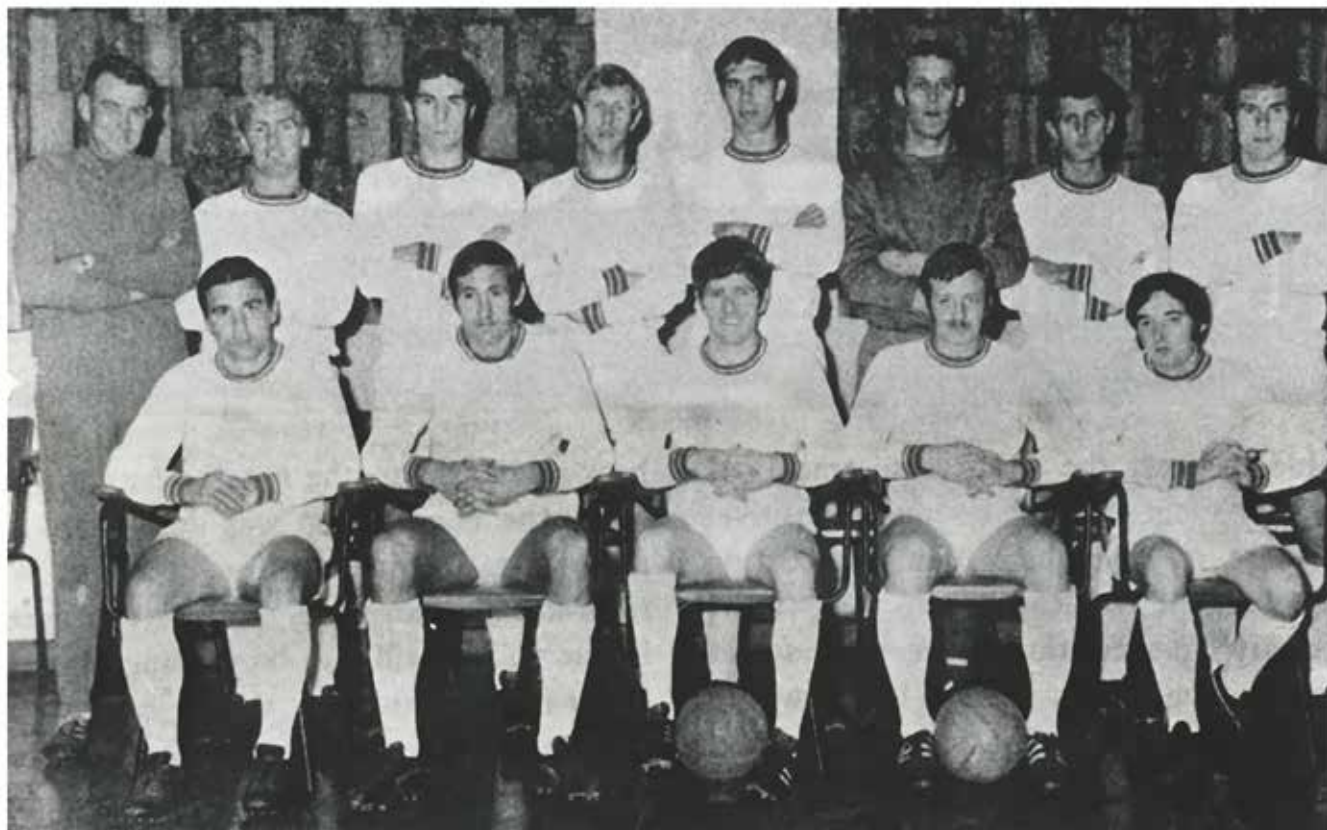
Borough's stars in a fighting performance that made a mockery of their league position, were Tony Jacques, Malcolm Allen and Fred Crump. Jacques gave City centre-half Harrity a testing time, but did not receive the support he needed.

Mickey Boot shot Borough ahead in the 20th minute following a corner. Five minutes later Tony Jacques lobbed the ball home from the edge of the 18-yard box. But City midfield man Terry Price netted their first two goals in the 38th and 40th minutes and Glen Andrews grabbed the winner in the 57th minute.



**A moment of joy for a bunch of scarf-waving Borough fans after the Manor Park side had taken a 2-0 lead in their Non-League Cup tie at Chelmsford. But their hopes of Wembley were shattered and their smiles turned to groans as the home side hit back to win 3-2.**

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune



## **Nuneaton Borough 1969-70**

Back Row: Joe Taylor (trainer), Dave Goodall, Alan Morton, Malcolm Allen, Stan Aston, Fred Crump, Peter Thomson, Alan Jones.  
Front row: Alec Jackson, Roy Chapman, Brian Lobban, Micky Boot, Jim Flannaghan.  
Taken at Manor Park School.



## **Nuneaton Borough 1969-70**

Gerry Graham, Micky Boot, Stan Aston, Tony Jacques, Ray Aggio, Peter Thompson, Fred Crump, Dave Goodall, Alan Jones, Alec Jackson, Malcolm Allen, Chris Gedney, Mick Keeley, Brian Lobban.

# Nuneaton Borough 1958-1970 – Part 2



## Southern League Premier Division: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1969-70

Nuneaton Scores First

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	Attendance
07.22	Boldmere St. Michael's	H	PSF	3-3		
07.26	Altrincham	H	PSF	0-1		
07.28	Coventry City	H	PSF	4-0	Aggio (2), Gedney, Metcalfe	1,003
07.31	Leicester City XI	H	PSF	2-0	Keeley (2)	
08.02	Altrincham	A	PSF	1-3	Keeley	
08.04	Alvechurch	H	PSF	4-1	Jacques (3), Gedney	
08.09	Romford	H	L	2-2	Jacques, Jackson (pen)	3,541
08.11	Worcester City	A	L	0-5		2,132
08.16	Wimbledon	A	L	1-2	Keeley	1,802
08.18	Corby Town	H	SLC 1 1st Leg	1-1	Jackson (pen)	2,650
08.23	Hillingdon Borough	H	L	1-2	Metcalfe	2,551
08.26	Corby	A	SLC 1 2nd Leg	0-5		1,010
08.30	Margate	A	L	1-1	Aggio	2,270
09.01	Worcester City	H	L	2-0	Aggio, Gedney	2,383
09.06	Wimbledon	H	L	0-0		2,709
09.08	Cambridge United	H	L	1-1	Keeley	2,890
09.13	Bath City	A	L	0-1		2,212
09.15	Bromsgrove Rovers	H	MFC	4-1	Allen, Aggio (pen), Wood (2 o.g.)	1,904
09.20	Weymouth	H	L	0-0		2,116
09.22	Telford United	A	L	1-3	Goodall	1,447
09.27	Barnet	A	L	1-2	Goodall	1,447
09.29	Burton Albion	H	MFC	2-0	Gedney (2)	1,481
10.04	Margate	H	L	2-0	Metcalfe, Clifton (o.g.)	2,221
10.06	Lower Gornal	H	BSC 2	4-0	Metcalfe (3), Aggio (pen)	1,672
10.11	Crawley	A	L	2-3	Jackson (pen), Allen	904
10.13	Stafford Rangers	H	MFC	3-0	Lobban, Jackson, Gedney	2,120
10.17	Crystal Palace XI	H	F	4-2	Chapman	
10.20	Stourbridge	A	CC	3-4	Jackson (pen), Boot, Moreton	1,418
10.22	Stafford Rangers	A	MFC	1-1	Chapman	2,079
10.25	Cambridge United	A	L	1-5	Jackson (pen)	3,118
10.27	Bedworth United	H	F	6-3	Jacques (3), Chapman, Flanagan, Jackson	2,453
11.01	Tamworth	H	FAC 4Q	2-4	Chapman (2)	5,679
11.08	Romford	A	L	2-4	Jacques, Chapman	1,460
11.10	Telford United	H	MFC	0-2		1,251
11.15	Dover	H	L	1-0	Lobban, Chapman, Morton (2)	1,217
11.18	Lockheed Leamington	A	MFC	3-1	Chapman, Jacques, Boot	622
11.22	Weymouth	A	L	0-2		1,231
11.24	Hednesford	H	BSC 3	1-1	Jackson	1,254
12.01	Oxford City	H	PC	6-0	Chapman (2), Jackson (2 pens), Jacques, Flanagan	972
12.06	Dover	A	L	1-2	Chapman	824
12.13	Ellesmere Port Town	H	FAT 3Q	7-0	Chapman (3), Jacques (3), Smith	2,115
12.26	Burton Albion	A	L	2-2	Jacques (2)	917
12.30	Hednesford	A	BSC 3 Replay	0-3		
01.03	King's Lynn	A	L	1-3	Wright (o.g.)	891
01.05	Tamworth	A	MFC	1-5	Newton (o.g.)	
01.10	Stonehouse	H	FAT 1	3-0	Jones, Tomlinson (o.g.), Metcalfe	1,602
01.17	Brentwood	H	L	3-2	Jacques, Chapman, Morton	1,891
01.19	Yeovil Town	H	L	0-2		2,091
01.24	Hillingdon	A	L	0-6		1,349
01.26	Kettering Town	H	L	2-0	Boot, Chapman	1,635
01.31	Chelmsford City	A	FAT 2	2-3	Boot, Jacques	3,003
02.07	Hereford United	H	L	4-2	Jacques (3), Morton	1,982

# Nuneaton Borough 1958-1970 – Part 2



## Southern League Premier Division: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1969-70

Nuneaton Scores First

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	Attendance
02.16	Lockheed Leamington	H	MFC	3-0	Jacques (2), Chapman	650
02.21	Poole Town	H	L	2-3	Chapman, Jacques	1,587
02.23	Bromsgrove Rovers	A	MFC	0-0		
02.25	Rugby Town	A	MFC	1-4	Aston	304
02.28	Kettering Town	A	L	1-3	Boot	
03.02	Bath City	H	L	3-0	Chapman, Morton, Kavanagh	1,115
03.14	Hereford United	A	L	0-2		2,080
03.16	Tamworth	H	MFC	2-3	Thompson, Kavanagh (pen)	1,673
03.18	Telford United	A	MFC	3-2	Boot, Chapman (2)	1,031
03.21	Gloucester City	H	L	1-0	Chapman	1,280
03.25	Rugby Town	H	MFC	2-2	Allen, Jacques	841
03.28	Poole Town	A	L	0-2		521
03.30	Telford United	H	L	0-1		
03.31	Burton Albion	H	L	3-0	Boot, Moreton, Jacques	
04.04	Yeovil Town	A	L	0-3		1,968
04.08	Barnet	H	L	1-1	Jacques	1,104
04.13	Chelmsford City	H	L	3-3	Chapman (2), Jackson (pen)	1,188
04.16	Hereford United	H	PC	1-2	Goodall	772
04.18	Chelmsford City	A	L	0-0		1,704
04.20	Crawley Town	H	L	3-0	Chapman, Jackson, Jacques	1,228
04.25	Brentwood	A	L	0-2		359
04.27	Gloucester City	A	L	1-1	Jacques	886
04.30	Burton Albion	A	MFC	1-0	Jacques	273
05.02	King's Lynn	H	L	3-1	Boot (2), Smith	1,000

KEY: L = Southern League Premier Division, FAC = F.A.Cup, FAT = F.A. Trophy, MFC = Midland Floodlit Cup, CC = Camkin Cup, PC = President's Cup, BSC = Birmingham Senior Cup, SLC = Southern League Cup, PSF = Pre-Season Friendly, F = Friendly.

# 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, Paul Sawyer, Kevin Brown, Brian Anderson, Geoff Cooke, 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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